

Today's bill purports to increase pediatric research by \$13 million per year by terminating public financing for political conventions. Assuming last year's 5 percent sequester at NIH was spread evenly across their programs, then pediatric research would have been cut by roughly \$182 million in 2013. The bill's \$13 million would return less than 10 percent of the funding to pediatric research that was lost to sequester last year. On top of that, the bill doesn't actually appropriate any funding, but instead authorizes appropriations, which does not guarantee that these funds will be available.

Mr. Speaker, today's bill isn't a sincere effort to increase funding for pediatric research and it shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone. Since the Republican majority took office in 2011, they've racked up a dismal record on NIH, having cut its budget by total of \$4.2 billion or 13 percent when adjusted for inflation. If Republicans are really serious about pediatric research, and in fact want to put kids first, then they should work with us to replace the sequester with a balanced budget package.

LORETTA DITIRRO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Loretta DiTirro for her outstanding service and commitment to our community.

Loretta is an extremely passionate and persuasive individual, especially when it comes to community. She was instrumental in changing the name of the Wheat Ridge Business Association, to help give more definition to the purpose and future of the group. Loretta ensures that the Wheat Ridge business members are well informed and well connected to the community at large, and she drove the membership from 30 to 200 members. She hosts events in her home to raise money for the Feed the Future Backpack Program, giving back to the children of her community. She opened up her garden for the Inaugural Wheat Ridge Garden Tour, and recruits volunteers for the historic Wheat Ridge Carnation Festival. As an influential leader and organizer, she is a valuable asset to the Wheat Ridge and Jefferson County communities.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Loretta DiTirro for her well deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF MRS. EVELYN STEVENS

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege today to honor Mrs. Evelyn Stevens, a member of my staff for almost seventeen years. Evelyn is retiring this year after over 34

years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Evelyn began working for my predecessor, Congressman Tom Beville, in 1979 and has worked continuously since then with passion and dedication for the constituents of the current Fourth Congressional District of Alabama. It would be difficult to count the number of constituents that she has helped during her tenure with the Fourth District of Alabama.

Evelyn was married for almost 40 years to Milton "Bud" Stevens and has two daughters, Renita Rigney and Amelia Sutter. She has five grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren with two more great-grandchildren soon to be born. She enjoys traveling with her daughters and takes the time to visit a different baseball stadium in the country during a trip they take every year. Evelyn is also an avid bowler, bowling every Tuesday evening with her team.

Few people can look back on their life and see that they have contributed so much to the well-being of their fellow citizens and their country. Evelyn Stevens is one of those people.

On behalf of myself and all the people of Alabama's Fourth Congressional District, I can never thank her enough for her hard work and dedication to serving the people of Alabama and the United States of America.

May God bless Evelyn in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, December 12, 2013, I missed rollcall vote No. 641 for unavoidable reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 641: "aye" (On passage of H. Res. 441.)

COLLEEN JORGENSEN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Colleen Jorgensen for her outstanding service and commitment to our community.

Despite facing numerous public education funding cuts, Colleen found a way to launch a campaign to make Red Rocks Community College "green," resulting in reduced paper consumption, in a recycling program, and a boiler system that reduced 30% of carbon emissions. She has translated the value of mentorship into Community Learning Centers, the Gateway program, and a shadowing program for potential Principal Investigators. Colleen stays active in her greater community by serving on numerous boards and area chambers. Colleen's creativity and innovation in education has left a lasting impact on thousands of college students, hundreds of colleagues and the business community.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Colleen Jorgensen for her well deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County.

I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

BURMA

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, despite U.S. officials continuing to celebrate the alleged "opening" of Burma and planning projects such as bringing electricity to the entire country, we need to stop and listen to the people of Burma. The ethnic groups have a different story to tell, one which does not support U.S. agencies' narrative. Ethnic minorities are not celebrating this alleged "opening." Instead, they continue to be forced to defend themselves from offensive attacks by the Burma army and regime.

Some officials in Washington act as if democracy has suddenly infused all levels of government and all policies in Burma, including by welcoming and feting Shwe Mann, the 3rd ranking official in the "former" dictatorship who is now serving as the Speaker of the Combined House of Parliament. The people of Burma are still fighting for freedom of speech, conscience, belief, and association. Political prisoners still languish in prison, the Muslim minority has been brutally attacked by factions of the Buddhist majority with nary an outcry by Aung San Suu Kyi or other democratically elected leaders, and Kachin women and girls are still raped by soldiers bent on purifying minority bloodlines. How can a government that continues to implement policies that directly contradict democratic principles be so embraced by the international community, including by U.S. officials?

What is wrong with this picture? The Administration is supporting those in favor of removing a dictatorship in one country while embracing a brutal dictatorship in another country. How is it that in one area of the world, our government has provided training and weapons to groups working against a dictatorship—even as some members of the opposition may have direct links to Al Qaeda—while in Burma, we have turned our backs on a population that has longed for democracy, freedom, and the protection of basic rights?

These inconsistent policies are deeply disturbing. "Former" dictators who truly desired to establish a democracy would stop using forced labor in military projects; would end horrific attacks against the Kachin, Northern Shan and Taang communities; would cease rearming, rebuilding, and resupplying their bases in ethnic territories; and would discontinue using bait and switch tactics in negotiations.

In recent negotiations between the Burma Government and the ethnic groups, the Government acts as if the ethnic groups should prove that they are trustworthy in terms of any ceasefire agreement. I would strongly posit that it's the other way around: the Government of Burma must prove its trustworthiness to the ethnic groups by ending its aggression before any ceasefire occurs. The ethnic minorities have simply defended their people and states when under attacks initiated by the Burma government. It is time for those attacks to