

chairman during this Congress, I will build on those practices.

The resolution I am introducing today does four things. First, it celebrates Romani American Heritage. Second, it supports International Roma Day and the Department of State's robust engagement in related activities. April 8 marks "International Roma Day" around the world and is a day to celebrate Romani culture and raise awareness of the issues facing Romani people. Third, it commemorates the 75th anniversary of the destruction of the "Gypsy Family Camp" at Auschwitz. Fourth, it commends the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum for its critically important role in promoting remembrance of the Holocaust and educating about the genocide of Roma.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask all Members to support this resolution and for its timely consideration on the House Floor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, I missed votes on Monday, April 1. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call Vote Number 137 (Passage of H.R. 1593, the Coordinating and Leveraging for School Security (CLASS) Act of 2019): YES;

Roll Call Vote Number 138 (Passage of H.R. 1590, the Terrorist and Foreign Fighter Travel Exercise Act of 2019): YES; and

Roll Call Vote Number 139 (Approval of the Journal): YES.

HONORING THE BIRTHDAY OF SAMUEL S. LIONEL

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise with Representative ERIC SWALWELL today to offer our congratulations to Mr. Samuel S. Lionel, a resident of Las Vegas, Nevada, who is celebrating his 100th Birthday on April 7, 2019.

The son of immigrants, Sam Lionel grew up in the Bronx in New York City. He graduated law school at St. John's University in 1940. Shortly after he finished law school, the United States entered WWII, and Mr. Lionel joined the war effort. He fought with the 5th Army in the campaign to liberate Italy. After the war, Mr. Lionel taught at the United States Military Academy at West Point. He retired from the reserves as a Lieutenant Colonel Judge Advocate General.

Mr. Lionel passed the Nevada Bar exam in 1954. Together with the late former Nevada Governor Grant Sawyer, he founded the Lionel, Sawyer, and Collins Law Firm in 1967. The firm quickly became one of the largest and most prestigious in the state, and Mr. Lionel represented many key gaming operators and resorts on the Las Vegas Strip. Through-

out the course of his more than a half-century career, Mr. Lionel has been widely considered the "Dean of the Nevada Bar," and he served as the Chairman of the Board of Bar Examiners for several years.

Mr. Lionel has accumulated numerous awards and honors, including three honorary doctorate degrees from St. John's University, the California Western School of Law, and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He is the first recipient of the Jurisprudence Award from the Nevada Anti-Defamation League. He won the 2012 Liberty Bell Award, and in 2013 he was named Las Vegas Best Lawyers' Lawyer of the Year.

Samuel Lionel is a fellow with the American College of Trial Lawyers, a member of the American Bar Association, the State Bar of Nevada, and the Clark County Bar Association. He served as a member of the Ninth Circuit Senior Advisory Board from 1990 to 1996.

Remarkably, Mr. Lionel still practices law as a Director at Fennemore Craig, and can be found at the local courthouse waiting his turn to argue a case before the judge. Mr. Lionel, along with his wife Lexy, continue to be active members of the Southern Nevada community. On the occasion of this centennial birthday, we wish him the very best.

COORDINATING AND LEVERAGING ACTIVITIES FOR SCHOOL SECURITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 1, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1593, Class Act of 2019, which addresses the increasing risks of security in schools.

As a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, I ensure you that this bill will improve the safety plans and policies within our schools as well as the communication between the homeland security and the Homeland Security Committee.

This Class Act will ensure a council within the Department of Homeland Security that coordinates with school security departments of their policies, plans, and activities in regards to security, and require the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a report to Congress on the council's effort.

Between January and May 2018, school shootings averaged one per week.

Schools need to be buildings of safety where children can gain an education in peace.

During Homeland Security Committee markups of H.R. 1593, the "Coordinating and Leveraging Activities for School Security Act."

I want to thank and recognize Chairman PAYNE for his tireless work to improve the Department of Homeland Security's capability and capacity to provide services to our youngest citizens.

His dedication to meeting the homeland security needs of children is greatly appreciated.

