

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE BENEFITS OF OVER-THE-COUNTER CONSUMER HEALTHCARE PRODUCTS

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, each year, July 24th, is recognized as “International Self-Care Day,” an annual opportunity to put a spotlight on the benefits that safe and effective self-care provide to advance public health. Consumer healthcare products such as over-the-counter (OTC) medicines, consumer medical devices, and dietary supplements play a critical role in self-care. Americans enjoy easy access to consumer healthcare products at thousands of retail locations nationwide and online, and they recognize the tremendous value that consumer healthcare products provide for individuals and healthcare systems. In fact, OTCs alone save the U.S. healthcare system over \$146 billion annually. For every \$1 consumers spend on OTC medicines, the healthcare system saves \$7 by reducing the need for more expensive types of healthcare. That’s why I was so proud to introduce H.R. 3443 with my colleague from Ohio, Mr. LATTA.

HONORING HIS HOLINESS SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor his Holiness Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, a Hindu spiritual leader and humanitarian who has devoted his life to eliminating violence and spreading compassion throughout the world. I also wish to acknowledge the America Meditates guided meditation conducted today in Denver, Colorado by His Holiness as part of the National Summit for Mental Health and Mental Fitness, an event that will be livestreamed nationwide and joined by thousands of His Holiness’ devotees.

His Holiness’s teachings emphasize the close relationship between spirituality, compassion for others, and concern for the environment. According to his beliefs, spirituality is open to all people regardless of religion or culture, because the bond that all humans share is stronger than any characteristics that may divide us.

His Holiness has taken part in extensive humanitarian work around the world. Volunteers from his many service organizations have distributed food and emergency supplies, and provided spiritual support and counseling, to victims from natural disasters including Hurricane Katrina in the United States and the 2004 tsunami that devastated Southeast Asia.

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar is a champion of peace, and has actively sought to assist in ef-

orts to mediate conflicts in Southeast Asia, the Middle East, South America and on the Indian subcontinent. His Holiness has dedicated himself to social initiatives all over the world and especially in India, where he has worked to increase voter awareness and establish free health camps, and address social problems ranging from drug abuse to the rehabilitation of prison populations. His Holiness has also worked to protect our environment with an assortment of water and river rehabilitation projects, and through efforts ranging from programs to help train farmers on creating seed banks to building waste management facilities.

In recognition of his decades of service, His Holiness has been honored with awards from countries including India, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Hungary, the Netherlands, Paraguay, Peru, Russia and the United States. In 2016, the Government of India awarded him the “Padma Vibhushan”, its second highest civilian honor.

His Holiness continues his work throughout the world to bring peace and understanding through meditation and spiritual growth. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize His Holiness Sri Sri Ravi Shankar for the good work he has done through his spiritual leadership and humanitarian service, and commend him for his continued efforts to make a more just and peaceful world.

HONORING THE ANNIVERSARY OF CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Calvary Baptist Church, a house of worship in Detroit, Michigan, as its members celebrate the church’s one hundredth anniversary, as well as twenty-five years under the leadership of Pastor Lawrence T. Foster.

Born and raised in San Francisco, California, Pastor Foster arrived in Detroit to lead the flock at Calvary Baptist Church in 1994. Pastor Foster is a proud graduate of Morehouse College, completing his theological studies at Harvard University Divinity School. Outside his duties attending to the spiritual needs of his congregation, Pastor Foster has worked to advance causes such as fair housing as a member of the Virginia Park-Henry Ford Hospital Non-profit Housing Corporation Board of Directors, as a board member of the Michigan AIDS Coalition, as well as an advocate for economic and agricultural development in west Africa as a member of the Progressive National Baptist Convention’s Missionary Ministry.

Calvary Baptist Church was founded in 1919 by Reverend Henry James Mastin as a place of refuge in its surrounding communities. More than that, Calvary welcomed the migrating masses of African Americans who possessed little social status, providing an envi-

ronment of prayer, praise, fellowship and mutual aid where everybody was somebody. This legacy lives on in the longevity of Pastor Foster’s service.

Please join me in tribute to Pastor Lawrence T. Foster and the members of Calvary Baptist Church as we recognize its one hundredth anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH AN- NIVERSARY OF WAVERLY TOWNSHIP AND THE WAVERLY COMMUNITY HOUSE

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Waverly Township, Pennsylvania and the Waverly Community House. The first cornerstone for the Waverly Community House, the hub of community activity and affectionately known as ‘the Comm,’ was laid in 1919.

Waverly found its humble beginning as a few settlers homesteading in a small area of a forest, but as more businesses and settlements began to populate the area, local resident and philanthropist Margaretta Belin and her children saw the need for a space for their community to gather. The idea was a tribute to her beloved husband Henry Belin Jr. who passed away in 1917. As the director of the Scranton Lace Company, Henry was steadfastly dedicated to emphasizing the importance of recreation to his staff. The Belins incorporated the memory of their dear father into the mission statement and purpose of the Waverly Community House as a place for residents to gather, learn, and play together. In 1919, under the direction of architect George M.D. Lewis, the Comm was built, and in 1920 the building and the portion of the land were deeded to Abington Township.

In the century that followed, the Comm faithfully embodied the spirit of the Belin family’s mission to promote civic engagement and recreational activities for the Abingtons and beyond. The original building included a bowling alley, a gathering area, a post office, a library, and the first kindergarten in Lackawanna County. The Comm offered activities such as an annual fair, classes, tennis tournaments, and movie. During World War II, the Comm was pivotal in support the war effort on the home front by organizing volunteer efforts, sending regular newsletters to soldiers stationed abroad, holding defense meetings, and collecting book donations.

As the Comm flourished, the Belin children dedicated two additional wings to the building in honor of their mother to accommodate its growing community events. The rooms are still in use today and house spaces for camps, education, arts programs, and a welcome center which features Destination Freedom, a Walking Tour of the Underground Railroad in

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Waverly. The Comm continues to be the center of community life in Waverly. Special events like the annual Antiques Show and Sale, the Artisans' Marketplace, the House and Garden Show, Summer Music Concerts, and seasonal children's parties.

It is an honor to recognize Waverly Township and the Waverly Community House on their centennial. The Comm has been the heartbeat of community life in the Abingtons since 1919, and I wish them another hundred years of growth and prosperity in the tradition of service to others, recreation, and civic engagement.

OPPOSING GLOBAL BOYCOTT,
DIVESTMENT, AND SANCTIONS

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I will vote in support of H. Res. 246, a resolution opposing the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel.

While it will be a difficult vote, I support this resolution because some individuals leading the BDS movement have engaged in anti-Semitic rhetoric and actions and have questioned the right of Israel to exist. While not perfect, this resolution sends an important message that anti-Semitism is unacceptable.

Let me be clear: anti-Semitism, as with any other form of racism or discrimination, is antithetical to the values and aspirations of the American people. I am disturbed by the rise of anti-Semitism in the United States and other parts of the world, and I am troubled by the fact that the genocide that took place during the Holocaust is fading from memory.

That's why I have taken substantive actions to combat anti-Semitism, including joining the House Bipartisan Task Force for Combating Anti-Semitism, voting in support of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act of 2018, and voting in support of a resolution condemning anti-Semitism and other forms of bigotry and intolerance. I am also a cosponsor of the Never Again Education Act, which would help address the rise in anti-Semitism by granting teachers across the country the resources and training necessary to teach our children the lessons of the Holocaust and the horrific consequences of hate and intolerance.

At the same time, I agree with this resolution's statements that boycotts and related actions are legitimate forms of free speech protected under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. That's why I am cosponsoring H. Res. 496, a resolution affirming that all Americans have the right to participate in boycotts, as protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution. I have also consistently opposed—and will continue to oppose—any legislation that would punish or criminalize individuals' constitutionally-protected right to free speech.

I also agree with the stated support for a two-state solution in H. Res. 246. I have consistently supported a two-state solution throughout my time in Congress, and I am once again a cosponsor of legislation stating that any U.S. plan or proposal for peace in the

Middle East must include and center on a two-state solution. A two-state solution will not only secure Israel's future as a democratic, Jewish state, it will also advance U.S. security interests in the region and enhance our ability to confront the threats posed by Iran, Hezbollah, Hamas, and other dubious actors in the Middle East.

Unfortunately, this resolution does nothing to address the fact that the Trump administration and the Israeli government under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have taken a number of actions that severely undermine a two-state solution. This includes the Trump administration's decision to recognize the city of Jerusalem as the Israeli capital, to relocate the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, to greenlight the continuing expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, and to discontinue U.S. contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and bilateral assistance to the Palestinians—all decisions which I strongly oppose. Regrettably, the Trump administration's actions have undermined the confidence among Palestinians and Arab countries in the region that the U.S. desires to play a productive role as a neutral mediator in the Middle East peace process.

As an ally of Israel, the United States invests more than \$3 billion in aid to Israel annually. Accordingly, I believe it is only appropriate that lawmakers voice their legitimate concerns with Israeli policies in a constructive way, as I have done throughout my time in Congress and will continue to do. That's why I have joined my colleagues in urging the Israeli government not to demolish Palestinian communities in the West Bank, cosponsored legislation such as the Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children Act, and continued to urge President Trump to restore vital aid to the Palestinians. Protecting human rights, regardless of any ongoing tension between Israelis and Palestinians, should be a fundamental American value.

It is only through thoughtful, respectful, nuanced debate that Congress can productively contribute towards resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and addressing the legitimate needs of both peoples. The bottom line is it is critical that the U.S. pursue policies that will move Israelis and Palestinians towards a negotiated, two-state solution, and I will continue to push the Trump administration and Congress to do so.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING KINDNESS

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, remembering to act with kindness in the United States and affirming our commitment to fostering community and building resiliency through every day acts of kindness can do wonders. Kindness can change a family, a neighborhood, a school, a city, a nation, and ultimately, our world.

