

1988 by Chip and Shari Solt to honor the passing of a friend, Joey Barbosa, Joey B's has evolved into a vibrant gathering place for those in the community. The Solt family has been committed to continuing their tradition of offering a warm atmosphere for friends to gather and create memories—truly making Joey B's a place "Where Good Friends Meet."

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the citizens of Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Joey B's Bar & Restaurant on this great honor and thank them for their commitment to our community.

#### CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS ACT

### HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letter I sent to the U.S. Attorney General concerning H.R. 4729, the Courtney Wild Crime Victims' Rights Act.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, November 21, 2019.

Hon. WILLIAM BARR,  
U.S. Attorney General,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR ATTORNEY GENERAL BARR: I write to raise concerns about a court filing recently made by prosecutors in the Department, who cited my recent legislative efforts to support Jeffrey Epstein's victims as being in opposition to their currently pending petition before the Eleventh Circuit. I hope that you will direct your prosecutors to correct the misimpression that their inaccurate representation has created.

I introduced H.R. 4729, the Courtney Wild Crime Victims' Rights Reform Act (the "CVRA Reform Act"), in the House of Representatives on October 17, 2019. The bill was inspired by the challenges faced by the victims of serial sexual predator Jeffrey Epstein in Florida, who were left in the dark as prosecutors hashed out a secretive and shockingly lenient plea deal. Among other things, my bill would clarify the scope of rights guaranteed by the Crime Victims' Rights Act ("CVRA"), 18 U.S.C. §3771(a), by stating what the law already provides in more explicit terms and conforming the text to the original intent of Congress.

In an attempt to deny the rights of Epstein's victims in Florida, attorneys in the Department latched onto my bill and misrepresented its intent in a brief recently submitted to the Eleventh Circuit. Brief of the United States, *In re Courtney Wild*, No. 19-13843 (11th Cir. Oct. 31, 2019). In particular, the Department stated that my CVRA Reform Act would "amend the CVRA to state that its rights are extended to cover non-prosecution agreements." *Id.* at 43.

That is not what my bill would do. It would not "extend[]" the CVRA's rights to non-prosecution agreements, since the CVRA already covers non-prosecution agreements. Rather, the bill would merely clarify that the CVRA covers non-prosecution agreements.

This is exactly what was said in the press release the Department's attorneys cited:

The Crime Victims' Rights Reform Act will:

Clarify that victims of federal crimes have the right to confer with the Government and be informed about key pre-charging developments in a case, such as . . . non-prosecution agreements.

Press Release, Rep. Speier Introduces Bipartisan Courtney Wild Crime Victims' Rights Reform Act of 2019 to Rectify Injustices Faced by Epstein's Victims (Oct. 17, 2019) (emphasis added), available at <https://speier.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/rep-speier-introducesbipartisan-courtney-wild-crime-victims-rights>.

Your prosecutors are obviously attempting to suggest that it is my view, and the view of my legislative co-sponsors, that existing law does not provide protection to Courtney Wild and other victims. But, as the press release states, the legislation is designed to "clarify" what we understood to already be existing law and Congressional intent under the CVRA.

The CVRA already provides that crime victims have CVRA rights during the entirety of a criminal case—at every stage, from the initial investigation all the way through any disposition and sentence. Earlier in the Epstein case, the District Court rejected the Department's crabbed interpretation, relying on numerous court opinions correctly holding that the rights guaranteed by the CVRA "extend to the pre-charge stage of criminal investigations and proceedings." *Doe v. United States*, 950 F. Supp. 2d 1262, 1267 (S.D. Fla. 2013) (collecting cases); see also *In re Dean*, 527 F.3d 391, 394 (5th Cir. 2008). When Congress enacted the CVRA, it intended to protect crime victims throughout the criminal justice process—from the investigative phases to the conclusion of a case. Congress could not have been clearer in its direction that using "best efforts" to enforce the CVRA was an obligation of "[o]fficers and employees of the Department of Justice and other departments and agencies of the United States engaged in the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime." 18 U.S.C. §3771(c)(1) (emphasis added).

This is not the first time the Department has misinterpreted legislative history in trying to deny victims their rights. For example, in 2011 Senator Kyl, one of the sponsors of the CVRA, was compelled to put a statement into the Congressional Record when the Justice Department twisted his words. See Letter from Jon Kyl, U.S. Sen. to Eric H. Holder, Jr., Att'y Gen. (June 6, 2011), reprinted in 157 Cong. Rec. S3608 (daily ed. June 8, 2011). Senator Kyl was responding to a 2010 Office of Legal Counsel opinion in which the Department cited his statements in support of the CVRA's passage to arrive at the (incorrect) position that CVRA rights only "are guaranteed from the time that criminal proceedings are initiated (by complaint, information, or indictment) and cease to be available if all charges are dismissed either voluntarily or on the merits (or if the Government declines to bring formal charges after the filing of a complaint)." Office of Legal Counsel, Mem. Op., *The Availability of Crime Victims' Rights Under the Crime Victims' Rights Act of 2004* (Dec. 17, 2010, publicly released May 20, 2011). Congress responded by clarifying that the CVRA includes "[t]he right to be informed in a timely manner of any plea bargain or deferred prosecution agreement." Pub. L. 114-22, title I, §113(a), 129 Stat. 240.

