

pleased the House is considering this bipartisan, bicameral legislation to extend and authorize important Medicaid programs that serve medically complex children, seniors, and people with disabilities, mental health and substance use disorders.

I'm especially proud that H.R. 1839 includes the ACE Kids Act. ACE Kids is the product of years of extensive work by my colleagues, former Congressman Joe Barton and Congresswoman KATHY CASTOR. This bill will improve care for the sickest children enrolled in Medicaid, which is the backbone of our health care system for these children. Children with complex medical conditions require a large amount of health services which are expensive and difficult for families to coordinate. The ACE Kids Act aims to better coordinate this care while reducing overall Medicaid spending. Each state's program will be specifically tailored to fit each child's needs and will provide families with a care coordinator. It is based on existing programs that save money while decreasing hospital visits and improving care. This legislation has broad bipartisan support and was passed by the House last December by a vote of 400 to 11. I urge all Members of the House to support it.

This bill also extends spousal impoverishment protections for recipients of home and community based services in Medicaid. These important protections ensure that spouses of Medicaid patients do not have to spend down their own assets for the Medicaid beneficiary to qualify for home and community based long term care services. Home and community based long term care services are critical to meeting the care and treatment needs of Medicaid beneficiaries, but spouses should not have to risk impoverishment for their loved ones to access these important services.

H.R. 1839 authorizes additional funding for the Money Follows the Person demonstration which has been successful in transitioning Medicaid beneficiaries out of institutions into community settings. The bill also extends the Excellence in Mental Health demonstration for two states to provide mental health services in community settings. Evidence shows that keeping patients in their communities and out of institutions improves outcomes, and I'm pleased to support extensions of these critical programs to ensure that patients can access services in the best setting for their needs.

The bill offsets these important extensions by closing loopholes that drug companies have exploited to misclassify their drugs and receive inappropriate rebates on their products. It also makes changes to third-party liability in child support, and denies federal funding for penis pumps in Medicaid.

I'm grateful that this bipartisan, bicameral legislation is being considered today to strengthen the Medicaid program for children with complex medical conditions, seniors, and people with disabilities, mental health and substance use disorders and I'm very proud to support it.

ERIN LIBBERTON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 26, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Erin Libberton

for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Erin Libberton is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Erin Libberton is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Erin Libberton for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

MENSTRUAL EQUITY FOR ALL ACT OF 2019

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 26, 2019

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, in recognition of Women's History Month and the incredible advances women have made in our nation and around the world, I rise today to introduce the Menstrual Equity for All Act of 2019. This is the first comprehensive legislation that would end our nation's inequities toward women, girls, and individuals who menstruate. Menstruation hygiene items, such as pads, tampons, cups, and liners, are necessary purchases for the vast majority of women.

Madam Speaker, popular culture would have one believe these products are ubiquitous and cheap. But I have heard the heart-breaking testimonies of countless girls and women from across our nation that would say otherwise. We live in the richest nation and yet millions of women and girls suffer from issues of access and affordability. This is an injustice and it is simply wrong.

Most premenopausal women use menstrual hygiene products on a monthly basis and it is estimated that a woman will use up to 16,000 tampons in her lifetime. Regardless of income, women spend a significant amount of money on purchasing menstruation hygiene products each year.

Beyond being cost-prohibitive, different populations of women and girls face unique challenges in accessing menstrual hygiene products. The Menstrual Equity for All Act aims to address these challenges by:

Giving states the option to use federal grant funds to provide students with free menstrual hygiene products in schools—these grants already provide funding for health and wellness efforts;

Ensuring that incarcerated individuals and detainees in federal (including immigration detention centers), state, and local facilities have access to free, unrationed, menstrual hygiene products;

Ensuring that no visitor is prohibited from visiting an incarcerated individual due to the visitor's use of menstrual hygiene products;

Allowing homeless assistance providers to use grant funds that cover shelter necessities (such as blankets and toothbrushes) to also use those funds to purchase menstrual hygiene products;

Allowing individuals to use their own pre-tax dollars from their health flexible spending accounts to purchase menstrual hygiene products;

Requiring that Medicaid covers the cost of menstrual hygiene products for recipients;

Directing large employers (with 100 or more employees) to provide free menstrual hygiene products for their employees in the workplace; and

Requiring all public federal buildings, including buildings on the Capitol campus, provide free menstrual hygiene products in the restrooms.

Madam Speaker, every woman deserves to succeed and advancing menstrual equity is critical to achieving this goal. I urge my colleagues to support my legislation. Access to safe, affordable menstrual hygiene products is a basic need and a health care right for over half the population; it is a human right.

CHRIS LUCIANO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 26, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Chris Luciano for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Chris Luciano is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Chris Luciano is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Chris Luciano for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING THE TELACU EDUCATION FOUNDATION ON THEIR 36TH ANNUAL BUILDING THE DREAM GALA

HON. PETE AGUILAR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 26, 2019

Mr. AGUILAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the TELACU Education Foundation, a non-profit organization that has empowered talented Latino students and professionals in my district and throughout the country to achieve success for more than 36 years.

TELACU is one of the largest and oldest Community Development Corporation in the U.S., celebrating 50 years of service just last year. As part of its commitment to service, advancement, empowerment and self-sufficiency among its constituency, and in response to crisis-level dropout rates for Latino students, in 1983 TELACU created the TELACU Education Foundation.

This year marks the Foundation's 36th anniversary of shattering barriers to academic and professional success for thousands of first-generation Latinos from underserved communities. In addition to providing critical educational services and resources for veterans, TELACU's Continuum of Education—comprised of the College Readiness and College Success Programs—annually propels approximately 2,000 TELACU Scholars from high school through graduate studies, equipping them with the academic credentials and professional tools needed to successfully enter the increasingly technical 21st Century workforce.

Historically, approximately 98 percent of high school TELACU Scholars graduate and nearly all pursue higher education; more than 99 percent of college Scholars earn a Bachelor's degree, with an increasing number going on to seek advanced degrees. Since TELACU Scholars are predominantly Latinos from some of the most economically-depressed communities in Southern California, their attainment of high school diplomas and college degrees directly benefits disenfranchised communities. Program graduates become self-sufficient, well-educated professionals and role models who inspire and invest in the next generation of Latino leaders.

Their attainment of higher education, increased earning power and dedication to service leads to the socioeconomic empowerment of their local communities, and betters our country as a whole.

Madam Speaker, in recognition of the thousands of students, families and communities they have served and empowered, I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating the TELACU Education Foundation on the occasion of its 36th Annual Building the Dream Gala, and in celebrating their inspiring TELACU Scholars.