We must recognize the long history of Americans demonstrating kindness daily in their homes, schools, places of faith, businesses, community organizations, and

throughout their neighborhoods. The resolution also recognizes that kindness and compassion can heal the country from within and promote a healthier society.

Creating a culture of kindness can foster strong bonds that will bring individuals together despite their differences in order to tackle the challenges that face us. We must ensure that we remain a nation who acts with kindness towards one another.

CALLING ON GOVERNMENT OF
CAMEROON AND ARMED GROUPS
TO RESPECT THE HUMAN
RIGHTS OF ALL CAMEROONIAN
CITIZENS

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, over the past two years, tensions have escalated in the Northwest and Southwest regions in Cameroon between the minority Anglophone population and the Francophone factions that control the government. The conflict has killed hundreds of Cameroonians, has displaced nearly half of a million people, and human rights violations have been alleged against both security forces loyal to the Francophone-led Cameroonian government and militant Anglophone separatist groups. This conflict has severely impacted the town of Kumbo in Cameroon, which is the sister city of La Crosse, Wisconsin.

As sister cities, Kumbo and La Crosse have exchanged many official delegation visits, and a local nonprofit called the La Crosse Friends of Cameroon has been dedicated to deepening the ties between the two cities and raising awareness about the conflict. Their passion and dedication to finding a sustainable and inclusive peace in Cameroon was clear as I spoke before them at an event in La Crosse. Following that event, I traveled to Cameroon as part of a congressional delegation, and I was grateful to the local leaders from Kumbo who traveled to meet with us to share their powerful stories about how the conflict has affected their home.

The ongoing devastation that our Cameroonian friends are experiencing as a result of this crisis is unconscionable, which is why I helped introduce a resolution calling for the respect of human rights of all Cameroonian citizens, an immediate end to the violence, and for the creation of a broad-based dialogue to seek nonviolent solutions to the conflict. I am proud to see the House of Representatives take up this resolution to show that Congress supports a path to a sustainable, inclusive peace in Cameroon.

HONORING MS. JUDY SCHNEIDER

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Judy Schneider of the Congressional Research Service for her service to the United States Congress and the

American people. After over 40 years of dedicated service, Ms. Schneider is retiring.

When I was first elected to Congress, Ms. Schneider was my most valuable resource for learning how this institution functions. She helped me understand parliamentary procedure, and even took the time to role play scenarios with me so I could best serve my constituents. When Democrats lost the Majority in 1994, Ms. Schneider gave me all the tools I needed to tackle being in the Minority.

Over her storied career, she has honed a singular knowledge of the legislative and political process and has shared this insight for the benefit of the institution and the young people who came to this city to make opportunity real for their communities and their country. It is thanks to Ms. Schneider that many of my colleagues in Congress are able to serve their constituents every day. She taught me everything I know about the steering process, a key part of Congress' work. I still use the knowledge Ms. Schneider shared with me every day.

As well as helping to guide Members of Congress and their staff through the procedures of this institution, she has helped countless young professions through her Direct Connect to Congress classes. Ms. Schneider leaves behind a legacy of hard work and dedication to mentoring other professionals dedicated to civil service that will live on in the Women in Government Relations Judy Schneider Fellowship program.

One of my personal heroes, Shirley Chisholm, said "service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth." Ms. Schneider has certainly paid her rent. The Congress is a place long in history and deep with complexity. It can be a labyrinth where passionate individuals dedicated to service become separated from their original aspirations. It has been Judy who has, again and again, helped others navigate the path to change. I congratulate her on 40 years of service and I thank her for impacting the lives of hundreds of young people, staff and members.

It is my honor and privilege today to recognize Ms. Judy Schneider for her hard work and dedication, and to wish her the best of luck in her new retirement. She will be greatly missed.

HONORING THE ANNIVERSARY OF
THE AMERICAN DISABILITIES ACT

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring awareness to the anniversary of the passage of the American Disabilities Act, which was signed into law on July 26, 1990.

The passage and signing of the Act represent the culmination of many years of hard work and advocacy by countless differently abled individuals, their families, and allies. It is unbelievable that until only thirty-nine years ago, there were no laws in place to protect the civil rights of some of our communities' most vulnerable populations. The American Disabilities Act provides important protections in workplaces, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to those who toiled to bring awareness and visibility to the people who were once disincluded or segregated from public life, due to physical barriers or due to the stigma of misconception. We still have a long way to go to ensure equity for the differently abled, but we can support and acknowledge the organizations that are advocating, educating, and protecting.

I therefore rise today to mark the anniversary of the American Disabilities Act.

VENEZUELA TPS ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 549, "The Venezuela TPS Act of 2019."

The bill would designate Venezuela for temporary protected status (TPS), allowing certain Venezuelan nationals to stay in the U.S., regardless of their current immigration status.

The Secretary of Homeland Security grants TPS to certain individuals who cannot safely return to their home countries due to ongoing armed conflict, environmental disasters, or other extraordinary circumstances.

While the total number of individuals, who would be eligible for TPS under this bill, is unclear, about 72,000 Venezuelans have come to the U.S. since 2014.

The Venezuela TPS Act of 2019 would:

Designate Venezuela for TPS, allowing its nationals to remain in the U.S. for 18 months, regardless of their immigration status if they:

Have been continuously physically present in the United States since the date of the enactment of the bill; and

Meet all other requirements for TPS.

Provide Venezuelan nationals who meet the above requirements with:

Employment authorization; and

Authorization to travel outside the U.S. for emergencies and extenuating circumstances.

Direct the Secretaries of State and Homeland Security to work with international partners to increase capacity of countries surrounding Venezuela to provide migration services and asylum, specifically to establish and expand in-country reception centers and shelters and improve migration and asylum registration systems.

Congress should designate Venezuela for TPS because:

The country has been facing unprecedented economic, humanitarian, security, and refugee crisis, consisting of extreme food and medicine shortages, severe infant and child malnutrition, rampant crime, and government-sponsored repression.

Venezuela ranks as the most dangerous country in the world.

In 2017, the country's homicide rate stood at 89 per 100,000 people which compares to 5.3 per 100,000 people in the United States.

TPS holders contribute to the U.S. economy.

For example, TPS holders from El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti contribute \$4.5 billion in income to the gross domestic product annually and \$6.9 billion to Social Security and Medicare over a decade.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 549 to allow certain Venezuelan nationals to stay in the U.S., regardless of their current immigration status.

CONGRATULATING THE GUAM
TERRITORIAL BAND

HON. MICHAEL F. Q. SAN NICOLAS

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Guam Territorial Band for taking home a Gold Award in the 2019 Australian International Music Festival held in Sydney, Australia.

The Guam Territorial Band was organized in 1976 as the Governor's Youth Band to perform for the inauguration of President Jimmy Carter in 1977. The band continues its service to the people of Guam as the Official Band of Guam by performing at graduations, military events, national holiday ceremonies, official visits, village fiestas, local government functions, and numerous venues in Guam, the United States, and abroad. The Guam Territorial Band is led by Chief Band Master Maximo Ronquillo, Jr., and the Regional Band Masters, Joanne Matanane Sosa and William Brandon Aydtlett.

The Guam Territorial Band has educational programs for aspiring musicians to gain experience and training. The Guam Honor Band Program provides middle and high school students opportunities to develop their musical talents. For more advanced musicians, the Guam Band Academy offers in-depth training in music theory, marching band, solo performance, and small ensemble performance under the Chief Band Master.

In the 2019 Australian International Music Festival, the Guam Territorial Band was a Command Performance Band and received a Gold Award. The Australian International Music Festival is among the largest music festivals in the southern hemisphere, receiving participation from 62 ensembles and over 1,300 participants in 2019. The Guam Territorial Band has previously received numerous honors and awards, including being a Command Performance Band and received Gold Awards in the 2005 and 2014 Australian International Music Festivals, respectively.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I want to congratulate the Guam Territorial Band for their success in the 2019 Australian International Music Festival. They continue to demonstrate outstanding musicianship in Guam, the United States, and abroad.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH P.
LEAHY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize my good friend Mr. Joe Leahy as he nears the end of his term as the 114th chairman of the nation's largest insurance association—the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America, also known as the Big "I". He was appointed chairman of the Big "I" in August

2018, in my hometown of Springfield, MA, and over the past year has done a remarkable job of piloting the association. He has proven himself to be a strong and thoughtful leader for independent insurance agents across the country.

Joe graduated from Western New England College and is currently the President of Leahy & Brown Insurance & Realty, Inc., which he founded with his wife Frances in 1989. Joe has a fine record of public service as he previously served as Chief of Staff to Massachusetts State Senator Martin T. Reilly (D-Springfield).

At the state association level, Leahy was elected to the Executive Committee of the Massachusetts Association of Insurance Agents (MAIA) in 2001, served as chairman in 2005, and was Massachusetts director on the Big "I" national board from 2008 to 2013. In 2013, Leahy received the MAIA Henry F. Barry, Jr. Memorial Pacesetter Award, which is awarded to an agent who has contributed his or her talent, time and energy for the betterment of the agency system and is the highest honor that the MAIA bestows.

On the national association level, Joe has served on numerous Big "I" committees and task forces including the Big "I" Executive Committee, Government Affairs Committee, Tax Task Force, and the InsurPac Board of Trustees.

I would also like to recognize the aforementioned Frances Leahy, Joe's esteemed wife. Joe has been married to Frances for more than 30 years. Together they reside in Northampton, Massachusetts and have six children and eight grandchildren.

Once again, Madam Speaker, I am proud of Joe Leahy and all he has accomplished for Massachusetts and beyond. I wish him and Frances well in all their future endeavors, following his successful year as Chairman of the Big "I."

HONORING GARY GALLO

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Gary Gallo on the occasion of his retirement from the Garden City, Michigan Fire Department.

