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COMMEMORATING FRANCIS
BELLAMY

(Mr. COLLINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Francis Bellamy, one of the most influential individuals from Mount Morris, New York. Francis Bellamy is the author of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tomorrow marks the 125th anniversary of the Pledge of Allegiance, which was first published in a magazine called *The Youth's Companion* on September 8, 1892.

The pledge was initially written as part of a campaign to put American flags in every school in the country. In its original form, it read:

"I pledge allegiance to my flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

In 1923, the words, "the flag of the United States of America" were added. In 1954, Congress added the words, "under God," creating the 31-word pledge we have today.

Bellamy's words are recited millions of times every day and are ingrained in our society as an expression of national pride and patriotism.

CONGRESS MUST PASS LEGISLA-
TION TO PROTECT DREAMERS

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program is inhumane and unAmerican. Whatever your politics on immigration, America's DREAMers did not choose their birthplace or their path early in life. They are innocents, and they have grown up as Americans. They have attended school here alongside our own children. They share our values and our principles. They believe in the American Dream.

Yes, deporting them hurts our economy, and yes, it damages our standing as a leading nation, but at its heart, this is a matter of conscience.

What kind of justice will we give to kids brought here when they were 6 years old, who grew up as Americans and who have no home beyond our shores?

To make them the targets of deportation is a violation of our national conscience.

Congress must act now to pass legislation to protect these DREAMers. A just nation must not take lightly the judgment of the innocent. Let us not discard our friends and our neighbors for the sake of political theater, not when we can instead draw strength of heart and mind and treasure from their experience, their differences, and the many values we share in common.

E pluribus unum. Out of many, we are indeed one.

BRINGING ATTENTION TO
MONTANA'S WILDFIRES

(Mr. GIANFORTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the wildfires devastating Montana. My heart goes out to those affected by Hurricane Harvey. The disaster has shown the very best of our country, neighbor helping neighbor.

That spirit is alive and well in Montana, too, as we face a massive disaster. Drought conditions are severe. Over 40 wildfires continue to rage, and more than 900,000 acres have burned so far.

As we speak, ash rains down on our homes and our schools, poor air quality threatens the health of Montanans, particularly our children and our elderly, and our livelihoods are at risk.

This photo was taken just a few weeks ago from the south summit of Mount Sentinel as fires raged towards the town of Lolo, Montana.

Sadly, this image is not unique. I met with leaders and firefighters at five wildfires this summer and witnessed the destruction firsthand.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this image and others from back home will make my colleagues more aware of the fires, the devastation they have caused, and the need for relief in the Treasure State.

CONGRESS SHOULD PASS THE
DREAM ACT

(Mr. PANETTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the over 20,000 DREAMers in my district on the central coast of California.

Due to the administration's pledge to end DACA, those young men and women, who have done everything right after they got to America, are now being punished for a choice that they did not make before coming to America.

Their mothers and fathers came to the central coast to work hard and contribute to the economies and communities in the salad bowl of the world and the most scenic place in the world so that their children could have the opportunity to live the American Dream in the best country in the world.

Now, it is clear that DACA doesn't just give them that dream. All that DACA does is give those children the opportunity to come out of the shadows and fulfill that dream. That is why DREAMers work in our businesses, study in our schools, and serve in the military of the only country that they know.

This is why Congress should vote on and pass the Dream Act. If we do our job, we will allow DREAMers to not only do their jobs, we will give them the opportunity to give back to the

communities and country that gave them and their parents so much.

As immigrants, they understand that obligation. Let's show them and let's show this country that Congress understands that obligation as well.

RECOGNIZING CLARION UNIVER-
SITY'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Clarion University of Pennsylvania as it celebrates 150 years.

In 1859, the people of Clarion County created a proposal for a higher education institution in Clarion. Shortly after, the Civil War erupted and disrupted the Nation, but it did not stop the determination of the Clarion people.

On September 10, 1867, Clarion University was founded as the Carrier Seminary of western Pennsylvania. With no facilities to call home, Carrier Seminary operated as a co-educational program in the old academy building, with Reverend James G. Townsend as principal.

Carrier Seminary then became Clarion State Normal School in 1887. In 1915, the Commonwealth purchased the school, and it became a technical school of junior college rank in 1920.

It opened its doors as a college-level institution in 1929. Since then, Clarion's student body has grown to more than 5,000, its programs have received top level accreditation, and the institution has become a part of Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Clarion University on reaching this milestone, and I join all in celebrating its rich history and contributions to our area.

AMERICA CAN BE A FAIR AND
COMPASSIONATE NATION

(Mr. TAKANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, last week I visited Norte Vista High School and stood before a room of DREAMers who were desperate to know if they have a future in America, the only country they have ever called home. I had to look each student in the eye and say: I can't make any promises.

The question is not whether we have enough votes in Congress to pass the Dream Act. We all know that we do. The question is not whether passing the Dream Act is the right thing to do. We all know that it is.

The question before this Congress is whether we have the political courage and the basic decency to reject our worst impulses, and protect the most vulnerable members of our society.

In a few months, I hope I can stand before that same room of DREAMers