The amendment I offer to H.R. 1593, the "Coordinating and Leveraging Activities for School Security Act," directs that any engagement with stakeholders should be reflected in the final report provided by this bill.

There are many factors that contribute to school security that we should acknowledge in the bill's report.

I am particularly interested in the work of school architects who design schools and, for decades, have worked successfully to address difficult safety challenges in school design.

As a direct result of school architects, schools are engineered to be resilient against fires, and high winds caused by tornadoes.

School architects are taking on the challenge of addressing the threat of active shooters in schools by developing designs that create visual blind spots in classrooms and hallways as well as engineering features that would delay an active shooter long enough to allow first responders to arrive.

It is my hope that stakeholders will also include students and teachers who can provide different perspectives on what constitutes school safety.

For these reasons, I urge all my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 1593.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Speaker, on April 4, 2019, I missed Roll Call vote 153. Had I been present for Roll Call 153, on passage of S.J. Res. 7, a joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress, I would have voted "Yes."

I am deeply dismayed and saddened by the ongoing civil war in Yemen. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, this conflict has resulted in almost 22 million Yemenis in need of humanitarian assistance due to the worsening violence, including over 2 million internally displaced persons, as well as over 190,000 refugees that have fled to neighboring countries, such as Saudi Arabia, Djibouti, and Somalia. I firmly believe that it is important for the U.S. to continue to support an end to the worsening violence and prevent further human suffering.

JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER AUTHORITY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the Jefferson County Communications Center Authority on their one-year anniversary of establishment.

Jeffcom 911 is an emergency dispatch center that increased production, reduced overhead cost, and created a more efficient public safety system by regionalizing eight emergency service agencies across Jefferson County. The company has overcome obstacles in staffing shortages, technology updates, and changes to policies, procedures, and workflow processes in order to eliminate delays and accomplish their role in public safety.

A workforce of 136 qualified call-takers, dispatchers, and supervisors were required to

manage the eight-member agencies, along with an additional 15 user agencies from surrounding areas. Jeffcom 911 staff persevered through over 25,000 hours of overtime to provide additional training, lectured courses, and individual observation to produce, cultivate, and develop a qualified workforce capable of providing professional support required by the agencies Jeffcom 911 serves 24 hours a day.

Jeffcom 911 commenced operations on April 4, 2018 and is now the single Public Safety Answering Point in Jefferson County, serving a community of 600,000 citizens and covering 774 square miles that range from densely populated metropolitan areas to mountainous landscapes.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jefferson County Communications Center Authority for this well-deserved recognition.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 3, 2019

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1585) to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and for other purposes:

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chair, today I will vote to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), historic landmark legislation with a proven track record of assisting abused and battered women. VAWA must be reauthorized.

As a matter of fact, I was the prime author of the law that provided for the first reauthorization of the VAWA in 2000—a five-year \$3.3 billion comprehensive program that was part of my anti-trafficking law, the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act (PL 106–386/TVPA).

Today, I will vote to ensure that VAWA reauthorization overcomes expected difficulties in the Senate and moves to enactment. I will vote to reauthorize, through 2020, critical VAWA programs: legal assistance for victims; addressing housing needs for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking; grants to combat violent crimes on campuses; grants to encourage arrest policies and enforcement of protection orders; grants for enhanced training and services to end abuse later in life.

I will also vote to extend: the critical STOP grants to educate and train law enforcement personnel to address sexual assault; the CHOOSE grants, i.e. Creating Hope Through Outreach, Options, Service, and Education for Children and Youth; training and services to end violence against people with disabilities; the sexual assault services program; rural domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking and child abuse enforcement assistance; grants for strengthening the healthcare system's response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; as well as extending other key programs.

This is consistent with my long record of support for VAWA.

I strongly supported passage of VAWA when it was first introduced in 1993, and again

in 1994, when this crucial legislation was signed into law. I have supported multiple re-authorizations of VAWA, and I continue to strongly support this law as it was originally intended.

As I said earlier, I was the prime author of the law that provided for the first reauthorization of the VAWA in 2000 when I included the five-year \$3.3 billion comprehensive program in my Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act (PL 106–386/TVPA).