Gary Gallo has displayed true leadership, rising through the ranks of the Garden City Fire Department, before finally retiring as captain. After obtaining certification, Captain Gallo took on the role of Team Leader to the Western Wayne County Hazardous Incident Response Team in addition to his responsibilities. He has been a dependable and active member of the Fire Department. Captain Gallo's devotion is evident in his service to the community. Beyond his duties as a firefighter, he has served as a board member to of Garden City United Needy Family Fund as well as Union President and Treasurer of International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1911.

Please join me in saluting Captain Gary Gallo for his twenty-five years of bravery and service to the public as we wish him well on his retirement.

SAFE DRINKING WATER IN PLAYGROUNDS AND PARKS ACT

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a call to action regarding the right to clean drinking water. Every person has a right to drink water without fear of being poisoned.

That is why, today, I am introducing the Safe Drinking Water in Playgrounds and Parks Act. This bill would ensure states, municipalities, and schools have the financial resources to replace drinking water fountains. While we can test water fountains for lead poisoning, some municipalities and schools lack the resources to replace its water fountains; this is simply wrong. My bill will ensure such entities have the necessary financial resources.

Children who play at playgrounds may be exposed to lead if they drink from the water fountain. This is deeply worrisome and no parent should have to worry that their child may be exposed to this deadly contaminant.

Exposure to lead—even low levels—can have serious health and development consequences for infants, children under six, and pregnant women. For those exposed to this dangerous element, signs of poisoning may include cognitive impairment, behavioral problems, and other health related problems. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, "there is no safe amount of lead exposure in children . . .," which is why it is critical that we advance efforts that prevents lead poisoning.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Safe Drinking Water in Playgrounds and Parks Act. It is undeniable that the fate of our children and future generations rests on the decisions we make today about fighting lead water pipes.

RECOGNIZING LISETTE MORTON AND HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Congressional career of Lisette Morton, my long time Legislative Director and the Director of Policy, Planning, and Member Services of the House Judiciary Committee.

Lisette began her career on Capitol Hill nearly 20 years ago working on environmental issues for the late Congressman Bruce Vento. She started working as my Legislative Assistant in the year 2000 and became my Legislative Director in 2004.

Lisette has an encyclopedic understanding of a huge range of issues and always ensured that I was well prepared for hearings, mark-ups, and floor debates. She is a constant source of reliable and informed advice on which I have relied for almost two decades.

Throughout her tenure in my office, Lisette worked tirelessly to meet New York's unique transportation and infrastructure needs. She helped achieve a major legislative accomplish-

ment by securing \$100 million under the Projects of National Significance Title of the Transportation bill for the cross harbor rail freight tunnel. Securing this much money in a highway bill for a rail project was unprecedented. She also consistently ensured that passenger rail legislation protected resources for the Northeast Corridor, while preventing massive cuts to Amtrak. She ensured I had a seat on the Conference Committee that negotiated the 2015 FAST Act, which allowed me to bring an additional \$1.5 billion in highway and transit formula funding to New York. In 2016, she worked on the FAA extension and ensured that my legislation, the Families Flying Together Act, was included in the final bill.

Lisette has faced down many national crises as a member of my team. She worked for me on September 11, 2001, and was tireless in her efforts to get a proper detoxification and cleanup after the attack in New York and to hold the EPA accountable. Without her fierce advocacy and dedication, there would be more 9/11 responders and survivors sick today. Her work laid the groundwork for everything that followed, including the establishment of a permanent World Trade Center Health Program and 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund. During the BP oil spill in 2010, Lisette worked tirelessly to get language I authored to ban the use of dispersants included in the Gulf Spill legislation that passed the House of Representatives. Finally, during Superstorm Sandy, Lisette worked closely with me and my staff to drive resources quickly to those who needed it in the aftermath of the storm. She worked around the clock with federal, state, and local officials to solve problems as they arose and pass supplemental funding legislation to build back our critical New York infrastructure and make it more resilient.

Lisette has always been an advocate for the arts, especially music, and protecting the rights of artists. Lisette played a critical role in my work on copyright issues with the Judiciary Committee. Lisette worked tremendously hard to pass the Music Modernization Act out of the Judiciary Committee and ultimately out of the House by a remarkable vote of 415-0. Passage of this bill was a major legislative achievement that took years to complete and would not have happened without her hard work and dedication to the effort.

Lisette played a critical role in helping to elect me to the position of Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee in 2017. She quickly established herself as the Director of Member Services and worked to make sure Members concerns are heard and that committee staff and Members are kept informed of Judiciary Committee business.

This year, when I became Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Lisette took on the new role of Director of Policy, Planning, and Member Services. She worked with our entire Judiciary team to create a bold legislative agenda, to ensure hearings were held on critical issues facing the country, and to pass meaningful legislation out of Committee and onto the floor of the House. With her help, the Judiciary Committee passed H.R. 1, the For the People Act; H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act; H.R. 1112, the Enhanced Background Checks Act; H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act; H.R. 1585, the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization; H.R. 5, the Equality Act; and H.R. 1327, the Permanent Reauthorization of the September

11th Victim Compensation Fund Act. Our Committee would not be as active or successful without her incredible work.

None of these accomplishments happen by chance. They are the result of hard work and years of building relationships on the Hill, in the administration, and in New York. She understands how this institution works—and how it should work—and she knows how to do the necessary work to turn a simple bill into an organizing tool for a movement. She has a unique ability to build relationships and work with others to get a job done. That is what makes her so effective in creating lasting change.

And I am not the only one to hold that view. Judiciary Committee Ranking Member DOUG COLLINS has said, Lisette “has given a great deal of service to this House and to me and to my staff personally. She will be missed, on both sides of this aisle, because she understands completely what this House should be about and that is actually service and actually getting legislation done.”

But Lisette is more than just a staffer to me. To me, she is like family. She has given our office more than her hard work, she has given us her great sense of humor and ready laugh, her kind support, and her willingness to share her life with us. She tells stories with great passion about her beloved Nationals and Caps, her trips to Spring Training or to the Minnesota State Fair, her love of all things Star Wars, Star Trek, and Disney, and her love of Bravo TV and good books. She has brought all that joy and life with her to work each day in addition to being an incredibly hard working, capable, and brilliant staffer.

I know I will miss Lisette greatly, but I am happy she has found a new position working on issues she is passionate about. And I am pleased she will continue to pursue those passions both in and out of the office every day. I wish her luck and joy in all her future endeavors.

And so, it is only fitting to say as a final farewell, “Lisette, may the Force be with you.”

RETIREMENT OF POLK COUNTY
MANAGER JIM FREEMAN

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Jim Freeman, who has served as the County Manager of Polk County, Florida since 2010 will retire on July 31.

Jim is a true public servant who began his career with Polk County in 1989 as Director of Information Technology. From 1997 to 2003, he served as Administrative Services Director, becoming Deputy County Manager in November 2003.

His previous experience includes eight years with the Gwinnett County, Georgia, Board of Commissioners and four years with the Georgia Mountains Regional Development Commission in Gainesville, Georgia.

A native of the Atlanta, Georgia metropolitan area, he holds an AS in Business Data Processing from Gainesville College, in Georgia, and a BA in Business Administration from Saint Leo University in Florida.

Jim is a Certified Public Manager and a member of the Florida City and County Man-

agement Association, the International City and County Management Association, and a graduate of Leadership Polk, Class II, and has served on the Board of Directors of Polk Vision and the Advisory Board of Polk County Career Academies.

Jim has lived in Winter Haven since 1989 and is married to Gena Freeman. Between the two of them, they have seven children and 11 grandchildren; and are members of the Calvary Baptist Church in Winter Haven.

We worked together to bring critical funding back to Polk County for Hurricane Irma relief, to combat citrus greening, to bring higher paying jobs, and to protect our environment.

I have truly appreciated the time I have spent working with him. I congratulate Jim on a tremendous career and wish him much happiness in his well-deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO YOUNG STAFF MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS AND THE UNITED STATES

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as Members of Congress we know well, perhaps better than most, how blessed our nation is to have in reserve such exceptional young men and women who will go on to become leaders in their local communities, states, and the nation in the areas of business, education, law, government, philanthropy, the arts and culture, and the military.

We know this because we see them and benefit from their contributions every day. Many of them work for us in our offices as junior staff members, congressional fellows, or interns and they do amazing work for and on behalf of the constituents we are privileged to represent.

Madam Speaker, I believe there is no higher calling than the call to serve a cause larger than ourselves. That is why I ran for public office. I was inspired to serve by President Kennedy who said, “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country,” and by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who said:

Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

By this measure, there are several other great young men and women who served as volunteers this year in my offices. They may toil in obscurity but their contributions to the constituents we serve are deeply appreciated. That is why today I rise to pay tribute to 17 extraordinary young persons for their service to my constituents in the 18th Congressional District of Texas and to the American people. They are:

Hadeel Abdallah, University of Oxford;
Lakeisha Barnes, Indiana University;
Mia Arrington, Villanova University;
Dalia Batuuka, Pennsylvania State University;
Julia Chun, Clark University;
Katherine Holder, Texas Tech University;
Lillian Keller, Swarthmore College;

Elizabeth Lé, Howard University;
Keva Luke, Georgetown University;
Michael Pender, United States Naval Academy;

Nia Prince, Rice University;
Hargun Sodhi, University of Houston;
Rafael Martinez, Texas Tech University;
Lily Rathbun, The Madeira School;
Keenan Parker, The Madeira School;
Jacky Lee, The Madeira School; and
Kayla Rothstein, The Madeira School.

Madam Speaker, the energy, intelligence, and idealism these wonderful young people brought to my office and those interning in the offices of my colleagues help keep our democracy vibrant. The insights, skills, and knowledge of the governmental process they gain from their experiences will last a lifetime and prove invaluable to them as they go about making their mark in this world.

