

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MARY DUBOIS IN CELEBRATION OF HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2016

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my congratulations to Mary Dubois in celebration of her reaching the milestone 90th birthday.

As she reflects on the great memories and milestones that have highlighted the past ninety years, I know she will think fondly on all that she's accomplished and the positive impact she's had on New Hampshire.

It is with great admiration that I congratulate Ms. Dubois on achieving this wonderful milestone, and wish her the best on all future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ALVIN KREUZ

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2016

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Alvin Kreuz of Delta, Ohio. Al passed from this life on May 20 after being given 80 years surrounded by his loving family.

Al Kreuz was born in Swanton, Ohio to Jacob and Melvina Kreuz. He was the second youngest in a family of eleven children. After graduating high school, Al enlisted in the United States Army where he served from 1955 to 1957. After coming home, he married his wife Charlotte in 1959. Together over the next 57 years Al and Char raised a family of their own: sons Mike, Gary and Alvin John Jr and daughters, Laurie, Becky and Barbie. As the years passed they were later blessed with fourteen grandchildren.

Though he spent his professional career with Sohio Company and later in partnership at Toledo Radiator and Glass, Al's true passion as a businessman was his forty year career as owner and operator of Smith's Restaurant in Wauseon, Ohio. Just off the turnpike, featuring delicious home-cooked fare and outstanding pies, everyone in Fulton County and even further knew of Smith's Restaurant and Al and Char Kreuz and their family.

Long a business leader, Al had a strong commitment to community and wanted to serve his fellow citizens. He did so as an elected politician, serving three terms as a Fulton County Commissioner. As his obituary noted, "Vote for the man, not the party" was his slogan that earned him the distinction in 1980 of being the first Democrat elected in Fulton County in 48 years!" His tenure was marked by compassion and a devotion to the county and people he served. Fulton County,

Ohio and its residents truly benefitted from Al Kreuz's public service.

Not just a business and political leader, Al was also a leader in several civic associations including the Knights of Columbus, Wauseon Rotary, Catholic War Vets and the Delta F & M Advisory Board.

He also loved sports. His obituary highlights that "he was an integral member of a group that founded the Wauseon Racquet Club . . . As a lifelong athlete and sports enthusiast, his talents on the softball field, bowling alley, and golf course earned him many awards and accolades. He was most proud of his nine (no, you didn't misread this) holes-in-one. His skill never abated and for the last twelve years he continued to periodically shoot his age up until the end. As for bowling, his first and only perfect 300 game earned him a \$10,000 purse (ironically sponsored by Smith's Restaurant!). His love of athletics and teaching prompted him to volunteer as a coach with the CYO and St. Mary's (now Holy Trinity) basketball programs for 27 years. Additionally he coached little league and later assisted the Evergreen HS golf team." His love of sports and support of his teams is also evident in his claim as a University of Michigan Wolverines season ticket holder for 44 years. His favorite sporting events were those of his grandchildren, where he could always be counted on to be cheering for them on the sidelines.

As if his devotion to family, his business, community, civic organizations and sports teams was not enough, Al was also a talented tinkerer. As he was tinkering in his workshop he developed "an amazing talent in wood-working. Many of his family and friends continue to enjoy his labors of love" including me.

I was privileged to know Al Kreuz for more than thirty years and counted he and Char and their family among friends. For a decade we shared the goal of making life better in Fulton County, Ohio. Al Kreuz was a family man, business and civic leader, citizen statesman and so much more. His legacy is writ large in Fulton County, Ohio. His life and times, his service and talents are imprinted there as his good works of family and community carry forward.

H.R. 5456

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2016

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following extraneous materials on H.R. 5456, the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2016:

NEW YORK COALITION FOR
CHILD WELFARE FINANCE REFORM,

June 20, 2016.

DEAR NEW YORK STATE FEDERAL DELEGATION: As a coalition representing numerous child welfare stakeholders, including advocacy organizations, providers, parents' attorneys, children's attorneys and philanthropy

in New York, we are writing to express our support for H.R. 5456, the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2016. Every child deserves to grow up in a safe and caring family, and the Family First Prevention Services Act would help ensure that more children have this opportunity.

The Family First Prevention Services Act of 2016 contains many important provisions that would strengthen the child welfare system here in New York and make a significant impact in strengthening and keeping families together. For the first time, New York would be able to use federal dollars from Title IV-E of the Social Security Act to provide time-limited, evidence-based services to families. The services are aimed to help prevent children from entering the foster care system by allowing federal reimbursement to families for mental health services, substance abuse treatment, and in-home parent skill-based programs. New York State and New York City are ahead of many other states and localities, having already invested a significant amount of resources to prevent foster care and enable children to live safely in their homes. The ability to access federal funding to enhance the work being done in New York, could enable many more families to remain intact.

