



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 163

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2017

No. 170

## House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
October 23, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID KUSTOFF to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

### SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS IN UNIVERSITIES

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Angie described Amherst College as her dream school. A vibrant American teenager, she couldn't wait to start her new life at the perfect college.

Like all universities, Amherst painted itself in a positive light. It had a good reputation. But Angie had no way of knowing the dark reality hiding behind that facade.

Her initial memories of her freshman year play along a familiar and happy college narrative. Her life was full of new friends, new experiences, and new challenges. But on May 25, everything changed. That happy narrative came to a screeching halt.

An acquaintance of hers invited her over to watch a movie in his campus dorm room. Tired from a long day of classes, Angie finally drifted off to sleep. The next thing she knew, she woke up to find this individual on top of her sexually assaulting her.

The morning after the attack, Angie felt that she was in a daze, and she acted like she was in a daze. The illusion of college life filled with smiling faces and good times had been shattered.

Mr. Speaker, according to the Department of Justice, one in five women are sexually assaulted during college in the United States—one in five. Of those, less than 25 percent report the sexual assault.

So Angie, fearing that she would be ignored, doubted, and dismissed, carried on in hopeless silence. In the 4 months following her rape, she fell deeper and deeper into depression.

Finally, when the burden became too heavy to bear, she summoned all her remaining strength and courage and went to the campus counselor. But she was shocked at the counselor's response.

The counseling center didn't believe she was sexually assaulted. The counseling center said that she should forgive the rapist. They told her there is nothing they could do or would do. There was no point in pressing charges; her rapist was close to graduating anyway.

But she could not forget what had happened to her. She couldn't deal with the sexual assault. Mr. Speaker, a rape victim cannot just forget what has happened to them.

Mr. Speaker, I was a judge for 22 years and a prosecutor for 8 in Texas. I

saw a lot of sexual assault victims, a lot of them. They deal with what happened to them every day, and they feel like the rapist tried to steal the soul of the victim.

A rape victim once told me: "Judge, rape is a fate worse than death." And to a lot of victims, that is exactly the way they feel. It is worse than being murdered.

These sexual assault victims need support, understanding, and care to become survivors. They first need somebody who will listen to them.

Amherst utterly failed Angie, and that failure pushed her deeper and deeper into despair. When she voiced that she had been having suicidal thoughts, university police forcibly escorted her to the emergency room and left her there.

The doctor who examined her had no training on how to deal with traumatized rape victims. Utterly lacking in any kind of compassion for what had happened to her, the doctor told her that she was being irrational and that her story just didn't make any sense to the doctor. He didn't believe a school like Amherst would allow her to be raped, and he thought she just must be crazy. He ordered that she be admitted into a psychiatric ward and washed his hands of the entire situation.

For 5 days, Mr. Speaker, Angie sat shaking in a sterile room behind locked doors. She becomes the prisoner for the sexual assault that happened to her.

A victim's pain and suffering should never be increased because the hospital doesn't have staff trained to provide victim services for sexual assault victims. So to ensure this doesn't happen to more victims like Angie, I have introduced legislation, along with the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), my good friend, that would require a hospital to provide access to a staffer who is properly trained to provide care sensitive to the

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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



Printed on recycled paper.

H8045

trauma victim and is concerned about what they have experienced, or have a plan in place to get the victim to a nearby hospital that does. This is called a SAFE.

The law should be changed to require a hospital to have a SAFE or a SANE—that is a sexual assault forensic examiner or a sexual assault nurse examiner—on staff or have one at a nearby hospital.

This bill is named for Megan Rondini. Megan Rondini is another victim of sexual assault on campus. She was from Texas and went to the University of Alabama, and she was denied proper post-sexual assault treatment at a hospital. This will ensure victims get the care that they need. Megan couldn't deal with what happened to her, and she finally committed suicide.

Mr. Speaker, we need to, as a body, be concerned about sexual assault victims and provide this basic legislation so universities are trained or have somebody on staff nearby who can deal with sexual assault victims. That is the least we can do for people like Angie and Megan Rondini.

And that is just the way it is.

#### NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Co-op Month and the many co-ops of the big First District of Kansas.

With a history spanning back to the 18th century, co-ops shaped the way American producers and consumers do business, and in doing so, these ventures have become an invaluable part of business in our own Nation.

