

BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT ACCURACY AND TECHNOLOGICAL AVAILABILITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2019

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4229, the Broadband Deployment Accuracy and Technological Availability Act, as amended.

We all agree that every American needs access to broadband. Government agencies, companies, and the philanthropic sector have devoted significant resources toward this goal, but our efforts are stymied by the fact that we have a fundamentally flawed understanding of where the investment is needed.

We need accurate maps to be able to close the digital divide and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) should wait until these maps are developed before spending billions of dollars in additional subsidies to build out to unserved and underserved areas.

I commend Representatives LOEBACK and LATTA, along with all of the members of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology for their diligent work to find a bipartisan solution to this problem that will solve our mapping problem once and for all.

I'm also pleased that the legislation includes an amendment I authored that protects the privacy of Americans. The bill allows the FCC to contract out the development of a database of all buildings developed by processing millions of property records about every home, business, and community institution in the country. These records often include private data about property owners and the property itself, including property values.

My provision simply prohibits the FCC's contractor from selling this vast amount of data for marketing or other purposes, a practice common among data brokers. Our country doesn't need more data brokers. Any company using money authorized by Congress should only use its work product for the benefit of the American people in the ways that we expressly authorize.

I'm a proud cosponsor of this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to vote for it.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 17, 2019

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Office of the Legislative Counsel of the House of Representatives on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. The Office's legal and drafting expertise is crucial to the House's core constitutional function of making law.

The Office was established by section 1303 of the Revenue Act of 1918 (P. L. 65–254, 40 Stat. 1057) as the Legislative Drafting Service with the charge of aiding “in drafting public bills and resolutions or amendments thereto on the request of any committee[.]” While the

early work of the Office was focused on projects for the Committee on Ways and Means, other committees, recognizing the value of expert drafting, soon began requesting assistance. The Office now works with all of the committees and Members of the House in every area of Federal law, working with policy makers to produce legally effective legislative drafts.

Throughout the Office's history, it has provided exceptional drafting services on a non-partisan, impartial, and confidential basis. Speaking during the floor debate on the establishment of the Office, the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means described the services of Middleton Beaman, who was the first head of the Office, as “essential” and the Committee as being “indebted” to him for clarifying and simplifying the complex legislative provisions on which he worked. The Chairman emphasized that Beaman had always been “absolutely neutral” on policy matters.

The Office continues to uphold the high standard established by Beaman. A 1975 report by the House Commission on Information and Facilities concluded that there was “an unmistakable consensus among those who utilize the services of the Office of Legislative Counsel, Members and committee staff alike, that its overall operation is indeed a credit to the House.” Over a quarter of a century later, in H. Res. 635 of the 111th Congress, the House recognized “the professional, non-partisan service to which the Office of the Legislative Counsel is dedicated.”

While carrying out the purpose described in the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 of achieving “a clear, faithful, and coherent expression of legislative policies,” the Office has also become an increasingly important source of institutional memory. Most of its attorneys, paralegals, Ramseyer staff, IT staff, front desk staff, and GPO detailees spend a career in service of the House with many staying for decades.

Such long tenures allow the Office to serve as a source of education and expertise on Congress' role in making law, including the process for introducing, amending, and passing legislation. The staff of the Office of Legislative Counsel do more than provide drafts and legal advice; they teach. As committee and Member staff transition into more senior positions on and off the Hill, they take the lessons learned from working with the Office and apply them for the rest of their careers.

It is my honor and privilege to recognize the Office of the Legislative Counsel of the House of Representatives. For 100 years, the Office has proved essential to the House in the achievement of a clear, faithful, and coherent expression of legislative policies.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOE CARDONA

HON. DONNA E. SHALALA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 17, 2019

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of Joe Cardona, the award-winning documentarian and former Miami Herald columnist. Mr. Cardona recently received a David Burke Distinguished Journalism Award from the United States Agency for Global Media

(USAGM) for his show “Arcoiris,” the first program in Radio Marti's history to address LGBTQ+ issues in Cuba.

“Arcoiris,” which means rainbow in Spanish, premiered last year and is produced and hosted by Mr. Cardona. The program provides a platform for the LGBTQ+ community in Cuba to express goals and concerns and to engage with other LGBTQ+ communities around the world. “Arcoiris” has already been enormously successful. The show has aired numerous stories, including on the experiences of gay prisoners in Cuba and the policies of Mariela Castro, director of Cuba's National Center for Sexual Education (CENESEX).

Mr. Cardona has created a space for the long-underserved LGBTQ community to prosper. I'm proud that USAGM has recognized his important work.

THE NEED FOR REVISIONS TO THE PFIC INSURANCE EXCEPTION FOR FINANCIAL GUARANTY INSURANCE COMPANIES

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 17, 2019

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I thank the Speaker and the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee for working on an end of year bipartisan tax package and helping Congress get on with the business of legislating. While I wish that our colleagues in the Senate would take up Butch Lewis, which the House passed in July, and addresses the multiemployer pension crisis affecting millions of retirees across the country and I wish my colleagues across the aisle would have supported the Ways and Means Committee's advancement of legislation to expand the Earned Income Tax Credit and make the Child Tax Credit fully refundable, it's important for our constituents to see Congress working together.

I also know that many Americans are waiting for Congress to make essential fixes to the tax code in response to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and were hoping that Congress would add these fixes to our year-end tax package. While a couple such fixes were made, many vital revisions were left out.

I am planning to introduce bipartisan legislation early next year that will fix an unintended consequence of the recent changes to the insurance business exception to the passive foreign investment company, or PFIC, rules. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort and cosponsor this upcoming legislation especially Members who are aware of the importance of available and affordable municipal bond financing to state and local municipalities.

This legislation is necessary to preserve the availability and affordability of financial guaranty insurance with respect to municipal bond financing for state and local municipalities. I have worked in close consultation with the staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation in developing this legislation to ensure that it provides a narrow exception for financial guarantors that is specifically designed to address the issue affecting municipal bond insurance in a manner that preserves the closing of a