

SUPPORT FOR THE BIPARTISAN
BUDGET ACT OF 2018

HON. JOHN J. FASO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 23, 2018

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018.

This budget deal is a step forward that allows Congress to move on and tackle the problems Americans sent us here to solve. It includes a number of provisions that are wins for New Yorkers, including strengthening the state of our military readiness, improving care for our veterans, critical hospital investments, and providing more funding to fight the opioid crisis.

Additionally, I want to express my support for the special committees organized to propose genuine reform to the congressional budget process and another to address the funding crisis for multi-employer pension plans. For far too long, Congress has governed from funding crisis to funding crisis, inhibiting its ability to tackle our nation's most pressing problems.

This bipartisan agreement also includes fixes for several lingering health care related issues, including a two-year reauthorization of the Community Health Center Fund, a two-year elimination of the medical device tax, and an extension of the Medicare Love-Volume Hospital adjustment. This Medicare fix translates to millions of dollars for several Upstate hospitals.

Finally, I am thrilled to see my legislation improving the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program included. This program is critical in assisting older former foster youth transition to an independent life, including providing education and training vouchers. This improvement increases the age the states can provide assistance from 21 to 23.

It should also be noted that the nation faces a looming debt crisis which is not made better by this legislation. My support for the bill was overwhelmingly influenced by the critical defense funding gaps affecting military readiness. Secretary Mattis has been very persuasive in his arguments as to the impacts of the budget sequester on our troops and the need to rebuild core aspects of our national defense. I trust his judgement in this regard.

While there is still much work to be done, I applaud my colleagues for coming together to draft this bipartisan measure, and I am proud the President signed this legislation into law on February 9, 2018.

HONORING THE CAREER OF NANCY
MAZZA

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 23, 2018

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Nancy Mazza and her service to the people of North Carolina.

I've known Nancy for many years, and watched her succeed at every opportunity she was given. She got her start when she joined the National Federation of Republican Women in 1980. Since then, she has served the peo-

ple of North Carolina in many capacities, including the 6th Congressional District Vice Chair and 13th Congressional District Chair for the North Carolina Republican Party, President of the Greater Greensboro Republican Women's Club, President of the North Carolina Federation of Republican Women, Board of Directors and leadership for the National Federation of Republican Women, and North Carolina Ballot Director for Governor George W. Bush.

Over the years, Nancy has dedicated her life to helping constituents who have fallen on hard times and need help cutting through bureaucratic red tape at all levels of government. I first met Nancy back in 1996 when I was fresh out of college and she was working for Congressman Howard Coble in North Carolina's 6th District. Since that time, I've seen firsthand her commitment and passion for service, leading Congressman Coble's constituent services team for many years. After Congressman Coble retired in 2015, Nancy took her talents to Senator THOM TILLIS, where she has continued her dedicated service managing Senator TILLIS' constituent service operations for the Piedmont.

Nancy was inducted into the North Carolina Republican Party Hall of Fame in 2007 and received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine—the highest award a North Carolinian can receive—in 2016. I am extremely grateful for Nancy's service to North Carolina, and I wish her continued success in her well-deserved retirement.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in commemorating the career of Nancy Mazza.

HONORING RYAN HOLETS

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 23, 2018

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Albuquerque Police Officer Ryan Holets and his wife Rebecca for their act of kindness and compassion in adopting a homeless mother's opioid-addicted newborn while also supporting her recovery.

While on patrol, Ryan found a homeless woman with a companion, taking opioids in the form of heroin. He soon realized that the woman was pregnant. While talking to the woman about the harm that her actions would bring to her unborn child, she became emotional and told Ryan that she knew what she was doing was wrong.

Immediately, Ryan knew it was an opportunity for him and his wife to adopt the baby and add a new member to their family. He showed the woman a photo of his wife, Rebecca, and their four children and offered to adopt the baby.

When he shared the news with Rebecca, she immediately agreed that this was meant to happen and was a wonderful opportunity given to them by God. They did not have any hesitation to show compassion and love to this unborn child.

On October 12, 2017, the baby was born and the Holets family named her Hope. Since Hope's birth, the Holets family has continued to give support to her parents and encouraged them to seek treatment at a rehabilitation facility in Florida.

Ryan has become an incredible spokesperson for the opioid epidemic. His perspective as an officer who sees the effects of drug abuse and homelessness is key to understanding these issues and identifying solutions that are compassionate and effective.

This heart-warming act of kindness was selfless and inspiring. I wish the very best to the Holets family and health to their new addition, Hope.

IN RECOGNITION OF GEORGE G.
DODGE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

HON. DAVID P. JOYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 23, 2018

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge an exceptional school in my district, the George G. Dodge Intermediate School in Twinsburg, which has been recognized by the Ohio Department of Education as an Ohio School to Watch and a National Forum School. An Ohio School to Watch is a school that exceeds in academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, social equity, and organizational structures and processes. Students who attend George G. Dodge Intermediate School get one of the best hands-on education experiences in the nation. The teachers and administrators go above and beyond their normal duties to educate and influence young minds to succeed academically, socially, and in their future professions. There is no greater cause than educating the minds of the future. As a father, I know the amount of trust parents put into the hands of our educators. Knowing our school districts are exceeding in efforts for our children to succeed creates a closer, more positive community for the students, parents, and all involved in the surrounding neighborhoods. George G. Dodge Intermediate School's mission is to create an environment of pride for one's education while engaging with parents, administration, and fellow students to grow in civic engagement and extracurricular activities. This recognition is all due to the hard work by George G. Dodge Intermediate School Principal Reggie Holland, his staff, Twinsburg City School District Superintendent Kathi Powers, and Twinsburg City School District School Board members Matt Cellura, Rob Felber, Mark Curtis, Tina Davis, and Angela DeFabio. The dedication and leadership of these men and women is remarkable and unmatched. I am truly proud to have such a great education system in Ohio's fourteenth district and congratulate George G. Dodge Intermediate School on this well-deserved distinction.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. BARBARA
HICKEY

HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 23, 2018

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend, Mrs. Barbara Hickey, a woman who has devoted her life to improving the lives of individuals in her community.