

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREATER WILKES-BARRE LABOR COUNCIL

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Greater Wilkes-Barre Labor Council on its 125th Anniversary. Since 1894, the Labor Council has been a force of good in the Wyoming Valley, championing the rights and interests of workers in the area. The milestone will be celebrated along with the 120th anniversary of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Building and Construction Trades Council at a special event on Saturday, September 28, 2019.

In the early evening of September 28, 1894, John Casey and Daniel Shovlin of the Plumbers and Steamfitters Union, Pat O'Neil and John Gibbon of the Stone Cutters Union, Amos Ayers of the Carpenters Union, and David Grover of the Painters Union met in a stone-cutting yard on South Main Street in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania before seeking shelter from the rain under the South Street Bridge. These visionary men discussed forming a central labor union to unite laborers from across the city to fight for fair wages, safe working conditions, and equitable treatment from their employers. It was under that bridge that the Wilkes-Barre Central Labor Union was born.

By 1899, 118 local unions counted themselves as members of the Wilkes-Barre Central Labor Union, and as many as 300 delegates regularly attended meetings. To accommodate their ever-growing membership, John Casey (who would go on to represent the region in the U.S. House as a pro-labor legislator) and John Mullery created the Building Trades Council as a subcommittee of the Central Labor Union. The Union supported historic movements such as the 1900 and the 1902 anthracite strikes where they assisted John Marshall in organizing the United Mine Workers of America. Throughout the 20th Century, the Council supported movements large and small in the region to reflect the best interests of workers across a variety of industries. In the mid-1950s, the Wilkes-Barre Central Labor Union became officially known as the Labor Council.

Today, the Labor Council operates out of a former church in Wilkes-Barre. There are 47 locals affiliated with the Greater Wilkes-Barre Labor Council, representing both private and public sector occupations. The Council holds an annual Labor Day festival in Kirby Park and continues to support community-wide charitable campaigns.

It is an honor to recognize the Greater Wilkes-Barre Labor Council on its 125th Anniversary. Its hard work and dedication to protecting the rights of workers in Northeastern Pennsylvania has been remarkable. I wish its leaders and members the best as they con-

tinue to advocate on behalf of our workers for years to come.

RECOGNIZING KATHLEEN G. OTT

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Kathleen G. Ott for her years of dedicated service to Congress in her role as the Director of Congressional Relations for the Library of Congress. In 2008, Dr. James Billington, former Librarian of Congress, recognized Kathy's talents and appointed her to her esteemed position as Director of Congressional Relations.

Kathy devoted more than a decade of her career to building strong relationships between the Library of Congress and Members of Congress and their staffs. Throughout her tenure with the library, she built bipartisan support with the Committee on House Administration for many library initiatives.

In 2009, she fostered the forming of the Library of Congress Caucus and a few years later assisted in creating the library's Congressional Dialogue Dinner Series. Kathy has played an integral role in developing the congressional relations office at the library and ensuring Member involvement in numerous library events.

I am grateful for her efforts to promote the work of the library and ensure that the work of Congress remains at the forefront of their mission.

HONORING KATHY OTT

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Kathy Ott, the Director of the Congressional Relations Office of the Library of Congress. Kathy is retiring after serving more than 11 years under two Librarians of Congress, Dr. James H. Billington, and Dr. Carla D. Hayden.

During her time at the Library, through three Presidential administrations, seven Congresses, and five chairs of the House Administration Committee, Kathy has worked in building bipartisan support that recognizes the essential contribution that the Library makes to our national life, and to the work of Congress.

In 2009 she helped put together the Library of Congress Caucus. In a "Dear Colleague" letter inviting Members to join, former Representative Ray LaHood (R-IL) and Representative EARL BLUMENHAUER (D-OR) wrote that "the purpose of establishing a Library of Congress Congressional Caucus is to draw members' attention to the nation's library and

its unparalleled collections and knowledgeable curators and to encourage further use of these extraordinary resources."

Kathy was instrumental in starting the Congressional Dialogue Dinner Series, which recently held its 45th dinner, and has helped coordinate, during her tenure, Congressional participation in the awarding of the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song.

I thank Kathy for her service as Director of the Congressional Relations Office and for her work to serve Congress and to strengthen the relationship between the Legislative Branch and its library.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF LIFECHOICES HEALTH NETWORK

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the LifeChoices Health Network's 30th anniversary.

Thirty years ago, LifeChoices began as a small neighborhood effort to help women whose babies were at risk. Today, LifeChoices serves women throughout southwest Missouri and the four-state area by offering at-risk women free education and medical services. These services include education programs, sexually transmitted infection testing, and early pregnancy care that is needed to ensure that moms and their babies are healthy.

Over the past thirty years, LifeChoices has achieved many milestones. Over 3,800 individuals have received free and confidential services, and they have provided nearly 16,000 ultrasounds. To date, LifeChoices training programs have allowed 163 clinics to implement STI services. Additionally, they have had nearly 10,000 students from area public and private schools participate in their connection institute programs.

LifeChoices has received national and international recognition for their commitment to helping other clinics across this nation and the world.

Madam Speaker, the work of the LifeChoices Health Network is vital to ensuring at-risk women and their babies receive the care that they need at no cost to them. I give them my congratulations on a successful thirty years and wish them the very best in the many years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call votes No.

• 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.

542 and No. 543. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 542, and NAY on Roll Call No. 543.

TRIBUTE CELEBRATING THE 90TH
BIRTHDAY OF FRANK B. WASH-
INGTON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Frank B. Washington in honor of his 90th birthday.

Frank B. Washington was born on September 5, 1929 in Estill, South Carolina. He was raised in Columbia, South Carolina, in the Waverly and Allen Benedict Court communities. Frank attended public schools in Richland School District One, graduating from the historic Booker T. Washington High School in 1945. A 1949 graduate of Allen University with a degree in Psychology, he later pursued graduate studies at my alma mater, South Carolina State University as well as Catholic University and Bradley University.

Frank began his professional career at the South Carolina Department of Education in 1951, serving as the state's Speech Therapist. He served in various roles including State Supervisor and Chief Supervisor of the Audit Division where he became the first African American to hold an administrative role within the department. Frank retired in June 1986 after an illustrious 35 years of service.

Devoted to advancing social justice, Frank joined the Columbia Chapter of the NAACP, and was elected President in 1970, a position he held for sixteen years. Frank held multiple leadership roles within the NAACP including State Vice President for eight years and a member of the National NAACP Board of Directors for four years. His leadership within the NAACP was critical during the civil rights movement and resulted in the advancement of equal opportunity and access.

Frank was directly involved in the court decisions that reapportioned the South Carolina Legislature leading to the first three African Americans being elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives in 1970. Also, he participated in the federal lawsuit that created the 42-1 districting plan for the City Council of Columbia, South Carolina allowing the election of two African Americans to the City Council.

The morals and values that are the foundation of his life are rooted in Frank's faith in God. Since 1965, he has been a member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, where he has been a member of the Vestry, and served as Senior Warden.

Throughout his journey he has been empowered by the encouragement and support of his beautiful family. Frank has been married to the former Vivian Deloris Wingard for 69 years. They are parents of three adult children: Carla Washington, Kent Washington, and Robin Major. They are also proud grandparents of three grandsons.

Madam Speaker, Frank B. Washington has spent his lifetime as a selfless leader and humble servant to his fellow citizens of the great state of South Carolina. I ask you and my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 90th birthday of Frank B. Washington and

wishing him continued good health and great prosperity in the days ahead.

