

I will continue to keep residents' thoughts and concerns at the forefront of my decisionmaking, and I thank them for reaching out to me over the last week. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

#### STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the issue of public education in America and what we need to do here in Washington, D.C., to improve our public education system.

I specifically rise today to urge passage of the Student Success Act in the name of putting students first.

The bottom line, Mr. Speaker, is that right now the Federal education bureaucracy has imposed more mandates on local classrooms, on students, on teachers, on administrators, than was ever intended or contemplated by our Constitution and essentially runs afoul of the principles of federalism. That being that, if power is not vested upon the Federal Government to do something, it should be left to the States or even more local subdivisions; in this case, our local school boards.

The Student Success Act seeks to empower teachers, administrators, parents, and students by sending control back to school boards and classrooms across this country.

Mr. Speaker, the Student Success Act accomplishes a great deal for the sake of the student. I am going to spend a minute explaining how and why that is. But it is also important to point out what happens if we do not pass this bill: more curriculum mandates out of Washington, D.C., more testing mandates out of Washington, D.C. If we do not pass this bill, we get more of that.

If we do not pass this bill, we have more power and control administered at the sole discretion of the Secretary of Education, as it stands right now. The Secretary of Education has the power of the purse at his disposal, and we have a waiver program that essentially plays out as follows:

If the Secretary of Education at the Federal level likes what you are doing with your curriculum and your accountability measures at the local level, you get grant money. If he doesn't like it, you don't get the grant money. There is way too much discretion in Washington, D.C., over how public education is managed and administered in this country. That is not the way it was intended to be.

The waiver program, which is in effect right now, is acting as a top-down lever to dictate what is taught in the classrooms, how it is taught, when and how much testing should be employed by teachers, how they teach in the classroom, and when students have to take tests.

I cannot tell you how often I hear from parents and students and teachers lamenting about not only the days spent testing, but the days spent preparing to test.

The effort with the Student Success Act is to roll that back and have States take a leadership role in that and the Federal Government retreat, reduce the Federal footprint in education in this country.

This is not a partisan issue. This is an issue of fairness. It is only fair that teachers and parents get more say over public education and Washington, D.C., gets less.

A vote against this bill is a vote for the status quo, and I don't think anyone really, truly wants public education coming more out of Washington, D.C.

The Student Success Act ensures that States cannot be coerced into Common Core. If we do not pass this bill, the Secretary of Education, through the waiver program, has more ability to impose Common Core. By passing this bill, States cannot be coerced into the Common Core curriculum.

The Student Success Act eliminates 49 duplicative, ineffective Federal programs. If we do not pass this bill, those 49 duplicative, ineffective programs stay on the books.

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The Student Success Act provides more flexible funding for school districts to fund their priorities at the local level.

I want to thank Chairman KLINE, Mr. ROKITA, and all my colleagues on the Education and the Workforce Committee for their work on the Student Success Act.

Mr. Speaker, let's put children first and pass this bill.

#### ROSA PARKS DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the memory of the great Rosa Parks, also known as the mother of the modern civil rights movement.

Today, December 1, marks the 60th anniversary of Rosa Parks' arrest for refusing to surrender her seat on a city bus in Montgomery, Alabama, to a White male. Her arrest on this date in 1955 put a face to Jim Crow and the disgrace of segregation in this country and, in many ways, united a nation in the struggle for civil rights for all.

As many of you know the story, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat, sparking the peaceful Montgomery bus boycott, which lasted 381 days and led to the eventual desegregation of the public transportation system across this Nation.

Rosa Parks in every way embodies the tremendous difference a single person, Mr. Speaker, can make through

the power of protest, nonviolence, and courage.

As a member of the Ohio General Assembly, where I served as House leader, I was proud to have led the efforts that resulted in the 2005 passage of House Bill 421 designating December 1 as Rosa Parks Day, the first State in the Nation to do so. Each year, the State of Ohio, spearheaded by the Central Ohio Transit Authority, proudly celebrates the life of Rosa Parks in our State capital, Columbus, Ohio.

It is important that we do not let her legacy of bravery die. I look forward to joining my constituents when I travel back to the district on December 3 to celebrate the 11th annual statewide tribute to Rosa Parks, "The Power of One."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Congressman JOHN CONYERS, the dean of this House, for agreeing to participate in my Community Leaders Forum at this year's celebration.

For five decades, Congressman CONYERS has been a champion of civil rights and voting rights. His distinguished career is highlighted by his work on important civil rights legislation such as the Martin Luther King Holiday Act of 1983, the Motor Voter bill of 1993, and the Help America Vote Act of 2002. Today, he continues to fight for voting rights and civil rights as the ranking member on the House Judiciary Committee.

I look forward to welcoming him to our Rosa Parks celebration because he shared a personal relationship with her. She worked for Congressman CONYERS from 1964 until 1988. However, before working with Congressman CONYERS, she took a stand for justice and equality. The power of one person changed our Nation forever.

Our fight for racial equality and real inclusion is ongoing, as recently publicized tensions across our Nation have made clear. With the Supreme Court decision to strike down section 4 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 in *Shelby County v. Holder*, we no longer have the safety net that ensures that Americans, especially minorities, are able to participate in our democratic process.

Mr. Speaker, we should not be rolling back voting rights protection. Instead, we should honor the progress our country has made to ensure and protect equal rights and equal treatment for all.

That is why I am the cosponsor of the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015, H.R. 2867, which enjoys bipartisan and bicameral support. Congress should immediately bring this legislation to the floor to ensure that all Americans may cast ballots to choose their leaders in public service.

Mr. Speaker, many of the policies being pushed by the House Republican leadership would adversely and disproportionately affect people of color and individuals in low-income communities.

When we talk about reform in Washington and starting with a clean slate