

can take because of the requirements of the Home Rule Act, and to end the unique applicability of the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 to the District.

The Equality Act is uniquely comprehensive. Historically, when Congress has passed civil rights legislation, it typically has done so by category, whether in employment, or housing, or the rest. However, the Equality Act, encompassing all forms of typical discrimination, sends a special message. It is too late for anything except legislation that takes on discrimination against our LGBTQ community once and for all.

The Equality Act also fills a large space I have tried to fill ever since being elected to Congress. My work for the LGBTQ community has come naturally. As a lifelong fighter for equal rights, I have always seen congressional failure to address discrimination against the LGBTQ community as no different from congressional failure to bar segregation in the public schools I attended as a child in the District, or to address discrimination in voting rights and public accommodations I went to Mississippi to fight as a student in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. The Equality Act stands for the impossibility of parsing discrimination. The history of discrimination in the United States teaches that all bigotry is unacceptable.

REAFFIRMING AUTHORITY OF
SECRETARY OF INTERIOR TO
TAKE LAND INTO TRUST FOR INDIAN TRIBES

SPEECH OF

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following article from The Washington Examiner regarding consideration of H.R. 375.

[From The Washington Examiner, May 13, 2019]

HOUSE DEMOCRATS RESCHEDULE VOTES ON
TRIBAL BILLS PULLED AFTER TRUMP TWEET
(by Naomi Lim)

House Democrats have rescheduled votes on two Native American tribal bills this week after they were yanked from the floor at the last minute following pressure from President Trump.

Democratic leadership has set a vote for Wednesday on H.R. 312, legislation co-sponsored by Rep. William Keating, D-Mass., maintaining the status of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe reservation in the Bay State.

A second proposal, H.R. 375, introduced by Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla., would reaffirm Interior Secretary David Bernhardt's authority to take land into trust on behalf of Indian tribes. That measure is also due to be considered Wednesday, but under a streamlined process requiring two-thirds support in the House. As such, it needs the backing of House Republicans.

"Both of the bills pulled from the floor of the House, H.R. 375 and H.R. 312, are important to Indian Country," Cole told the Washington Examiner in a statement on Monday. "I support both of the bills and look forward to working with my Republican and Democratic colleagues to pass them on the floor. I believe we will be successful in doing so."

But GOP lawmakers like Western Caucus Chairman Paul Gosar, R-Ariz., have said they will not help the legislation pass the chamber. A spokeswoman for Gosar told the Washington Examiner on Monday her boss, who sits on the House Natural Resources Committee with Cole, was "strongly opposed" to the proposals and would vote against them "in their current form."

"Gosar has been leading the charge against these bills since they were first brought up in Natural Resources Committee. He offered two amendments to both bills in committee—both failed," the spokeswoman said.

H.R. 312 and H.R. 375 were originally scheduled for votes on May 8, but were yanked after Trump tweeted that they would be "unfair" to Native Americans.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe wants to build a \$1 billion casino on its land, but the deal has been delayed by the Interior Department and Rhode Island lawmakers worried the development will undercut profits generated by its own casino industry.

The opposition has resulted in the Massachusetts congressional delegation, including Democratic 2020 presidential candidate Sen. Elizabeth Warren, to push for the measure so the tribe can have full control of the reservation. Matt Schlapp, American Conservative Union chairman and husband of White House communications director Mercedes Schlapp, additionally runs a firm that lobbied against the casino.

"Republicans shouldn't vote for H.R. 312, a special interest casino Bill, backed by Elizabeth (Pocahontas) Warren," Trump tweeted last Wednesday. "It is unfair and doesn't treat Native Americans equally!"

Schlapp did not immediately respond to request for comment.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL
ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOUSE
PASSAGE OF AN AMENDMENT TO
THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of House passage of the 19th amendment to the United States Constitution—prohibiting the government from denying the right to vote to citizens on the basis of sex.

In the year of 1893, the first attempt to organize the Women's Suffrage Movement in the state of Texas took place in Dallas, with the formation of The Texas Equal Rights Association.

Twenty-six years later Texas became the first state in the south to ratify the 19th amendment. From raising families, to organizing political movements, to fighting over seas, our country could not thrive without the influence of so many strong and determined women.

It is with great admiration that I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the pioneering efforts of women 100 years ago that are still shaping our nation today.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE HONORABLE JOHN JAMES CONYERS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Honorable John J. Conyers, who celebrated his 90th birthday on May 16th.

Mr. Conyers is a distinguished public servant who represented the people of Michigan in the U.S. House of Representatives for 52 years. During his tenure, he held a number of reputable positions, including Chairman of the House Oversight Committee, Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, and the 44th Dean of the House of Representatives. Mr. Conyers was an effective legislator who was known among the Halls of Congress as champion of justice and judiciary issues.

As the longest-serving African-American member of Congress, Mr. Conyers was a trailblazer for civil rights during his time in Congress and is credited as one of the 13 original founders of the Congressional Black Caucus. He was the first to introduce a bill calling for the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. to be recognized as a national holiday dedicated to his life and legacy.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Conyers as he celebrates this momentous achievement. I also wish him many more happy birthdays in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted: "nay" on Roll Call No. 210; "yea" on Roll Call No. 211; "yea" on Roll Call No. 212; "nay" on Roll Call No. 213; "yea" on Roll Call No. 214; "yea" on Roll Call No. 215; "nay" on Roll Call No. 216; and "yea" on Roll Call No. 217.

THE HONORABLE DAMON JEROME
KEITH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, as the representative of the 30th District of Texas, I'd like to recognize the passing of The Honorable Damon Jerome Keith, Senior Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Judge Damon J. Keith, one of the nation's longest-serving federal judges, was a tireless champion of civil rights and civil liberties. Born in Detroit in 1922, Judge Keith was the grandson of enslaved people. He went on to become the sixth African American in U.S. history to serve on the federal court of appeals. During his time on the bench, he made a series of landmark decisions that changed the social and legal landscape of the country.