Despite Congress' clear intention to provide rights to victims throughout the criminal process, the Department has consistently read the CVRA narrowly and shirked its statutorily required "best efforts." That is one reason I was compelled to write the CVRA Reform Act—to get the Department to follow through on the CVRA's promises. I am displeased that my legislation and accompanying press release were misinterpreted, and I trust that you will direct your prosecutors to correct with the Eleventh Cir-

cuit their erroneous description of the proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

JACKIE SPEIER.

CELEBRATING THE MILITARY SERVICE OF LELAND CALVIN BUTLER

### HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Leland Calvin "L.C." Butler, a 96 year old World War II veteran of the United States Marine Corps, for his service to our great nation.

L.C. Butler was born in Temple, Texas on July 19, 1923 to Ann Patton Butler. His family moved to Houston in 1932. On August 19, 1942, Mr. Butler enlisted in the United States Marines Corps in San Antonio, Texas. He attended boot camp in San Diego, California for seven weeks, training one week at the firing range, and two months in Imperial Valley, California learning how to operate the "big guns."

A new anti-aircraft battalion was formed and L.C. became part of the 2nd Airdrome Battalion, which later became the 17th Defense Battalion. Butler's battalion's assignment was to provide anti-aircraft defense to airstrips secured by Allied Forces and to protect them after they were secured. As a result, he did not see as much fighting as many of his friends. Butler considers their assignment the luck of the draw.

Butler's division was sent to the Nukufetau Atoll where he served until the summer of 1944. After Nukufetau, his battalion was sent to Kauai for a short rest. In late summer of 1944, Mr. Butler boarded a ship to Tinian. He remained on the ship for approximately 60 days until the island was secured. Once Tinian was taken Butler's battalion moved ashore and used their anti-aircraft guns to protect the air strips from further attacks.

Toward the end of their deployment they discovered the *Enola Gay* was stationed on Tinian Island. This B-29 Superfortress became the first airplane to drop an atomic bomb on August 6, 1945 over Hiroshima, Japan. L.C. and his battalion were on a ship heading back to the United States when the second atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. The dropping of both atomic bombs expedited the end of World War II.

The Marines were sent to San Diego and quarantined for two weeks because First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt felt it necessary due to outbreaks of different ailments while they were stationed on various Pacific islands. L.C. said she wasn't very popular with the Marines at that time, but that they were treated well during the two weeks.

L.C. Butler returned home to Houston, Texas the first week in September 1945 and married Dorothy Nell Corgey on September 7, 1945. Mr. and Mrs. Butler took one thousand dollars that L.C. won during a poker game on the ship back to the United States and stayed in a hotel in downtown Houston for a month for their honeymoon.

Following their honeymoon, the Butlers went to Corpus Christi for about three weeks. There

he was honorably discharged from the United States Marines Corps on October 25, 1945. From the age of nineteen, L.C.'s life motto, has been "Once a Marine, Always a Marine."

L.C. and Dorothy were married for 62 years until she passed away on April 11, 2008. They have two daughters, Lynn B. Lucas and Debra Westberry, five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, one great-great grandchild and another great grandchild on the way.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. Butler for his selfless service to this great nation.

CONGRATULATING JAMES WIMMER ESQ. ON RECEIPT OF THE WILLIAM H. BAYER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

### HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 21, 2019*

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise today to congratulate James Wimmer on receiving the Carbon County Chamber and Economic Development Corporation's (CCEDC) William H. Bayer Lifetime Achievement Award.

The William H. Bayer Lifetime Achievement Award is presented by the CCEDC each year to a CCEDC member that has demonstrated a lifetime commitment to the community, which Mr. Wimmer has certainly done. After graduating from University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1965, he began his career practicing law in Palmerton and served as an Assistant District Attorney from 1967 until 1975. In addition, he advocated on behalf of students and families in Palmerton in his position as School District Solicitor for over thirty years. Throughout his legal career, Jim was also involved in the banking industry, serving in senior leadership roles at several banks, including Citizen's Bank in Palmerton. Jim used his banking expertise to help guide new families through the process of buying their first home and entrepreneurs navigate the obstacles of starting a small business.

After nearly 50 years of serving our community's students, families, and businesses with integrity and compassion, Mr. Wimmer retired from his law practice in September. His dedicated work in our community should be celebrated.

In addition to his law career, Mr. Wimmer has been a devoted family man and active member of our community, married to his wife Linda for 56 years and spending decades volunteering his time to organizations whose missions benefit those in need.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the citizens of Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating James Wimmer on a lifetime of selfless commitment to our community.