From a personal standpoint, I remember my first adventure to a co-op as a 6- or 7-year-old boy on a wheat farm in Kansas. My uncles would let me tag along, riding in our 1952 Chevy truck, and take that wheat to the Burns Co-op. When I was there, I got to taste my first Orange Crush pop. It was the biggest treat of the whole harvest for me, getting to go to that co-op and getting a little bottle of pop.

Over time, though, co-ops have grown far beyond agriculture. We now have co-ops across our district working in broadband, our electric and gas service, housing needs, and so much more.

Run by the people who run and use them, these co-ops, from Kansas to Kentucky, from Alabama to Arkansas to Alaska, are voluntary and self-directed organizations. The benefits are apparent.

Take, for example, MKC, one of the fastest growing co-ops in my State, which has donated more than \$500,000 to our local communities in the last 5 years. The benefits of user-based economic control are growing each year.

National Co-op Month brings to mind the hard work and dedication that goes into providing you and me with items and services that we take for granted every day.

Going forward, I urge my colleagues and fellow Members to continue to work and support our farmers and ranchers, our co-ops and their vital work for all America.

#### RECOGNITION OF IMPORTANCE OF TRADE TO KANSAS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of trade to the Kansas manufacturing industry.

I recently had the opportunity to tour a number of local manufacturing companies as part of my Manufacturing Day tour in Kansas and was able to hear how these companies are working to meet both local and global demands for our products.

These companies in Hutchinson, Kansas; McPherson, Kansas; and Moundridge, Kansas, showed me how they partnered with local community colleges to recruit and train employees as well as innovate to improve their own processes. They repeatedly emphasized how important trade is to manufacturing in Kansas.

When it comes to trade, NAFTA remains of critical importance to the Kansas economy. Nearly 40 percent of the manufacturing exports produced in Kansas go to Canada and Mexico. Let me say that again: 40 percent of the goods manufactured in Kansas go to Canada and Mexico, at a value of nearly \$3 billion each year.

As we work through the process of updating and modernizing our free trade agreements, our goal must be to expand and open new markets for American exporters so we can grow our economies and put American-made products at the forefront of the global marketplace.

#### RECOGNITION OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ELLY MCNELIS AND BOBBY HEENAN

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of two amazing Bucks Countians, Elly McNelis and Bobby Heenan.

The Bucks County Central Labor Council has awarded the Trish Coyle Award to Elly McNelis, a member of AFSCME Local 1598, and president of the Neshaminy Bucks Coalition of Labor Union Women. Elly serves as a Bucks County crossing guard and is committed to strengthening the role of women in unions and increasing the involvement of women in the legislative process.

The Bucks County Central Labor Council has also awarded Bobby Heenan with their Man of the Year Award. Bobby serves as the business manager for the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 542. Bobby and his team are committed to producing the most skilled and efficient heavy equipment operators in the industry.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize these distinguished individuals for their service to their fellow working families and to our entire Bucks County community.

#### BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, as the son and brother of breast cancer survivors, I understand the impact of this disease on families throughout our community. Each year, about 200,000 women are diagnosed with breast cancer, and more than 40,000 American women will die of this disease.

It does not have to be this way, Mr. Speaker. This Breast Cancer Awareness Month, I am proud to be working with my colleague Congresswoman DELAURO in advocating for increased access to information about breast cancer that allows women and their doctors to make the best decisions possible.

The fight against cancer is one that transcends politics. By working together, we can pass commonsense legislation that increases the quality of life and care for patients and, ultimately, put an end to this awful disease.

#### PRESCRIPTION PAIN MEDICATION ABUSE

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, nearly 70 percent of individuals who abuse prescription pain medication get them from their friends or family.

As our community continues to grapple with the devastating effects of the opioid epidemic, it is crucial we take every step possible to stop prescription medications from falling into the wrong hands, including the collecting and safely disposing of unused or expired prescription drugs.

My community in Bucks County has collected over 40 tons of unused medications, the most in Pennsylvania, as part of our successful Prescription Drug Take Back program. This collaborative effort between local government, law enforcement, and community leaders is crucial in the battle against this crisis.

I commend those involved and urge all residents to participate in our next Take Back Day and to utilize the permanent drop boxes that are located throughout our region.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MITCHELL) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: