

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL  
SARCOIDOSIS AWARENESS MONTH

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 2019*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Americans affected by Sarcoidosis and other related inflammatory diseases to observe April as National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month.

Sarcoidosis can affect any part of the body and cause serious disabilities by forcing one's vital organs and central nervous system to become hyperactive. While this rare and devastating disease annually affects over 200,000 people throughout all demographics, there are significant racial, gender, and age-related differences, as it disproportionately impacts African-Americans, women, and individuals between the ages of 20 and 40.

Although research suggests the cause of Sarcoidosis is a combination of genetic and environmental factors, the exact cause and progression of the disease are still unknown. The unique nature of Sarcoidosis makes it an enigma in the realm of medical science, and despite increasing advances in research, it remains difficult to diagnose with limited treatment options and no known cure. Over the years, several of my colleagues and I have spoken on the House and Senate floors about this fatal disease. During the 103rd session of Congress, I introduced H.J. Res. 399, a House Joint Resolution designating Monday, August 29, 1994, as "National Sarcoidosis Awareness Day" while also urging my colleagues in Congress to support extensive research to find a suitable cure and treatment method for individuals with Sarcoidosis.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing April as National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month by acknowledging the need for more efficient research into the causes, diagnostics, and potential treatment options for Sarcoidosis. I am pleased to have the chance to bring a relatively unknown disease to light and to increase public awareness of the need to support individuals with this life-threatening ailment.

HIGHLIGHTING THE VALUE AND  
IMPORTANCE OF INTER-  
NATIONAL STUDENTS

**HON. RODNEY DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 2019*

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the value and importance of international students in the United States. I am fortunate enough to represent numerous colleges and universities in my district. I have a deep appreciation for the important role these institutions play in providing opportunities for students around the globe.

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the largest university in my district, enrolls over 10,577 international students from 116 different countries. Illinois State University boasts 502 students from 73 countries and

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville has 368 international students from 24 countries—all of these numbers represent an increase in last year's numbers for each university.

I am proud to represent institutions like these that welcome the world's brightest learners. I believe that today's students become tomorrow's leaders. The former presidents of both Ecuador and the Philippines earned doctorate degrees from universities in my district, and I know that presidents and prime ministers all over the world have earned their college degrees right here in the United States.

Welcoming international students and scholars strengthens our diplomatic ties with countries across the globe and contributes significantly to national security and to our economy. International students are vital to our nation's fabric. Through the exchange of ideals, languages, and cultures, diplomacy is strengthened and our world is made a better place.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NUCLEAR  
WEAPONS ABOLITION AND ECO-  
NOMIC AND ENERGY CONVER-  
SION ACT OF 2019

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 2019*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I am introducing the Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic and Energy Conversion Act of 2019, a version of which I have introduced since 1994, after working with the District of Columbia residents who were responsible for the Nuclear Disarmament and Economic Conversion ballot initiative, passed by D.C. voters in 1993. My bill still requires the United States to sign and ratify an international agreement to disable and dismantle America's nuclear weapons, to provide for strict control of fissile material and radioactive waste and to use nuclear-free energy. In lieu of joining such an agreement, this new version of the bill also gives the United States the option to ratify the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Treaty). Many nations have already signed onto the Treaty. The Treaty was drafted by the United Nations in conferences in March and July of 2017, which is why I did not include it in my previous bills. According to the United Nations, the Treaty is "a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination." I am pleased by the international progress on this important issue.

Our bill continues to provide that the funds used for nuclear weapons programs be redirected to human and infrastructure needs, such as housing, health care, Social Security, restoring the environment and creating carbon-free, nuclear-free energy. The conversion to a peace economy would occur when the President certifies to Congress that all countries possessing nuclear weapons have begun elimination under an international treaty or other legal agreement.

The bill is particularly timely considering the ongoing nuclear threat from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Our country still has a long list of urgent domestic needs that have been put on the backburner. As the only nation that has used nuclear weapons in war, and that still possesses

one of the largest nuclear weapons arsenals, I urge support for my bill to help the United States reestablish its moral leadership in the world by redirecting funds that would otherwise go to nuclear weapons to urgent domestic needs.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM F.  
ROGERS, JR., RECEIVING THE  
CABARRUS COUNTY LIBERTY  
BELL AWARD

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 2019*

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor William F. "Bill" Rogers, Jr., on receiving the Cabarrus County Bar Association Liberty Bell Award.

A Tennessee native, Bill began his practice in Concord, North Carolina in 1980 focusing on Family Law. Bill has a reputation of being professional, tactful and emotionally supportive to his clients while providing counsel during difficult times.

Bill lives in Cabarrus County with his wife Nanda, and three children, Hannah, Seth and Rachel. When he is not busy with his practice, Bill volunteers for multiple non-profits in the community, including Habitat for Humanity, Coltrane Life Center, Hospice of Cabarrus County, and Cabarrus Workshop. In addition to volunteering and spending time with his family, he enjoys both playing and listening to bluegrass, traveling to the beach, and riding his motorcycle.

The Liberty Bell Award is presented to an individual that educates others on and uphold laws that support American freedom. Throughout his involvement in Cabarrus County, Bill has helped many people regain their confidence in our judicial system by being a constant resource of knowledge. There is no doubt in my mind that Bill will continue to help the people of Cabarrus County with his unwavering commitment to serving others.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Bill Rogers as the Cabarrus County Bar Association Liberty Bell Award recipient and wish him well as he continues to uphold our American freedom.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBU-  
TIONS OF INTERNATIONAL STU-  
DENTS

**HON. STEVE STIVERS**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 2019*

Mr. STIVERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Ohio's 15th Congressional District to recognize the contributions of international students and scholars.

At a time when nations around the globe are increasing their efforts and deploying new strategies to attract international talent, enrollment in American institutions is on a decline. Ohio's 15th Congressional District, and the nation, benefit from these students, and we are at risk of losing this valuable talent.