

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEE SHORT-TERM DIS- ABILITY INSURANCE ACT OF 2019

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Federal Employee Short-Term Disability Insurance Act of 2019, which would help provide financial relief for federal employees who have a short-term injury or disability, become pregnant, or develop a pregnancy-related illness. This bill would offer federal employees short-term disability insurance at no cost to the federal government. Employees would be responsible for 100 percent of the premiums and be able to receive disability insurance benefits for up to one year, which would replace a portion of their lost income due to a non-work-related injury or illness or pregnancy. These benefits would be particularly advantageous to ensure that our federal employees, who do not yet enjoy paid maternity leave, are able to utilize the 12 weeks of unpaid maternity leave permitted by federal law while continuing to pay their bills, buy groceries and make their mortgage, car and other loan payments without depleting their retirement or other savings accounts. Too many federal employees do not take advantage of the full amount of federal unpaid maternity leave they and their newborn need because they have no way to replace the lost income.

I decided to investigate how we could provide short-term disability insurance for federal employees after learning that many of them already buy short-term disability insurance as individuals in the private market at high individual rates. Although federal employees have good health insurance, federal health benefits do not replace lost income if employees are unable to work. Moreover, while federal employees may have available sick or annual leave days, they may not have enough such days to pay the bills if they have to be out of work for an extended period, such as following surgery. Although there are long-term disability options for federal employees who become permanently disabled, federal employees do not qualify for such benefits until they have worked for the federal government for at least 18 months. My bill does no more than put federal employees in the same position as many of their private-sector counterparts, who often have access to disability insurance through an employer at group rates, an option unavailable to federal employees. This bill would not allow participating insurance companies to exclude persons based on preexisting conditions. Because of the federal government's purchasing power, this bill would provide these benefits at a more competitive rate than is available for employees purchasing as individuals, as many do. Under the bill, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management would contract with private carriers to provide this coverage, essentially providing the equivalent of group cov-

erage available to workers in the private sector.

According to the Social Security Administration, a 20-year-old worker has a one-in-four chance of becoming disabled by retirement age. The majority of disabilities are not caused by major accidents, but by injury or illnesses, such as back injuries or cancer, according to the Council for Disability Awareness. There is every reason to allow our federal employees to take advantage of the federal government's group rates to obtain the most reasonable price if they choose to purchase short-term disability coverage on their own at no cost to the federal government.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE LEGACY OF MARRINER S. ECCLES

HON. BEN McADAMS

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

Mr. McADAMS. Madam Speaker, Utah native Marriner S. Eccles is one of the giants in the history of America's free enterprise banking system and the father of the modern Federal Reserve.

He was born in Logan, Utah in 1890 and as a child, worked in several of his father's businesses. He created a family holding company, the Eccles Investment Company, in 1916 to manage various enterprises. By the mid-1920s, he, his brother George and others had organized the First Security Corporation, believed to be the first multibank holding company. Before entering public service, he successfully prevented the collapse of the family bank in 1931. In 1933, Congress invited him to give his analysis of the Great Depression. He delivered a five-point program to fix the economy that formed the basis of the New Deal.

When Marriner Eccles was named Chair of the Federal Reserve in 1934, he was just 44 years old. Time magazine wrote at the time, "Many believe Marriner S. Eccles is the only thing standing between the U.S. and disaster."

Former U.S. Labor Secretary Robert Reich has stated that any list of the most influential individuals on America's thinking in the post-war era must include Marriner S. Eccles. Historians note that one reason America was able to win World War II, which took a great deal of money, is the advice President Franklin D. Roosevelt received from Marriner Eccles.

Eccles was known as someone who thought deeply about problems and then acted without concern for the political consequences. When Congress passed the Banking Act of 1935, which sought to clarify the powers and responsibilities of the Reserve Board in matters of national monetary policy, and to increase the autonomy of regional Reserve Banks, he said, "The function of banking and money is perhaps the most important of all in our entire

economy." He then congratulated the Congress for working "tirelessly and conscientiously to reconcile different points of view in accordance with what they believed to be in the public interest."

