human reproduction in the United States. Included, Dr. Mishell has received numerous awards and honors throughout the years, including the Distinguished Scientist Award from the Society of Gynecologic Investigation in 1994 and the Guttmacher lectureship of the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals in 1999.

The countless studies and research that he has conducted and guided throughout his career have placed Dr. Mishell at the forefront in the field of women's health. His studies in the late 1960's resulted in the development of many of the devices and hormonal methods used for contraception today, including the Copper IUD, Norplant and the Contraceptive Ring. He directed research that led to technologies and tools that make it easier for women to conceive. He published more than 260 scientific papers in peer review journals, co-edited 34 medical textbooks, and wrote more than 140 textbook chapters on contraception, reproductive endocrinology, and infertility. There's no doubt that you will agree with me when I say that Dr. Mishell continues to influence the field of women's health today.

Dr. Mishell regards as one of his greatest achievements having ''trained over 400 residents and made sure they would provide excellent health care in the field of Ob/Gyn.'' Imagine that! There are over 400 residents who have had the opportunity to learn from Dr. Mishell and they continue to build on his work in the field of women's health and share his enthusiastic commitment to ensuring that all women have the healthcare they deserve. Mr. Speaker, I can make this declaration with full confidence in its accuracy because I am the fortunate spouse of one of those superbly trained obstetrician/gynecologists. Moreover, as another of America's finest physicians, Dr. Paul Brenner, professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the Keck School, points out, Dr. Mishell has been instrumental in opening the field to more female physicians. With Dr. Mishell playing a major role in the education of numerous residents, fellows and junior faculty, it is easy to see why Dr. Brenner acknowledges that ''in my lifetime, I don't think there's been anyone else who's had a greater impact on the field of ob/gyn.''

Mr. Speaker, as Carol, Dr. Mishell's wife of almost 45 years, their children Sandra, Daniel and Tanya, and their four grandchildren gather with family and friends to toast his 75th birthday, it is with great admiration and pride that I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting this thoughtful human being and tireless champion of women's health.

THE PROTECTION OF UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE ACT

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, on May 9, 2006, I withdrew my support for H.R. 5289, the Protection of University Governance Act. I cosponsored the legislation believing at the time that it would help schools such as Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant recoup costs associated with eliminating offensive mascots. Upon further inspection it is clear to me that this bill does not achieve that goal. Rather, this bill helps those schools that refuse to change and I cannot support that effort.

Changing a mascot is a costly proposition for a public college or university. For this reason, I feel our public institutions that have voluntarily decided to no longer associate themselves with offensive mascots need whatever assistance we can provide to them. Additionally, I feel that easing the financial burden of this undertaking could also encourage other schools to follow this responsible course of action.

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK 2006

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 2.9 million nurses across the country whose vital contributions to our healthcare system are rightfully honored this week during ''National Nurses Week.''

The theme of National Nurses Week (NNW) 2006 is ''Nurses: Strength, Commitment, Compassion.'' These are 3 qualities that nurses show on a daily basis in caring for patients during times of disaster and crisis, at the bedside, and through continuing education.

In my own healthcare and that provided to my family and friends, I am continually impressed by the knowledge, professionalism, and kindness that nurses demonstrate in their patient care. They are literally at the front lines of our healthcare system, and their important role deserves to be recognized. That is why I am pleased to support House Resolution 245, supporting the goals and ideals of National Nurses Week.

There are immediate challenges facing the profession of nursing, and there are concrete steps that Congress should take in order to ensure that patients can benefit from their care now and in the future. Most notably, we must take steps to address the growing shortage of nurses and the aging of the nursing workforce.

Recruitment and retention of nurses is important, as is ensuring that schools of nursing have the faculty and resources they need to teach and train students. That is why I introduced H.R. 2184, the Nursing School Capacity Act, which would authorize an Institute of Medicine (IOM) study to identify constraints encountered by schools of nursing in admitting an adequate number of nurses for our healthcare system, and develop recommendations to alleviate the constraints.

We must fully fund nurse workforce development programs through Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act. Unfortunately, as the nursing shortage has worsened, funding has remained flat. We must ensure that healthcare providers are adequately staffed with nurses, and protect nurses from mandatory overtime. We also must support the right of nurses to bargain collectively with their employer, a basic right that should be afforded to workers in all sectors of our economy.

I thank all nurses for the contributions that they make to our health and to our communities.

