

upon, and they will likely forgo those expenditures. Low income families will be hit the hardest as they are less likely to get nutrition they need from food alone, and nutritional supplements our key part of their maintaining the health and well-being.

And I would ask my colleagues to consider this: Administrative Order No. 346, if it is allowed to stand, sets a dangerous precedent for every legitimate business operating in Puerto Rico today. If the Congress fails to nullify this order, nothing will stand in the way of the Government of Puerto Rico from imposing similar regulatory regimens on every other industry on the Island, without any notice or debate, and it will become the incubator for this terrible policy to migrate to other states and territories who are looking to enhance revenues.

Much of what we do here in the Congress is to establish public policies to protect consumers from exploitive and predatory actions of unscrupulous manufacturers of products that economically harm our citizens.

We are confronted today by a desperate Puerto Rican Government who appears to have set aside its duty to responsibly enact public policies that are consistent with the regular order of commerce, particularly as it relates to nutritional supplements, and has embarked on a clearly exploitive and predatory path to fleece nutritional supplement manufacturers and penalize its own consumers in the process.

The Congress is now required to act to defend its own authority and regulatory framework for nutritional supplement products as administered by the FDA, the Federal Trade Commission, and the Department of Justice. We must act in order to prevent this exploitive and predatory action by the Puerto Rican Government that will have the inevitable consequence of harming its own citizens.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2016

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5325) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise today in reluctant opposition to H.R. 5325, Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2017.

Although I support most of the programs and services this bill helps to fund including the Capitol Police, the independent budgetary and economic analysis of the Congressional Budget Office and the nonpartisan oversight work of the Government Accountability Office, as well as the language to stop this year's COLA for Congress, I must oppose the bill on the grounds that it has become a vehicle for the House Majority to advance an ideological agenda.

Funding in the bill has been used to finance the Benghazi Committee, to defend the misnamed "Defense of Marriage Act," to sue the President over the Affordable Care Act and to

fund the witch hunt against Planned Parenthood. Now the Majority wants to use this appropriations bill to order the Library of Congress to use politically charged terminology to refer to classes of people in the United States.

It is unfortunate that the Majority has chosen to play politics with this appropriations bill instead of devoting the time to shaping policies that actually serve the country.

REMEMBERING NOPD OFFICER
NATASHA HUNTER

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2016

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Officer Natasha Hunter, a 12-year veteran of the New Orleans Police Department. Officer Hunter embodied every quality you could dream of in a public servant. To her, being a police officer was more than just a job. It was an opportunity to help people when they had a problem, console them through a tough time, and inspire them to be something greater than they ever thought they could be.

Impactful police work is more than protecting and serving. It is becoming part of the fabric of the community, and few officers are as deeply woven into the city of New Orleans as Officer Hunter. She was a hero, taken from us and her family far too early by an avoidable tragedy.

On June 5, 2016 Officer Hunter sustained grave injuries from being struck by a drunk driver while in her police unit. Two days later on June 7, she succumbed to her injuries and passed away.

This loss hits especially hard because a 5-year old girl has just lost her mother. A mother that loved her, provided for her, and did her best to make the community she grew up in safe.

I share in the pain that the city has endured since her passing and I will always remember Officer Hunter's gallant sacrifice and unconquerable dedication every time she put on her uniform. My deepest condolences and prayers are with Officer Hunter's family, her fellow officers, but especially her young daughter Jasmine. Your mother will always protect you as she has protected all of us her entire career.

IN HONOR OF CARL E. FITCHETT
JR.

HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2016

Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to seek to honor the life of Carl E. Fitchett, Jr., who passed away May 29, 2016 in Smithfield, North Carolina at the age of 93.

Mr. Fitchett had a fierce passion for serving his community, as made apparent through his past roles as director of the N.C. Oil Jobbers Association, president of the Dunn Chamber of Commerce, and Commander of the American Legion. He also served as president of the Dunn Rotary Club which awarded him the

Man of the Year award in 1958, and was a deacon, elder, and trustee at First Presbyterian Church of Dunn. In addition to his volunteer leadership roles in the Dunn community, Carl served in World War II and owned and operated Fitchett Oil Co., retiring in 1991.

Mr. Fitchett is survived by his wife, Vivian; two children, Carl and Vivian; and four grandchildren, Duncan, Margaret, Austin and Katherine.

Carl Fitchett, like so many of our community leaders, sacrificed time to better the lives of those around him. He spent his entire life helping those in Harnett County, and we are forever indebted to him for his dedication in serving the local community, especially his hometown of Dunn. He truly embodied the role of the local hero.

NEED TO ELIMINATE HEALTH DISPARITIES IN RURAL AND UNDERSERVED MINORITY COMMUNITIES

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, in light of the myriad of issues facing Americans living in poverty, I am disappointed that my Republican colleagues chose a drug treatment center as the location to unveil their anti-poverty proposal last week. Assuming the poor are more prone to impulsivity and addiction ignores the reality that poverty is often the result of a constellation of compounding difficulties that are exacerbated by poor access to healthcare and our nation's historic disinvestment in public health. Today, I am here to highlight the impact these complications have on my most vulnerable constituents and the role we all play in addressing them.

The harsh disparities faced by my constituents in Alabama's Black Belt intersect at the nexus of poverty, demographics, and geographic access.

Women in certain parts of my district have to drive to distant counties, sometimes two hours, to give birth to their babies. Folks in Choctaw County, Alabama have to travel over 100 miles to the closest full-service urban hospital or to see a specialist. In 6 of the 14 counties I represent, there are fewer than 5 primary care physicians, county-wide.

The prostate cancer death rate in Alabama for black men was triple that of white men from 2000 to 2010. For all cancers, the mortality rate among blacks was more than double that of the white population during the same time period.

There are many settings that would have better told the story of struggling Americans than an addiction treatment center. An emergency room in a rural hospital in my district would have been a great place to start.

In this setting, the group would meet the working Alabamians who fall into our state's Medicaid gap. With the lowest Medicaid eligibility cap in the country, the working poor are left with no option for affordable health coverage.

Because of financial constraints, these individuals ignore small health care concerns until they compound to make for an emergency situation, which can only be addressed in the expensive setting of an emergency room. There