

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2018

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I missed a vote on 5/16/2018. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 184.

FIGHTING FOR THE SAFETY OF
OUR NATION'S CORRECTIONAL
OFFICERS

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2018

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, this week, the House took another crucial step to ensure our nation's corrections officers, who risk their lives every day to keep us safe, are also able to protect themselves and their families.

I am proud to cosponsor H.R. 613, the Lieutenant Osvaldo Albarati Correctional Officer Self-Protection Act, which directs the Bureau of Prisons to provide secure locations at federal prison facilities for corrections officers to store personal firearms so that officers can protect themselves during their commute to and from work. I hope the Senate will act quickly so President Trump can sign this bill into law and ensure no family has to suffer the way Lieutenant Albarati's has.

The passage of this legislation, which is part of the larger commemoration of National Police Week, is especially important to me as five years ago, one of my constituents, Senior Correctional Officer Eric Williams, was brutally murdered by convicted gang assassin Jessie Con-ui while he was on duty at the United States Prison at Canaan.

Officer Williams was unarmed and outnumbered during his shift, which left him to the mercy of the inmates around him. During his patrol, he was ambushed by Con-ui, knocked down a flight of steps, then brutally stabbed more than 200 times with a homemade shank.

I have had the privilege of working with Officer Williams' parents, Don and Jean, who are tireless advocates for our nation's corrections officers. Today, they help lead an organization called "Voices of JOE,"—the letters of J-O-E standing for Jose Rivera, Osvaldo Albarati, and Eric Williams, who were all killed because of their jobs in our correctional system.

"Voices of JOE" is an advocacy group comprised of corrections officers, first responders, administrators, union personnel, and family members. This group is a staunch advocate that gives a voice to the men and women on the front lines protecting communities around the country.

Together with Don, Jean, and "Voices of JOE," we were able to get the Eric Williams Correctional Officer Protection Act signed into law in March 2016. This bill supplies pepper spray to federal prison officers or employees who may respond to emergencies with inmates. I am proud that Eric's legacy lives on through the thousands of men and women who will now be able to defend themselves while they are at work.

Con-ui, a member of the violent New Mexican Mafia gang, was already serving a life sentence prior to murdering Officer Williams. Federal law provides for the penalty of death in the most severe crimes, including those involving the vicious murder of law enforcement officers and prison guards. However, despite a federal jury finding him guilty of the brutal murder of Officer Williams, Con-ui received essentially no additional punishment because one juror out of twelve would not vote for a death penalty sentence.

To right this wrong, Congressman TOM MARINO and I worked with the Williams family to introduce H.R. 4493, Eric's Law. This legislation aims to deliver justice to victims and their families in federal death penalty cases by permitting prosecutors to impanel a second jury for sentencing if the first jury fails to reach a unanimous sentencing decision.

As we commemorate National Police Week, we recognize men like Officer Eric Williams and families like Don and Jean Williams, and we thank them for their sacrifices. For them, Mr. Speaker, and for all of our correctional officers who risk their lives every day, the House must continue to act on bills like H.R. 613 that will ensure these brave men and women have the tools they need to keep themselves and their communities safe.

CONGRATULATING RAY
FURSTENAU

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2018

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ray Furstenu on his selection as the next Director of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research. Ray is eminently qualified for this position and the able Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; Ms. Kristine Svinicki, did the nation a great service by hiring Ray for this important responsibility.

While the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is gaining a true professional, the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Office of Nuclear Energy are losing a great leader and steward. Throughout his thirty years of service with the Department of Energy, at the DOE Idaho Field Office and headquarters, Ray has been a person who takes his job seriously and performs with excellence, competence and technical expertise. Ray brings vision and a collaborative spirit to his work and he makes others better by offering mentorship, candor and warmth. Ray's quiet and steady leadership was a great value to Idaho National Laboratory and the Office of Nuclear Energy and on behalf of all of his friends in Idaho and Washington, DC; I want to wish Ray all the best as he moves up the road to the NRC headquarters in Rockville. Best wishes, and thanks to Ray for his many years of productive federal service.

OPPOSITION TO H.R. 2

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2018

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding votes I missed on May 18, 2018 to

attend my son's college graduation. Had I been present, I would have voted Yes on Roll Call vote number 202, the Roskam/Blumeneaur Amendment, and No on Roll Call vote numbers 200 Russell Amendment, 201 Massie Amendment, and 203 Banks Amendment. I also missed Roll Call vote number 205 on final passage of H.R. 2, the Agriculture and Nutrition Act. Had I been present, I would have voted No on final passage.

Last year, more than 1.8 million Illinois residents relied on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) during a time of need—from families and children to seniors and individuals with disabilities. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities projects that more than two million people would have their benefits reduced or lost entirely as a result of this Farm Bill, an outcome that is both immoral and unacceptable. SNAP leads to better health outcomes by reducing the impact of food insecurity, and leads to better education outcomes for children because kids learn better when they are not hungry. Furthermore, this bill's proposal to eliminate Broad Based Categorical Eligibility means as many as 265,000 more hungry children in classrooms, worrying about their next meal rather than focusing on their lessons. The proposals in this bill—from its eligibility requirements that do not reflect the nature of work in today's economy, to the massive untested oversight bureaucracy it would establish—leave working families with fewer benefits that are more difficult to use. I cannot, and do not support these proposals.

In addition to the nutrition title, I strongly oppose this Farm Bill because it recklessly shortchanges conservation programs that protect our natural treasures, such as the Great Lakes. Eliminating successful programs like the Conservation Stewardship Program risks increasing agricultural runoff and backsliding on progress we have made. This bill is also a missed opportunity, failing to make robust investments in rural communities facing the opioid crisis and aging infrastructure. As well, the bill fails to bolster federal funding and resources for one of the fastest growing sectors of American agriculture, organics, which represents nearly \$50 billion in annual sales. By eliminating the National Organic Cost-Share Program, this bill makes it unnecessarily harder and more expensive for farmers to transition to organic crops. Finally, this bill makes extreme changes to laws protecting animal welfare, including a provision that could nullify state laws ensuring animal welfare in agricultural production. States must be able to enact animal welfare laws that reflect their values.

Historically, the Farm Bill has been a bipartisan cause—offering assistance and security to farmers and families in need in a way that both Democrats and Republicans can support. I am deeply disappointed that the Majority has discarded that approach this year in the pursuit of ideological cuts to our nation's social safety net. In its current extreme form, this bill is dead-on-arrival in the Senate. In the days ahead, I urge my colleagues to work across the aisle to find a way forward in the constructive, bipartisan manner we have in the past.

I am opposed to H.R. 2, which hurts working families in my district and undermines successful federal programs that promote conservation, research, and help for rural communities and would have voted against this harmful bill had I been present.