HONORING HISPANIC HERITAGE
MONTH

HON. LUCY McBATH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Mrs. McBATH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. Celebrated from September 15 to October 15, Hispanic Heritage Month is designed to celebrate the history and culture of Americans who have ancestors from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. This observation was first established as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson in 1968 and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to a full monthlong celebration. Within the thirty-day period are many celebrations of independence for Latin American countries. September 15 is the anniversary of independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Furthermore, Mexico and Chile also celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18.

Whether they came here as immigrants or their family has been here for generations, Hispanic Americans are woven into the fabric of this great nation. No matter when they arrived, these men and women came to America in search of a better life for themselves and their families. Guided by the promise of freedom and the chance to participate in the unique American experiment in democracy, some of these individuals arrived with nothing but the clothes on their back and the hope of a better tomorrow. Motivated by their own goals and aspirations, Hispanic Americans have made their mark in American history, whether it be in sports, fine arts, sciences, or politics. Today, I am pleased to recognize their many contributions to our country's story. Every day, I witness the critical role that these men and women bring to Georgia's Sixth Congressional District. I continue to be impressed with organizations such as the Hispanic Business Center, Candid South, and the Latin American Association. The hard work of these organizations is truly making a difference in our community and improving the lives of all my constituents.

The Hispanic community in Georgia is vibrant and continues to grow significantly. During Hispanic Heritage Month, I want to focus on what that means for our country. Despite the many contributions to our society, millions of proud immigrants have suffered discrimination at the hands of the Trump administration. I stand alongside Hispanic Americans in rejecting such rhetoric and discrimination. I am proud to stand up and fight for the men and women who have contributed so much to our communities each day in Washington. Hispanic Americans help contribute to what makes this nation remarkable, and I am honored to lift up the voices of those who have selflessly dedicated their lives to building up themselves, their community, and this country.

Hispanic Americans represent a diversity of experiences and professions—they are farmers, construction workers, teachers, doctors, entrepreneurs, elected officials, and service-

members in our armed forces. I am struck by the common desire among Hispanic Americans in my district to give back to their own communities. Not only have these men and women earned incredible success for themselves, they also demonstrate an impressive commitment to improving their community and the entire state of Georgia. Their love of this district, this state, and this country is worth recognizing every day, but particularly during Hispanic Heritage Month. Therefore, I am honored to highlight three constituents who deserve special recognition this month: Gabriel Vaca, Maria Azuri, and Aixa Pascual.

Gabriel Vaca is the Executive Director of the Hispanic Business Center. In 2018, Gabriel received special recognition at a celebration of the 50 Most Influential Latinos in Georgia. Just this year, he was inducted into the inaugural class of the Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame. Gabriel served UPS International for 24 years as a consultant in logistics and the global supply chain. During his time with the Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, he has served as Chairman of the Board, Chairman of the Hispanic Business Center, and a member of the Senior Executive Corporate Advisory Board of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in Washington, D.C. Born in Mexico City and raised in Washington, D.C., Gabriel currently resides in Roswell, Georgia with his two children.

Maria Azuri is the Director of Candid-South, an organization that focuses on philanthropic efforts for immigrant communities across the southeast. Maria came to this country as an undocumented immigrant when she was a child which fuels her passion and commitment. As an Hispanic American citizen and leader she engages frequently with her communities around issues of mental and public health, criminal justice, immigration, and entrepreneurship. Prior to her work at Candid-South, Maria worked in the Mayor's Office of immigrant Affairs as its first Director of Programming. There, she successfully created numerous programs to strengthen immigrant communities through community engagement. Maria has taught at Georgia State University's School of Social Work and designed a program that trains community health providers to offer health information from culturally and linguistically sensitive perspectives—the first of its kind in the south. Her work has been recognized by the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the White House under President Barack Obama. Maria lives in Atlanta with her three boys.

Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Aixa Pascual is a champion for Hispanic communities in Georgia's Sixth Congressional District. For the past seven years, she has worked at the Latin American Association in Atlanta, where she serves as the managing director of advocacy, civic outreach, and cultural engagement. Aixa is the child of two Puerto Rican parents, and she spent her life traveling between Puerto Rico and the mainland United States. She is a graduate of Princeton and Columbia University, and has worked previously as a journalist for Business Week, Time and People magazines, the Atlanta Journal Constitution, and Puerto Rico's El Nuevo Dia. Aixa's childhood in Puerto Rico gave her a strong sense of her cultural and linguistic identity which she cherishes to this day. Her work with the Latin American Association has allowed her to engage closely with Georgia's

Latino population, which she says enables her to understand the struggles of immigrant families and their desire to make sacrifices to give their children better opportunities.

It is my distinct honor and privilege to recognize three of the many Hispanic Americans in Georgia's Sixth Congressional District who are working hard every day to make a difference in their communities. As we continue to celebrate the observation of Hispanic Heritage Month, may we recommit to the spirit of service demonstrated by these individuals and the many others whose stories have yet to be told. On behalf of myself, the Sixth Congressional District of Georgia, and the United States House of Representatives, I am proud to join in the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. In telling the stories of constituents like Gabriel, Maria, and Aixa, we celebrate the power of our Hispanic community in Georgia. As their representative, I will continue to champion their values of strength, service, and patriotism every day.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL DUMPLING DAY

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor National Dumpling Day. National Dumpling Day was inaugurated back in 2015 in Brooklyn, NY and is now celebrated across America every year on September 26.

Dumplings made their humble beginnings in Ancient China, almost 1,800 years ago, where they were known as jiaozi. In America, dumplings were introduced in the mid-1800s by Chinese laborers building the transcontinental railroad. From Korean mandu and Chinese soup dumplings, to the Indian samosa and Tibetan momo, dumplings have become a world delicacy and bear tremendous cultural significance in our Asian Pacific American communities. Today, families come together across our country to the table to wrap, cook and enjoy this delightful treasure.

In the 7th Congressional District of New York, we are proud to have CJ TMI Foods, a part of CJ America, as one of the country's largest dumpling manufacturers and the founder of National Dumpling Day. Since 1989, CJ TMI Foods has been a minority-owned business, creating fresh and tasty dumplings and noodles. The company has grown exponentially over the years by expanding into new facilities and employing over 400 people. I admire their trailblazing mission of connecting and inspiring individuals of all cultural identities through exposure to Asian food.

Dumplings are more than just delicious comfort food, they are a bonding experience among many of our families. I ask my colleagues in the 116th Congress to join me in celebrating National Dumpling Day and recognizing the value these ubiquitous and delicious pockets of dough carry, unifying neighbors and sparking joy.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SENATOR
ROBERT GRIFFIN AND RECOGNIZING HIS INDUCTION INTO THE
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S HALL
OF HONOR

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize the life and service of the late Senator Robert Griffin on the occasion of his induction into the Department of Labor's Hall of Honor. Through a lifetime of unparalleled leadership and devotion to the public good, Senator Griffin became an indispensable part of the state of Michigan.

Robert Paul Griffin was born November 6, 1923, in Detroit, Michigan. The son of an auto factory foreman, Griffin spent his youth working on auto assembly lines. During the Second World War, Robert enlisted in the 71st Infantry Division of the U.S. Army, where he served from 1943 until 1946. Following his military service, Robert attended Central Michigan University and went on to earn his law degree from the University of Michigan in 1950. He practiced law in Traverse City until his election to the U.S. House of Representatives as the Congressman for what was then Michigan's Ninth District in 1956.

Representative Griffin became a national leader in the fight against organized crime and union corruption, eventually helping to create the Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959—also known as the Landrum-Griffin Act. This landmark piece of Labor legislation has helped to promote democracy, weed out corruption, and allow members to participate more freely in the affairs of their union. After serving in the House for five terms, Griffin was appointed to a vacant Senate seat, where he would go on to win reelection and serve as the Senate Minority Whip. Following his time in the Senate, he returned to Traverse City to practice law until his election to the Michigan Supreme Court in 1986. He served on the Court until his retirement in 1994. He passed away in 2015 at the age of 91.

In commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Landrum-Griffin Act, the U.S. Department of Labor has inducted Senator Griffin and former National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) member Howard Jenkins, Jr., into the Department's Hall of Honor. With his lifetime of promoting fair and responsible practices in unions, none are more deserving of this honor than Senator Griffin. The impact of his life's work on the people of the United States cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize the incredible life of Senator Robert Griffin and his induction into the Department of Labor's Hall of Honor. His family can take great pride in knowing that the legacy of this dedicated leader will live on for generations to come.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF INNERCITY STRUGGLE

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate InnerCity Struggle on its 25th anniversary of movement building on the Eastside of Los Angeles.

InnerCity Struggle (ICS) was started in 1994 by a group of parents, youth, and residents in Boyle Heights who joined together to find solutions to a crisis in their community. ICS has organized young people and families to demand educational justice, an end to the school-to-prison pipeline, and college access for all.

A quarter-century later, ICS has built an impressive record of significant policy victories, including \$940 million in public resources for neighborhood schools. It has empowered more than 1,200 grassroots leaders who work together to engage decision makers and hold them accountable.

In 2004, ICS won its first significant campaign when the Board of Education of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) agreed to build new Eastside schools for the first time in more than 80 years. The Eastside's Roosevelt and Garfield High Schools were among the most overcrowded schools in the nation. LAUSD ultimately opened three new high schools and a new elementary school on the Eastside between 2009 and 2012. And in 2018, after years of ICS demands, the school board agreed to invest \$173 million in modernizing the under-resourced and neglected Roosevelt High School campus. By 2022, the district will have transformed the school into a state-of-the-art center anchored in college and career preparation.

ICS parents and students have also taken the stance that all students should be eligible to apply to college. In 2005, ICS was part of a citywide coalition that helped secure the "A-G Life Prep" policy, which mandated that LAUSD align its graduation requirements with California public university eligibility. That year, only 44 percent of LAUSD graduates from Eastside high schools had A-G college course requirements. By 2016, a historic 80 percent of Eastside graduates had A-G requirements.

ICS also recognizes the power of voting to shape our communities. That is why the organization has invested in engaging and mobilizing voters on the Eastside. In all, ICS has engaged over 51,000 voters, and registered 4,000 new ones.

ICS helped form the Brothers, Sons, Selves Coalition in 2013. This county-wide coalition was formed to end the criminalization of young boys and men of color by creating and influencing public policy that invests in young people. One of the coalition's key victories was a demand for ending the use of "willful defiance" as grounds for school suspension. The "willful defiance" category had a long record of disproportionately targeting African American and Latinx students, particularly males. The LAUSD Board voted to ban "willful defiance" suspensions in favor of restorative justice interventions, making it the first district in the nation to do so.

In 2014, ICS secured \$50 million for the construction of comprehensive school-based

wellness centers in high-need schools, so these schools could play a more important role in providing wrap-around supports for communities. That same year, ICS joined forces with the Advancement Project and Community Coalition on a successful campaign which led to LAUSD's adoption of a resolution to equitably distribute new state funding, called the Local Control Funding Formula, to the highest-need schools. The campaign argued that areas in the Eastside and South LA deserved an equitable distribution of funding, based on decades of disinvestment that had led to higher concentrations of poverty and trauma in these areas.

Earlier this year, ICS moved into a bright new era when it opened the InnerCity Struggle Youth and Community Center. This permanent headquarters will serve as the political hub for the Eastside and inspire a new generation of leaders to transform their neighborhoods. The center will be a place where young people can find their voice, and parents can advance change.

On October 3, 2019, InnerCity Struggle will commemorate its 25th anniversary, and I will be joining more than four hundred supporters who are expected to attend their celebration. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in celebrating InnerCity Struggle for being a leading voice for progress on the Eastside of Los Angeles and reaching this historic milestone.

FLORIDA 16TH DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL FIRE AND RESCUE AND EMS AWARDS

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fire and Rescue and EMS personnel who have provided distinguished service to the people of Florida's 16th Congressional District.

As first responders, fire departments and emergency medical service teams are summoned on short notice to serve their respective communities. Often times, they arrive at scenes of great adversity and trauma, to which they reliably bring strength and composure. These brave men and women spend hundreds of hours in training so that they are prepared when they get "the call."

In 2012, I established the 16th District Congressional Fire and Rescue and EMS Awards to honor officers, departments and units for outstanding achievement.

On behalf of the people of Florida's 16th District, it is my privilege to congratulate the following winners, who were selected this year by an independent committee comprised of a cross section of current and retired Fire and Rescue personnel living in the district:

Lt. Ryan Anusbigian of the Hillsborough County Fire Rescue and Captain Thomas "Mike" Blosski of the Southern Manatee Fire Rescue District were chosen to receive the Dedication and Professionalism Award.

Deputy Tyler Ackerman, Deputy Timothy Collins and Deputy Brian Hart of the Manatee County Sheriff's Office were chosen to receive the Preservation of Life Associate Service Award.

Donald O'Leary, Retired Commissioner of the East Manatee Fire Rescue District and the New York City Fire Department was chosen to receive the Career Service Award.

Manatee County EMS Ambulance Strike Team 601 was chosen to receive the Unit Citation Award. This unit is comprised of the following personnel: District Chief Mark Regis, Charge Paramedic Richard Johnson, Charge Paramedic Erwin Evelynne, Charge Paramedic William Cheek, Charge Paramedic Nick Horvath, Charge Paramedic Beth Harmount, Community Paramedic Earl Kulpa, Paramedic Dominick Reale and EMT Justin Woods.

IN RECOGNITION OF LAWRENCE FALIVENA

HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lawrence "Larry" Falivena from Apex, NC. Two years ago, Larry was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). Following this news, Larry has fiercely dedicated his time to his family and the ALS community. After speaking with the CEO of the ALS Association about how he could make a positive and lasting impact for those impacted by the disease, Larry created the "Iron Horse Tour". On the tour, Larry, his wife Shana, and his two sons, set out to visit all 30 Major League Baseball parks during one baseball season in order to spread national awareness and raise funding for research to combat ALS.

On September 8th, Larry attended his thirtieth and final game at SunTrust Park in Atlanta, GA. At each stop along the way, Larry met and spoke with several incredible people who were also courageously battling the disease. He shares their stories to spread awareness and encourage others to assist in the fight against ALS. Larry has successfully raised over \$29,000 for ALS research thus far and has gained wide-spread attention across the nation. Larry's commitment to helping combat the disease and educating others is an inspiration to us all.

Larry represents the best of our nation. He is a true role model and I am very proud to recognize his efforts and accomplishments. Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Larry Falivena.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed Rollcall No. 544. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Rollcall No. 544.

HONORING ARBOR HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT FOR ITS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Arbor Housing and Development for the fiftieth Anniversary of its founding.

In 1969, Arbor Housing and Development was founded as Steuben Churchpeople Against Poverty. The organization began as a volunteer driven service offering poverty relief services. At that time, the organization had eight part-time volunteers focusing on self-help housing.

Arbor Housing and Development has grown over the years and has fully embraced a mission of enhancing the quality of life within its community by building independence and creating housing options. Growing from the small, volunteer-based service to an organization that has one hundred and twenty full-time employees, it is evident Arbor Housing and Development is deserving of recognition.

Arbor Housing and Development President Jeffrey Eaton has been with the organization since 2000, and has been greatly involved in its success. Under his leadership, the organization has been involved in the Neighborworks program; development of the Gerard Block Apartments; the development of the former Northside Blodgett site; and many others.