ENCOURAGING ALL ELIGIBLE MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES TO REVIEW AVAILABLE OPTIONS TO DETERMINE WHETHER ENROLLMENT IN A MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN BEST MEETS THEIR NEEDS FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution and to call for an extension of the May 15th deadline to allow our Nation's seniors more time to enroll in the Medicare Part D Prescription Drug program.

While I support the resolution sponsored by Representative NANCY JOHNSON, I believe that seniors need more than just encouragement to enroll in Medicare Part D. They need time—time to figure out their myriad of choices under this new benefit.

Mr. Speaker, seniors do not need an extension of the arbitrary May 15th deadline because they don't know the deadline is fast approaching. They need time because the benefit is so complicated.

They need time because the prescription drug benefit is not a direct add-on to Medicare centrally administered through CMS—which is what seniors and Democrats wanted, but a labyrinth of private companies, premiums, deductibles, co-payments, formularies, and pharmacy access that varies widely from plan to plan. In fact, in most states, beneficiaries have a choice of more than 36 drug plans.

They need time because the Medicare Modernization Act passed in the wee hours of the morning by the slimmest of margins in the 108th Congress, protects the interests of big pharmaceutical companies at the expense of our seniors by not allowing the Secretary of HHS to negotiate the best price for lifesaving drugs for our seniors.

They need time because they have to figure out how much their choice will cost them and whether or not they're in or out of the doughnut hole.

They need time because a recent GAG Report indicates that 60 percent of callers to the CMS regarding this benefit were given inadequate and incomplete information.

They need time because they face a maze of options provided by private insurance and pharmaceutical companies, entities which stand to reap great profit windfall that were placed in the bill by those who received enormous benefit from these industries.

Mr. Speaker, private companies wanted to be in this business, but they didn't want to risk losing any money. So the law was specifically designed to maximize profits and ensure the participation of many private plans. That is why the choice of providers is plentiful, collective bargaining power is non-existent, and the confusion to seniors is so great. It is truly by design.

Assuring that seniors have access to a high-quality and affordable prescription drug plan has been a top priority for me and my Democratic colleagues.

When seniors tell me that they must cut their pills in half or skip meals just to pay for the medicines they need, it breaks my heart. The injustice of this incenses me.

So despite its flaws, this benefit may provide relief to some seniors. That is why I have been holding town halls in my district to provide information to hundreds of seniors about this benefit since sign-up began. That is how I know first-hand that even months later that the plethora of plans is confusing and the various components of the benefit are still not clear to many.

I am convinced that there is a better way. That is why I am a cosponsor of the Medicare Prescription Drug Savings and Choices Act, H.R. 752 introduced by Representative BERRY and H.R. 5263, recently introduced by Representative DONNA CHRISTENSEN. These bills would extend the enrollment period and provide immediate fixes to the Medicare Part D benefit.

However, the will to make these changes for the benefit of our seniors by the Republican leaders in the House and Administration does not exist.

Given this fact, while the federal legislation that authorized these plans is far from perfect, until a more comprehensive and more affordable prescription drug plan becomes available, I urge seniors to research your options.

Seniors who do not already have prescription drug coverage should consider enrolling in a Medicare Part D plan of their choice before the May 15, 2006 deadline.

Seniors who already have prescription drug coverage should check with their existing plan and consider whether a change in insurance is in their best interest before May 15, 2006.

The May 15 deadline is less than one week away.

There could be serious consequences for seniors if you delay, resulting in an unfair 7 percent lifetime premium penalty.

The consequences of not making a choice are dire, so I urge seniors to make a choice before May 15, 2006 about Medicare Part D.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's seniors deserve comprehensive and affordable prescription drug coverage through the Medicare benefit.

Making this a reality should be our goal for the future. In the meantime, let's extend the deadline and fix the flaws of the Medicare Part D program for our seniors. They deserve no less.

SECURITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR EVERY PORT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4954) to improve maritime and cargo security through enhanced layered defenses, and for other purposes:

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Chairman, while I would have preferred a more proactive and comprehensive plan such as that proposed by the Democratic "Real Security Agenda", I rise today in support of H.R. 4954, the Security and Accountability For Every (SAFE) Port Act because it is a step in the right direction.

As a member of the Homeland Security Appropriations subcommittee, I am well aware of the vulnerabilities of our nation's ports. In fact, the 9/11 Commission report concluded that terrorists have the "opportunity to do harm as great or greater in maritime and surface transportation" than the September 11 terrorist attacks.