Because of persons like them the future of our country is bright, and its best days lie ahead. I wish them all well.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful that such thoughtful committed young men and women can be found working in my office, those of my colleagues, and in every community in America. Their good works will keep America great, good, and forever young.

SUPPORTING H.R. 736

HON. HARLEY ROUDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letters from Chairman CUMMINGS and Chairperson LOFGREN in support of H.R. 736.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM,
Washington, DC, July 17, 2019.

Hon. ZOE LOFGREN,
Chairperson, Committee on House Administration, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 736, the Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act. As you know, the bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, with an additional referral to the Committee on House Administration.

I thank you for allowing the Committee on the House Administration to be discharged from further consideration of the bill to expedite floor consideration. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on House Administration represented on the conference committee.

I would be pleased to include this letter and any response in the bill report filed by the Committee on Oversight and Reform, as well as in the Congressional Record during floor consideration, to memorialize our understanding.

Sincerely,

ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, DC, July 17, 2019.

Hon. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Reform,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CUMMINGS: I am writing to you regarding H.R. 736, the "Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act." This measure, introduced on January 23, 2019, was referred to your committee as well as the Committee on House Administration.

The Committee on House Administration recognizes the importance of H.R. 736 and the need to move this bill expeditiously. Therefore, while we have valid jurisdictional claims to this bill, the Committee on House Administration will waive further consideration of H.R. 736. The Committee does so with the understanding that by waiving further consideration of this bill it does not waive any future jurisdictional claims over similar measures.

I would appreciate the inclusion of this letter and a copy of your response in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 736 on the House floor.

Sincerely,

ZOE LOFGREN,
Chairperson.

FLORIDA INVENTORS HALL OF
FAME 2019 INDUCTEES

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the eight inventors who have been recognized as the 2019 Inductees of the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame. To be named as an Inductee, these inventors were nominated by their peers nationwide and have undergone the scrutiny of the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame Selection Committee. As a result, their innovations have been identified as significantly impacting the quality of life, economic development, and welfare of their communities, the residents of Florida, and the United States.

The Florida Inventors Hall of Fame was founded in 2013 by Paul R. Sanberg, Senior Vice President for Research, Innovation and Knowledge Enterprise, and Judy Genshaft, President, at the University of South Florida. It was recognized by the Florida Senate with Senate Resolution 1756, adopted on April 30, 2014. Its mission is to encourage individuals of all backgrounds to strive toward the betterment of Florida and society through continuous, groundbreaking innovation by celebrating the incredible scientific work that has been or is being accomplished in Florida and by its citizens.

Nomination to the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame is open to all Florida inventors (living or dead) who are or have been residents of Florida. The nominee must be a named inventor on a patent issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The impact of the inventor and his or her invention should be significant to society, and the invention should have been commercialized, utilized, or led to important innovations.

The 2019 Inductees of the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame are:

Michael Bass: Professor Emeritus at the University of Central Florida selected for his

significant inventions in optics and spectroscopy that have optimized the use of lasers and optical systems, aiding in the treatment of major diseases and improving the design of the world's fiber optic communication system.

Joanna S. Fowler: Native Floridian, University of South Florida alumni, and 2008 National Medal of Science recipient selected for her transformative research that enabled the use of molecular imaging to more accurately identify and treat illnesses ranging from drug addiction to cancer.

Hedy Lamarr (1914–2000): Former Florida resident for nearly two decades, Oscar-nominated actress, and 2014 National Inventors Hall of Fame inductee selected for her groundbreaking invention of the Secret Communication System, which led to the creation of various technologies used today to support Wi-Fi, GPS, and Bluetooth.

Thomas A. Lipo: Research Professor at the Florida State University Center for Advanced Power Systems selected for his pioneering innovations in the field of electrical machinery and power electronics that improved the technology that runs subway cars as well as paved the way for hybrid and electric vehicles.

Alan F. List: CEO and president of Moffitt Cancer Center selected for his dedication to understanding cancer biology and developing novel therapeutic strategies for treating hematologic malignancies such as myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) and acute myelocytic leukemia (AML).

Chris A. Malachowsky: University of Florida alum selected for inventing the Graphics Processing Unit (GPU) that transformed the visual computing industry, revolutionized high performance computing, and opened the door to modern artificial intelligence.

Luther George Simjian (1905–1997): prolific inventor and founder of Tampa based Reflectone, Inc, who developed the Optical Range Estimation Trainer used during WWII, which became the standard for simulation defense training, and for his many other inventions including his ATM concept that revolutionized the banking system.

Richard A. Yost: University of Florida professor of chemistry selected for his invention of the triple quadrupole mass spectrometer, a ground breaking analytical instrument that is used daily in drug development, disease testing, food safety, and environmental studies.

Innovation and invention are the building blocks of our nation. I applaud these highly accomplished individuals and the organizations that support them in their quest to change the world in ways that truly benefit humanity. It is because of the perseverance of these inventors that future generations are encouraged to reach beyond their limits and push the boundaries of innovation.

COMBATING SEXUAL HARASSMENT
IN SCIENCE ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 36, the "Combating Sexual Harassment in Science Act of 2019."

This bill addresses sexual harassment in the science, technology, engineering, and mathe-

matics (STEM) fields by supporting sexual harassment research and efforts to prevent and respond to sexual harassment.

This bill also directs the National Science Foundation (NSF) to award grants to institutions of higher education or nonprofit organizations.

Such grants to institutions of higher education will be used to expand research into sexual harassment in the STEM workforce, including students and trainees; and to examine interventions for reducing the incidence and negative consequences of such harassment.

According to a report issued by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine in 2018 entitled "Sexual Harassment of Women: Climate, Culture, and Consequences in Academic Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine," sexual harassment is pervasive in institutions of higher education.

The most common type of sexual harassment is gender harassment, which includes verbal and nonverbal behaviors that convey insulting, hostile, and degrading attitudes about members of one gender.

Fifty-eight percent of individuals in the academic workplace experience sexual harassment, which is the second highest rate when compared to the military, the private sector, and Federal, State, and local government.

Women who are members of racial or ethnic minority groups are more likely to experience sexual harassment and to feel unsafe at work than White women, White men, or men who are members of such groups.

The training for each individual who has a doctor of philosophy in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields is estimated to cost approximately \$500,000.

Attrition of an individual so trained results in a loss of talent and money.

Sexual harassment undermines the career advancement for women.

Many women are reported to leave employment at institutions of higher education due to sexual harassment.

Research shows the majority of individuals do not formally report experiences of sexual harassment due to a justified fear of retaliation or other negative professional or personal consequences.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 36 to research and better understand the causes and consequences of sexual harassment affecting individuals in science.

HONORING HARRY BEAL,
AMERICA'S FIRST NAVY SEAL

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Greenville Township, Somerset County, Pennsylvania, native Harry Beal, who was the first U.S. Navy SEAL.

Mr. Beal enlisted in the Navy in 1948 when he was just 17 years old. The Korean War began shortly after Beal joined the Navy, however, he never saw Korea. In the early 1960s, Beal was sent to Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek to learn underwater demolition. There is where he signed up for the Navy SEALs in 1962.

President John F. Kennedy was looking for a group of men that could go anywhere in the world at a moment's notice. Beal was a member of SEAL Team Two, which was based out of Little Creek. His service was exemplary.

Harry Beal served in the Navy for 20 years. His service took him to South America, South-east Asia, Europe, and the Caribbean Sea. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Harry Beal for his lifetime of service to our nation.

OPPOSING GLOBAL BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT, AND SANCTIONS MOVEMENT TARGETING ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Ms. FRANKEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 246, a bipartisan resolution that opposes the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement aimed against Israel, strongly supports a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and affirms the Constitutional right of American citizens to free speech.

Let's be clear about what BDS is and is not—BDS is not a social justice movement. It ignores Palestinian terrorist attacks targeting Israeli civilians, including more than 18,000 rockets and 105 suicide bombings, as well as human rights abuses perpetrated by Palestinian leaders against their own people.

BDS is an international effort to economically, politically and culturally isolate our close ally Israel. It undermines prospects for a two-state solution by punishing Israel with economic harm in order to force concessions by Israel alone and encouraging the Palestinians to reject negotiations in favor of international pressure.

BDS does not recognize the right of the Jewish people to national self-determination, a right proclaimed by the United Nations. Some of its supporters even advocate for Israel's complete destruction. Omar Barghouti, a co-founder of the movement, has said, "Most definitely, we oppose a Jewish state in any part of Palestine."

I am pleased that members of Congress, on both sides of the aisle, understand that a secure Israel is important for our country as well as our allies. I am proud to be a co-sponsor of this resolution which puts Congress on the record opposing the discriminatory BDS campaign against Israel and supporting a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict resulting in two states.

CONGRATULATING THE TUMON BAY YOUTH ORCHESTRA

HON. MICHAEL F.Q. SAN NICOLAS

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra for taking home a Gold Award in

the 2019 Australian International Music Festival held in Sydney, Australia.

The Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra was organized in September 2018, launching Guam's newest community youth orchestra. The Orchestra seeks to provide a platform for youth musicians from various schools to build camaraderie through music. The repertoire for the ensemble includes the grand masterworks of centuries past to the latest movie or video game soundtracks, to the delight of audiences of all ages. The Orchestra is led by Artistic Director Maximo Ronquillo, Jr.

The Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra received a Gold Award for its debut performance for the 2019 Australian International Music Festival at the Sydney Opera House. The Australian International Music Festival is among the largest music festivals in the southern hemisphere, receiving participation from 62 ensembles and over 1,300 participants in 2019.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I want to congratulate the Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra for their success in the 2019 Australian International Music Festival.