Arbor Housing and Development serves many people over the span of seven counties in New York State and has also expanded to Northern Pennsylvania. The organization offers residential behavioral health and domestic violence services to help people live safely on their own, owns nine hundred units of affordable housing in three states and also provides assistance for renters and home-buyers to create a pathway to security and stability for housing.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to recognize Arbor Housing and Development on their fiftieth Anniversary.

CONGRATULATING BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA SHERIFF MIKE BROWN ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DENVER RIGGLEMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bedford County, Virginia, Sheriff Mike Brown on his retirement. After nearly 50 years of service Sheriff Brown will retire as the longest serving sheriff in the Commonwealth of Virginia. In 2017 Sheriff Brown was named National Sheriff's Association Sheriff of the year.

In his time as Sheriff Mike has been a leader in advancing new technology in policing. These efforts include creating the Cyber SWAT task force. This organization helps teach children to identify cybercrimes and make sure that they do not fall victim to them. Sheriff Brown has also done incredible work in

the fight against drug crimes and the opioid epidemic by working to designate Bedford County as a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area.

Sheriff Brown has worked in law enforcement for almost half a century. Since beginning his tenure Mike has worked to ensure that Bedford County remains on the cutting edge of training, and that the Sheriff's office is well equipped to protect the citizens they serve.

I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Sheriff Brown for his years of service to the Bedford community and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MADELEINE DEAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, I was absent on the Floor for the vote on ordering the previous question on the Amendment and House Resolution 577. I was unavoidably detained as I was offering testimony at a Judiciary Hearing. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted in favor of the order.

CONGRATULATING CHIEF JERRY DYER ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Jerry Dyer on the occasion of his retirement from the Fresno Police Department after 40 years of service. Chief Dyer has dedicated his career to protecting the people of the Central Valley making our community a safer place.

Jerry Dyer was born and raised in Fresno, California and attended California State University, Fresno; receiving his bachelor's degree in Criminology. He later received his master's degree in Management from California Polytechnic University, Pomona and graduated from the California Command College for law enforcement leaders. He joined the Fresno Police Department in May of 1979.

Chief Dyer quickly rose within the ranks of the department. He served as a Police Specialist and SWAT team member, Patrol Sergeant for Southwest District and SWAT team supervisor. Other leadership roles included; Sergeant for the Patrol Narcotics Enforcement, Police Lieutenant in Central District, Captain of Southeast District and Skywatch Commander. In 1999, he was named Assistant Chief of Police before being named Chief of Police in 2001.

Chief Dyer and the Fresno Police Department have received a number of accolades during his tenure. In 2005, he was awarded the Excellence in Public Service Award that is sponsored by The Fresno Bee, The Fresno Business Council, and the Maddy Institute at the California State University, Fresno. His department became nationally accredited through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. In 2008, Chief

Dyer served as the president of the California Police Chief's Association. In 2011, at the California Police Chief's Conference, he was awarded the Joseph T. Molloy Award, for his commitment to mission of the organization. He was also named the 2nd Vice President of Major Cities Chief's Association, which represents large municipal departments throughout the country.

Chief Dyer built strong relationships with the community and citizens of Fresno to promote trust in police officers. He implemented reforms that were proposed by the Obama Administration's Task Force on 21st Century Policing and embraced the latest in policing technology to ensure his officers could properly and safely perform their duties.

Chief Dyer was active in the community throughout his career. He served on the boards of the Marjaree Mason Center and Breaking the Chains, worked with his church, spoke at community events, and participated in charity events. Through his career he has had the steadfast support of his wife Diane and their two children and grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on his impressive law enforcement career. His contributions to the Central Valley over the past 40 years will be felt for many years to come. I wish he and his family continued health, happiness and prosperity in this new chapter.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MINNESOTA COMMUNITY CARE

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Minnesota Community Care's 50th anniversary. With 18 locations in Saint Paul that serve more than 37,000 patients each year, Minnesota Community Care is the largest federally qualified community health center in Minnesota and a leader in innovative, compassionate, community-based care for patients where they live, work and go to school.

Since 1969, Minnesota Community Care has been serving the health care needs of its patients across Saint Paul in a culturally appropriate way. In 1972, the nonprofit organization was incorporated as West Side Health Center, delivering care to 1900 patients from a clinic in the Neighborhood House community center in the heart of the neighborhood.

A foundational part of Minnesota Community Care's mission is providing care to our most vulnerable populations, including young people, homeless and uninsured families, and others in need. Its Health Care for the Homeless program began in 1987. In 1992, in collaboration with Ramsey County, it started its HouseCalls homeless prevention program. A year later, working with the St. Paul Public Housing Agency, it established McDonough Homes Clinic—a primary care clinic for public housing residents in the North End neighborhood.

Minnesota Community Care is a leader in providing affordable dental care, understanding its impact on overall health. In 1978, it started providing dental services and in 2001, West Side Dental Clinic was estab-

lished. In 2013, with the help from a major Affordable Care Act grant, it expanded its dental care to reach more patients when it opened its new East Side Family Clinic.

As communities across our state have worked to improve educational achievement, Minnesota Community Care is working to keep students healthy and in school learning by caring for student patients where they are. Through its 10 school-based clinics, youth can access critical medical, mental health, and nutrition services and learn to be advocates for their health. These school-based clinics are a model for improving health and education outcomes at the same time.

Madam Speaker, it was a pleasure to host you during your visit to Saint Paul in May as we met with leaders from Minnesota Community Care and other community health centers. Working to strengthen our community health centers is one of the most effective ways to increase access to affordable health care across our community. Please join me in honoring the 50th anniversary of Minnesota Community Care's dedication to providing quality and affordable health care for all.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 120th Anniversary of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Building and Construction Trades Council. The Trades Council was originally formed as a subcommittee of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Labor Council in 1899, following the rapid growth of unionization of workers in the area. The milestone will be celebrated along with the 125th anniversary of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Labor Council at a special event on Saturday, September 28, 2019.

In 1899, five years after its formation, the Wilkes-Barre Central Labor Council was thriving. Three hundred delegates representing 118 local unions were attending meetings regularly to discuss important issues such as securing higher wages and better working conditions for laborers in the Wyoming Valley. Leaders John Casey (a pro-labor Representative who served seven terms representing Northeastern Pennsylvania in the U.S. House) and John Mullery saw the need for additional structure within the Labor Council and created the Building Trades Council as a subcommittee.

Throughout its 120-year history, the Trades Council has worked tirelessly to advocate for the rights and interests of workers throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania. The organization has not only benefited workers but has also given support to many community causes, projects, and programs that serve everyone in our community.

It is an honor to recognize the important work done by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Building and Construction Trades Council. These trades have always been vital to our region's economy and will continue to be so in

the future. I wish the leaders and members of the Council the best as they continue to support workers in the building trades by standing up for better wages, safer working conditions, modernized job training, and additional family-sustaining job opportunities for our workforce.

IN HONOR OF GARY GRUNAU

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my deepest condolences on the passing of Gary Grunau a Milwaukee real estate developer and civic leader. Gary was born on April 17, 1939, in Bay View, Wisconsin, and lived his entire life in Milwaukee. He was a loving husband, father, uncle, grandfather, brother, relative, and friend to many here in Milwaukee.

