

Not only will patients lose access to care, but jobs will be lost, as well. It will have a devastating impact on communities and patients who need the care most—patients with diabetes, heart disease, HIV/AIDS, pregnant women, and children—and leave them with literally nowhere to turn for care.

This is no way to treat our Nation's most vulnerable populations.

HONORING HAROLD OSTROW

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Harold Ostrow and his selfless dedication to his community for over a quarter of a century. Appropriately nicknamed "Mr. Civic," Harold has provided leadership, guidance, and true heart to the community through his volunteer work over the years.

Harold's involvements vary in interest from being the Chairman of the Health Care District where he oversaw the management of the trauma program, the school nursing program, and a program to provide health coverage to the working poor. In addition, as a member of the Judicial Nominating Commission, Harold held the responsibility of providing the Governor with names of candidates for judges.

Mr. Civic did not stop there, though. Harold has also held the position of Chairman of the nonpartisan Voter's Coalition and the citizen's Advisory Committee for the Solid Waste Authority, gaining him the respect of government officials on both sides of the aisle. Harold's activism continues today as a member of the advisory board for the Fire-Rescue Agency.

No matter what the needs of his community was, Harold has been there, lending his open hand without asking for anything in return. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the love and support of Harold's wife, Lenore, by his side. His dedication to participating in every area of community life, helping wherever he could, and mentoring members of the community, has made Harold Ostrow a beacon of volunteer involvement, and I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize him.

I would like to congratulate Harold and his family for this tremendous honor. It is truly an honor to have Harold as a part of the South Florida community and as a friend.

IN DEFENSE OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

HON. PEDRO R. PIERLUISI

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the chamber this morning with disappointment, sadness, and a deep resolve to set the record straight. I am compelled to respond to remarks delivered yesterday on this floor by my colleague, the gentleman from Illinois, in which he harshly criticized the duly-elected government of Puerto Rico, the officers who serve honorably in its police force, and the chief judge of the U.S. district court

for the District of Puerto Rico. The speech was inappropriate and insulting to the people of Puerto Rico. I hope such action will not be repeated. But if it is, make no mistake: I will return to this floor again to defend my constituents—and the government they chose in free and fair elections—from all unwarranted attacks. I will rise then in the same capacity that I rise now: as Puerto Rico's only elected representative in Congress and the only member of this chamber who can make any claim to speak on behalf of the Island's nearly four million American citizens. I will fight for my people because it is my privilege, my honor, and my duty to do so.

To compare Puerto Rico to an authoritarian country is beyond the pale. It demeans not merely my constituents, but also the millions of men and women around the world who suffer under real dictatorships, who are truly oppressed, and who lack the dignity that comes only with genuine freedom. Puerto Rico is a rich and vibrant democracy, with strong institutions, governed by the rule of law. Fundamental rights protected by the U.S. Constitution—including the right to free speech, free assembly and due process of law—apply fully in Puerto Rico. So does federal civil rights law. This is not to suggest that violations of individual liberties never take place in Puerto Rico. On occasion they may, just as they do in every jurisdiction. And I would be the first person to condemn such conduct if it occurs. But, in Puerto Rico, unlike in a dictatorship, there are legal remedies available to citizens who claim to have been deprived of their rights. Those who fail to grasp this basic distinction do not understand Puerto Rico or appreciate its strengths.

Moreover, I believe it is wrong for a member of this body to insult a federal judge simply because that judge ruled in a way the member finds objectionable. To use an enlarged photo of that judge as a prop is, in my view, particularly unfortunate. Such theatrics undermine, rather than strengthen, the argument being made. Judge Fusté, a man who has devoted over 25 years of his life to public service, does not deserve such treatment.

Yesterday, a great disservice was done to the good name and reputation of the people of Puerto Rico. I regret that it occurred. I hope—and expect—that it will not happen again.

IN SUPPORT OF AMERICAN COMMERCIAL SPACEFLIGHT INDUSTRY

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the American commercial spaceflight industry.

Investing in private industry is an effective way to cut federal spending while spurring meaningful job growth and innovation. This is why I am a strong advocate for developing the commercial spaceflight program proposed by President Obama. The President's plan will help lower NASA launch costs by shifting this role to competitive private businesses, while fostering American economic competitiveness and leadership in cutting-edge research and technology. This plan will also end our reli-

ance on Russia to transport NASA astronauts to the International Space Station by utilizing the technology and services of private companies on American soil.

Bigelow Aerospace has been a model of American entrepreneurship and innovation. This company has developed its own spacecraft and created hundreds of much-needed jobs in the Las Vegas Valley. If we follow President Obama's common-sense plan of winding down NASA's Constellation Program and transferring the launch program to private industry, Bigelow Aerospace and many other cutting-edge spaceflight companies will create countless more jobs in the vital science and engineering industry.

The American people have told us emphatically that our top priorities must be jobs and the economy, and leveraging commercial spaceflight capabilities addresses both of these goals. I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting fiscally responsible, job-creating investments in the commercial spaceflight industry.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Chair, it is sad to see that amendments like this are being proposed based on no knowledge nor any serious evaluation of the institutions involved.

Anyone who has been involved with the East-West Center would understand that it is exactly the kind of activity that most cost-effectively promotes U.S. foreign policy and security interests in a critically important, fast-growing region of more than 3.5 billion people. Since its creation as a national institution 50 years ago, the Center has impacted more than 58,000 people in its region.

It operates our country's largest outreach program to Asia-Pacific region's journalists, the largest outreach program to the region's teachers, particularly in Muslim countries of Asia, and the only sustained U.S. program for engagement with the leaders of Pacific island nations. Both presidents Bush met Pacific island leaders through the East-West Center.

The Center is not a foreign aid program, but a public diplomacy program. The secret of the Center's effectiveness is that its programs bring together Americans with Asia-Pacific counterparts—American teachers with Asia and Pacific teachers, American youth leaders with their counterparts, etc. This is the very best way to show off American values and interests. If the U.S. had created a similar center for the Middle East, bringing young Israelis, Egyptians, and other Middle Easterners together with Americans for cooperative exchange and research at a location on American soil, our world may be a little different today. We would not see misguided amendments like that offered by Congressman RON