HONORING ROSIE HARRIS AND HER OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO MODEL CONGRESS

### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 21, 2019*

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, every so often I find myself in awe of our next generation. Just recently, I had the opportunity to read a presentation by Rosie Harris during her participation in the Model Congress program as a member of the Dalton School Delegation. It was inspiring and so I would like to share her authorization speech as well as her legislative proposal, the Menstrual Parity Act of 2019. If this is the leadership and vision we can expect from the next generation, I believe we are indeed in good hands.

"Hello. I am Representative Harris. Friends, colleagues, I rise to introduce the Menstrual Parity Act of 2019. Half of our country is female and on average, female bodied people menstruate once a month for 40 years. In this country, women have been treated as second class citizens since the beginning of time. While we have had some progress, and there are plenty of other areas that need work. My bill proposes one small but incredibly important aspect of the fight towards equality—a step towards economic equality."

"This is simple. The Menstrual Parity Act of 2019 does the following: In any place we have facilities open to the public (ie. parks, libraries, you name it), where toilets or bathrooms are made available, this act would require that if toilet paper is provided for free, menstrual products would be provided for free as well. It's simple but meaningful progress. At the federal level, we require it. At the state level, we will reimburse the entire costs of it. And that's that."

"And you might ask, well, Harris, how would you guarantee this? Expansion of Title IX, a federal civil rights law passed in 1972 prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs or federally funded programs. Here are a few facts just to put this in context: On average, women earn 80 cents on the dollar to men, according to the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey, as reliable a source as exists; Women are 23.6 percent more likely to be in poverty than men; and it is estimated that the lifetime cost for only menstruation is over 18,000 dollars, which have the country doesn't have to pay, and is a whole lot of money for one individual."

"Some concerns you might have. It's expensive. The Federal annual budget is over 3 trillion dollars, so in the big scheme of things, this is really not that much money for government. Surely the richest country in the history of the world could afford to make basic menstrual products available, as they do with toilet paper, another basic hygienic product. Toilet paper is expensive too, and it turns out, you need toilet paper much more often than menstrual products. It is cheaper to pay for a few more tampons than to cover an emergency room visit for a woman suffering from Toxic Shock Syndrome (TSS) from a lack of access to sufficient menstrual products. You may say this is too big government. I would argue that it is not big government providing toilet paper, and once we enact this law, before you know

it, it will be shocking to people that we didn't do this before."

"Having access to hygienic products is a basic sanitary need so those of us who menstruate can stay healthy. When there is not access to appropriate menstrual products, often products are used for too long, which could lead to extreme risk of contracting TSS, or things like brown paper bags, or wash cloths are used in their place, which is not safe."

"I'd ask you to consider, especially if you are not directly affected by the measures in this bill, what this bill might mean to your mothers, or daughters, or partners, and friends. Finally, this bill will be a message to all in our country of the importance of women's health—after all, you wouldn't be here without us. I ask for your support and thank you for your consideration. I yield back the balance of my time to the chair."

THE DALTON MODEL CONGRESS 2019—HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE  
Name: Rosie Harris.

Title of the Bill: The Menstrual Parity Act of 2019.

Delegation: The Dalton School.

Committee: Education and the Workforce.  
Be It Enacted by the Dalton Model Congress . . .

Preamble: Whereas women make up half of the population of the United States, whereas women on average have their period on a monthly basis for 40 years, whereas women on average earn only 80 cents of every dollar men earn for the same work, whereas 13.6% of women live in poverty, whereas women are 23.6% more likely to be in poverty than men, whereas 17.5% of children live in poverty who are disproportionately dependent on women to raise them, whereas menstruation involves costs that generally incur every month, whereas obtaining full equality for women necessitates economic equality, whereas it is estimated that the lifetime cost of a period can be over \$18,000, and whereas toilet paper is available in every public bathroom in the country, be it resolved, that this committee authorizes such sums as necessary so that every public bathroom that provides toilet paper also provide appropriate menstrual products.

Section 1 Short Title: This Act may be cited as the "The Menstrual Parity Act of 2019".

Section 2 Definitions: Accommodations include all public facilities that are accessible to the general public, and provide access to bathrooms with toilets.

Section 2 Federal Accommodations: Every federal public accommodation that provides free toilet paper must also provide free menstrual products.

Sub-Section A: Menstrual products must be refilled as often as toilet paper.

Section 3 State Accommodations: Every state public accommodation that provides free toilet paper, who also provide free menstrual products that are made as available as toilet paper, will be reimbursed in full for the menstrual products.

Sub-Section A: Menstrual products must be refilled as often as toilet paper.

Section 4 Enforcement: Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 shall be expanded to include enforcement of the provisions from Sections 2 and 3.

Section 5 Appropriations: The Committee on Appropriations shall provide such sums as necessary for (1) public accommodations that receive appropriations for toilet paper to be able to meet this new mandate and (2) for the Title IX expansion.

Section 6 Enactment: This bill will be enacted 91 days after passage.