IN RECOGNITION OF INTERNATIONAL SELF-CARE DAY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, July 24th is recognized as "International Self-Care Day" to bring attention to the importance of advancing public health through effective and safe self-care. Over-the-counter (OTC) products from cold medicines to cures for headaches, play a key role in consumer self-care which is evident by widespread use in nearly every household across the country. We must do all we can to support self-care and to advance lower-cost, safe and effective options for American consumers.

When health care innovation is blocked by government regulations, it's patients who lose. Our current process for approving over-the-counter products is unnecessarily inefficient, leading to higher prices and fewer choices for consumers. A problem like this rightfully deserves bipartisan solutions, and that's what we have in the Over-the-Counter Monograph Safety, Innovation, and Reform Act. I thank my friend from Colorado, Ms. DEGETTE for working with me for several years on H.R. 3443 to reform a broken system and bring new cost-effective OTC products to market faster. It's time for the over-the-counter approval process to be as modern as the innovations being presented to the FDA.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the value and importance of OTC medicines to promote and achieve self-care for families across our nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, extenuating circumstances regrettably pre-

vented me from voting YEA on H. Res. 246, Opposing efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement targeting Israel, of which I am a co-sponsor. I strongly support this resolution and our ally, the Jewish, democratic state of Israel. I am a proponent of a negotiated two-state solution for the Israelis and the Palestinians and will continue to condemn efforts that stand in the way of the path to peace.

SMALL BUSINESS REORGANIZATION ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3311, "The Small Business Reorganization Act of 2019."

H.R. 3311, the "Small Business Reorganization Act of 2019," would streamline the bankruptcy process by which small business debtors reorganize and rehabilitate their financial affairs.

I support this legislation because it addresses the special problems presented by small business cases by instituting a variety of time frames and enforcement mechanisms designed to weed out small business debtors who are not likely to reorganize.

It also requires these cases to be more actively monitored by United States trustees and the bankruptcy courts.

According to the Small Business Administration (SBA) Office of Advocacy, approximately 20 percent of small businesses survive the first year, but by the five-year mark only 50 percent are still in business and by the ten-year mark only one-third survive.

Under the protection of chapter 11, a debtor is given a "financial breathing spell" from most creditor collection efforts.

This protection allows the chapter 11 debtor to continue its business operations while formulating a plan of reorganization to repay its creditors.

Not surprisingly, while most chapter 11 business cases are filed by small business debtors, they are often "the least likely to reorganize successfully."

I know first hand that Hurricane Harvey hurt many small businesses and though we worked to help them recover, bankruptcy was the only option for some of them.

While the Bankruptcy Code envisions that creditors will play a major role in monitoring these cases, this often does not occur, chiefly because creditors in these smaller cases do not have claims large enough to warrant the time and money to participate actively in these cases.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3311 to help our small businesses have a chance at success during difficult times.

TRIBUTE TO JUDY SCHNEIDER

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my deep gratitude and appreciation to someone who has played an indispensable role in Congress for more than four decades—my guide and my great friend, Judy Schneider. After a legendary career as a Specialist on Congress at the Congressional Research Service—really the specialist on Congress—Judy is retiring. Judy will be missed.

Judy Schneider is a recognized institution on Capitol Hill—not just because of her unparalleled knowledge of procedure, but because of her belief in how those of us fortunate enough to work here can use those procedures to move effective policy solutions. She has never failed to recognize the enormous possibilities we have been given to represent our constituents and our nation, and she has never failed to help anyone—on either side of the aisle—who sought her guidance.

Like many of my colleagues and their staffs, I have relied on Judy to help me navigate Congress—not just how the House and Senate are supposed to work according to precedent, but how these bodies actually work in today's world. Along with her colleague Michael Koempel, she literally wrote the book—The Congressional Deskbook: The Practical and Comprehensive Guide to Congress—to help explain the rules under which we operate. My staff and I have turned to the Deskbook countless times, and we are far from alone. Whether you work on the Hill or simply want to understand how Congress operates, you can rely on Judy Schneider's writings for clear, concise and accurate information. That includes not just the Deskbook but hundreds of reports and guidance documents, including one that each of my staffers receives on how to prepare a legislative plan.

But Judy is not just an author. She is available to talk with Members of Congress, their staffs, and others to answer questions and share her vast expertise. I was fortunate to meet Judy at the new member retreat during my first weeks in Congress, and immediately recognized her many talents. It was clear to me that if I wanted to learn how the House really works, I needed to know Judy. I am so thankful that Judy agreed to serve as my mentor and guide. Whenever my staff or I have a question about procedural or legislative options, we turn to not just to Judy's books and reports, but to Judy in person. She is not just on our speed-dial, she is the "go-to" person for offices throughout the House and Senate.

Her influence goes beyond the walls of Congress. Judy has been generous in sharing her understanding of Congress with a wide range of groups off the Hill, speaking to countless associations and organizations while also mentoring many individuals—especially women—who are interested in policymaking careers. Using her trademark Socratic style to challenge her countless students, Judy has taught a generation of thinkers how to use policy and procedures creatively.

Judy Schneider has received many awards and accolades—all of which are richly deserved. The Judy Schneider Fellowship, created by Women in Government in 2015 to rec-

ognize Judy's accomplishments, guarantees that her impact will continue to be felt. Last year, she won the inaugural Democracy Awards Lifetime Achievement award for Congressional staff from the Congressional Management Foundation, a truly fitting honor. And yet, I believe her greatest reward is knowing that she has mentored, trained and inspired so many who have gone on to use her lessons to improve people's lives and well-being.

I thank Judy, I love her and I wish her everything good. I know that she will spend time on the Jersey shore, with family and friends, and enjoy some well-deserved downtime. But I also hope that, even in retirement, she will continue to serve as a resource for all of us who have relied on her for her wisdom. I hope to be able to turn to her for her counsel and friendship in the future, as I have so frequently over the past years.

RUDY GIULIANI COMMENTS REGARDING THE IRANIAN REGIME OF TERROR
HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD comments about the situation in Iran that I believe are relevant and should be widely shared. The comments, from former New York City Mayor and attorney to the U.S. President Rudy Giuliani, address peaceful regime change in Iran and the work of the Iranian Resistance. Giuliani delivered this speech at the International Gathering at Ashraf-3, Tirana, Albania, which is home to members of the Iranian opposition, the Mujahedin-e Khalq (PMOI/MEK). More than 350 bipartisan dignitaries and parliamentarians from 47 countries attended the conference. I offer these comments for thoughtful discussion as follows:

Giuliani: "Thanks to you and particularly to the people who live here in Ashraf 3. You'll be the ones who lead your people to freedom and you'll be honored forever in Iranian history and in the history of those who love and are willing to die for freedom. God bless you."

This organization has grown and grown and I feel in this room today a kind of optimism that I don't remember feeling before when we were in Paris. I feel an optimism maybe because you've done a miracle here in Ashraf. If we were to build this in New York City, it would take 15 years and 14 corruption investigations. I was here a year and a half ago, this wasn't here.

And of course, all of this is possible because of the leadership of Madame Maryam Rajavi, a truly exceptional leader. Just like her husband Massoud Rajavi, who began this movement in one very brave act. He refused to swear allegiance to the Supreme Leader Khomeini to his face. He said, "No, I will not swear allegiance to you. I will not deliver my nation to a tyrant."

I'm here to say three things. First, I accuse the Ayatollah and Rouhani and all of their sycophants and followers of mass murder, crimes against humanity. We should be embarrassed for our countries if they haven't stood up against this. There's no middle ground here. These people have killed at least

120,000 members and associates of this great organization. You see the book. You go through the sad, tragic, but heroic exhibit they have of the martyrs to freedom. Look at the photograph of the people in the infirmary being treated for illness, slaughtered just a few years ago. Killed 52 of them of the last 100 people who stayed at Ashraf, they tried to wipe them all out. In 1988, in two months they slaughtered 30,000 people. These are not numbers, these are human lives.

So there are three things that we have to do. Number one, we have to get the governments of Europe to stand up, to wake up, to reclaim their dignity and their honor. These are the countries that gave us democracy. Greece, Rome, Italy, France, United Kingdom, Germany, all places in which freedom was born, democracy was born, democracy emerged. Democracy for my nation came out of Europe and the experience of Europe. So how can the leaders of those countries turn their back on mass murder? How can they do it and live with themselves? It's time to end that shameful disregard.

There's no statute of limitations on murder. I prosecuted two Nazis 40 years after their horrible deeds. One killed 20,000 people, the other killed 12,000 people and we found them and it took years and we brought them to justice. The people who slaughtered 30,000 people in 1988 should be identified, they should be prosecuted, and they should either be imprisoned for life or executed. They're criminals. They're murderers. They're not leaders of countries. They are no better than the murderer in the street except they're worse because they're mass murderers.

I am so proud of my government because we have stood up. We looked at that agreement that would make Iran a nuclear power and we said tear it up. We're not going to put nuclear weapons in the hands of a maniac. Well, I say to the leaders of Europe, you can be liberators too. You can go down in history as fighters for freedom.

Isn't that better than just running a government and making money and giving blood money to Iran? How can you do commerce with them? We all know they're the largest sponsor of terrorism in the world. What does that mean? That means they fund and they supply murderers not only in their own country but all over the world. And when you give them money, when you relieve them of a debt, which my government did in the prior administration, and put over a billion dollars back in their hands, you are supporting murder. What do they use it for? Their people know, their people know that when they get money, when a French company or a German company does business with them, that money, that profit is going to be used to kill people in Syria or to kill people somewhere else or to send people to Albania to kill us or to send people to France like they did last year to kill Madame Rajavi and us. That's what they're funding, don't you realize it? That makes you complicit in murder.

Number two, let's make it clear, there is an alternative to this horrible regime of terror. This isn't one of those situations in which we have the choice of deposing a horrible dictator and we don't know if a more horrible one will come along. Right? And when we saw that happen, we saw it happen in Egypt, in some ways we saw it happen in Libya.

