

H.R. 6429, THE STEM JOBS ACT OF 2012

**HON. RON KIND**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues this week are attempting to make a case for the importance of education, yet their budget this year slashed funding for education and for basic and applied research, creating barriers for traditional students, returning students and worker training. This is not the approach to ensure our students have the skills they need to match the jobs that are available. And this is not the approach to capitalize on the American ingenuity that will lead to economic growth.

We know that students trained in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), are acquiring the skills to fill and succeed at the jobs of the future. In order to increase American competitiveness, create good paying jobs, and ensure our position on the global stage, we have to invest in education, worker training and research in STEM studies. For years in my position as Co-Chair of the Innovation, Competitiveness and Tax Reform Task Force of the New Democratic Coalition I have called for exactly that—a renewed focus on STEM skills in the workforce.

And not just in our own students, but we must also remove the barriers to success for international students training in STEM studies at U.S. institutions. Instead of sending these highly-skilled international students back to their native countries, where they contribute to the foreign economies we are competing against, let's provide them with visas and let the American economy take advantage of these skills.

There is a real opportunity for these highly trained international students to achieve the American dream and contribute talent, creativity and innovative skills that will help ensure our place in a competitive global economy. And there is an actual opportunity to get something signed into law but we know the real work will have to come next Congress, as there are few days left to get much done this fall.

America's future as a global competitor depends on our ability to come together as leaders and make the hard decisions and smart investments as well as enact the policies that put us on a long-term path to prosperity. We cannot let America's future get bogged down by politics. There is too much at stake.

TRIBUTE TO THREE OLYMPIC MEDALISTS KESHIA BAKER, NATALIE COUGHLIN AND HEATHER PETRI

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate three local heroes from the 10th District of California, Keshia Baker, Nat-

alie Coughlin and Heather Petri. At the 2012 London Olympic Games Keshia won the gold medal in the Women's 4x400m relay, Natalie won the Bronze in the Women's 4x100m freestyle swimming relay and Heather won gold as part of the Women's Water Polo team. These three inspiring women having assured places on the storied list of Olympians from our district, and have become role models of our community.

Keshia was a first time Olympian in London but you wouldn't know by the way she carried herself. Keshia graduated from Fairfield High in 2006 whereupon she attended the University of Oregon. In between setting athletic records at Oregon, Keisha started her own non-profit supporting young disadvantaged student athletes as well as graduating with Honors in Psychology.

Natalie is an Olympic veteran and a national household name who has performed at an amazing level as a member of the US Women's swimming team since 2004. Winning her 12th medal at the London games, Natalie has tied two others as the most highly decorated female Olympians in American history. As a lifelong resident of Vallejo and a graduate of my alma mater CAL, Natalie is and will continue to be an inspiration within our community.

Heather, a four-time Olympic veteran, has competed at a winning level for the past 12 years. Due in no small part to her excellent leadership and tenacity, the US Women's Water Polo Team earned gold in London. This was her fourth Olympic medal. Even at a young age Heather was an exceptional athlete; a founding member of her high school team, and a highly decorated college athlete from CAL, her success has been no surprise to our community.

Olympians are more than just exceptional athletes, they are exceptional Americans. Their ability to hurdle any obstacle, to apply hard work, dedication and perseverance to their goals embodies the best of the American spirit and the American people; they are role models to us all and ambassadors for America and we thank them.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL 332

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my fellow Congress members ANNA ESHOO and MIKE HONDA to honor the 100th Anniversary of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 332.

For over a century, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 332 has worked to ensure the safety and well-being of its members.

Established on August 25, 1912, with only fourteen members, it has grown today to include 2,700 men and women striving for the highest level of excellence in their trade. Their concern for safety, and pursuit for high quality

education, led to the creation of one of the top electrical training facilities in the United States.

In fact, these skilled workers have been instrumental in building Silicon Valley into the globally renowned location it is today. Members of the Local 332 have participated in nearly every major construction project in Santa Clara County in the last 100 years; from field-pumps and canneries of the early 20th century, to the high tech companies that drive Silicon Valley's economy today.

Just as these tradesmen helped build our homes, schools, hospitals, and civic facilities, they also have helped shape our community and grow our economy.

Indeed, Local 332's members contributions extend beyond the workplace to building a better community. Its members are active volunteers and generous supporters of numerous community and non-profit organizations.

Their civic work has improved the opportunities and lives of not only their own members, but also countless people in Santa Clara County.

Along with myself, Representatives ANNA ESHOO and MIKE HONDA also wish to congratulate the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers on its 100 year anniversary, and commend them for their work on behalf of workers' rights, craftsmanship, and their commitment to community in Silicon Valley.

IN HONOR OF CLEVELAND CITY COUNCILWOMAN PHYLLIS CLEVELAND

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Cleveland City Councilwoman Phyllis Cleveland, who has been serving the Ward 5 community since being elected to the Cleveland City Council in 2005.

Councilwoman Cleveland has been a long-time resident of the community which she now represents, which includes the Central, North Broadway and Kinsman Union neighborhoods. The Councilwoman has spent her life in public and community service, working for the Cleveland Tenants Organization advocating for fair and affordable housing for Cuyahoga County residents. In 2009, Councilwoman Cleveland was chosen by Council President Martin J. Sweeney to serve as Majority Leader in the City Council.

Councilwoman Cleveland's goal for Ward 5 has always been to build a strong connection between residents and the community by keeping the neighborhood safe, clean, and affordable. To do this, she has supported programs to clear the city of vacant and abandoned housing, replacing it with new houses and businesses. She has continued the community and economic development started by Mayor Frank G. Jackson when he was the Ward 5 Councilman.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honoring the accomplishments of Councilwoman Phyllis Cleveland.