Gary left his home to attend Cornell University, but knew that Milwaukee was where he belonged. Upon earning his degree in mechanical engineering, he returned home to join Grunau Co. Inc, a business started by his grandfather. In the late 70's, the company was working on the Hyatt Regency construction project in downtown Milwaukee, but Gary had to step in as the developer to complete the project. He was the developer on several major projects in the city including the Wisconsin Center, Discovery World at Pier Wisconsin, Manpower Group World Headquarters, the Milwaukee Riverwalk System, and the former Time Warner Building. However, he is best known for revitalizing the former Joseph Schlitz Brewing Co. complex into one of Milwaukee's most desirable working environments, the Schlitz Park office complex. Gary's projects won numerous awards including the Urban Land Institute (ULI) Achievement Award, The National Council for Urban Economic Development Award and the ULI's 2017–2018 Global Award of Excellence for the Milwaukee Riverwalk, considered among the world's highest honors from land use experts. He also led and served on many boards, including the Milwaukee Academy of Science, Discovery World, Alverno College Board of Trustees, Milwaukee Riverwalk District, Spirit of Milwaukee, and the Greater Milwaukee Committee.

Gary wanted to make Milwaukee a better place for all its residents. He was committed to addressing the racial and economic disparities that have plagued our city. He was disturbed by our city's status as one of the most segregated communities in the country and knew that the lack of affordable housing and support for public schools, prevented the upward mobility for people living in our poorest zip codes. In an article two years ago, Gary said that "Segregation hurts the city's economic competitiveness, but not enough is being done about it . . . the lack of inclusion hurts us downtown. It hurts us in education. It hurts us nationally." He took those words to his heart and didn't simply talk the talk, he walked it; raising millions of dollars to improve education and economic opportunities for the city.

Gary leaves to cherish his memory his wife Joanne; sons Paul (Jeanie) Grunau, Daniel Grunau, and John (Adrienne) Grunau; stepson

Jeff (Kate) MacInnes and stepdaughter Laura MacInnes; grandchildren Grace, Hank, Gus, Sadie, Alex, Jon, Grant, Andrew, Wesley, Darcy, and Wilson Grunau, and many other relatives and friends.

Gary was my friend and while our fights against injustice didn't always go our way, he stayed committed to find a way to solve problems. Even with his illness, he continued forward, focusing on his final project; revitalizing Milwaukee both economically and in terms of racial equity.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons I rise to salute Gary Grunau, a man that has positively impacted the 4th Congressional District, the State of Wisconsin, and the world.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY SENIOR CENTER NETWORK

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Grand Traverse County Senior Center Network. Through its dedicated service and steadfast devotion to its community, the Senior Center has become an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

In 1964, community leaders Vince and Lou Ecarius launched the Adult Activity Club, a local group that met in the basement of Munson Medical Center. In 1969, the club moved to its current location in Traverse City. Following Vince and Lou's retirement in 1978, the City of Traverse City took up responsibility for the club and organized it as a part of the local government. Thanks to the support of the local community and the tireless efforts of their staff and volunteers, the Senior Center grew into the local institution it is today. Now administered by Grand Traverse County, the Senior Center Network works to provide social, wellness, and educational programs in a fun and inclusive environment for those in the community over 50. In addition to the Traverse City location, the Senior Center Network now includes satellite programming in Interlochen, Kingsley, Acme, and Fife Lake. From dances and social clubs to computer labs and exercise programs, the impact of the center's work on the people of Grand Traverse County cannot be overstated. Day after day, the Grand Traverse Senior Center Network shows what can be achieved when the people of a community work together for the common good.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize the Grand Traverse County Senior Center Network for fifty years of success and service to Northern Michigan. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such dedicated citizens. On behalf of my constituents, I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, September 19, 2019, I was unable to vote on Roll Call No. 538: Passage of H.R. 4378, "Making Continuing Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2020, and for other purposes." Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

On Friday, September 20, 2019, I was unable to vote on Roll Call No. 540: Passage of H.R. 1423, "Forced Arbitration Injustice Repeal Act." Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF CHIEF DAVID HUERTA

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life of Fresno State Police Chief David Huerta. Chief Huerta passed away August 16 at the age of 68.

David was born on May 10, 1951 and was a lifelong resident of Fresno County. He received his bachelor's degree in Organizational Behavior from the University of San Francisco in 1989 and his master's degree in Criminology from California State University, Fresno (Fresno State) in 1992, graduating with distinction.

David's career was dedicated to serving and protecting the people of the Central Valley. He served the Department with the Fresno County Sheriff's office for 30 years, he retired with the rank of lieutenant. His career did not stop at his retirement. David was named chief of police and director of public safety of the Fresno State Police Department in 2004.

At Fresno State, he oversaw 27 officers and over 30 non-sworn full-time staff. Along with many other responsibilities, his department also oversaw the emergency preparedness and business continuity at Fresno State. Because of his diligence, the Fresno State Police Department became an International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA) accredited department in June 2019.

In addition to his responsibilities as police chief, David taught criminology classes as adjunct faculty at National University and at the Clovis Unified School District's Regional Occupation Program. He was also a member of the advisory panel of the Public Safety Pathway program at the Reagan Educational Center in Clovis.

David received many accolades during his career. He was awarded a distinguished service medal in SWAT for 22-plus years of work and was named officer of the year by the American Legion, in addition to many honors with the Sheriffs Department.

David is survived by his wife, Cynthia, and their four children, Breanne, Austin, Brandt, Carragan, son-in-law Steve, daughter-in-law Liz and 3 grandchildren, Micaela, Allison, and Brixton. David is also survived by his father Pete, his brother, Michael Huerta and sister, Teresa Larkin.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and service of Chief David Huerta. Chief Huerta was a selfless man who put others before himself throughout his career. His contributions to the Central Valley will be felt for many years to come. I join his family in honoring his great life.

RECOGNIZING TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. DON BACON

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Mr. BACON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to wish both the people of Taiwan and Americans celebrating the upcoming Taiwan's National Day on October 10th a Happy Double Ten Day.

In the decades preceding and following the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, the United States and Taiwan have built a solid bond that cannot be broken—born out of our shared values and our cooperation with each other in times of crisis, and in times of advancement.

During the years, this key ally in the Indo-Pacific has transformed itself into a model of democracy that respects human rights, freedom of speech, rule of law, and market economy. Americans share these values, which is why we have also contributed to Taiwan's success.

In 2018, Taiwan was the 11th largest trading partner for the United States overall, and it is my home state Nebraska's 10th largest export market in the world. Our companies have substantial opportunities to expand their business and cooperation with Taiwan. I will, together with Taiwanese friends, work to find areas where we can partner to our mutual benefit.

This is a day to celebrate, and to be optimistic. I ask my colleagues to join me in recommitting ourselves to the robust U.S.-Taiwan relationship, and in wishing Taiwan a Happy Double Ten Day.

RECOGNIZING TIM CHAMBERS FOR HIS UNWAVERING DEDICATION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. TROY BALDERSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Mr. BALDERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unwavering dedication of retired Marine Staff Sergeant, Tim Chambers.

First spotted in 2002, Tim Chambers—better known as “The Saluting Marine”—stood at attention for hours as thousands of motorcyclists rode past during the Rolling Thunder “Ride for Freedom” event in Washington, D.C. Since then, Tim has not missed a Rolling Thunder event. His single salute in 2002 set an example that has since rippled throughout the nation, raising awareness for missing-in-action servicemembers and prisoners of war.

Year after year, Tim continues to give veterans the welcome home they deserve yet did not receive upon returning home from war.

Standing for hours on end in, Tim overcomes physical conditions that would otherwise render him immobile, purely to honor the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

A modern-day hero, Tim selflessly rushed into the Pentagon after the crash of American Airlines Flight 77 during the 9/11 terrorist attacks, without knowing what lay ahead for him, the victims, and our country. Tim stayed three days in the attacks' aftermath to continue rescue operations of his fellow Americans. Even in the most harrowing of times, Tim's love of and dedication to country, along with his profound bravery, has always overcome the most colossal challenges.

A former Marine, Tim now acts as a veterans' rights advocate, ensuring that the men and women who serve our country receive the respect, honor, remembrance, and thanks they deserve.