After his Fed service, Eccles returned to the banking business in Utah. He died in 1977. In 1982, the Federal Reserve Building in Washington, D.C. was renamed in his honor. His descendants continued to carry out his legacy of public service. The Marriner S. Eccles Foundation has given generously to higher education, hospitals and medical research, arts and culture and family and social services, including programs supporting the elderly, the disabled and the homeless. As a community, as a state and as a country, we continue to reap the benefits of Marriner Eccles' intellect, dedication, compassion and commitment to American values and ideals.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, in July, the Trump administration published a proposed change to the broad-based categorical eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. This change is a bad idea and would severely hurt working families and children in my district and across this country.

North Texas has a major issue of food insecurity. More than one in six residents in Dallas County are not certain where their next meal will come from. Over 20 percent of children in North Texas are food insecure, many of which rely on free or reduced lunch as well to ensure they can feed their mind in the classroom rather than worrying about filling their stomachs. This change would make it even harder on children and working parents in North Texas to have access to healthy foods. It would put them one step closer to total calamity.

Hunger has always been an important issue to me. Earlier this month, many organizations came together for the 8th Annual Dallas Hunger Summit to discuss how they can work together in ensuring that working families across North Texas have access to healthy foods. Organizations such as the Texas Hunger Initiative and the North Texas Food Bank have participated in this summit for years and have been valuable resources as we fight each day to have fewer of our neighbors deal with hunger. With this change, thousands of additional working families in North Texas would be forced to rely on the services of these organizations due to this administration's heartless policies.

Simply put. These changes to the broad-based categorical eligibility for SNAP strips food off the table of hard-working families. It makes it harder for organizations such as food

• 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.

pantries and charities to meet the increased utilization of their programs. Most offensive of all, this program, a program designed to help families get on their feet and move out of poverty and up the economic scale, is being changed simply so that this administration can leave more people behind.

Madam Speaker, I urge the Trump Administration to carefully reevaluate their policies towards working families and immediately rescind this terrible policy change.

AMERICAN LEGION HORACE ORR
POST 29 IN MARIETTA CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of American Legion Horace Orr Post 29 in Marietta, Georgia; which, on Sunday, September 29, 2019, will celebrate its 100th birthday. Post 29 is one of the oldest in the country and the largest in the state of Georgia, with 971 legion members and more than 1,300 members overall.

Post 29 is named in honor of Sgt. William H. Orr, the only soldier from Marietta, Georgia killed during WWI. Sgt. Orr worked as a salesman for the Dixie Culbert Metal Company in Atlanta when he was drafted, and honorably served in the Army, Company A, 325th Infantry, 82nd Division. He was killed in action on October 14, 1918, in the battle of Argonne Forest in France, and is buried in Mars Hill Cemetery near Acworth, Georgia. The American Legion was originally founded in Paris, France in 1919, after WWI, by veterans, to support veterans and communities. Today, the Legion is the largest wartime veterans service organization, with more than 13,000 posts and nearly two million members worldwide. The American Legion organization is committed to helping American veterans from all wars, mentoring youth, promoting patriotism, serving communities, and advocating for strong national security, among other service related activities.

Given the organization's longevity and service, it is hard to put into words the impact the American Legion, and Post 29, has had on our veterans and communities; so I will repeat these words, directly from American Legion Horace Orr Post 29 in Marietta, who put it best, "We are veterans serving veterans. Please join us."

On behalf of Georgia's 11th Congressional District and the United States Congress, and as a fellow legionnaire, I congratulate the members of American Legion Post 29 on the celebration of your 100th year.

HONORING THE CENTRAL
ACCOMACK LITTLE LEAGUE SENIOR BOYS AND GIRLS TEAMS

HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the Central Accomack

Little League Senior Boys and Girls teams. The Girls team won the Virginia State Championship and the Boys team won both the Virginia State Championship and the Southeast Region Championship.

