

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DIVIDED FAMILIES REUNIFICATION ACT

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2019

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of my Divided Families Reunification Act, and to raise the voices of families who have been separated for decades both across the DMZ and across the Pacific Ocean.

The division of the Korean Peninsula into South and North Korea separated millions of Koreans from their family members. While there have been some agreed upon reunions between South and North Koreans, for Korean Americans there is no pathway for such reunions. Many of these Americans are in their 70s–90s, and time is of the essence to be reunited with their families.

I am proud to introduce the Divided Families Reunification Act, which requires the Secretary of State or a designee to consult with officials in South Korea on potential opportunities to reunite Korean American families with family members in North Korea. This bill will also require the Special Envoy on North Korean Human Rights to submit a report on the opportunities for video reunions between Korean Americans and family members in North Korea.

Thank you to my colleagues, Chairman BRAD SHERMAN, Rep. KAREN BASS, Rep. BARBARA LEE, Rep. JAMES P. MCGOVERN, Rep. JAN SCHAKOWSKY, Rep. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, Rep. GILBERT CISNEROS, Rep. ROB WOODALL, and Rep. TULSI GABBARD for supporting this bipartisan legislation.

DREAM AND PROMISE ACT

HON. LORI TRAHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2019

Mrs. TRAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge this Congress to provide permanent relief to the Dreamers, Deferred Enforcement Departure, and Temporary Protected Status holders whose lives have been turned upside down by the Administration. We must pass H.R. 6, the Dream and Promise Act, without delay.

Fourteen months ago, the Department of Homeland Security announced that it was ending TPS for nearly 200,000 Salvadorans in the United States. The Department's decision about Salvadorans' TPS was just the latest in a string of such announcements since the fall of 2017—which also threaten Sudanese, Haitian, and Nicaraguan immigrants. Families have been living in a state of fear and uncertainty for a year and a half, and for no good reason.

Madam Speaker, I'd like to explain why this is not only cruel policy, but also unnecessary

and short-sighted. Recently, I had the pleasure of speaking with Irma Flores. Irma is a community engagement specialist for the city of Somerville, Massachusetts, where she assists the Spanish-speaking community. She lives in Haverhill, in my District, with her daughter, who goes to school at UMass Boston. Her son graduated from Suffolk University with degrees in International Relations and Political Science. Irma, herself, studied International Relations in her native country at the University of El Salvador. However, she and her kids fled to the United States 18 years ago because of a devastating earthquake.

For nearly two decades, the United States has been Irma's home and her children's home. The people of Somerville depend upon her; and she is a beloved part of the Haverhill community.

It is estimated that there are more than 12,000 people living in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with Temporary Protected Status—half of whom are from El Salvador. However, people like Irma have had their lives upended by the callousness of the Administration's policy.

If Irma's story isn't persuasive enough for Congress to act, consider the fact that the law, despite the Administration's claim, does not require her return. That's because we have the power to permit extensions if these residents are unable to return in safety.

The United States does not—and should not—return people to disaster areas or warzones. In January, our State Department renewed its travel advisory to El Salvador. The warning reads: "Violent crime, such as murder, assault, rape, and armed robbery, is common. Gang activity, such as extortion, violent street crime, and narcotics and arms trafficking, is widespread." These are not conditions under which families should be forced to return.

But if the legal argument is not persuasive either, consider the fact that TPS holders contribute nearly \$650 million to the Commonwealth's economy. One analysis found that if Salvadoran, Honduran, and Haitian workers with TPS were removed from the labor force, the United States would lose \$164 billion in gross domestic product over the next decade.

Again, Madam Speaker, this is cruel, unnecessary and shortsighted policy. This Congress should approve the Dream and Promise Act, which provides a permanent fix for Dreamers, DACA, and TPS recipients without delay, so that people like Irma and her family can remain safely here as members of our communities.

RECOGNIZING WINNETT ACES

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of Winnett ACES

for leading efforts to encourage economic growth, revitalize their community, and protect its future.

Concerned about the decreasing population of rural America, Winnett ACES (Agricultural and Community Enhancement and Sustainability) formed in 2016 to strengthen its community so that future generations will live, work, and raise their families there.

The group's first program to take off was Winnett Beef in the School, which serves locally-raised beef to the local K–12 school system. Led by local producer Charlie Ahlgren, area ranchers made a three-year commitment to donate beef, about four cows per year, to the program. Other volunteers helped cut and deliver the fresh product. Within three months, the program had successfully launched, saving money for the schools to use on other education priorities.

Winnett ACES is also leading a revitalization project to build a community center. Land has been donated, and grant money awarded to design the center, which will accommodate 300 people.

Another project, known as grass banking, is underway after a feasibility study produced the program's guidelines. Local ranchers and landowners lease their lands for summer grazing in exchange for conservation work. Seven individuals will each graze 100 or more cattle when the program launches this spring.

These projects are a few of the inventive approaches Winnett ACES is taking to strengthen its community.

Madam Speaker, for their innovative efforts to bolster their community's future, I recognize the members of Winnett ACES for their spirit of Montana.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TRISH MORRIS-YAMBA

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2019

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a life well lived. Trish Morris-Yamba was an early childhood education visionary from South Orange, New Jersey. She passed away peacefully on March 8, 2019.

Ms. Morris-Yamba was called to serve children and community at a young age. When she was in college, she established a campus child care center for adult students. After completing her master's degree, she opened the CHEN School and served as founding president of Newark, New Jersey's Early Childhood Coalition. Over the years, Ms. Morris-Yamba served as president of the board of trustees at the Newark Public Library, a trustee of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center Women's Board Association, a board member for Newark Emergency Services for Families, and executive director of Newark Day Center and the Greater Newark Fresh Air Fund, among other

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