

IN SUPPORT OF TAIWAN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2017

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support for Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization (WHO).

For nearly a decade, Taiwan has participated as an invited observer at the World Health Assembly, the annual forum for the WHO. This invitation arrived late last year, due to political opposition to democratically-elected President Tsai Ing-wen. This year, no invitation was sent at all. Public health should be a politics-free issue and the WHO, a leading actor in reacting to global health crises, should remain a neutral, independent body which does not only serve the interest of any specific country.

As our world becomes increasingly connected and travel times to places around the globe are decreasing, communicable diseases have spread at an ever increasing pace. With its modern, world-class health system, Taiwan has been a leader in disease prevention, surveillance, quarantine, and treatment. It has been a key ally in the fights against many diseases, including SARS, avian flu, and Zika. Taiwan has shared its expertise and resources with people in South East Asia, and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, the World Health Assembly is an important event with worldwide attendance where global health policy is determined. Taiwan's medical expertise should be well represented. I encourage the administration to continue to help Taiwan's inclusion in the World Health Assembly and work together with their Taiwanese counterparts to strengthen the bilateral cooperation on health.

SIBYL WESTENHAVER NAMED
KATY, TX, SENIOR OF THE YEAR

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sibyl Westenhaver for being named as the 2017 City of Katy Senior of the Year.

Members of the Senior Citizens Center Advisory Board nominated two people to be named Katy's Senior of the Year and Mayor Fabol Hughes choose Sibyl. Sibyl began volunteering in her church's home delivered meals program in 2006. She helped transition the program to Interfaith Ministries' meals on wheels program. She moved to Katy from Oklahoma after losing her husband to be closer to her children and grandchildren. Not wanting to be a "sit-at-home elderly person," Sibyl is known throughout the community and has created an extended family through her fellow volunteers and meal recipients. She's truly an inspiration.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Sibyl for being named the 2017 City of Katy Senior of the Year. She's helped countless people and we thank her for her help.

RECOGNIZING INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2017

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of international students, scholars, and the U.S. institutions of higher education they attend who have been unfairly penalized by the administration's efforts to limit travel to our country. I urge my colleagues and the administration to recognize the vital contribution international students, scholars, and their families make when we welcome them to this great country.

International Education programs are incredibly important to the higher education experiences of students across the country. In particular, Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs enable American undergraduate and graduate students to develop capabilities and proficiencies in languages and areas of the world that greatly benefit national security. At its core, Title VI strengthens the international teaching and curricula of students, introduces students to a wider, diverse world, and fosters their likelihood of pursuing an internationally focused profession. Similarly, the Fulbright-Hays program is an internationally focused program that awards grants to individual U.S. teachers, post-doctoral students, post-doctoral faculty, and U.S. institutions in order to support research and training efforts overseas focused on non-Western languages and areas of studies. The Title VI and the Fulbright-Hays programs form the vital infrastructure of the Federal government's investment in the international service pipeline. The contributions these programs make to diplomacy and international education must be protected and prioritized.

These programs broaden all students' horizons, benefit our country's workforce, and strengthen diplomatic ties. In turn, when we welcome international students to our universities, they strengthen our communities and enrich discourse through diverse perspectives. The Trump Administration's rhetoric surrounding immigrants has been harmful to international students and the academic community. Following the Administration's proposed travel ban, many immigrant students at our universities have experienced tremendous uncertainty about their status. Additionally, schools across the country have seen their applicant rates of international students decline.

At the University of Wisconsin-Madison, international students and scholars apply the lessons they have learned abroad to make a positive impact on our state's economy. The University of Wisconsin Madison is one of the nation's top producers of Fulbright students and scholars, with 21 students accepted into the prestigious program. In Wisconsin's 2nd District, we have welcomed nearly 7,000 international students and their families to our area and are profoundly grateful for the contributions they have made. I am incredibly proud of the students and faculty who continue to lead in the field of international education and strongly encourage my colleagues to support these vital education programs.

CONGRATULATING COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE SARAH COMBS WHO WILL ATTEND THE COLLEGE OF IDAHO ON ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2017

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to an outstanding young student from the State of Idaho, Her name is Sarah Combs. Sarah is a graduate of the Columbia High School Class of 2017, Looking at her scholastic accomplishments and athletic talents, it's easy to predict Sarah is on a fast track to success.

Sarah's parents enrolled her in the Bogus Basin Ski Education Foundation (BBSEF) in Boise at the age of seven. The foundation was established to provide training and competition programs for aspiring young ski racers. She is an avid skier and enjoys participating in BBSEF events.

Sarah's love of sport extends to engaging people of all abilities. She is organizing a weekend event for children with disabilities. While the service project puts her on course to earn the Girls Scouts of the USA highest achievement, the Gold Award, she is most excited about helping the participants learn gymnastics. She kicked off the effort by asking her ski coach, Doug Sato, to serve as her mentor. He was happy to oblige. "Sarah is very curious about the world and is able to make keen observations about her environment. She seeks to make significant changes and overcome any obstacles."

Sarah has been a patient confidante to other skiers on the team. "She is kind to everyone. You can go to her with any question, and she figures it out," says one teammate. "She shows her appreciation when you lend a hand. She is an all-around nice person," adds another.

"I appreciate the friends that I have made in BBSEF," says Sarah, "I thank my parents especially for supporting me so that I could continue to race, and I thank the coaches as well." When the ski season ends you can find Sarah on the track where she runs the 400 meter and the 2-mile race.

Sarah took her academic responsibilities seriously. Ever since Sarah started high school she was the yearly recipient of the All-Academic Southern Idaho Conference. This is quite an accomplishment given her demanding training schedule.

The College of Idaho took notice of Sarah's accomplishments on the slopes when she had the opportunity to train with the College of Idaho Ski Team. While training with the ski team, the college also learned that Sarah ran cross country and track as well. The College of Idaho realized that she is the caliber of a student-athlete desired for enrollment. On National Letter of Intent Signing Day, Sarah signed for all three sports and was offered a scholarship for all three sports.

So Sarah will be a member of the Yotes Women's Alpine Ski Team, the Yotes Women's Cross Country Team, and the Yotes Women's Track and Field Team.

Sarah intends to enroll in the Pre-Physical Therapy program and take advantage of an elective that will prepare her to work with disabled athletes. There is no doubt Sarah will be