Our nation's seaports handle over 95 percent of our foreign trade, more than $1 trillion annually. The ports of Los Angeles/Long Beach near my district form the largest container port complex in the nation. These ports processed more than 35,000 cargo containers a day in 2005, and accounted for some 40 percent of all container traffic nationwide.

Given the volume of our shipping trade, a terrorist attack against the ports of Los Angeles/Long Beach, or any major commercial seaport for that matter, would freeze commercial shipping business, close all seaports for an indefinite time, and have a devastating impact on our national economy. This is not a wild estimate or an exaggeration for effect. We have only to look at the work stoppage at the LA/Long Beach ports in 2002 that directly impacted businesses across the country and cost the national economy approximately $1 billion a day.

When approved, the SAFE Port Act will make progress toward protecting the physical infrastructure of our seaports as well as our national economy which is so clearly dependent on the commercial shipping business.

I believe the following three provisions in the bill are particularly important.

First, the bill requires the development of plans to address supply chain security and the resumption of trade in the aftermath of a terrorist attack. Securing the supply chain against cargo-tampering is critical to decreasing the likelihood that weapons of mass destruction make it aboard ships bound for the United States. Ensuring that our ports can resume trade operations as soon as possible following any terrorist will mitigate the economic cost of any such attack.

Second, the bill also mandates that Transportation Worker Identification Cards to be issued to port workers. Standardizing identification cards will better enable us to determine who should have access to sensitive areas at our ports and it will make it more difficult to counterfeit the ID cards.

Lastly, the bill more than doubles present funding for the successful port security grant program to $400 million At the current rate of funding, securing the physical infrastructure of our ports would take decades to complete.

Despite these and other important provisions, I continue to be disappointed that the rule for this bill did not allow consideration of amendments by my Democratic colleagues that would have further enhanced the protection of our ports and our economy.

For example, the Thompson Amendment would have added 1600 new Customs and Border Protection officers at our Nation's ports. Having adequate staff to inspect incoming cargo is a basic first step toward securing incoming cargo.

Additionally, the Langevin Amendment would have accelerated the installation of radiation detection monitors at our seaports. This is important because inspection of every incoming cargo container isn't realistic given the volume of trade. We are foolish not to maximize and expedite the full use of technology to scan containers for radiation that may reveal weapons of mass destruction.

Lastly, Democrats sought to mandate 100 percent screening overseas, of cargo containers bound for U.S. seaports to protect the homeland from hidden shipments of weapons of mass destruction.

Democratic proposals were common sense improvements to the bill and would have better prepared us for the increased security concerns facing our country. The House should not have been denied the opportunity to openly debate these important issues.

The additional inspection officers, scanning equipment, and mandated cargo screening that these amendments proposed are not inexpensive plans and would have required significant investments. However, we cannot afford to not make these necessary investments and risk a far greater cost in terms of our economy and loss of American lives.

Madam Chairman, port security is national security. This bill is a good step in the right direction toward securing our ports, our economy, and our Nation. However, I hope the conference committee will improve the bill further by addressing the issues of customs inspection officers, radiation detection monitors, and cargo screening that the Democrats proposed.

THE PLATFORM EQUALITY AND REMEDIES FOR RIGHTS HOLDERS IN MUSIC ACT OF 2006

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleague MARY BONO in introducing "The Platform Equality and Remedies for Rights Holders in Music Act of 2006" (Perform Act) which we hope will be the first step in addressing the convergence of digital radio and distribution technology. This bill mirrors the PERFORM ACT introduced by my colleagues two weeks ago in the Senate. The purpose of the PERFORM Act is to address current inequities in the Section 114 compulsory license of the Copyright Act.

One of America's greatest treasures is its intellectual property. In cities and towns across the nation and in countries around the world, American music is heard throughout the streets. People are consuming more music than ever. Yet the music industry is in crisis. The total value for the music industry at retail declined from $14.5 billion in 1999 to $12.1 billion in 2004. In March 2005 alone, 243 million songs were downloaded from illicit peer-to-peer services (NPD Musicwatch).

Our Founding Fathers recognized that in order for America to be at the forefront of creativity they must support and incentivize musicians to pursue their art by providing necessary protection to these original works to produce a return on investment in those works.

In that vein, in 1995 Congress took a step forward and established a limited performance right for digital sound recordings. However, while with one hand Congress granted a right to creators when their music is performed digitally, with the other hand it took away by requiring that this new limited right be subject to a government compulsory license for radio-like services. Therefore, as we continue with