As I attend the Rolling Thunder event this coming weekend in Columbus, I will think of Tim's honorable dedication to his country and fellow veterans, and all the American servicemembers who may never get their due welcome home. Tim Chamber's devotion to our Armed Forces is felt throughout our nation, and I am humbled to honor him, returning to him the recognition and glory he has shown for his fellow American heroes.

SECURE AND FAIR ENFORCEMENT BANKING ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letters of endorsement for H.R. 1595, the SAFE Banking Act.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF ATTORNEYS GENERAL,
Washington, DC, May 8, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Majority Leader,
Washington, DC.

Hon. STENY HOYER,
Majority Leader,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. CLYBURN,
Majority Whip,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MIKE CRAPO,
Chair, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing
& Urban Affairs, Washington, DC.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Minority Leader,
Washington, DC.

Hon. CHARLES E. SCHUMER,
Minority Leader,
Washington, DC.

Hon. STEVE SCALISE,
Minority Whip,
Washington, DC.

Hon. RICHARD J. DURBIN,
Minority Whip,
Washington, DC.

Hon. SHERROD BROWN,
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Bank-
ing, Housing & Urban Affairs, Washington,
DC.

DEAR CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS: We are a bipartisan group of state and territorial at-

torneys general who recognize that the states, territories and federal government share a strong interest in protecting public safety and bringing grey market financial activities into the regulated banking sector. To address these goals, we urge Congress to advance legislation that would allow states and territories that have legalized certain use of marijuana to bring that commerce into the banking system.

This issue is of broad relevance: for example, thirty-three states and several U.S. territories have legalized the medical use of marijuana. However, because the federal government classifies marijuana as an illegal substance, banks providing services to state-licensed cannabis businesses and even to other companies which sell services and products to those businesses could find themselves subject to criminal and civil liability under the federal Controlled Substances Act and certain federal banking statutes. This risk has significantly inhibited the ability of financial institutions to provide services to these businesses and companies.

Despite the contradictions between federal and state law, the marijuana industry continues to grow rapidly. Industry analysts estimate 2017 sales at \$8.3 billion and expect those totals to exceed \$25 billion by 2025. Yet those revenues are handled outside of the regulated banking system. Businesses are forced to operate on a cash basis. The resulting grey market makes it more difficult to track revenues for taxation and regulatory compliance purposes, contributes to a public safety threat as cash-intensive businesses are often targets for criminal activity, and prevents proper tracking of billions in finances across the nation. Importantly, this measure in no way constitutes an endorsement of any state or territory's specific approach to the legalization of marijuana-related transactions, and the Act is in no way an endorsement for the legalization of medical or retail marijuana in those jurisdictions that choose not to pursue such an approach. But regardless of how individual policymakers feel about states permitting the use of medical or recreational marijuana, the reality of the situation requires federal rules that permit a sensible banking regime for legal businesses.

To address these challenges, we request that Congress advance the SAFE Banking Act or similar legislation that would provide a safe harbor for depository institutions that provide a financial product or service to a covered business in a state that has implemented laws and regulations that ensure accountability in the marijuana industry. An effective safe harbor would bring billions of dollars into the banking sector, enabling law enforcement; federal, state and local tax agencies; and cannabis regulators in 33 states and several territories to more effectively monitor cannabis businesses and their transactions. Compliance with tax laws and requirements would be simpler and easier to enforce with the regulated tracking of funds in the banking system, resulting in higher tax revenues.

Our banking system must be flexible enough to address the needs of businesses in the various states and territories, with state and territorial input, while protecting the interests of the federal government. This includes a banking system for marijuana-related businesses that is both responsive and effective in meeting the demands of our economy. We look forward to working with

you as Congress moves forward in this process and to lending our voice and expertise as you develop legislation.

Respectfully,

Phil Weiser, Colorado Attorney General; Karl A. Racine, District of Columbia Attorney General; Aaron D. Ford, Nevada Attorney General; Wayne Stenehjem, North Dakota Attorney General.

Kevin G. Clarkson, Alaska Attorney General; Mark Brnovich, Arizona Attorney General; Leslie Rutledge, Arkansas Attorney General; Xavier Becerra, California Attorney General; William Tong, Connecticut Attorney General; Kathleen Jennings, Delaware Attorney General; Leevin Taitano Camacho, Guam Attorney General; Clare E. Connors, Hawaii Attorney General; Kwame Raoul, Illinois Attorney General; Tom Miller, Iowa Attorney General; Andy Beshear, Kentucky Attorney General; Aaron M. Frey, Maine Attorney General; Brian Frosh, Maryland Attorney General; Maura Healey, Massachusetts Attorney General; Dana Nessel, Michigan Attorney General; Keith Ellison, Minnesota Attorney General; Jim Hood, Mississippi Attorney General; Gurbir S. Grewal, New Jersey Attorney General.

Hector Balderas, New Mexico Attorney General; Letitia James, New York Attorney General; Edward Manibusan, Northern Mariana Islands Attorney General; Dave Yost, Ohio Attorney General; Mike Hunter, Oklahoma Attorney General; Ellen F. Rosenblum, Oregon Attorney General; Josh Shapiro, Pennsylvania Attorney General; Wanda Vazquez Garced, Puerto Rico Attorney General; Peter Neronha, Rhode Island Attorney General; Sean Reyes, Utah Attorney General; T.J. Donovan, Vermont Attorney General; Denise N. George, U.S. Virgin Islands Attorney General; Mark R. Herring, Virginia Attorney General; Robert W. Ferguson, Washington Attorney General; Patrick Morrissey, West Virginia Attorney General; Joshua L. Kaul, Wisconsin Attorney General.

On behalf of the 1.3 million members of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW), including thousands of cannabis workers, we urge you to vote "yes" on the Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking Act of 2019 when it comes to the House floor.

UFCW's cannabis members can be found in growing and cultivating facilities; manufacturing and processing facilities; and in laboratories and dispensaries in multiple states.

The current ban on banking access for cannabis related businesses has led to confusion and uncertainty for cannabis workers who are just trying to do their jobs and support their families. The lack of uniform treatment of cannabis by federal, state and local laws has resulted in workers being denied personal loans for homes and cars, even when they have high credit scores. Hardworking Americans in the cannabis industry should not have to struggle with financial and legal ambiguity while on the job.

Since cannabis employers must pay their workers in cash, they are also vulnerable to violent crime both inside and outside their place of business. When employers gain access to conventional banking, their workers gain both economic and personal security.

A majority of states have some form of legal cannabis and it is imperative that the federal government update our nation's banking laws to include this new and growing industry.

As the nation's largest union of cannabis workers, we urge Congress to pass the SAFE Banking Act and give cannabis workers access to the same financial systems that all other American workers enjoy.

ADEMOLA OYEFESO,
International Vice
President, Director,

UFCW Legislative &
Political Action De-
partment.

AMERICAN BANKERS ASSOCIATION,
September 24, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,

Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI AND MINORITY LEADER MCCARTHY: The American Bankers Association (ABA) is pleased to express our support for H.R. 1595, the Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking Act (SAFE Banking Act) of 2019, which is scheduled for consideration before the House of Representatives in the coming days.

Currently, 33 states covering 68 percent of the nation's population have legalized cannabis for medical or adult-use and at least seven additional states are expected to consider ballot initiatives in the next two years. Despite that, current federal law prevents financial institutions from banking cannabis businesses, as well as the ancillary businesses that provide them with goods and services. As a result, a majority of states are struggling to address the significant challenges to public safety, as well as regulatory compliance and tax compliance that go hand-in-hand with cash-reliant businesses. Although we do not take a position on the legalization of marijuana, our members are committed to serving the financial needs of their communities—including those that have voted to legalize cannabis.