In addition, the bill incentivizes states to ensure that children are placed in family-based settings by only allowing federal reimbursement after an assessment has occurred and it has been determined that the child should be placed in a quality residential treatment program. In addition, for those youth who are assessed to need to be placed in a congregate care setting, the law will ensure that these settings provide children with the trauma-informed and on-site services they need.

The legislation also includes a number of other provisions aimed to reform and strengthen the child welfare system including the extension of the Title IV-B program, improving supports for youth transitioning to adulthood, establishing model foster care licensing standards, and calling for a GAO review to examine compliance of states in reinvesting savings from the federal adoption assistance reimbursement for special needs kids.

We look forward to working with you to ensure these new child welfare finance reforms will truly benefit children who come to the attention of the child welfare system and to continue to explore additional improvements on their behalf to ensure they all have safe, permanent families. Thank you for your continuing leadership on behalf of these children. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Gendell from Citizens' Committee for Children.

The following Coalition members from New York support the Family First Prevention Services Act (H.R. 5456):

CASA-NY,

Center for Family Representation, Citizens' Committee for Children, New Yorkers for Children, You Gotta Believe!

GRAHAM WINDHAM,

Children's Village, JCCA, Schulyer Center for Analysis and Advocacy.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES,
Chicago, IL, June 22, 2016.

Illinois Department of Children and Family
Services Encourages Speedy Passage of
H.R. 5456

SPRINGFIELD, IL.—The U.S. House of Representatives this week approved H.R. 5456, the Family First Prevention Services Act, to give Illinois and other states substantially more flexibility and federal support to keep families together and avoid reliance on foster care. The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services stands in strong support of this legislation.

“This landmark legislation, years in the making, will help the Department achieve its primary goal of effectively working with families and children in crisis to prevent children from entering foster care,” said Department of Children and Family Services Director George Sheldon in a letter to the Illinois Congressional Delegation. “This legislation is not only good for children and families, but for federal and state budgets as well. The evidence of what works in child welfare is almost universal in focusing on early intervention. Over the long term, evidence-based prevention services reduce the need for costly, long-term foster care and will improve outcomes for children and families.”

The legislation is a dramatic change in federal support for states child welfare programs. For decades, the federal government has shared the cost of children in foster care but has offered little support for programs that help keep children out of foster care by helping troubled families. The new legislation provides federal matching dollars for programs that preserve families.

The legislation also limits state reliance on long-term residential treatment facilities rather than community-based family-type placements, including foster homes. The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services has been implementing this under the Rauner Administration by gradually transferring 350 children and youth to group homes and foster care.

The Family First Prevention Act was introduced on Friday, June 10, 2016 with strong bipartisan support. Ranking Republicans and Democrats on the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee of Congress led the effort. On Tuesday, June 21, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 5456 without opposition. The legislation now moves to the U.S. Senate.

Please see attached letter of support from Director Sheldon to the Illinois Congressional Delegation.

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES,
Chicago, IL, June 21, 2016.

DEAR MEMBERS OF THE ILLINOIS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION: On behalf of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, I write in appreciation for the introduction and speedy consideration of H.R. 5456, the Family First Prevention Services Act. This landmark legislation, years in the making, will help the Department achieve its primary goal of effectively working with families and children in crisis to prevent children from entering foster care.

The Family First Prevention Services Act allows states to invest federal foster care funds in evidence-based prevention services. This ends the counter-productive policy under which the federal government has provided long-term funding for kids in foster care, rather than spending to keep kids out of foster care. The legislation aims to reduce inappropriate congregate care placements and strengthens kinship navigator programs to ensure that kids can remain with family

whenever possible. By reducing the bureaucracy in licensing foster homes, the bill also will help attract good foster parents.

This legislation is not only good for children and families, but for federal and state budgets as well. The evidence of what works in child welfare is almost universal in focusing on early intervention. Over the long term, evidence-based prevention services reduce the need for costly, long-term foster care and will improve outcomes for children and families.

Governor Bruce Rauner has made it a priority to improve Illinois' child welfare system and DCFS has taken significant strides to do so. Over the past year, the Department has reduced the number of children in shelter care by 50 percent. With improved technology, DCFS has streamlined bureaucratic processes so our caseworkers can assist more families quickly and efficiently. Ahead of the policy included in H.R. 5456, at the state level we have worked to limit the length of time children are in congregate care and have moved 350 youth from residential facilities to foster care or other family settings. Those savings have been reinvested back into serving more kids.

