

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 25, 2017*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 2061, the North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2017. This is an important piece of legislation and I am pleased to support it.

H.R. 2061 reinstates the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, which was originally designed to address the "deplorable human rights conditions" for North Koreans, as well as support various human rights groups and provide solutions toward permanent resettlement for North Korean refugees. Since 2004, the United States has resettled 244 North Korean refugees, making it the largest refugee resettlement program in the world. However, Congress has found that human rights conditions still have not improved as refugees remain at risk of losing their lives. As Americans, we have an enduring bipartisan interest to promote freedom for human rights, the transparency of human rights, and the importance of refugee protection. As members of Congress, we should work with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees to expedite the resettlement of refugees, to increase our diplomatic efforts to cooperate with neighboring countries, and to urge China to work with us to help tackle the status of North Korean refugees within their territory.

I have seen, firsthand, the positive impact that refugees have had on my community. Clarkston, a city within my district, has received over 40,000 refugees over the past 25 years and almost 1,500 within the past year. These refugees have contributed to our economy and democracy.

Clarkston embodies the American spirit, providing a chance to these individuals who left everything behind in the hopes of finding a better life here in America. I am proud of the hope and opportunity of what Clarkston stands for, and that is why I am pleased to support H.R. 2061.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2824, INCREASING OPPORTUNITY AND SUCCESS FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS THROUGH EVIDENCE-BASED HOME VISITING ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2792, CONTROL UNLAWFUL FUGITIVE FELONS ACT OF 2017; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 26, 2017*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Rules governing this underlying bill, H.R. 2792, introduced by Rep. KRISTI NOEM (R-SD) and Rep. SAM JOHNSON (R-TX).

I oppose the bill for the following reasons:

SSI is a needs-based program for people with limited income and resources.

It will terminate essential benefits of poor people.

It will deprive poor people of due process.

It will increase mass incarceration.

My amendment would have remedied these criminal justice defects in H.R. 2792, which struck the arrest warrant language because (1) it recklessly targets vulnerable and innocent individuals; (2) this bill deprives citizens of due process, particularly where many poor individuals are completely unaware of any pending warrant, and (4) there have been cases in which warrants were either decades old or, in many instances, it was a matter of a mistaken identity.

The underlying bill amends the Social Security Act (SSA) to make certain revisions that limit payment of benefits to fugitive felons under titles II, VIII, and XVI of the (SSA), by prohibiting Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments to individuals with an outstanding felony warrant or parole or probation violation.

Almost none of the individuals who would be affected by this provision are actual fugitives from justice and most of the warrants in question are many years old and involve minor infractions," the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities said in a letter to Senators who tried to implement this policy.

This bill is merely a continuation of President Trump's \$1.7 trillion budget cuts of programs designed to help the millions of poor and low-income families that need these programs for survival.

Plainly stated, this bill will terminate SSI benefits of very low-income seniors and people with disabilities, because SSI is granted based on financial need.

In creating this bill, the sponsors essentially agree that it is best to incarcerate economically vulnerable people in order to fund the Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting program (MIECHV).

As the Center for Law and Social Policy, a nonprofit group focused on low-income Ameri-

cans, previously reported of the Trump's budget scheme, this bill would likewise, create an overall assault on a wide range of ordinary Americans for the purpose of providing tax cuts to the wealthiest.

My Democratic colleagues on Ways and Means offered amendments to fully pay for a 5-year reauthorization of the MIECHV program and doubling the funding by closing a tax loophole called the "stretch IRA". Republicans however, would not let my colleagues vote on those amendments.

My amendment and those of my colleagues would have made this bad bill a lot more palatable.

Instead, the Republicans have chosen, once again, to lock people up, and do so in a manner that deprives poor people of their sole source of income, while purporting to safeguard against fugitive felons that are recipients of these SSI benefits.

This bill is unnecessary because under current law, SSI and Social Security payments are already prohibited to people fleeing prosecution or confinement.