Congratulations to the Central Accomack Senior Girls All Star Softball team members: Hailey Berry, Jordan Crockett, McKenzie DeAmicis, Taylor Fluhart, Chloe Hall, Haylie Justice, Jaelyn Killmon, Kathleen McAuliffe, Brianna Rucker, Alana Shea, Sarah Taylor, Jamie Lyn Wert, and Logan Woermer. I would also like to congratulate Manager Bobbie Jo Wert and Coaches Kimmie Justice and Kimberly Wert.

I also extend my congratulations to the Central and North Accomack Senior Boys All Star Baseball team members: Brandon Adamos, Zykeese Davis, Armonte Dickerson, Landon Fuller, Tyler Green, Dylan Marshall, Jacob Meilhammer, Dustin Nelson, Luke Parks, Dylan Ross, Everett Savage, and Cade Williams. I congratulate Coaches Ricky Parks, Chris Beasley, and Bert Adamos, and Manager Shane Fowler.

I would also like to recognize the District 8 President Andy Adler and the Central Accomack League President Billy Justice for a very successful season. Finally, I wish to commend Central Accomack Little League for 61 years of service to the youth of the Eastern Shore.

I wish these teams the best of luck in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW
OF CONSTANTINOPLE

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople for his 50th anniversary of Priesthood.

His All Holiness was ordained as a priest on October 19, 1969. Since that day, he has never ceased to make strides in religious studies and world peace. His service to our global society has had a positive impact on many lives.

His All Holiness was elected the 270th Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome, and Ecumenical Patriarch on October 22, 1991. Countless nations and academic institutions have given His All Holiness awards for his work. In 1997, to recognize his efforts in both religious understanding and peace, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew received the Congressional Gold Medal.

I am grateful for all the good that His All Holiness does for Americans, and those around the world. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew serves as a reminder to us all that the positive efforts of just one person can be beneficial to countless lives of others.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

SPEECH OF

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, over 40 states and territories use Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility or Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (or BBCE) to streamline the administration of SNAP and provide critical assistance to households receiving benefits and services through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant.

BBCE is proven to help millions of working poor families move toward financial security, by easing the benefits cliff as their earnings increase.

On July 24, 2019, USDA published a proposed rule to restrict the use of BBCE and eliminate SNAP benefits for an estimated 3.1 million Americans. This includes children, working families, military veterans, disabled individuals, and seniors.

Most shameful is the proposals impact on hungry school-age children. By USDA's own estimates, the new policy would take away direct access to free school meals for at least 500,000 schoolchildren.

Nearly half a million children would be left to go hungry during the school day, shifting the burden to strapped school districts.

In my state of Ohio, according to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, over 61,000 SNAP households would lose their benefits. USDA reports that in 2017, the prevalence of food insecurity among Ohioans was higher than the national average.

13.7 percent of Ohioans were food insecure in 2017, compared to 12.3 percent nationally.

Even USDA admits the proposed changes to SNAP will make food insecurity worse and make it harder for millions of Americans to get by.

Most notably, it would remove the current flexibility for states and territories to use BBCE to tailor SNAP to best meet the food needs of their own populations.

Republicans love to talk about states' rights when it suits them, but when it comes to the flexibility of states to meet the needs of their food-insecure populations, they want something very different.

As the economy continues to leave working families and our most vulnerable behind, programs like SNAP are needed more than ever.

Congress already debated these issues.

We came together and rejected this policy in both the 2014 and 2018 farm bills with a record bipartisan vote.

This proposed rule is shameful and cruel and is contrary to the will of Congress.

This unilateral action by the Administration only complicates legitimate bipartisan efforts to make programs like SNAP more effective and efficient for the millions of people who rely on it to put food on the table.

We should be working together to strengthen the safety net, not weaken it.

I urge USDA to rescind this harmful proposed rule immediately and finally make good on its promise to the American people to "Do Right and Feed Everyone".