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Our economic future relies on what we do now to nurture the STEM talent that will be necessary to meet the demands of an increasingly technological and knowledge-based economy.

I want to thank Ranking Member LUCAS for joining me in introducing this bill, and I urge the rest of my colleagues to please join us. I include my full remarks on this legislation for the RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the STEM Opportunities Act of 2019. A very similar bill passed the House as part of the America Competes Act of 2010, but unfortunately did not make it into the enacted law. As a result, every Congress since then, I have worked hard to keep the legislation updated and to convince my colleagues of the urgency of the challenges this bill addresses. Today I am reintroducing this bill with Ranking Member of the Science Committee, FRANK LUCAS. The goal of our legislation is to develop and implement evidence-based policies to promote the progress of women, minorities, and other groups underrepresented in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) studies and research careers.

The need for full engagement in STEM by women and underrepresented groups goes beyond enabling individuals to fulfill their dreams of becoming a scientist. Our economic future relies on what we do now to nurture the STEM talent that will be necessary to meet the demands of an increasingly technological and knowledge-based economy. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that STEM employment is the fastest growing sector, with computer science and engineering jobs among the fastest growing STEM occupations.

If things continue as they are now, however, I fear we will be ill equipped to fill these jobs. We are nineteen years into the 21st century and the demographics of the STEM workforce do not reflect the diversity of the nation. In 2017, women earned only 20 percent of bachelor's degrees in engineering and 19 percent in computer science. Black and Hispanic students are similarly underrepresented in these fields at the undergraduate level, and the problem is even more pronounced in STEM faculty. Women hold only 26 percent of all tenured and tenure-track positions, while Black and Hispanic faculty combined hold a dismal 6.8 percent of these positions. We need to leverage all of our human capital if we are to achieve the necessary capacity to innovate and to discover.

The STEM Opportunities Act is focused on identifying and lowering barriers for those who have already chosen a STEM path. First, so that we better understand the nature and scope of the challenges, the STEM Opportunities Act requires more comprehensive demographic data collection on the recipients of federal research awards and on STEM faculty at U.S. universities. These data would be available to researchers to study the participa-

tion and trajectories of women and underrepresented minorities in STEM so that policy makers can design more effective policies and practices to reduce barriers.

Next, this bill requires the development of consistent federal policies, such as no-cost award extensions, for recipients of federal research awards who have caregiving responsibilities, including care for a newborn or newly adopted child and care for a sick family member. The bill also requires consistent federal guidance to grant reviewers and program officers on best practices to minimize the effects of implicit bias in the review of federal research grants. It requires OSTP to develop guidance for universities and Federal laboratories to aid them in identifying any cultural and institutional barriers limiting the recruitment, retention, and achievement of women, minorities, rural students, and other underrepresented groups in academic and government STEM research careers and in developing and implementing current best practices for reducing such barriers. Finally, the legislation authorizes NSF to award grants to universities to implement or expand research-based practices targeted specifically at increasing the recruitment and retention of minority students and faculty.

Mr. Speaker, in developing this legislation, we solicited extensive input from governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to ensure that the guidance and requirements reflect today's needs and opportunities without unduly burdening our research universities. The result is a bipartisan bill that attempts to systematically address the full suite of issues facing both female and minority STEM researchers, from work-life balance policies, to campus climate, to better data collection, to recruitment and retention practices. This bill proposes concrete and evidence-based solutions to the indisputable reality that our nation continues to fall well short of engaging our entire talent pool in STEM careers. That disparity in our STEM workforce will continue to have real and increasing consequences for our economic and national security if we do not begin to implement scalable solutions soon.

I want to thank Ranking Member LUCAS for joining me in introducing this bill and for contributing his good ideas to make the bill even better. I urge the rest of our colleagues to join us and to help us move this legislation forward into law.

RECOGNIZING THE COLLIN COLLEGE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

(Mr. TAYLOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Collin College Student Government Association for winning the 2019 Event of the Year award at the Texas Junior College Student Government Association convention.

The event which earned the organization this prestigious recognition, "Love Does Not Hurt: An Oath Against Domestic Violence," provided resources for victims of domestic violence and featured speakers who inspired all in attendance.

I was honored to attend the event and witness firsthand the incredible difference these student leaders are making, both on and off campus.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me today in thanking the Student Government Association of Collin College for their dedication and commitment to our community.

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth, I rise to recognize May as National Foster Care Month.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to bring front and center the more than 400,000 youth in our foster care system across the country. These young people are courageous, and they face and overcome many challenges.

Let's raise up their voices because they deserve to be heard, and they deserve a seat at the policymaking table.

May is also a time to recognize the foster care professionals, advocates, and families who devote themselves to supporting foster youth every day. These individuals deserve our utmost respect and our gratitude.

I am proud to cosponsor Representative KAREN BASS' resolution recognizing Foster Care Month.

To the foster youth and those who support them in Rhode Island and across the country, you matter, and I am here to be your advocate in Congress. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me.

SPIRIT OF SAVANNAH AIRCRAFT

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the partnership between the city of Savannah and the 165th Airlift Wing, symbolized by one of their aircrafts recently being named the "Spirit of Savannah."

Commemorating the C-130 airplane with its new name on Tuesday, April 9, the ceremony was a special occasion. It is now the only aircraft at the 165th that bears a unique designation and seal. I can't thank the members of the 165th Airlift Wing enough for their service.

They have flown to Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands to assist with hurricane recovery efforts. Just a few weeks later, they flew to Iraq and Syria to support missions against ISIS.

