

freedom and is likely to fuel resentment against Beijing.”

The brochure emphasizes increased security and heightened control of the monks and nuns, calling for rigid limits on the numbers allowed to stay there, and for ongoing surveillance of the monastery population through the establishment of a “grid management” system throughout the settlement. It also states that all residents and visitors will be subjected to “real-name registration,” with monks required to have red tags or labels (Tibetan: byang bu), while nuns will have yellow labels, and lay devotees will have green ones.

Larung Gar was the largest center of Buddhist monasticism in Tibet, if not the world, until an eight-month program of expulsions and demolitions, which ended in April 2017 after reducing the number of residents to around 5,000. It had previously been run by Tibetan monks and nuns selected by senior members of the monastery. The government’s takeover of the administration—described in the official document as “standardization”—could have far more significant impact than the demolitions and expulsions. The actions led a group of experts from the United Nations in November 2016 to ask the Chinese government to provide information about the legal grounds for the expulsions.

The new document is an undated, four-page brochure printed in color in Chinese and Tibetan and apparently intended for public distribution. It ends with a quotation from Liu Chengming, Party secretary of Kandze prefecture, a supposedly autonomous area of Sichuan province that includes Larung Gar. The document appears to have been issued either by his office or by officials running Larung Gar.

The document, made available in or shortly before August 2017, calls for the monastic settlement (Tibetan: gar) to be divided into two sections with a wall between them, with one section designated as an “institute” or academy with a maximum of 1,500 residents, who would be mainly monks, and one as a monastery with a maximum of 3,500 residents, mainly nuns.

The original order for the demolitions, which Human Rights Watch obtained and published in June 2016, indicated that in the future three-fifths of the members of the main management committee at Larung Gar would be lay officials instead of monks. That plan was put into practice last August when local authorities announced the names of six top lay officials who had been given positions within Larung Gar’s two main management committees. All of them, including the deputy police chief of Kandze prefecture, are Communist Party cadres and are therefore required to be atheists.

The new document shows that scores of other cadres are to be installed not just in the management committee, but at every level and in each section of the monastic settlement. They will hold nearly half of the positions on most committees and in most offices, and in most cases will occupy the top positions. The prefectural deputy police chief will be party secretary and principal at the Larung Gar Institute, three of his seven deputy principals will be cadres, and the six “sub-area management units” (Chinese: guanli zu) that supervise the monks at the institute will each be headed by a cadre rather than a monk.

According to the brochure, new committees will also be set up to handle propaganda, “internal security,” finances, education, and students within the institute. Half of the people running these committees will be cadres, 97 of whom will be stationed in the institute. Monastery sources have confirmed to Human Rights Watch that at least the same number will be stationed within the other

section of the settlement, which is now officially designated as the “monastery.” These sources said that a large building has already been constructed to house the cadres.

“The administrative takeover of Larung Gar by Party officials shows that the government’s aim was not merely to reduce numbers at the settlement,” Richardson said. “Chinese authorities are also imposing pervasive control and surveillance over every level of activity within religious communities.”

According to the brochure, 40 percent of teaching at Larung Gar Buddhist Institute must now consist of classes in politics and other non-religious subjects. The primary criterion for accepting students will be whether they “have a firm political stand, accepting the Great Motherland, the Chinese [Chinese: Zhonghua] people, Chinese culture, the Chinese Communist Party and socialism with Chinese characteristics.” The objectives of study will include to “honor and support the Chinese Communist Party and the socialist system” and to train monks who “defend the unification of the Motherland, uphold nationality unity and patriotic religion and abide by their vows.”

Only residents of Sichuan province will be allowed to apply, other than in exceptional cases, eliminating monks and nuns from other Tibetan areas—which had been a distinguishing mark of Larung Gar. Since 2008, Chinese authorities have imposed similar limits on other major Tibetan monasteries, banning them from accepting monks and nuns from outside the local area. The document also indicates that steps will be taken to stop those who have been expelled from returning to the settlement.

The scale of the Communist Party’s intervention at Larung Gar is unprecedented, Human Rights Watch said. Since October 2011 permanent teams of cadres have been stationed in all monasteries in the Tibet Autonomous Region, the central Tibetan area far to the west of Larung Gar, where they have taken over the management committee of each monastery. There have been reports of similar takeovers of some monasteries in eastern Tibetan areas. But none are known to have consisted of such large teams of cadres, or to have included cadres even at the lowest levels of monastery management.

The changes at Larung Gar are in line with current religion policy, which emphasizes ensuring political stability in monasteries by intensifying official management. It also rewards political compliance by monks and nuns with public praise, titles such as “model patriotic monk,” and other material or social benefits. The document aims to make the study of Buddhism “standardized, law-abiding and modern,” a reference to a new, centralized system for managing religious training, textbooks, and curricular content maintained mainly through a network of higher studies institutes being constructed throughout China to retrain Buddhist monks.