H.R. 1595, sponsored by Representatives ED PERLMUTTER (D-CO), DENNY HECK (D-WA), STEVE STIVERS (R-OH) and WARREN DAVIDSON (R-OH), along with over 200 members of the House, takes an important step toward enabling financial services for cannabis-related businesses.

The bill specifies that proceeds from a legitimate cannabis business would not be considered unlawful under federal money laundering statutes or any other federal law, which is necessary to allow financial services to cannabis businesses and any ancillary businesses that derive some portion of their income from cannabis businesses. The bill would also direct the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) and the federal banking regulators, through the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, to issue guidance and exam procedures for banks doing business with cannabis related legitimate businesses. We believe such explicit, consistent direction from federal financial regulators will provide needed clarity for banks and help them to better evaluate the risks and supervisory expectations for cannabis-related customers.

As the legal state-cannabis industry continues to grow, the indirect connections to cannabis revenues—from real estate owners, security firms, utilities, law firms and employees of cannabis businesses, as well as investors—will also continue to expand. Without greater clarity, that entire portion of economic activity in legal cannabis states—estimated by some to be in the tens of billions of dollars—will continue to be marginalized from the banking system.

Providing a mechanism for the cannabis industry to access the banking system would help those communities reduce cash-motivated crimes, increase the efficiency of tax collections, and improve the financial transparency of the cannabis industry. It would also subject cannabis businesses to increased oversight of their financial activities since bank accounts are monitored in accordance with existing anti-money laundering and Bank Secrecy Act requirements which help

law enforcement identify suspicious transactions—an opportunity that is not available in an all-cash environment.

The SAFE Banking Act, as amended, is an important measure that helps clarify many issues for the banking industry, regulators, businesses and consumers. It also provides immediate relief for urgent public safety and cannabis industry oversight challenges, which will help keep our communities safe and should not be delayed while Congress works to build consensus on broader questions of national drug policy. ABA urges members of the House to support H.R. 1595.

Sincerely,

ROB NICHOLS,
President and CEO.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,

Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI AND MINORITY LEADER MCCARTHY: On behalf of the undersigned state bankers associations, representing banks throughout the country, we write to express our support for H.R. 1595, the Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act of 2019, which will soon be considered before the House of Representatives.

Since 1996, 33 states comprising 68 percent of the nation's population have legalized cannabis for medical or adult use, and that number is only expected to grow. Despite this ever-growing voter preference, current Federal law continues to prevent banks from offering products and services to these businesses without fear of federal sanctions. Inevitably, leaving the cannabis industry unbanked presents serious public safety, revenue administration, and legal compliance concerns and must be remedied immediately.

As a result of the federal prohibition and lack of regulatory clarity, legal cannabis businesses must operate on an all-cash basis, subjecting their employees and the general public to serious risk of criminal activity and harm. These businesses also must remit payments for state taxes and licensing fees in cash, denying the states the efficiencies and safety of more modern payment methods. This in turn significantly increases state compliance auditing costs, since operating on an all-cash basis leaves no paper trails for auditors to follow.

The impact on local economies is also significant. As the cannabis industry continues to grow in states where it is legal, unrelated businesses that provide products and services to the industry also become ensnared in the problem. Because revenue paid to them by cannabis businesses can be considered monies derived from illegal activities, and financial institutions that bank the unrelated businesses can be accused of violating anti-money laundering laws. If banks are forced to discontinue relationships with these unrelated businesses, a significant portion of the economy in states where cannabis is legal will be cut off from the regulated banking system.

Although we do not take a position on the legalization of marijuana, our members are committed to serving the financial needs of their communities—including those that have voted to legalize cannabis. That is why we support H.R. 1595. This is fair and balanced legislation that will permit depository institutions to serve the needs of their customers in states where cannabis is legal. The bill provides a mechanism for the cannabis industry and its service providers to deposit their cash in regulated financial institutions, which allows banks to meet the needs

of their communities and helps those communities reduce cash-motivated crimes, increase the efficiency of tax collections, and improve the financial transparency of the cannabis industry.

We urge you to support H.R. 1595 when this legislation comes before the House.

Sincerely,

Alabama Bankers Association, Alaska Bankers Association, Arizona Bankers Association, Arkansas Bankers Association, California Bankers Association, Colorado Bankers Association, Connecticut Bankers Association, Delaware Bankers Association, Florida Bankers Association, Georgia Bankers Association.

Hawaii Bankers Association, Idaho Bankers Association, Illinois Bankers Association, Indiana Bankers Association, Iowa Bankers Association, Kansas Bankers Association, Louisiana Bankers Association, Maine Bankers Association, Maryland Bankers Association, Massachusetts Bankers Association.

Michigan Bankers Association, Minnesota Bankers Association, Mississippi Bankers Association, Missouri Bankers Association, Montana Bankers Association, Nebraska Bankers Association, Nevada Bankers Association, New Hampshire Bankers Association, New Jersey Bankers Association, New Mexico Bankers Association.

New York Bankers Association, North Carolina Bankers Association, North Dakota Bankers Association, Ohio Bankers League, Oklahoma Bankers Association, Oregon Bankers Association, Pennsylvania Bankers Association, Puerto Rico Bankers Association, Rhode Island Bankers Association, South Carolina Bankers Association.

South Dakota Bankers Association, Tennessee Bankers Association, Texas Bankers Association, Utah Bankers Association, Vermont Bankers Association, Virginia Bankers Association, Washington Bankers Association, West Virginia Bankers Association, Wisconsin Bankers Association, Wyoming Bankers Association.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI AND MINORITY LEADER MCCARTHY: On behalf of our members, we write to express our support for H.R. 1595, the Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act of 2019 which is scheduled for consideration before the House of Representatives in the near future.

This important bipartisan legislation, introduced by Representatives Ed Perlmutter (D-CO), Steve Stivers (R-OH), Denny Heck (D-WA) and Warren Davidson (R-OH) and supported by over 200 cosponsors would permit depository institutions to serve the needs of their customers in states where cannabis is legal.

The House Financial Services Committee has held substantive hearings on H.R. 1595 and worked cooperatively to solve the practical problems caused by the disparate treatment of cannabis under federal and state laws. Although we do not take a position on the legalization of marijuana, our members are committed to serving the financial needs of their communities—including those that have voted to legalize cannabis. The current threat of criminal and civil liability under federal law is suppressing the provision of vital financial services in the thirty-three states that have legalized cannabis in some form.

The SAFE Banking Act of 2019 provides a mechanism for the cannabis industry and its

service providers to deposit their cash in regulated financial institutions, which allows our members to meet the needs of their communities and helps those communities reduce cash-motivated crimes, increase the efficiency of tax collections, and improve the financial transparency of the cannabis industry.

Without congressional action, a significant portion of economic activity, including those businesses with only indirect connections to the cannabis industry, such as vendors, suppliers, and utility companies, risk being marginalized from the financial system in states with legal cannabis industries. H.R. 1595 provides needed legal protection and clarity for financial institutions to accept deposits, extend credit, and provide other financial services to individuals and businesses that derive some portion of their income from legal state cannabis related activity.

We urge members of the House to support H.R. 1595.

Sincerely,

American Bankers Association (ABA),
Credit Union National Association (CUNA),
Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA), National Bankers Association (NBA).

M B C A, MID-SIZE BANK COALITION
OF AMERICA,

September 23, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

Hon. STENY H. HOYER,
House Majority Leader,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. CLYBURN,
House Majority Whip,
Washington, DC.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
House Minority Leader,
Washington, DC.

Hon. STEVE J. SCALISE,
House Minority Leader,
Washington, DC.