Most alarming, this bill will terminate these benefits without any judicial determination of guilt, and thus, usurping recipients' rights to due process.

The presumption of "innocent until proven guilty" is the constitutional principle at the bedrock of our criminal justice system. This principle guarantees that the government cannot deprive citizens of their rights without due process of the law.

The bill maintains that payments could be immediately restored once the individual resolves any outstanding issues, a potentially lengthy and time-consuming process.

Ask the thousands of individuals swept under this broad policy if that is true. SSA already tried to implement this very ill-advised policy and it resulted in thousands of court challenges in 2009 forcing the agency to repay billions of dollars it had withheld from people deemed fugitives.

For example, Miami resident Joseph Sutrynowics' Social Security Disability Insurance benefits were halted in 2008 because of a bad check he'd written to cover groceries in Texas more than a decade earlier.

Under this policy, SSA agreed to repay \$700 million in benefits that were withheld from 80,000 people whose benefits have been suspended or denied since January 1, 2007 in the *Martinez v. Astrue* case. SSA could also, reportedly, repay close to \$1 billion in benefits to 140,000 individuals in the *Clark v. Astrue* case.

We have already tried this before and failed miserably. Let us not waste tax payers' money in litigation, while causing poor folks to go hungry. As the old adage says: "don't continue to do the same thing and expect a different result, that's insanity".

Past experiences proved that this policy was detrimental then, and it is so now. It will further exacerbate the epic tragedy of mass incarceration, and the attendant costs incurred by taxpayers, particularly in the well-documented higher cost of incarcerating the elderly and those in poor health.

● 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.

Even conservative coalitions like Freedom Works, American Conservative Union Foundation, Generation Opportunity, and Taxpayers Protection Alliance agreed that mass incarceration is extremely costly to taxpayers.

In addition to tax dollars in litigation fees, incarceration cost taxpayers \$407.58 per person per day and \$148,767 per person per year.

Criminalizing poor individuals, depriving them of their social security income benefits, and increasing the incarceration rate in this fashion will not solve the fugitive problem this bill purports it will do.

In fact, this bill will expand existing problems of mass incarceration by increasing the likelihood for recidivism. Statistics show that incarceration does not serve as deterrence, nor does it keep our communities safe.

For the reasons stated above, I oppose this Rule and the underlying bill.

IN HONOR OF THE 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONTEREY COUNTY FARM BUREAU

**HON. JIMMY PANETTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2017*

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating the Monterey County Farm Bureau on the occasion of their 100th Anniversary. Throughout the last century, the Bureau has assisted ranchers and farmers with crop cultivation and production. Over time, the organization has grown to become one of the region's most important economic institutions. In 1951, the Bureau formed various committees such as the Dairy, Field Crops, Grain Improvement, Tomato Growers, Tax and Legislation, Farm Service, and Water Problems Committees to ensure that farmers had the support needed to overcome challenges in farming. Under the direction of William "Bill" Barker, who served as a leader for the Bureau from 1956 until his passing in 1999, Monterey County Farm Bureau continued to develop its ability to meet the needs of local farmers and ranchers. Throughout its history, the Bureau has invested time and effort into ensuring that local programs, such as Ag Extension, were available to the community. These local partnerships have been integral to the success of the agricultural industry in my district.

Behind the economic might of agriculture on the central coast of California are individuals that work on the farms and ranches. As an organization, Monterey County Farm Bureau supports local farmers and ranchers by serving as a collective voice for agricultural firms and by providing them with the information, benefits, and services they need to succeed. By collaborating with various agricultural institutions, the Bureau supports farmers by helping them deal with the complex issues facing the agricultural community such as labor, land use, and water policies. The group also provides a vital voice for local agricultural firms by advocating for them on the local, state, and national level. At the 2014 California Farm Bureau Federation's Annual Meeting, Monterey County received a County of the Year award for excellence in activities including membership, policy implementation, leadership agricultural education, and public relations. This is a

testament to the hard work and tradition of excellence of the Bureau.

