

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

STRONGER CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as the founding Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus and a senior member of the Committee on the Judiciary, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2480, the "Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act."

I support H.R. 2480 because this legislation will help states to address the recent rise in child abuse and neglect by providing strategic funding to build networks of prevention services designed to strengthen families and to improve the quality of child protective services.

Madam Speaker, child abuse and neglect is a pervasive public health problem that continues to affect millions of children across the country.

Although we witnessed significant declines in the rate of child abuse and neglect across the 1990s and 2000s, the rate of child maltreatment has ticked up in recent years as the opioid epidemic has devastated families and communities across the country.

In 2017, more children received an investigation or response from child protective services agencies than any other time in the decade prior.

It is long past time for the federal government to provide the necessary funding to reverse the rise in child maltreatment.

The "Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act" authorizes \$270 million for the expansion of prevention services to reach over 3 million children annually and another \$270 million to foster new research and support state child protective services agencies to expand services to meet increased demand without sacrificing quality.

Madam Speaker, another reason I strongly support this legislation is that it will also help address child abuse and neglect by improving the quality of federal and state data.

Specifically, the "Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act" establishes uniform standards for counting child fatalities and near fatalities related to child maltreatment and will create an electronic system that allows states to share data from their child abuse and neglect registries with other states.

H.R. 2480 also combats childhood maltreatment and protects children by initiating protocol designed to detect infant abuse earlier, prevent child injuries and fatalities and halting the effects of maltreatment before they even develop.

By supporting the training and careers of medical and child welfare professionals, the "Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act" will help successfully identify and respond to signs of potential abuse in infants under age three, better protecting them from the immediate and lifelong negative impacts of

childhood maltreatment and offering an ensured solution to end abuse.

Madam Speaker, it is unconscionable that 1 in 7 children in the United States suffers from child abuse or neglect.

The effects of this abuse are far-reaching and severe, hindering a child's mental, physical, and emotional development with consequences that may follow the person through his or her lifetime.

Childhood maltreatment has also been linked to higher risk for a wide range of long-term and future health concerns, including diabetes, lung disease, and cancer.

It does not have to be this way, Madam Speaker, and we can do something about it, starting with passage of H.R. 2480, the "Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act."

HONORING OUR NATION'S HEROES

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the brave men and women who gave their lives in the defense of freedom and to preserve the liberties that we hold dear in this nation.

Every Memorial Day, our nation unites to remember our military heroes who have paid the ultimate sacrifice to defend the values and freedoms we all cherish. This day of remembrance represents why so many people in our country are grateful to be Americans. No other nation has sacrificed so much to secure not only its own freedom, but that of other nations as well.

As we reflect on the remarkable lives of our nation's fallen soldiers and their families, we must continue to honor them each and every day, as a single day of commemoration is far short of what they deserve. I know that back home in my district, our community will do their part in carrying on the legacy of these selfless individuals.

This year, the Granbury community will host their annual "Field of Flags," which is a memorial of over a thousand flags flying along Highway 377. These flags are dedicated to the lives of those that were killed in action or that are still missing in action.

Attending Memorial Day events like the "Field of Flags" this weekend is imperative to teaching younger generations about the sacrifices that our military and first-responders make so that we may continue to live by the values that founded this nation.

May God bless our men and women serving today and in days past, may He comfort those who endure the pain of loss, and may He never cease to shed his grace on Texas and this great nation.

CONGRATULATING GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating several extraordinary young women from Missouri's Third Congressional District, for their achievement in earning the prestigious Girl Scout Gold Award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is not an achievement easily obtained. It requires a significant amount of time, initiative, commitment, and leadership. The lessons learned in each of the seven steps that must be completed to achieve the Gold Award can be used beyond the Girl Scouts and applied in their educational choices, career paths, and everyday lives. With each of their Gold Projects, the young women have identified issues in their communities important to them, created plans for solving these concerns, and tackled the problems head-on. Because of their determination and drive, they have helped make their community a better place. Each of these young ladies should be proud of their accomplishments and I am honored to recognize each of them on this momentous occasion.

Congratulations to the following outstanding young women: Allison Bright, Emily Kurtz, Lindsay Picha, Kimberly Coulon, Maddi McGuire, Jillian Marie Rodgers, Madelynn Dickson, Anne Katherine Meister, Victoria Suerig, Nicolette Kolenc, Alyssa Miller, Madison Stumpf, Josephine Schmaltz, Sarah Burke, Shannon Wyss, and Sarah Wyble for their hard work and dedication as they join a selective group of young women.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing these exceptional young women for a job well done.

RECOGNIZING NOAH CONNER

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Noah Conner in honor of his presentation of the Golden Apple Award. Out of 150,000 high schoolers, this distinction is given to 26 students across the state of Illinois who not only exhibit an exceptional work ethic within the classroom, but in athletics as well.

As a senior at Pinckneyville High School, Conner has shown his excellence in track and cross-country running while maintaining a perfect 4.0 Grade Point Average. This balance of academics and athletics is a difficult task, and I can't think of a more fitting individual to be merited this tremendous award.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Noah Conner and commend him for his hard work in and out of the classroom.

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