But here we don't have that problem. We've got the worst regime in the world by far, the

biggest sponsor of terrorism in the world. And then we have the National Council, the NCRI, led by the president-elect, Madame Rajavi. Coalition of resistance organizations respected throughout the world. There are representatives of most of the major countries in the world here. They've gotten to know her. They've gotten to respect her. In my country, she's thoroughly respected.

We know there's a group of people who have been fighting for freedom all their lives, who have lost the closets people to them in the fight for freedom, who are dedicated to it.

People here at Ashraf, let's make it clear. I spent a lot of time with them. These are people who are dedicated to freedom. And if you think that's a cult, then there's something wrong with you. There's something missing in your soul.

But we know that there is a government in exile, it negotiates with the whole world, and it's written down plain as can be what it stands for. And it looks just like our Bill of Rights, just like the universal declarations of freedom and decency and human rights enshrined in the great documents of the world. Free elections within six months is the promise, and I believe it will be fulfilled. They're for gender equality. They're for human rights. They're for a system of law. They're for we don't imprison someone unless they have a fair trial. And because of their history, they oppose capital punishment, because there's been too much of it. And it isn't just capital punishment, it's murder in their country. This is a good organization. And it's an organization that is ready, willing and able not to take over Iran but to guide Iran to elections as quickly as possible and hopefully they will be part of the coalition governing Iran like they're part of the coalition that is trying to guide Iran to freedom. This is a group that we can support. It's a group that we should stop maligning and it's a group that should make us comfortable having regime change in the worst regime in the world.

Here's what you can do. You can be a witness like in the Biblical sense of a witness. You know something that a lot of people don't know. You know really how bad it is in Iran. And you know about MEK. And you know about Madame Rajavi. And you know the truth, not the lies, "the cult, they don't have support in Iran." Why has the Ayatollah been murdering them for 40 years if they don't have support in Iran? The Ayatollah, Rouhani, have said that this organization is the only one that's really a danger to them.

You now have a responsibility because of your knowledge. Don't be euphemistic about it. Don't hide your eyes. You've got to get the leaders of your country to stand up so you can all be proud of your country and its heritage.

I get attacked and my colleagues who will be here in a moment get attacked all the time in America. Why we're doing this? We're doing it really very simply because we love freedom and we can't turn our back on people who are being treated this way and we can't turn our back on a situation that could be catastrophic for them and catastrophic for the world. You know what I say to them? Keep doing it. Keep doing it. I wear it as a badge of honor. I support freedom, you support oppression. I support democracy, you support a dictatorship. I support decent people who share the values of decent governments, and you support mass murderers. Now who's right and who's wrong?

But I know and I feel as I've told you, and I know why there's an optimism in this room. Because we're going to be in Tehran much sooner than all those cynics believe. You know why? [Because we are Hazer, Hazer, Hazer. (We're ready)."]

CELEBRATION OF THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF HIGGINSVILLE

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the sesquicentennial of Higginsville, Missouri. For the past 150 years, Higginsville has served as the hub of Lafayette County and the home of a tight-knit, caring community. May it stand for another 150 years as a glittering example to other towns around the country.

In 1869, the town was incorporated on land purchased by its namesake, Harvey Higgins. A post office was soon established, and the growth of the town took off from there. The first school was built in 1886 and enrolled 572 students by 1888. Powered by coal mines, manufacturing, and agriculture, the population exploded until it had over 2,500 people living there in 1910. To point the way to a bustling town, the yellow "Welcome to Higginsville" finger signs were installed on Highway 13 and US Highway 40 (now I-70) in 1924. These four iconic signs stand today as a sunny tribute to the hospitality of Higginsville's people.

The 20th century and President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal programs brought development and investment, including Fairground park, a swimming pool, and a new post office with a mural done by a student of the great regionalist painter Thomas Hart Benton. After World War II, further investment brought a golf course, additions to the park, a new city hall, new school buildings, and a municipal airport.

In 1967, the Higginsville and Corder School districts were consolidated forming the Lafayette County C-1 school district. The school has grown to serve almost a thousand students and stands as a center of academic excellence. It was Accredited with Distinction in Performance by the State of Missouri for the 2009-2010 school year. The district's competent instructors, small class sizes, and abundant resources makes it one of the best schools in the county.

Situated less than fifty miles outside of Kansas City and near I-70, Higginsville residents have the advantages of both easy access to city and country living. Jobs in Kansas City are easily accessible, and there are also good jobs in Higginsville. Lafayette County's top employer is the Higginsville Habilitation Center and Northwest Community Services. Higginsville also serves as the central police dispatch for Lafayette County, making it essential to keeping the whole county safe. Higginsville also has innumerable civil society organizations and churches that are the backbone of the community. From the Freemasons and the Odd Fellows to the Rotary and 4-H, the people of Higginsville are civically minded and active volunteers. These volunteers come together every September to put on the Country Fair, a bustling week of activities and con-

tests that culminates in a bustling street fair and parade.

Furthermore, Higginsville is home to some of the best retirement facilities in the area. Meyer Care Center and John Knox Village East (a not-for-profit retirement community) are cornerstones of the community and world-class homes for senior citizens.

The quality schools, solid jobs, and caring retirement communities make Higginsville a good place to grow-up, work, and retire. Higginsville is successful because of its citizens' commitment to improving the community, through their community organizations, churches, and fraternal spirit. This commitment will never diminish, and Higginsville will continue to be a crossroads of Missouri and the center of Lafayette County. Madam Speaker, please join me, Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, and citizens across the nation in honoring the City of Higginsville for 150 years of community and growth.

HONORING AMERICAN VETERANS IN EXTREME NEED ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2938, "The Honoring American Veterans in Extreme Need Act of 2019", or the HAVEN Act.

Section 2 would amend Bankruptcy Code section 101(1 OA), which defines current monthly income" for purposes of the Code's means test, to exclude compensation paid by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Department of Defense to an individual in connection with a disability, combat-related injury or disability, or death of a member of the uniformed services.

I strongly support this legislation because it would bring certain veterans' disability benefits paid by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Department of Defense into parity with the treatment of Social Security payments under the Bankruptcy Code's means test.

Although Social Security benefits are not treated as income for purposes of the Bankruptcy Code's means test, veterans' disability benefits do constitute income under this test.

This requirement applies even with respect to servicemembers who have returned to the United States from active service and thus no longer receive combat pay.

Under the means test, such servicemember would have to calculate his or her income based on the average monthly income that he or she received during the six-month period preceding the filing date of the bankruptcy case, rather than the debtor's actual income, which may be much less because of the debtor's non-combat status.

Many veterans become ineligible for the more immediate discharge available under Chapter 7 and, instead, they are steered into Chapter 13, which requires a debtor to make payments to creditors pursuant to a 3 or 5 year plan before he or she can receive a discharge.

According to the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges (NCBJ), such treatment

"will remedy an imbalance in the Bankruptcy Code that disproportionately steers veterans receiving such benefits into Chapter 13 cases because they often fail the Chapter 7 means test."

This bill is supported by the Veterans of Foreign Affairs, the American Legion, and the Disabled American Veterans, the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, and the American College of Bankruptcy among others.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2938 to allow our veterans to have a chance to provide for their families and to live a peaceful lifestyle.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for the following votes on Tuesday, July 23. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 497; YEA on Roll Call No. 498; and YEA on Roll Call No. 499.

CONGRATULATING TIMOTHY
WEAVERLING

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate 2019 Citizen of the Year, Timothy Weaverling. Mr. Weaverling of Bedford Borough, Bedford County, Pennsylvania, will receive this honor on August 19th from the Rotary Clubs of Bedford and the Bedford Elks Lodge.

Mr. Weaverling has served on the Bedford County Chamber Foundation Board of Trustees, the Chamber Board of Directors and Executive Committee. He is currently serving in the second year of his term as Chair of the Chamber Board. In addition to the Chamber, Mr. Weaverling serves on the Bedford Borough Council as well as leadership of the Bedford Sunrise Rotary.

Mr. Weaverling is a community leader that exemplifies Bedford in commitment, growth, and development. Mr. Weaverling is a role model of citizenship and pride that allows others to engage and empower. I take great pleasure in congratulating Timothy Weaverling for this outstanding accomplishment.

OPPOSING GLOBAL BOYCOTT, DI-
VESTMENT, AND SANCTIONS
MOVEMENT TARGETING ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, the right to participate in boycotts, whether we agree with them or not, is protected by our constitution,

including political expression aimed at Israeli policy. Americans have long used such tactics to influence and pressure our government and other governments. The only difference here is we appear to be striving to carve out and treat differently, even silence, those who disagree with the policies undertaken by our ally Israel.

How can you support the right under the Constitution to political speech including boycotts and then bring this resolution to the floor?

Let me be clear, I oppose anyone (Palestinian, Israeli, American, etc.) who are taking actions inimical to peace. And after nearly three decades, it is fair to say all sides, including the U.S., have done so in some shape or form.

Any effort that has at its heart delegitimizing the State of Israel is doomed to fail. And the BDS movement, just like unilateral actions undertaken by either side, is not going to bring two states living in peace side by side. It was born out of frustration, that we all share, with a moribund peace process that harms both Israelis and Palestinians.

At this time when Congress can be doing so much more to help advance the peace process or even to just revive it, why is the only action we are taking is to bring to the floor a nonbinding resolution that doesn't address where most of the blame for the failures lay: the continuing intransigence and refusal by Israeli and Palestinian political leaders to make the tough decisions and compromises that need to be made for peace.

That refusal continues to feed the status quo. But rather than call out those responsible, including several actions taken by this Administration, for setting back the cause of peace, we have decided that this moment is ripe solely to attack the First Amendment rights of Americans?