Growing up in a program and not in a home leaves a hole in the heart of a foster child. A home is more than a place to live; it is a feeling of belonging. We want more of our youth to grow up with that feeling of belonging to a family. In order to do so, we need to help families long before they reach the crisis that prompts DCFS to intervene and take their children. I firmly believe this legislation will help us to accomplish this and ensure that all foster children find their “forever” home.

I thank you for your time and urge you to support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

GEORGE SHELDON,
Director, Illinois Department
of Children and Families.

FIRST FOCUS STATE POLICY ADVOCACY & REFORM CENTER,
Washington, DC, June 17, 2016.

Hon. KEVIN BRADY,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. ORRIN HATCH,
Chairman, Committee on Finance,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. VERN BUCHANAN,
Chairman, Human Resources Subcommittee,
Committee on Ways and Means, House of
Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. SANDER LEVIN,
Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and
Means, House of Representatives, Wash-
ington, DC.

Hon. RON WYDEN,
Ranking Member, Committee on Finance, U.S.
Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. LLOYD DOGGETT,
Ranking Member, Human Resources Sub-
committee, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMEN BRADY AND HATCH, RANKING MEMBERS LEVIN AND WYDEN, CHAIRMAN BUCHANAN AND RANKING MEMBER DOGGETT: As members of the State Policy Advocacy and Reform Center (SPARC), a coalition of state-based advocacy organizations committed to improving the safety, health and wellbeing of children and families involved in the child welfare system, we are writing to commend your efforts to advance policy changes to better support the needs of vulnerable children and families through the introduction and consideration of H.R. 5456, the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2016.

Currently, there are 415,000 children in the foster care system, a number that has in-

creased by 3.5 percent from 2014. Nearly 31 percent of children placed in foster care were removed due to parental alcohol or drug use, and in some states, the percentage of removal due to parental substance abuse is closer to 60 percent. In addition, 57,000 children in foster care live in group homes or congregate care settings. More than 40 percent of these children have no clinical need to be in such a setting, and should be with families who can provide love and support.

The Family First Prevention Services Act of 2016 contains many important provisions that address these poor statistics and will make a significant impact in strengthening and keeping families together. For the first time states will be able to use federal dollars from Title IV-E of the Social Security Act to provide time-limited, evidence-based services to families. The services are aimed to help prevent children from entering the foster care system by allowing federal reimbursement to families for mental health services, substance abuse treatment, and in-home parent skill-based programs. In addition, the bill incentivizes states to ensure that children are placed in family-based settings by only allowing federal reimbursement after an assessment has occurred and it has been determined that the child should be placed in a quality residential treatment program.

The legislation also includes a number of other provisions aimed to reform and strengthen the child welfare system including the extension of the Title IV-B program, improving supports for youth transitioning to adulthood, establishing model foster care licensing standards, and calling for a GAO review to examine compliance of states in reinvesting savings from the federal adoption assistance reimbursement for special needs kids.

We look forward to working with you to ensure these new child welfare finance reforms will truly benefit children who come to the attention of the child welfare system and to continue to explore additional improvements on their behalf to ensure they all have safe, permanent families. Thank you for your continuing leadership on behalf of these children.

The following SPARC members support the Family First Prevention Services Act (H.R. 5456):
Advocates for Children and Youth (Maryland)

Advocates for Children of New Jersey
Arkansas Advocates for Children
Center for Children's Justice (Pennsylvania)
Center for Public Policy Priorities (Texas)
Children's Action Alliance (Arizona)
Children's Advocacy Alliance (Nevada)
Child and Family Policy Center (Iowa)
Citizens' Committee for Children (New York)
Connecticut Voices for Children
First Focus Campaign for Children
Florida's Children First, Inc.
FosterAdopt Connect
Juvenile Law Center
Partners for Our Children (Washington)
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children
Kansas Applesseed
Kentucky Youth Advocates
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
Michigan's Children
Nebraska Applesseed
New Mexico Voices for Children
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children
The Mockingbird Society
Voices for Alabama's Children
Voices for Children in Nebraska
Voices for Ohio's Children
Youth Law Center (California)

TRIBUTE TO PINELLAS SUNCOAST
TRANSIT AUTHORITY

HON. DAVID W. JOLLY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2016

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority for the solidarity they expressed in their efforts to help Orlando.

The PSTA is giving free bus passes to individuals who wish to donate blood across Pinellas County in aid of the victims of the Orlando shooting. This is just one of the many ways in which Pinellas County has stood with Orlando in the wake of the attack to express our support and sympathies.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the PSTA for helping the Orlando victims and coordinating a county-wide effort for residents to donate blood. I ask that this body join me in recognizing the efforts of PSTA and in praying for all the families of those affected in Orlando. God Bless.