The scheme appears designed to micro-manage religious institutions rather than close them down and to produce a new generation of Buddhist teachers trained equally in religious doctrine and state ideology in order to “adapt Tibetan Buddhism to socialist society.”

“The Chinese government’s latest inroads at Larung Gar show a pernicious intent to exercise extreme control over religious practice,” Richardson said. “This is an immediate threat to the religious freedom of all Tibetans, but a long-term threat to all Chinese.”

HONORING COLLEEN C. DIPIRRO ON HER RETIREMENT AS AMHERST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT AND CEO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colleen C. DiPirro, a visionary pioneer who began her career 35 years ago as a single staff person and is now retiring as the President and CEO of the Amherst Chamber of Commerce having overseen the explosive growth of membership from less than 200 members to more than 3,000, representing more than 1,300 businesses.

She grew its annual budget from \$24,000 when she started to more than \$1.9 million with a full-time professional staff offering 50 plus annual events, business services, advocacy, economic development strategies and an Emerging Business Leaders forum.

Colleen’s career is filled with firsts. She was the first President of the WNY Chamber Alliance, an organization for Chamber Executives spanning an eight county region; the first woman honored as the Executive of the Year by the Buffalo Sales and Marketing Executives, and in 2009, the first woman named the Buffalo Bills Citizen of the Year, the second recipient behind Ralph Wilson.

Colleen is a builder. Her tools were not brick and mortar, but a consummate ability to build a business advocacy organization with teamwork, tenacity, compromise and consensus and at times, leading with only the courage of her convictions. Recognized for her hard work, heart, humanity and humor, she was identified as one of the top 100 most influential people in Western New York by Business First several times. In 2016, she was listed in the Top Ten Most Influential Women and named Citizen of the Year by Daemen College.

A leader, a legend and a true friend, Ms. DiPirro’s legacy will be her tireless dedicated service to her community and beyond its borders. I can attest to that as my first interaction with Colleen as a Congressman was in 2005 when we took up the fight with the New York Power Authority (NYPA). As a first year minority member of Congress, we had few allies in this battle. And then a call came from Colleen DiPirro who in her role as President of the WNY Chamber Alliance invited me to speak to the Alliance Leaders about why I was fighting NYPA for the Buffalo waterfront. After our roundtable discussion, Colleen asked if I would be willing to debate a NYPA representative before the invited membership of the Alliance at WNED studios. That November afternoon debate made possible by Colleen’s outreach to provide a neutral forum to promote understanding of the issue helped further galvanize our community to stand up and fight for itself and contributed to our ultimate victory of a \$300 million settlement that continues to fuel the redevelopment of the Buffalo waterfront. I didn’t represent Amherst at that time but that didn’t matter to her as she understood what was good for Buffalo’s waterfront was good for all of Western New York.

Others have certainly shared my appreciation and respect for her abilities as she received the Governor’s Award for Excellence in

Business and served on the Board of Directors of New York State Chamber of Commerce Executives in 1999. Colleen serves as event and sponsorship coordinator and as a member of the Advisory Board for the Buffalo Bills Alumni and was selected by Ralph Wilson, the late owner of the Buffalo Bills, to serve on the Project 21 initiative. Her engagement in developing public policy positions was duly noted on both sides of the aisle as she served on the Transition Team for several Erie County Executives. Governor Pataki selected Colleen as a Commissioner on the Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority and to the State Commission on Judicial Conduct.

Governor Cuomo appointed Colleen to the Western New York Regional Economic Development Council, a position she has held since it was created to develop a regional strategic plan and ensure its coordinated implementation. He also appointed her in 2016 to the Roswell Park Cancer Institute Board of Directors. Colleen currently is a member of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of Independent Health and was appointed to the Erie County Industrial Development Agency Policy Committee by County Executive Poloncarz.

Her extensive professional and community involvement extends beyond her duties as President and CEO as she served on a variety of committees, boards and associations in leadership and active roles including the WNY Autism Foundation, Hospice Playhouse Project, Executive Women International, Buffalo Prep, Unyts, Williamsville Sweet Home Junior Football Association and Shea's Performing Arts. Additionally, she served as the first Chairman of the University of Buffalo Leadership Development Program.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to recognize Colleen C. DiPirro as the Amherst Chamber of Commerce including staff, board members, family and friends gathers on Thursday, February 1st to celebrate the work and wisdom of this most influential woman. She is most deserving of these heartfelt acknowledgements that reflect her career of almost 40 years of helping businesses, countless individuals and a growing community reach their full potential. We extend all best wishes for continued good health and happiness to Colleen and her sons, Kevin and Keith, and her four grandchildren, Joey and Kaylee, Drew and Luke, as a new chapter begins for her and the Amherst Chamber of Commerce.