As the organization celebrates its centennial anniversary, I am proud to commend Monterey County Farm Bureau for its continued support of those working in agriculture in my district where crop cultivation is the cornerstone of the economy. Over the past century, Monterey County's agriculture industry has grown exponentially and now provides much of the nation's lettuce, strawberries, broccoli, wine grapes, and over 100 specialty crops. Monterey County Farm Bureau's support of farmers and ranchers in my district has undoubtedly helped establish regions like the Salinas Valley as the uncontested Salad Bowl of the World. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Monterey County Farm Bureau on 100 years of excellence.

IN RECOGNITION OF BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY OF MEADVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

**HON. MIKE KELLY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2017*

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church of Meadville, Pennsylvania, and the important contributions it has made to the Meadville area for over 160 years. Since its foundation in 1849 by the Reverend Jacob Parmer, Bethel AME has advanced a vision of outreach and engagement through its vibrant faith community.

The church's present location was constructed in Meadville. This site, according to Gary DeSantis writing in the Meadville Tribune on September 2, 2016, was once used by a former slave from Maryland named Richard Henderson to "provide shelter for 500 or more slaves escaping the Southern slave holders." This stop on the Underground Railroad gave refuge to escapees traveling through the northern states on their way to Canada.

As the challenges facing our country and our local communities have shifted over time, Bethel AME has been a constant presence in Meadville. Today its community outreach includes youth drama productions, a women's ministry, outreach to senior citizens, and many other valuable programs and ministries in Meadville.

I am proud to represent the clergy and parishioners of Bethel AME in the House of Representatives. Their history and their present contributions to the community are a credit to the City of Meadville, to Crawford County, and to Pennsylvania's Third District.

CONGRATULATING CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT GARRETT EDMOND ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2017*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the retirement of Chief Mas-

ter Sergeant Garrett Edmond, who I have had the privilege of working with for many years.

CMSgt Garrett Edmond began career his with the United States Airforce when he enlisted in August, 1985 as an Airman First Class at Warner Robbins Air Force Base in Georgia. He deployed overseas and served our country during Desert Storm, Operation Allied Forces, and Operation Southern Watch. Throughout his career, CMSgt Edmond participated in numerous humanitarian projects in the Caribbean and Central and South America. He worked diligently protecting our country and achieved the rank of Chief Master Sergeant in 2005. This is the highest enlisted rank one can obtain as well as the ninth highest rank in the Air Force overall.

In recognition of his invaluable contributions to the Air Force, he has received numerous medals during his service, including the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster. This Medal is awarded to those who display exceptional non-combat achievements or commendable service. He has also received the Air Force Commendation Medal and the Joint Service Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters. All of the medals and awards he has received an indication of his great service to our country.

I have worked closely with CMSgt Edmond over the years. He has been an instrumental addition to the Academy Day I host which provides information to high school students who have an interest in joining our Armed Forces. His dedication to our country and our youth is commendable.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Chief Master Sergeant Garrett Edmond for his tremendous service to our nation, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY PRIVATE FIRST CLASS (PFC) WILLIAM BRANDON DAWSON

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2017*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I am humbled to rise today in memory of Army Private First Class (PFC) William Brandon Dawson who died while in service to our nation on September 24, 2010, during Operation Enduring Freedom. PFC Dawson was killed when an explosive device detonated close to his military vehicle near Combat Outpost Carwile, Afghanistan. Private First Class (PFC) Jaysine P.S. Petree of Yigo, Guam was also killed.

PFC Dawson was assigned to the 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Fort Richardson, Alaska. According to the Associated Press, PFC Dawson served as a motor transport operator. He was assigned to Fort Richardson in February 2010.

PFC Dawson, a Tunica, Mississippi native, joined the U.S. Army in 2009 shortly after he graduated from Rosa Fort High School Reverend Willie Dawson, Jr., PFC Dawson's father, said his son was ambitious and talked about pursuing a career in politics. "He told me he wanted to be a senator. He could do so many different things," Rev. Dawson said.