HONORING MANTECA CITY FIRE
CHIEF KIRK WATERS

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2016

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Manteca City Fire Chief Kirk Waters, who has announced his retirement after 29 years of service.

Kirk always sought a career that allowed him to be of service to others, and ultimately received a degree from Pruitt College of Respiratory Therapy. After becoming a state-licensed respiratory therapist, he began working for the Modesto City Hospital.

In keeping with his devotion to service, Kirk applied for a position with the Manteca City Fire Department in March of 1986. Being the son of a firefighter, Kirk was captivated by the idea of following in his father's footsteps. He began his work in June of the following year, and quickly proved himself to be an invaluable member of the Department. He was subsequently promoted to the position of Firefighter Engineer in November of 1990. Due to his strong work ethic and desire to improve the community, Kirk was named Acting Captain in July of 1995. He was subsequently made Fire Captain the following year. He continued this trend of advancement by being named Fire Division Chief in February of 2005 and Fire Chief in November of 2009.

During his tenure as Chief, Kirk was responsible for speeding up response times in spite of a 40 percent increase in emergency calls. Furthermore, he orchestrated a plan to improve response efficiency at large structure fires through the strategic positioning of fire trucks. These are only two feats among the many innovative measures Chief Waters spearheaded during his tenure. He undoubtedly went above and beyond in his duty to improve public safety in the community.

Fire Chief, however, is not the only capacity through which Mr. Waters sought to benefit his community. In fact, Kirk serves on the Board of Directors for the Manteca/Lathrop Boys and

Girls Club, the Second Harvest Food Bank, and the Raymus HOPE Family Shelter. Along with all of these honorable commitments, Kirk makes time to coach youth basketball for the Manteca Parks and Recreation Department. It is clear that he has dedicated his life to service for others.

Kirk and his wife, Shelly, have 6 children, are very involved with their church, and enjoy remaining healthy and active. Following his retirement, Kirk will return to his roots as a respiratory therapist and help sick newborns at Doctors Medical Center in Modesto.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending the outstanding contributions made to fire services in the city of Manteca by Chief Kirk Waters, and wish him continued success in his retirement and future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO LEIGH ANNE MOHLER

HON. DAVID W. JOLLY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2016

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Leigh Anne Mohler's achievements in winning the award of General Manager of the Year for Fairfield Inn and Suites.

Ms. Mohler has over 12 years of experience in sales and management. In September 2013, she joined the Fairfield Inn & Suites Clearwater team and has sought to take every business opportunity possible since. She has been able to successfully close 24 new accounts and increase their corporate occupancy through her exemplary work ethic and consummate drive.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Ms. Mohler for her tenacious business ethic in Pinellas County. Her hard work only serves to increase the amount of opportunities for our county and I ask that this body join me in recognizing Ms. Mohler for her incredible efforts.

IN CELEBRATION OF MR. ALBERT
"BARNEY" LAROCHE

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2016

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my congratulations to Albert "Barney" LaRoche in celebration of reaching his 100th birthday.

As he reflects on the great memories that have highlighted the past one hundred years, I know he will think fondly on all that he's accomplished and the positive impact he's had on New Hampshire.

Mr. LaRoche was inducted into the New Hampshire Legends of Hockey Hall of Fame on February 17, 2002 for all of his contributions to hockey in the Granite State. As a player for twenty two years, most notably with the Berlin Maroons, and as a coach for Notre Dame High School and later his beloved Maroons, Barney helped achieve impressive records for all the teams he worked with. His dedication to the sport of hockey and skill as a competitor and mentor have not been forgotten to enthusiasts in the Granite State and I

know they all join with me in wishing him a happy birthday.

It is with great admiration that I congratulate Mr. LaRoche on achieving this wonderful milestone, and wish him the best on all future endeavors.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,360,176,741,617.54. We've added \$8,733,299,692,704.46 to our debt in 7 years. This is over \$8.7 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TRIBUTE TO LACEY EKBERG

HON. DAVID W. JOLLY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2016

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Lacey Ekberg for being named the new president of Tarpon Springs Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Ekberg has been named the new chamber president, but such a role is not alien to her. She previously served as the Key Largo Chamber of Commerce President with a self-proclaimed "call-it-as-I-see-it" attitude. She is determined to put the town on the map and I know she will work hard with business owners and the government to do just that.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Ms. Ekberg for her tenacity in her work for Tarpon Springs and Pinellas County. She has an admirable and diligent work ethic and I ask that this body join me in congratulating Ms. Ekberg on her new position.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2016

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, July 6, 2016, I was unable to cast my floor vote on roll call vote number 368 (Rep. Ellison amendment).

Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "yes" on roll call vote number 368.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LARRY
BIGHAM

HON. MICK MULVANEY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2016

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and mark the passing of Larry