PROTECTING YOUNG VICTIMS FROM SEXUAL ABUSE AND SAFE SPORT AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2018

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the trial of Larry Nassar and the testimonies of more than 150 brave women have illuminated many injustices. One of the most critical is that our institutions are fundamentally failing to protect

young women and men against predators. Officials at USA Gymnastics, Michigan State University, and the U.S. Olympics committee knew about multiple allegations against Nassar. They knew for years, and they did nothing to reprimand the perpetrator or prevent it from happening again to other young athletes.

This bill, however, does not go far enough. Changes to the governance of these bodies going forward is clearly insufficient to guard the rights of those victims who have already been harmed. The burden should not rest solely on those victims brave enough to advance their claim in a court of law.

The past several months in particular have brought to light the systemic problem of sexual harassment and assault. From Larry Nassar, to Harvey Weinstein, to powerful, elected officials, we've allowed sexual predators and harassers to escape scrutiny and consequences for their actions for far too long. This is unacceptable and it's our responsibility to act. We must continue to not only unmask these individuals and their enablers and bring them to justice, but also work tirelessly to prevent these assaults from happening in the first place.

And to the countless survivors of sexual assault and harassment who so boldly continue to share their stories—I hear you, I believe you, and I thank you for your courage.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ENSURING FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE CENSUS ACT OF 2018

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Ensuring Full Participation in the Census Act of 2018, which would prohibit the Census Bureau ("Bureau") from including questions on the decennial census about citizenship, nationality, or immigration status.

This bill is essential because the Department of Justice recently wrote to the Bureau requesting that it "reinstate on the 2020 Census questionnaire a question regarding citizenship." From 1970 to 2000, this question was sent to only approximately 16 percent of the population during any decennial census through the so-called "long-form." However, the long-form system with that question was dropped from the census and replaced with the current American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is sent to approximately 3 million people annually on a rotational basis, instead of just with the decennial census, and allows the Bureau to get the necessary information on citizenship, without asking every respondent during the decennial census. Asking questions about citizenship status to every American through the decennial census has not been done in almost 70 years because it would only discourage people, largely in minority communities, which are already underrepresented in the census, from participating in the census. The ACS was created to make the decennial census simpler for American citizens to complete, thus encouraging a higher and more accurate participant rate, and to pre-

serve privacy. Adding questions back into the decennial census about citizenship would defeat this purpose of the ACS. The representative sampling provided by the ACS is more than sufficient to determine citizenship statistics within the United States. We must ensure that all individuals are counted in the decennial census, thereby providing accurate allocation of federal funds and representation in Congress, not reduce participation by already underrepresented minorities because they fear answering questions that are already addressed elsewhere.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

OPPOSING BEIJING'S UNILATERALLY MODIFIED USE OF CIVIL AVIATION FLIGHT ROUTES IN TAIWAN STRAIT AND SUP- PORTING OBSERVER STATUS FOR TAIWAN IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address two issues that are of great concern to the security and status of Taiwan, a long-time great friend and ally of the United States. First, I am deeply concerned about reports that Beijing has modified the use of civil aviation flight routes in the Taiwan Strait without consultation with Taiwan authorities. Such unilateral actions are unacceptable to all that desire stability and peace in the region. Issues related to civil aviation and safety in the Taiwan Strait should be decided through dialogue between both sides. I encourage authorities in Beijing to engage those in Taipei in constructive dialogue, on the basis of dignity and respect.

Second, I reiterate my support for Taiwan to regain its observer status in the World Health Organization (WHO). As you know, statehood is not a requirement for attendance at the World Health Assembly (WHA)—the decision-making body of the WHO—and so there is no legitimate reason to exclude Taiwan. The People's Republic of China (PRC) is but one nation in the community of many belonging to the WHO and WHA, and should not get to dictate participation to the rest of the body. It is simply not right to treat Taiwan in this way when they contribute so generously to the world, through its role in sectors such as healthcare and international humanitarian aid. Just this month, this House passed H.R. 3320, in support of Taiwan's observer status in the WHO, on suspension by voice vote. This vote is evidence of this body's strong support for Taiwan, which I share and endorse wholeheartedly.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to registering more votes to support and bolster Taiwan's security and status in the world. I am also confident that if we continue to enhance our bilateral relationship, this dynamic partnership that we've built together will continue to thrive in the future, and liberty will increase worldwide.