The work they do, based out of the First Congressional District of Georgia, helps keep our Nation and the entire world safe.

RECOGNIZING FIRST RESPONDERS

(Mr. SCHNEIDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer appreciation to the incredible first responders in my congressional district.

Twice in as many weeks, our firefighters, police, and paramedics have been called to respond to serious emergencies in Lake County.

On Thursday, April 25, a massive spill of anhydrous ammonia outside of Beach Park sent 37 individuals to the hospital, including 11 firefighters who sustained injuries from the toxic fumes while containing the site.

In particular, the quick action of two Lake County sheriff deputies—Sergeant Kyle Brown and Deputy Marcus Bernardy—and four Beach Park firefighters—Lieutenant Thomas Stahl and firefighter paramedics Pablo Ramirez, Matthew Baran, and Ben Newman—helped save the lives of five individuals trapped at the site and struggling to breathe.

Just days later, on Friday, May 3, a catastrophic explosion erupted at a silicone plant in Waukegan, tragically claiming three lives. A search continues for one missing individual. I offer my condolences to the loved ones of Jeff Cummings, Byron Biehn, and Allen Stevens.

While we are still gathering details, it is clear the prompt response of emergency professionals helped save others and extinguish the fires. In both situations, local responders rushed selflessly into danger to save others.

These events exemplify the incredible professionalism and bravery of our first responders who put their lives on the line day in and day out to protect our communities. We are all incredibly grateful for their service.

RECOGNIZING WEIGEL'S FARM STORES

(Mr. BURCHETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I salute you for your salute to the Tennessee Big Orange with your tie selection.

I also rise today to recognize Weigel's Farm Stores, an east Tennessee-based convenience store chain, for its dedication to selling Tennessee products. Recently, Weigel's announced that it would sell milk only produced, processed, and bottled within the State.

In 1931, the Weigel family began operating a dairy. Over decades, the family business expanded from farming to owning and operating 67 stores in the region. I remember the square jugs of Weigel's milk that became iconic in the Knoxville area.

Although they no longer produce their own milk, their commitment to

Tennessee dairy products has remained constant. Independently owned dairies have long been an important part of east Tennessee's economy, but recently, these operations have struggled to compete with the larger farms.

I am glad that Bill Weigel, a good friend of my family's and the current owner of the business, and his family are investing in our local products and family farms, and I hope their decision will inspire other milk processors in the area to do the same.

□ 1930

HONORING DR. JOSEPH M. JULIANO FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Joseph M. Juliano upon his retirement from the City of Orange Fire Department after 30 years of service.

Dr. Juliano's commitment to the people of Orange, New Jersey, was inspired by his mother, Patricia, who was the first woman elected to the Orange City Council.

Dr. Juliano joined the Fire Department in 1988 and rose through the ranks during his 30-year career. He retired with the rank of fire captain.

In addition to being a firefighter, Dr. Juliano has served on the Orange Housing Authority for the past two decades, with the motto of "getting Orange back on track."

Dr. Juliano is a community leader and a role model from Orange, New Jersey, and I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring his service to the people of my district.

LET'S VOTE ON USMCA

(Mr. STEIL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, we must set a vote on USMCA.

Wisconsin farmers are struggling. Low milk prices and limited access to international markets are hurting our farmers.

NAFTA was implemented over 25 years ago. Farming, technology, and markets have changed. It is time for a modern trade deal. It is time to protect workers and farmers.

I recently met with Wisconsin's agricultural industry in Burlington, Wisconsin, and there was one takeaway from our meeting: The USMCA will help Wisconsin's farmers. Our farmers will see increased access to markets. Our products will be able to compete on the global stage. Our workers will have the opportunity to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, let's vote on USMCA. Wisconsin farmers need our help.

REFORM OUR BROKEN IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

(Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL. Mr. Speaker, today we mark 1 year since former White House Chief of Staff John Kelly led the Trump administration in implementing the cruel policy of separating families at the border and criminalizing refugees and asylum seekers.

After John Kelly left the administration, he joined the board of Caliburn days before HHS awarded Caliburn a \$341 million no-bid contract to keep detaining migrant children in Homestead, Florida. In doing so, this administration is compounding cruelty with corruption.

While the zero-tolerance family separation policy may have ended, it has caused chaos and irreparable harm to our community. We can and we must do better.

We have to reform our broken immigration system and recognize that seeking asylum is legal. We must reunify families, and treat migrants searching for a better life in our country with the dignity that they deserve.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE NOT STUPID

(Mr. WRIGHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, so now that the Trump economy is soaring and setting job growth records following the one-two punch of regulatory reform and tax cuts, some of my Democrat colleagues want to give Barack Obama the credit.

Well, this is laughable. This was the President who refused to accept responsibility for anything that went wrong for 8 years, instead blaming it on President George W. Bush. Remember?

Not anemic job growth, government overreach, doubling the national debt, Benghazi, and incompetent foreign policy. Now they want to take credit for the great things happening in this country 28 months into the Trump Presidency.

Sorry, you don't get to do that.

This is an outrage. It is wrong; it is demonstrably false; and it won't work. The American people are not stupid.

LOWER PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES

(Mr. ALLRED asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLRED. Mr. Speaker, I received a letter recently from Paul Rozinsky of Richardson, Texas. Paul is 81 and uses Medicare Advantage. He has type 2 diabetes.

In his letter, he says that there are two identical versions of insulin; one is