

region and other neighboring areas. These centers are available to the public and equipped with the resources, services and programs needed to assist anyone with a genuine desire to enter the workforce. Their services and programs include employment listings, career exploration, an overview of the job application process, résumé building, mock interviews, and computer training, along with guidance in goal-setting and identifying the steps necessary to reach those goals. Their support and guidance are all inclusive—helping those with physical disadvantages, mental health diagnoses, substance abuse histories, criminal backgrounds, and developmental disabilities. Furthermore, they seek to empower local job seekers with the confidence and skills necessary to aid them in their ardent pursuit of employment.

Since its inception, Goodwill has served more than 600,000 people and secured more than 200,000 paying jobs. In 2017 alone, Goodwill served over 700 individuals, secured 155 jobs, and employed 536 new members with a total economic impact of 18 million dollars in Western Missouri and Eastern Kansas. Moreover, they receive over 20 million pounds of materials to be reused, resold, or recycled annually, which kept approximately 15 million pounds of items from ending up in landfills.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join all of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District as we proudly commemorate the 125 years of exceptional service and individual empowerment rendered to our community by the Goodwill of Western Missouri and Eastern Kansas. Let us join in demonstrating our strong appreciation for the perseverance of this organization as it continues to offer essential services and programs that meet the needs of those in our community.

VOTE EXPLANATION ON H.R. 1585,
AS AMENDED

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2019

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give an in-depth explanation for my vote on H.R. 1585, legislation to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and to speak out against the partisan process in which the Majority crafted this bill.

Prior to the vote on H.R. 1585, I have made clear that I support the reauthorization of The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). I am frustrated by the fact that instead of putting forward a clean reauthorization of this vital legislation, the Democrat Majority allowed the provision to expire at the end of the last Congress for political purposes.

Protecting women from abuse is an issue so important that partisanship shouldn't even be in the same sentence, yet the Majority chose to use this opportunity to push VAWA as a partisan political device instead of a bipartisan opportunity to help women in need. H.R. 1585 will not be passed by the Senate in its current form and I remain committed to seeing that VAWA is reauthorized in a manner that protects women, makes needed reforms, and adheres to the Constitution.

West Michigan is blessed to have countless faith-based organizations that work in the

community to provide assistance to women during their time of need, and H.R. 1585 fails to provide protections for these faith-based grant recipients or provide for religious hiring exemptions. These organizations serve a vital part in both protecting women and providing support throughout the recovery process.

Instead of protecting women, this legislation could in fact potentially put more women in harm's way and is an affront to the privacy and safety of women. The legislation permits biological males to be housed in women's prison facilities. Forcing women who have suffered abuse to live and sleep in the same facility as biological males is the opposite of protecting women against violence.

I also have concerns that VAWA grants have been used to fund Planned Parenthood. In fact, according to a 2018 GAO report, Planned Parenthood received approximately \$300,000 from VAWA formula grants during 2013–2015. There is no specific language in 1585 that would prohibit this from happening in the future.

Finally, I have significant constitutional concerns with section 903 of the legislation which weakens the due process of individuals in tribal courts on Indian reservations. Crimes committed on reservations should be addressed without eliminating the Bill of Rights and preventing federal review in cases where tribal capacity to adequately prosecute crimes is a problem.

The reauthorization of VAWA should be done in a manner that puts people, not politics first. Going forward, I hope to be able to vote for a truly bipartisan reauthorization of this important legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE GRADUATION
OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE
AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT
144TH RECRUIT CLASS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and the graduates of the 144th Recruit Class. As they prepare to join the ranks of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, I encourage the 17 graduates to reflect on the history of the department and the contributions and dedication of the brave men and women who have served before them to protect our community.

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Recruit School consists of an extensive and demanding 24-week program. In addition to two weeks of orientation, recruits completed seven weeks of EMT training and fifteen weeks of fire suppression training. Upon graduation, these recruits will be certified at the level of Firefighter I/II by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs.

These recruits have the distinct honor of joining one of the best Fire and Rescue Departments in the United States. The efforts of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department have been recognized across this country. Members from the Department serve on the elite VA Task Force 1, which is among the first units called to disaster zones to provide search and rescue support. Members of that

Task Force were recognized by the International Association of Fire Chiefs with the Benjamin Franklin Award for Valor as a result of their efforts in the aftermath of the devastating earthquakes that struck Nepal in 2015. They also saw extensive work in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands as part of disaster relief and rescue efforts in the aftermaths of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria.

Fairfax County is fortunate to have such excellent ambassadors for our community and I commend them for all that they have done to protect lives and property not only here in Fairfax County, but around the world. As the newest members of the Fire and Rescue Department, the 144th Recruit Class graduates join the department as integral parts of our community's emergency response and public safety team. I am confident that this graduating class will serve the residents of Fairfax County with honor and distinction. It is my great honor to include in the RECORD the names of the 144th Recruit Class:

Kathryn Auer
Levi Bingman
Carter Bowns
Austin Cole
Austin Collins
Bernard Cory
Joshua Davis
Joshua de la Cruz
Alberto Gonzales Cabrera
William Macallum
Mark Martinez
Amos Nissley
Benjamin Rothwell
Zachary Stratton
Sophia Therriault
Christopher Uhrin
Kevin Weaver

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the newest members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. I thank them for their service to their community and to all members of the Fire and Rescue Department, past and present, I say: "Stay safe."

HONORING LIFE-TIME ACHIEVEMENTS OF ANAHEIM UNION HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER MEG ELDER

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2019

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the achievements of Anaheim Union High School Teacher Meg Elder, who has served as the school's dance director and founding director of the Anaheim High School Performing Arts Conservatory.

She began her 31-year career at Anaheim High School in 1988 as a walk-on coach for the school's drill team. Since then, more than 6,000 students have found a second home in her music and dance programs.

Hundreds of Mrs. Elder's students have obtained college degrees by following a path through the arts. Her students have also gone on to become doctors, attorneys, teachers, or have found success in other professions outside the arts. She credits their prosperity to the self-esteem and self-confidence they developed through the performing arts.