

IN SUPPORT OF HISTORICALLY
BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

SPEECH OF

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, more than one quarter of all undergraduate students in the United States attend Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other Minority Serving Institutions. These schools play a critical role in unlocking higher education opportunities for millions of degree-seekers, including students of color and low-income students, of which many are the first in their family to attend college.

To protect these essential institutions from the threat of closure and financial despair, we must continue to provide them with the resources they need to prepare students for the modern economy.

Title III, Part F of the Higher Education Act authorizes important, mandatory funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Minority Serving Institutions to educate and prepare students for professions in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, or STEM, fields.

Unfortunately, this critical source of funding expired on September 30, 2019. This lapse jeopardizes the viability of these institutions, as well as the STEM readiness of the students they serve.

At a time when diverse representation is low in the STEM economy, Congress must immediately restore mandatory funding to prevent permanent and irreversible damage to STEM programs at these historic institutions that give students from underserved communities an opportunity to rise above their circumstances.

On September 17, 2019, the House passed the FUTURE Act, an extension of the \$255 million in essential mandatory funding for HBCUs and MSIs. Despite receiving unanimous support in the House, the bill has yet to be considered by the Senate and was not included in the continuing resolution that passed in November.

As Congress considers spending bills for next year, we must restore this vital source of funding that expands opportunities for underrepresented students. It is past time to uphold our promise to support these historic institutions and the students they serve.

STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE
TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S PRO-
POSAL TO INCREASE HUNGER
AND FOOD INSECURITY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I am alarmed and outraged by the Trump Administration's decision to increase hunger and food insecurity for millions of Americans. Governments should strengthen

their people, assist the vulnerable, and improve well-being. Instead, the Trump Administration has advanced a rule change to cut millions of low-income children, families, veterans, people with disabilities, and seniors off their food stamp benefits, or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The Trump Administration estimates that at least 3.1 million families would lose their SNAP benefits, including stopping free and reduced school meals for nearly one million children.

In 2017, almost 40 million people, including more than 12.5 million children, experienced food insecurity. In my home state of Illinois, more than 63 percent of SNAP participants are in families with children and almost 30 percent are in families with members who are elderly or disabled. This rule targets the most vulnerable people in my state and across the nation. Even the U.S. Department of Agriculture admits that this Trump policy would exacerbate food insecurity for millions of Americans.

This is unacceptable. Millions of low-income Americans rely on SNAP as the first line of defense against hunger and food insecurity. By imposing this harmful rule, the Trump Administration actually increases hunger and hardship by erecting additional barriers for families and individuals who are trying to meet one of the most basic needs for survival.

I stand in strong opposition to this unnecessary and spiteful rule. The Trump Administration is attempting to impose a policy that Congress has rejected twice in the last two versions of the Farm Bill via bipartisan votes. The policies of this Administration have advantaged the most secure and left working families and our most vulnerable populations behind. As the Trump Administration prioritizes giving trillions of dollars to the most privileged corporations and billionaires, it literally takes food from hungry children. I reject this disgraceful rule and will continue to fight for the people of Chicago and the nation to ensure they receive the food they need. I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this proposed rule and demanding that the Trump Administration rescind the rule immediately.

HONORING NATHAN FLETCHER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nathan Fletcher. Nathan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nathan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nathan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Nathan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nathan Fletcher for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

MASTER SERGEANT JAMES
CHAMBERLAIN TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. TIPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Master Sgt. James Chamberlain of La Veta, Colorado who is retiring from the U.S. Air Force after nearly 30 years of service.

Master Sgt. Chamberlain began his active duty service in 1992 shortly after graduating from Northeast Community College in Norfolk, Nebraska with an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice with an emphasis in Law Enforcement. Upon completion of his initial training, he went on to serve in numerous duty positions spanning from news broadcasting to military police security. The Air Force sent him to cities around the world such as Los Angeles, California, Azores, Portugal, and Keflavik, Iceland. His courage and service were exemplified during multiple voluntary deployments to the Middle East. During these deployments Master Sgt. Chamberlain earned dozens of awards and recognitions including the Iraq Campaign Medal with a Bronze Star, the Air Force Commendation Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Master Sgt. Chamberlain's military career was simultaneously complemented by his time as a police officer. He left active duty service in September 1996 and returned to his family ranch near Walsenburg, Colorado. It was there that he put his GI bill to use and graduated near the top of his class at the Southern Colorado Law Enforcement Training Academy in Trinidad, Colorado. He was hired as a police officer for the city of La Junta, Colorado in August 1997. He continued his service in the Air Force Reserve as part of the 310th Security Forces Squadron at the newly renamed Schriever Air Force Base outside of Colorado Springs, Colorado, an opportunity he was eager to pursue.

In Walsenburg, the community he has most recently been serving, Master Sgt. Chamberlain was named Distinguished Officer of the Year for the Colorado Police Protective Association and received the Distinguished Service Award by the city. Additionally, he earned the Police Medal of Honor and the Rescuer Award for Valor by Southern Colorado Regional EMS and Trauma Advisory Council. This past year, he was even recognized by La Veta Schools on Veterans Day for his service as an Air Force veteran, a testament to what his sacrifices mean to his fellow community members.

Madam Speaker, Master Sgt. Chamberlain's service to his country and enduring work-ethic will continue to have a positive impact on the community for years to come. It is my privilege to recognize him today, and express heartfelt gratitude for the important work he has done throughout his life. I wish him a happy retirement from military service and sincerely hope that he knows how proud his community, the state of Colorado, and the entire country is of his sacrifice and service both as an Airman and a police officer.