

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## PULMONARY HYPERTENSION AWARENESS MONTH

### HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 18, 2019*

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Pulmonary Hypertension Awareness Month and the outstanding work the Pulmonary Hypertension Association (PHA) in the fight against the rare and debilitating disease, pulmonary hypertension (PH).

Pulmonary Hypertension (PH) is high blood pressure that occurs in the arteries of the lungs. It reflects the pressure the heart must apply to pump blood from the heart through the arteries of the lungs. As with a tangled hose, pressure builds up and backs up forcing the heart to work harder and less oxygen to reach the body. PH symptoms generally include fatigue, dizziness and shortness of breath with the severity of the disease correlating with its progression. If left undiagnosed or untreated it can lead to heart failure and death.

I am proud to represent the Pulmonary Hypertension Association (PHA) headquartered in Silver Spring. PHA is dedicated to extending and improving the life of those affected by PH. PHA was the first organization in the world dedicated to providing comprehensive PH patient and caregiver support; medical education; specialty care services that improve patients' quality of life; and research funding. As a result of PHA's advocacy for continued investment in medical research and sustained scientific progress, there are 14 Food and Drug Administration-approved targeted treatment options for two forms of PH.

When individuals are diagnosed with PH quickly and begin appropriate therapy, their prognosis and life-expectancy improve dramatically. However, it currently takes an average of 2.5 years to receive a diagnosis and three quarters of patients have severe PH when they are finally diagnosed. Without treatment, historical studies have shown a mean survival time of 2.8 years after diagnosis for pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH). Patients with advanced PH cannot benefit as greatly from available therapies and often face dramatic and costly medical interventions, including 24-hour IV infused medication, increased risk for hospitalization and in some cases heart-lung transplantation.

I am proud to work with PHA in their efforts to increase awareness of PH and create new programs that promote early and accurate diagnosis and quality care for PH patients.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in recognizing November as Pulmonary Hypertension Awareness Month and to continue supporting federal activities that improve the lives of patients impacted by PH including research programs at the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

## STEVEN SUMMER

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 18, 2019*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Steven Summer, who after 45 years in the healthcare arena, including 13 years leading the Colorado Hospital Association, is retiring. From Medicaid expansion to advancing hospital safety improvements, Steven's four and a half decades of service have resulted in work to improve the quality, access, and payment innovations in healthcare systems.

Steven began his career with the Association of American Medical Colleges, moving first to the Maryland Hospital Association, and then serving as President and CEO of the West Virginia Hospital Association, before capping his career for the past 13 years at the helm of the Colorado Hospital Association. These positions reflect his talent for bringing people together and fostering and strengthening collaboration in developing healthcare policy and finding healthcare delivery system solutions—and all with a smile on his face.

Steven's consensus-building approach contributed to Colorado's successful Medicaid expansion, the creation of Colorado's Telehealth Network, and advanced an innovative substance use disorder treatment partnership between emergency physicians and hospitals to find alternatives to opioids, which serves as a model for other states. Programs like the alternatives to opioids effort have been incorporated in federal opioid legislation and many of CHA's initiatives under his leadership have informed federal policy and decision-making in Washington.

Throughout his career, Steven has provided countless time and resources to his community by serving on local and state healthcare boards and commissions, volunteering with the Kavod Senior Life Home, and many local programs like school and youth organizations.

I congratulate Steven on a lifetime of service and wish him all the best in retirement.

## RECOGNIZING JUSTIN BRADLEY FOR THE 2019 MONTANA CON- GRESSIONAL VETERAN COM- MENDATION

### HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 18, 2019*

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Justin Bradley of Lolo for the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and his service to his community.

Mr. Bradley is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps from 2001 to 2006 serving in Operation Enduring Freedom in the Philippines and Afghanistan with two additional

deployments to Japan. He received multiple commendations during his time in the Marines, including the Combat Action Ribbon, a NATO Ribbon, and the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal.

Following his service in the Marine Corps, he returned to serve his community at the Department of Corrections in the Probation and Parole Division. There, he has dedicated himself to the protection of the community through accountability and never complaining about the long hours. In addition to this role, he works closely with the Missoula County Sheriff Crime Task Force, the High Intensity Drug Task Force, and the U.S. Marshalls. Mr. Bradley is known to help fellow officers individually in developing proper firearm safety, as well as self-protection for when they are on the job.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Justin Bradley for his service and his dedication to his community.

## IN HONOR OF ROBERT M. RECHNITZ

### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 18, 2019*

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Mr. Robert M. Rechnitz. Mr. Rechnitz, a longtime resident of the Locust section of Middletown, New Jersey, passed away on October 12, 2019 after a vibrant life filled with numerous professional and personal accomplishments.

Robert (Bob) Rechnitz was a prominent member of the community and a fixture of the thriving arts and humanities landscape in Monmouth County. As co-founder and executive producer of Two River Theater, Bob was committed to providing an outlet for creative expression and a preeminent institution for the public to enjoy. In addition to his extensive background and work in theater, Bob was an esteemed educator, stalwart preservationist and dedicated philanthropist. He lived his life in service to his community and his achievements and generosity have been recognized by many awards and tributes over the years.

His love of nature and the theater and his commitment to social and humanitarian causes left an indelible impact on the community. From his support of the Monmouth Conservation Foundation and Monmouth University to his contributions to Monmouth Medical Center and Riverview Medical Center, to name just a few, his philanthropic endeavors will benefit generations to come.

Bob leaves behind a loving family, including his devoted wife and partner Joan, their children Emily, Adam and Joshua, son-in-law John Paladino, daughter-in-law Elizabeth Fordi, grandchildren Max and Flora Paladino and Esme Rechnitz, as well as many dear friends and colleagues.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring Robert M.

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