Again, rather than pressing the parties to make the tough decision and concessions that will be necessary for peace, Congress has decided that the top focus at the moment is the voluntary decisions by some Americans to exercise political expression? The First Amendment does not threaten Israel's right to exist. Nor does any American exercising that right.

I agree with the editorial by the New York Times which warned that attempting to "silence one side of the debate" is not "in the interests of Israel, the United States, or their shared democratic values."

Rather than attacking the First Amendment right of Americans to criticize the policies of our own government or our allies, how about pushing our own administration to actually say the words "two-state solution" which it refuses to do or to actually act as if its interested in pursuing that longstanding goal that this Congress and past administrations has reaffirmed is the best option for peace between the Israelis and Palestinians.

I am concerned that resolutions such as this one serves no real purpose, certainly not to those of us interested in working as honest brokers to bring this decades long history of simmering tensions, outright war, and hostility to an end, permanently.

I fear that this resolution is just another in a long line of nonbinding resolutions considered by this House that fails to actually advance peace between the two sides, ignores the various and complex factors that have made the prospects for peace in this conflict the worse in a generation including actions by this ad-

ministration that have been roundly rejected by many.

Again, in looking at this resolution, I understand that it is easier to blame a host of outside actors, including those who we disagree with, for the current damaging status quo. The reality however remains that it is the consistent and repeated failure of political leaders in Ramallah, Jerusalem, and at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue to make the tough decisions and concessions that peace requires and which has left us in this damaging status quo.

The folly of the current situation was encapsulated by the Trump administration's recent Bahrain conference which neither the Palestinians or Israelis attended.

Finally, I am concerned that this resolution is a slippery slope to actually taking up binding legislation affecting cherished First Amendment rights such as the bill that passed the Senate earlier this year which was derided in media reports as a "political stunt." Israeli's and Palestinians alike have had enough of political stunts.

Opportunities for progress and for peace are growing fewer and farther apart as the damaging status quo and divides only harden, waiting for the next explosion of violence. And are we surprised that without prospects for peace, extremists seem to be gaining ground?

I would be far more constructive if this Congress would focus on finding viable solutions to the Israel-Palestinian conflict rather than promoting legislation that raises free speech concerns. For example, H.Res. 326 which was marked up in committee at the same time as this resolution but is curiously absent from this week's calendar.

I firmly believe it is our responsibility as a Congress to keep working towards peace despite pessimism and pessimists.

Clearly right now, what the Middle East needs is more solutions, not more meaningless resolutions. I said this a few years ago and I will repeat it again now: both peoples would gladly trade empty resolutions from the U.S. Congress for real progress on the ground and a sincere path forward.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KELLY ARMSTRONG

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Madam Speaker, I got delayed travelling back to D.C. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 497.

HONORING NATHANIEL "NAT"
WASHINGTON, SR. AND HIS SON
NAT JR.

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Nathaniel "Nat" Washington, Sr. and his son, Nat Jr. Their public service transformed the Columbia Basin, Washington state, and the entire Pacific Northwest by securing hydropower as the foundation of the region's power system.

The Grand Coulee Dam is the largest power station in the nation. With a 6,809-megawatt generating capacity, the Dam supplies an average of 21 billion kilowatt hours of clean, affordable, and reliable electricity to 11 States and Canada each year. Reservoirs from the Dam are the backbone of the Columbia Basin Project, which supplies irrigation to 10,000 farms on 671,000 acres of farmland in the Columbia Basin.

While residents throughout the Pacific Northwest reap these benefits, many are unaware of how the Dam came to be or how the work of a father and son changed Central Washington, our state, and the region forever.

In 1908, Nat Washington, Sr., a decedent of President George Washington's family, left his home in Virginia and established a homestead along the Columbia River, not far from where the Grand Coulee Dam sits today. Shortly after arriving in Washington, Nat Sr. was elected as Grant County Prosecutor and the first president of the Columbia River Dam, Irrigation, and Power District. In this role, Nat Sr. played a key role in the conception, approval, and construction of the Grand Coulee Dam.

Nat Jr. shared his father's passion for public service. After earning his law degree from the University of Washington, Nat Washington, Jr. also served as Grant County Prosecutor and later in the Washington State Legislature for 30 years. During this time, Nat Jr. was instrumental in the development of several hydro-power projects across the region, including the Columbia Basin Project, which is the largest water reclamation project in the United States, providing nearly \$2 billion in economic benefits to the region each year.

With these immeasurable contributions to Central Washington in mind, I rise to introduce legislation to rename the Third Power Plant at the Grand Coulee Dam as the Nathaniel "Nat" Washington" Power Plant in honor of Nat Jr. and Sr. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions of these pioneers of Northwest hydropower.

RAISE THE WAGE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letter in support of H.R. 582, the Raise the Wage Act.

OXFAM,
July 16, 2019.

MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Ms. EUNICE IKENE,
Labor Policy Advisor at House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

DEAR MS. IKENE AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: On behalf of Oxfam America, I urge you to vote for the Raise the Wage Act (H.R. 582) and vote against any amendments that would weaken the bill.

Oxfam America is an international development and relief agency committed to working for lasting solutions to poverty, hunger and social injustice in over 90 countries, including the United States. Oxfam has carried out development and humanitarian programs across the globe.

Within the United States, we have focused our efforts to elevating the rights and life

opportunities for historically disadvantaged workers in low-wage sectors. With a federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour, a full-time worker may only make \$15,080 a year, a salary that is almost \$4,000 below the poverty line for a family of three.

The Raise the Wage Act of 2019 would benefit over a quarter of the workforce: nearly 40 million workers and their families. The act would raise the federal minimum wage to \$8.55 this year and increase it over the next five years until it reaches \$15 in 2024, then adjust it each year to keep pace with the typical worker's wages.

Here are six reasons why raising the wage makes sense.

1. It is long overdue.

In the decade since it was last raised, the minimum wage has failed to keep up with inflation, failed to keep up with average wages, and—most dramatically—failed to keep up with incomes of the top 1 percent and CEOs, contributing to America's growing inequality.

Low-wage workers are not benefiting from economic growth and productivity. If the minimum wage had kept pace with productivity increases, it would be around \$20.

Just 30 years ago, the average pay gap between CEOs and workers was 59 to 1; last year, it soared to 361 to 1. The average CEO makes \$13,940,000, while a minimum wage worker makes \$15,080: a gap of 924 to 1.

2. It would address longstanding racial and gender inequities.

Historically marginalized people do more than their fair share of low-wage work, and would stand to benefit disproportionately from the bump.

While 27 percent of the total workforce would benefit from the raise:

39 percent of Black and Latina women would benefit (vs. 18 percent of white men), 38 percent of African American workers would benefit,

33 percent of Latino workers would benefit, 32 percent of women workers would benefit (vs 22 percent of men).

3. It would reduce poverty.

The bump from \$290 a week to \$600 a week would lift millions of family out of poverty. Two-thirds of all working people in poverty (67.3 percent) would see a raise in wages.

4. It would fuel economic growth.

The roughly \$120 billion extra paid to workers would be pumped back into the economy for necessities such as rent, food, clothes.

Economists have long recognized that boosting purchasing power by putting money in people's pockets for consumer spending has positive ripple effects on the entire economy.

In one recent poll, 67 percent of small business owners support the minimum wage increase to \$15 an hour. They say it would spark consumer demand, which would enable them to retain or hire new employees.

And raising the wage doesn't seem to compel employers to cut jobs. As states and cities across the country have raised wages, research has found no statistically significant effect on employment.

5. It would save taxpayers money and reduce use of government programs.

When employers don't pay people enough to survive, those workers are compelled to seek government assistance, meaning taxpayers are essentially subsidizing the corporations.

In 2016, EPI found that, among recipients of public assistance, most work or have a family member who works; and they are concentrated at the bottom of the pay scale. Raising wages for low-wage workers would "unambiguously reduce net spending on public assistance, particularly among workers likely to be affected by a federal minimum-wage increase."

6. It's what the vast majority of Americans want.

Vast majorities (up to three quarters, including a majority across party lines) support raising the wage. Even in a poll sponsored by the National Restaurant Association (which has worked to block state minimum wage increases and preempt local sick day laws), 71 percent of Americans indicated support for raising the wage, "even if it also increases the cost of food and service to customers."

In fact, over half the states have raised their minimum wages to restore basic fairness to the workforce.

CONCLUSION

Raising the minimum wage offers benefits to workers, children, taxpayers, and the economy as a whole. It increases buying power and reduces the daily struggle for people to pay their basic expenses. It enables people to save for and invest in their future. It contributes toward building a work force that is healthier, more stable, better educated, and more productive.

Raising the minimum wage will require members of Congress of both parties to be willing to overcome the divide: to be open to the debate, to consider the needs of hard-working constituents and taxpayers, to consider the wide range of benefits—and ultimately, to give a raise to the people who need it the most.

We strongly urge every member of Congress to vote for the Raise the Wage Act and enact this important piece of legislation as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

MINOR SINCLAIR,
*Director, US Domestic Program,
Oxfam America.*

RETIREMENT OF MR. MICHAEL J. SULLIVAN, GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of myself and the members of the House Committee on Armed Services, to congratulate and celebrate Mr. Michael J. Sullivan, the Director of Defense Weapon System Acquisitions for the Government Accountability Office (GAO), on the occasion of his retirement after 34 years of distinguished federal service.

Mr. Sullivan's dedication to his profession, his selfless public service, and his role helping GAO meet its mission have exceeded everyone's expectations. During his time at GAO, Mr. Sullivan has been an effective thought-leader, most notably in GAO's work to expertly identify and apply best acquisition practices for product development, production, testing, and fielding for many of DOD's most complex, expensive, and critical weapon system acquisitions. Over the years, Mr. Sullivan's efforts resulted in numerous modifications and alterations to DOD's acquisition policies, processes and implementation. Mr. Sullivan significantly contribute to the development and enactment of the Weapon System Acquisition Reform Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-23), which lead to improved acquisition outcomes and effective returns on investment of billions of dollars on behalf of the Congress and the American taxpayer.