SPEAKER PELOSI, MAJORITY LEADER HOYER, MAJORITY WHIP CLYBURN, MINORITY LEADER MCCARTHY, AND MINORITY WHIP SCALISE: The Mid-Size Bank Coalition of America (MBCA) is writing to urge House consideration of Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act of 2019, which would allow the provision of banking services to cannabis-related businesses (CRBs) through a federal safe harbor. We deeply appreciate the House Financial Services Committee's bipartisan passage of the bill in March, and look forward to the full House passing it as well.

The conflict between federal and states laws and the evolving legal and regulatory environment surrounding cannabis has put banks and CRBs in an untenable position. While the public policy question of whether cannabis should be legalized is outside the scope of the MBCA charter, it is greatly concerning that our member banks could find themselves the subject of regulatory enforcement actions as a result of extending services to legally licensed businesses directly involved in cannabis commerce, or even businesses that provide services to those cannabis businesses.

While a variety of attempts have been made to restrict federal enforcement of cannabis laws, including the Cole Memorandum and the Leahy and Joyce-Blumenauer amendments, the Director of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) has stated unequivocally that it is a federal crime to sell, manufacture or purchase marijuana (the terms used in the Controlled Substances Act of 1970). It is therefore prohibited under federal law to provide banking services to CRBs, which includes a wide range of ancillary businesses that have no di-

rect involvement in the sale, manufacture or purchase of marijuana. Even if banks attempt to avoid banking businesses that are involved directly in the cannabis industry, questions arise regarding businesses that may service those cannabis establishments. Is a payroll processor that provides services to a dispensary violating federal law, and therefore ineligible for banking services? Is a real estate developer who might have one property occupied by a dispensary or grower likewise in violation? Unfortunately, our member banks simply do not know what is allowed and what we are not allowed to do. These questions assume enormous importance due to the massive negative impact on banks resulting from potential Bank Secrecy Act (BSA) and anti-money laundering (AML) violations. We fear, however, that due to the complicated legal and regulatory environment, violations could occur that result in significant reputational, economic and legal damage despite our bankers' best efforts to avoid violating federal laws and regulations.

As of today, thirty-three states and the District of Columbia have legalized cannabis for medical and/or adult use, and, as such, this is now a national issue that requires a federal solution. It is clear that only Congress can take effective action to resolve these issues, and while the SAFE Banking Act is not a perfect solution to the problem of a federal-state conflict in this area, the MBCA supports the SAFE Banking Act as an important step forward, and we urge the House to consider it.

The Mid-Size Bank Coalition of America appreciates your attention to this critical matter. If you have any questions about this letter or any additional information would be helpful, please contact Brent Tjarks, the MBCA's Executive Director.

Sincerely,

ALESSANDRO DiNELLO,

Chairman,

Mid-Size Bank Coalition of America.

MID-SIZE BANK COALITION OF AMERICA
MEMBERS

1. Ameris Bank (Moultrie, GA)
2. Apple Bank (New York, NY)
3. Arvest Bank (Fayetteville, AR)
4. Associated Bank (Green Bay, WI)
5. BancorpSouth (Tupelo, MS)
6. BannerBank (Walla Walla, WA)
7. BankUnited (Miami Lakes, FL)
8. Banc of California (Santa Ana, CA)
9. Bank of Hope (Los Angeles, CA)
10. Bank Leumi USA (New York, NY)
11. Bank of Hawaii (Honolulu, HI)
12. Bank of the Ozarks (Little Rock, AR)
13. Berkshire Bank (Pittsfield, MA)
14. BOK Financial (Tulsa, OK)
15. Bremer Bank (Saint Paul, MN)
16. Busey Bank (Champaign, IL)
17. Cadence Bank (Houston, TX)
18. Cathay Bank (Los Angeles, CA)
19. Cenlar FSB (Ewing, NJ)
20. Centennial Bank (Conway, AR)
21. CenterState Bank (Winter Haven, FL)
22. Central Bancompany (Jefferson City, MO)
23. Chemical Bank (Midland, MI)
24. CIT Bank (Pasadena, CA)
25. CIBC U.S. (Chicago, IL)
26. City National Bank (Los Angeles, CA)
27. Columbia Bank (Tacoma, WA)
28. Commerce Bank (Kansas City, MO)
29. Community Bank (De Witt, NY)
30. Cullen/Frost Bankers (San Antonio, TX)
31. Customers Bank (Phoenixville, PA)
32. Dollar Bank (Pittsburgh, PA)
33. EagleBank (Bethesda, MD)
34. Eastern Bank (Boston, MA)
35. East West Bank (Pasadena, CA)
36. F.N.B. Corporation (Pittsburgh, PA)
37. FirstBank Holding Company (Lake-wood, CO)

38. First Citizens Bank (Raleigh, NC)
39. First Financial Bank (Cincinnati, OH)
40. First Financial Bankshares (Abilene, TX)
41. First Hawaiian Bank (Honolulu, HI)
42. First Horizon Bank (Memphis, TN)
43. First Interstate Bank (Billings, MT)
44. First Merchants Bank (Muncie, IN)
45. First Midwest Bank (Itasca, IL)
46. First National Bank of Omaha (Omaha, NE)
47. Flagstar Bank (Troy, MI)
48. Fulton Financial (Lancaster, PA)
49. Glacier Bank (Kalispell, MT)
50. Great Western Bank (Sioux Falls, SD)
51. Hancock Whitney (Gulfport, MS)
52. Heartland Financial (Dubuque, IA)
53. Hilltop Holdings (Dallas, TX)
54. Independent Bank (McKinney TX)
55. International Bancshares (Laredo, TX)
56. Investors Bank (Short Hills, NJ)
57. IBERIABANK (Lafayette, LA)
58. Mechanics Bank (Richmond, CA)
59. MidFirst Bank (Oklahoma City, OK)
60. NBT Bank (Norwich, NY)
61. Northwest Bank (Warren, PA)
62. Old National Bank (Evansville, IN)
63. Opus Bank (Irvine, CA)
64. Pacific Premier Bank (Irvine, CA)
65. PacWest Bank (Beverly Hills, CA)
66. People's United Bank (Bridgeport, CT)
67. Pinnacle Bank (Lincoln, NE)
68. Pinnacle Financial Partners (Nashville, TN)
69. Popular Community Bank (New York, NY)
70. Provident Bank (Iselin, NJ)
71. Raymond James Bank (Saint Petersburg, FL)
72. Renasant Bank (Tupelo, MS)
73. Rockland Trust (Rockland, MA)
74. Sandy Spring Bank (Olney, MD)
75. Seacoast Bank (Palm Beach, FL)
76. ServisFirst Bank (Birmingham, AL)
77. Signature Bank (New York, NY)
78. Silicon Valley Bank (Santa Clara, CA)
79. Simmons Bank (Pine Bluff, AR)
80. South State Bank (Columbia, SC)
81. Sterling National Bank (Montebello, NY)
82. Stifel Bank & Trust (Saint Louis, MO)
83. Synovus Bank (Columbus, GA)
84. TCF Bank (Sioux Falls, SD)
85. Texas Capital Bank (Dallas, TX)
86. Third Federal Savings (Cleveland, OH)
87. TIAA Bank (Jacksonville, FL)
88. TowneBank (Portsmouth, VA)
89. Trustmark (Jackson, MS)
90. UMB Financial (Kansas City, MO)
91. Umpqua Bank (Roseburg, OR)
92. Union Bankshares (Richmond, VA)
93. United Community Bank (Blairsville, GA)
94. United Bankshares (Charleston, WV)
95. Valley (Wayne, NJ)
96. Washington Federal Bank, N.A. (Seattle, WA)
97. Webster Bank (Waterbury, CT)
98. WesBanco Bank (Wheeling, WV)
99. Western Alliance Bank (Phoenix, AZ)
100. Wintrust Financial (Rosemont, IL)