

INTRODUCING THE “SAVING AMERICA’S POLLINATORS ACT OF 2013”

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with the support of my colleague and friend Mr. BLUMENAUER of Oregon to introduce the “Saving America’s Pollinators Act of 2013.” This legislation requires the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to take swift action and prevent future mass die-offs of honey bees.

One of every three bites of food we eat is from a crop pollinated by honey bees. These crops include: apples, avocados, cranberries, cherries, broccoli, peaches, carrots, grapes, soybeans, sugar beets and onions. Unfortunately, unless swift action is taken, these crops, and numerous others, will soon disappear due to the dramatic decline of honey bee populations throughout the country. For over a decade now, honey bees have been suffering rapid population losses as a result of a phenomenon known as ‘colony collapse disorder.’ Another decade of these mass die-offs will severely threaten our agricultural economy and food supply system.

Scientists have reported that common symptoms of this decline are attributed to the use of a class of insecticides known as neonicotinoids. The ‘Saving America’s Pollinators Act’ will address the decline of honey bee populations by directing the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to suspend the registration of certain neonicotinoids—known as imidacloprid, clothianidin, thiamethoxam, dinotafuran—and any other members of the nitro group of neonicotinoid insecticides until the Administrator has made a determination that such insecticides will not cause unreasonable adverse effects on pollinators based on an evaluation of peer-review scientific evidence and a completed field study. The bill will also require the Secretary of the Interior, in coordination with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, to regularly monitor the health and population status of native bees and identify the scope and likely causes of unusual native bee mortality.

This legislation is extremely critical to examining the death of honey bees and will allow us the opportunity to adequately secure our future food supply. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and protect America’s pollinators.

IN TRIBUTE TO BESSIE MARIE GRAY

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a mother, teacher, mentor, and community leader, Bessie M. Gray. On July 21, 2013 her over 40 years of service will be celebrated and honored along with family, friends, former employees, and former students at a program entitled, “Mother to Many, Teacher to More and Mentor to All.”

Mrs. Bessie Gray was born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas and moved to Milwaukee after graduating from high school, where she met and married her husband, Percy. She began her child care business in her home in 1973 after working as a Head Start volunteer. Gray’s Child Development Center, Inc. became a nonprofit organization and was accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). It was the first African American-led program in the State to achieve this accreditation.

Mrs. Gray earned her bachelor’s degree in early childhood education from the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee and her master’s degree in educational administrative leadership from Marquette University. She was a State certified child care trainer for many years and started hundreds of teachers on their way to successful child care careers. She served on many boards and is a past member of Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (vice president), Midwest Early Childhood Association, Black Child Development Institute, and Easter Seals Southeastern Wisconsin. She continues to be available for board consultation.

In 1991, Mrs. Gray began purchasing a property on North Teutonia Avenue from the Sisters of Sorrowful Mother. After providing day care services for children at this site for three years, the Sisters gifted the property to Mrs. Gray. For the next 20 years, Gray’s operated out of that facility until its closure in 2011.

Many honors and awards have been bestowed upon Mrs. Gray during her career, including Milwaukeean of the Month (Milwaukee Magazine) 1981, First African American Nationally Accredited Child Care Center in Wisconsin 1994, State of Wisconsin Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Heritage Award 2001, and Black Child Development Wisconsin Affiliate/Child Care category 2009. She has touched the lives of thousands during her 48 years of service to children and their futures. When parents could not afford to pay the child care fees, she absorbed these costs to ensure that parents could maintain employment stability or finish their schooling.

Bessie Gray is a woman armed with a strong personal faith. She taught Sunday school and provided a nursing home ministry. She was married to Percy Gray, Sr. for over 55 years until his passing in December 2010, and is the mother of nine children, with 23 grandchildren and several great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to pay tribute to Bessie M. Gray, my friend. Mrs. Gray’s contributions have greatly benefited the citizens of the Fourth Congressional District.

HONORING THE CITY OF ELLSWORTH, MAINE

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the city of Ellsworth, Maine as it celebrates its 250th anniversary.

Located in the heart of Hancock County, and a gateway to Acadia National Park, Ellsworth is one of our state’s fastest growing and picturesque communities. It serves as the

county seat and is a regional center for Downeast Maine, with agricultural, commercial, and educational resources that are utilized and embraced by thousands of nearby Mainers.

The town was settled in 1763 and named after Oliver Ellsworth, a delegate to the 1787 United States Constitutional Convention. The city combines a comfortable small town feel with the beautiful scenery of Maine’s coastline. One of Ellsworth’s many attractions includes the Downeast Scenic Railroad, which begins in the town and travels along the historic, recently renovated, Calais Branch line.

The residents of Ellsworth embody the values of the hardworking people of Maine, and they take great pride in the rich heritage they have created over the past 250 years. It is an honor and a privilege to represent the people of Ellsworth in Congress, and I am pleased to have this opportunity to help the town celebrate its 250th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the people of Ellsworth and wishing them well on this joyous occasion.

SUPPORT OF ROBUST FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH AND THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of robust funding for the National Institutes of Health and the National Cancer Institute. This funding is critically necessary to support life-saving research for diseases like pancreatic cancer.

In the 112th Congress, I cosponsored the Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act, which calls on the National Cancer Institute to develop a scientific framework for combating pancreatic cancer and lung cancer. This scientific framework will identify the most promising avenues for research and coordinate resources to achieve a greater impact.

Mr. Speaker, strategic investment in pancreatic cancer research is absolutely crucial. While overall cancer incidence and death rates are declining, pancreatic cancer remains the deadliest of all major forms of cancer. Pancreatic cancer has a devastatingly low five-year survival rate of just six percent, and it will impact over 45,000 Americans this year.

Unfortunately, funding for the NIH and the National Cancer Institute has been declining due to inflation and sequestration. I urge my colleagues to support a permanent fix to sequestration and provide the resources needed to help every American suffering from cancer.

IN HONOR OF CARTERET COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER AND THE ASPCA

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor the Carteret County