I also cosponsored the 2005 reauthorization, fought to ensure these programs are fully funded to assist the maximum number of victims, and voted for seven of the first seven VAWA reauthorization bills offered through 2012.

Two versions of VAWA reauthorization are under consideration by the House today. As I noted, the version I will support extends the VAWA until 2020. The other—H.R. 1585—weakens several carefully crafted protections for women and girls.

By granting biological men—who self-identify as women—access to women's shelters, H.R. 1585 removes the hard-fought gains to protect women and girls from abuse and to provide them with physical, emotional and psychological security.

Under the current version of H.R. 1585, women will no longer have a secure place of their own as they flee from male-inflicted physical and emotional abuse and intimidation.

Rather, these heroic women will now have to share their place of refuge, a shelter previously reserved for women seeking protection from male abusers, with biological men who self-identify as women.

Mr. Chair, these brave women and children deserve a place where they can feel protected and secure, so they can begin the difficult process to heal as they deal with post-traumatic stress. Forcing them to share a shelter and its facilities, including showers and sleeping areas, with biological men who self-identify as women will cause these women and children to experience insecurity, discomfort, confusion, and fear of additional assault.

VAWA has always prioritized the challenges and unique needs of battered women and children but this version, if passed, no longer will.

These women's shelters—there are about 1,500 nationwide—offer a safe space where a woman does not have to fear or worry about violence and intimidation and instead allows her to take steps toward rebuilding her life.

Mr. Chair, we must first and foremost protect victims of violence.

I oppose this provision of H.R. 1585 out of genuine concern for the women and children who are forced to flee to domestic abuse shelters and base my concern on evidence from California.

In late 2018, nine female victims residing in a women's shelter in Fresno, California—Naomi's House, operated by Poverello House—filed a lawsuit against the shelter for admitting a biological man because he had self-identified as a woman. These victims stated that they had been sexually harassed by this biological man. They said that he had made “sexual advances” on them and would “stare and leer” and make “sexually harassing comments about their bodies” while they were forced to undress in the same room with him.

After repeatedly confronting the staff of Naomi's House—both verbally and in writing—with their extreme discomfort, these women were

told that they would be expelled from the shelter if they refused to comply.

Mr. Chair, if we allow biological men who self-identify as women to receive access to these women-only shelters, abused women and children will lose the ‘safe space’ they so desperately need.

These victims deserve better. They deserve our protection and support. We must work to ensure the safety of women, girls, and children.

Other shelters designed to help victims of diverse sexual orientations and identities who are victims of domestic abuse ought to be considered by separate legislation.

We can, and we must create bipartisan legislation which seeks to protect all women and girls, as this law originally intended.

We can, and must, do better.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 3, 2019

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1585) to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and for other purposes:

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Chair, I rise today to speak about the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, or VAWA.

For the last several decades VAWA has been a positive force in our nation for the protection of some of our most vulnerable populations. Providing grants to domestic violence organizations, increasing access to housing for survivors, supporting law enforcement, addressing the scourge of sex trafficking, and reducing the rape kit backlog—these are just some of the ways VAWA has helped victims of violence in our communities.

While this should be a bipartisan effort to reauthorize VAWA, the new Democratic majority here in the House has decided to insert provisions into the legislation that advance a political agenda at the expense of sexual assault and domestic violence survivors.

Because of the importance of reauthorizing VAWA and protecting vulnerable women across the nation, I will still be supporting final passage of the Democrat-authored bill. The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey has found that over 43 percent of women experience some form of sexual violence in their lifetime. Sexual and domestic violence are pervasive problems and reauthorizing VAWA is critical to the fight against these crimes.

However, I wanted to take a minute to highlight some of the provisions included in this legislation that I remain firmly opposed to, and would vote against if given the opportunity.

Fourth Amendment due process rights and the protection of our Second Amendment rights are inherent rights that should not be infringed upon lightly. Ensuring that due process rights are protected prior to removal of fundamental constitutional rights should not be up for debate.

The majority, however, has done just that in their version of VAWA before us today.