Mr. Sullivan testified numerous times before the House Armed Services Committee,

expertly representing GAO's work on high profile, complex, and sensitive DOD acquisition programs including the F-22 Raptor, the F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter, among other high-profile programs such as the B-2 Spirit, the KC-46A tanker, the B-21 Raider, the Next Generation Air Dominance concept, and numerous unmanned aircraft programs such as the MQ-1, MQ-9, RQ-4, UCAV, UCLASS, and MQ-25. He consistently delivered insightful, independent, and fact-based analyses that informed the decision-making of the Armed Services Committee made regarding many of DOD's largest and most complex acquisition programs during many cycles of the Committee during formulation of annual National Defense Authorization Acts. He has been a constant voice for good government and a force for positive change. In addition to his program oversight noted above, Mr. Sullivan has also been greatly involved in reviewing issues related to science and technology portfolio management, technology maturation and requirements development efforts, and Department of Defense tactical aircraft force structure planning and execution.

We all are eternally grateful for Mr. Sullivan's contributions to oversight of national security issues and fiscal resources of the most importance to Congress and the American taxpayer. Mr. Sullivan's exceptional work and many accomplishments over more than three decades are deeply valued by me, the committee, and the Congress. We sincerely thank Mr. Sullivan and wish him the best success in all of his future endeavors after retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE EXEMPLARY SERVICE OF JUDY SCHNEIDER ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judy Schneider on the occasion of her retirement.

Throughout her time on the Hill, Judy served as an unparalleled testament to bipartisanship, hard work, and public service. There is no one more deserving of being recognized for a lifetime of exemplary public service.

Cherished mentor to a lucky few and friend to countless Members of this body, Senators, and Hill staffers, including my Chief of Staff, Judy embraced each day of her four decades of service as an opportunity to improve the processes of Congress.

Her expertise knew no bounds. She has authored countless reports and mentored thousands. Judy was a tremendous help in the successful orchestration of the 2014 Women's Fly-In.

Committing forty years to Congress takes resilience and a passion for public service. But to embrace those years with her unwavering belief that Congress can always do better is her shining legacy.

Many of you know that I am fierce advocate for the 3 P's of public service: Policy, Process, and Politics. Fewer know that it was Judy who took the time to teach me the three P's, and emphasize that they are the key to fostering bipartisanship, even in the most contentious of times.

Her touchstone is immeasurable, her service is deeply appreciated, and her retirement is well-deserved.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SUSAN "LEANNE" POWELL

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Susan "Leanne" Powell, a dear friend of more than 15 years. Leanne was a passionate and fierce leader whose light reached across North Carolina's Eighth Congressional District and brightened our great nation. Leanne departed this life on July 20, 2019 at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte. Exemplary of her devotion to others, Leanne requested her organs be donated to her community and now three North Carolinians will benefit from her continued generosity.

Leanne led a life of distinction and at age 12 started a career in politics that would span more than three decades. As a young woman she served as a campaign volunteer for the late Congressman Bill Hefner and later joined his office staff. This experience foreshadowed the extraordinary woman she was to become. Leanne went on to serve the White House Women's Office under President Bill Clinton and Department of Agriculture Undersecretary Jill Long Thompson. Following this time in our nation's capital, she returned to North Carolina and founded a successful campaign consulting firm before managing the campaign of Congressman Larry Kissell. Leanne helped elect this history teacher-turned-candidate to Congress in 2008 and served two terms as Congressman Kissell's Chief of Staff, a tenure defined by ideological purity and constituent service.

After deciding to leave politics in 2013, Leanne would tell colleagues she wanted to "make an honest living" making whiskey. Today, Southern Grace Distilleries stands as one of North Carolina's premier distilleries and a testament of Leanne's hard work and dedication. Reflective of Leanne's innumerable accomplishments and devotion to public service, North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper inducted Leanne into the Order of the Long Leaf Pine on July 17, 2019, the highest civilian honor the governor can bestow. Throughout Leanne's life she made service to others a priority.

My thoughts and prayers are with Leanne's husband, Drew Arrowood; her mother, Judy M. McCord; her brother, Albett "Chip" Powell Jr.; and all who loved her, including her beloved canine companion, Bleu. Renee and I join our entire community as we grieve together during this difficult time.

I know I speak for the entire community when I say Leanne lives on in the hearts and minds of all who felt her kindness and generosity and I will do everything in my power to honor her extraordinary life.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring the life and legacy of Susan "Leanne" Powell.

VENEZUELA TPS ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 549, the Venezuela TPS Act of 2019. I cosponsored this bill because I believe this is the right policy to protect the thousands of Venezuelans fleeing horrific conditions in their country. They don't want to leave. They are being forced to leave.

Today, the people of Venezuela face economic, political and humanitarian crises. The economy has shrunk by nearly 30 percent over the past four years, declines often seen only in wartime. Their currency erodes daily and is experiencing the highest inflation rates in the world. Poverty rates have skyrocketed with over three out of every four Venezuelans living in dire straits. Venezuelans can no longer meet the recommended 2,000 calories a day. 75 percent of the population reported significant weight loss in the last year alone. Hospitals are without basic medicines and equipment to treat the sick.

Venezuela used to be South America's richest nation, now the majority of Venezuelans live in unsustainable conditions.

This crisis is also affecting regional stability. Brazil and Colombia are dealing with escalating migrant and refugee flows, as millions of Venezuelans cross into their borders. Colombia has taken in almost 1.5 million Venezuelan refugees, straining their countries resources. The U.N. called the exodus from Venezuela the "largest in recent history of Latin America and the Caribbean."

It is time for the United States to step up. President Trump has been tough on Venezuela's dictator, Maduro, but has shown no mercy to the thousands of Venezuelans that have applied for protection in the United States. The conditions in Venezuela are exactly what TPS was designed to address. It prevents foreign nationals from being deported back to countries facing civil unrest.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this critical bill tonight.

This is how we help Venezuelans in the short term.

REMEMBERING STEFANO GIUSEPPE RIBOLI

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise to remember a great Angeleno, Stefano Giuseppe Riboli, who passed away on July 3, 2019, at the age of 97. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, and lived a joyous life filled with the love of family and friends. To the people of Los Angeles, he was also cherished as the patriarch of San Antonio Winery, who led the winery's growth into the thriving, century-old local institution it is today.

Stefano was a Los Angeles native. He was born in the city on September 8, 1921, to

Italian immigrant parents. However, when he was three, his family moved back to Italy, and Stefano grew up there in the small mountain village of Berzo San Fermo. In the springs and summers, he shepherded cows in the local Alpine mountain pastures, and those experiences helped give him his lifelong fondness for nature and animals.

When Stefano was 16, he returned to Los Angeles to work at San Antonio Winery, which his uncle, Santo Cambianica, had founded in 1917 in the Italian-American neighborhood of Lincoln Heights. Santo mentored Stefano, and his friendly and helpful attitude to people of all backgrounds set an example that Stefano carried forward throughout his life.

Thanks in large part to Stefano's hard work, his kind and cheerful manner, and the love and support of his family, San Antonio Winery rose from its humble beginnings to become Los Angeles's largest and longest-producing winery, recently honored as 2018's American Winery of the Year by Wine Enthusiast Magazine. And just as in its early days, the winery is a family enterprise, with all of Stefano's children and many of his grandchildren working there.

San Antonio Winery is much more than just a winery to the Los Angeles community. It is a place where people of all backgrounds can meet and enjoy each other's company. All are welcome, from families to business leaders to tourists. And Stefano's charm and his remarkable memory were essential to the winery's convivial spirit. He was known as "Papa Steve," and would regale visitors with stories of the winery's history and his days growing up in Italy—always with a smile on his face and a glass of wine at the ready. His outgoing disposition was infectious, and encouraged visitors to come back again and again.

For 73 years, Stefano was blessed by the strong and loving union he shared with his wife, Maddalena. Their support and devotion to each other nurtured their children and grandchildren, their winery, and their entire community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in sending our deepest condolences to the family of Stefano Giuseppe Riboli, including Maddalena, their children Santo (Joan), Cathy (Nino), and Steve (Sindee), their grandchildren Anthony, Steve, Lisa, Michael, Jennifer, David, Dante, Blake, Christopher, and Alex, and their seven great-grandchildren. Stefano will be greatly missed by Angelenos of all ages and walks of life, but we know that his gracious and gentle spirit will always live on in the family he loved and the business he led.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, July 25, 2019 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 30

- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Vice Admiral Michael M. Gilday, USN, to be Admiral and Chief of Naval Operations, Department of Defense.
SD-G50
- 10 a.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine regulatory frameworks for digital currencies and blockchain.
SD-538
- Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider the nominations of Sharon Fast Gustafson, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, and Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member, both of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.
SD-430
- Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine unprecedented migration at the United States southern border, focusing on what is required to improve conditions.
SD-342

- 10:15 a.m.
Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement.
SD-215
- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of John Leslie Carwile, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Latvia, and Erin Elizabeth McKee, of California, to be Ambassador to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Solomon Islands and Ambassador to the Republic of Vanuatu, both of the Department of State.
SD-419
- Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management
To hold hearings to examine solutions to improve Federal hiring.
SD-342
- Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Intellectual Property
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the United States Copyright Office.
SD-226

JULY 31

- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine perspectives on reauthorization of the U.S. Grain Standards Act.
SR-328A
- 10 a.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Business meeting to markup an original bill entitled, "Coast Guard Reauthorization Act of 2019".
SH-216
- Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.
SD-226
- 2 p.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine next steps for positive train control implementation.
SH-216

SEPTEMBER 17

- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights
To hold an oversight hearing to examine enforcement of the antitrust laws.
SD-226