

participation on many committees, task forces, and the Prince William County Fire and Rescue Association. His achievements, successes and dedication are made even more inspiring by the fact that all of his work has been as a dedicated volunteer. In recognition of his commitment and his 28-year career, it is my great honor to recognize Chief James McAllister of the Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton Volunteer Fire Department.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me once again in congratulating Chief James McAllister for his 28-years of service to OWLVFD. His positive contributions, and dedicated service to our community can never be repaid. We thank Chief McAllister, and we wish him the best in retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, yesterday, I was inadvertently detained during the vote on expressing disapproval of the Trump Administration's harmful actions towards Medicaid. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 51.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WASHINGTON, D.C. ADMISSION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, the Committee on Oversight and Reform is preparing to hold the first markup of the District of Columbia statehood bill in either chamber of Congress since 1993, when I got the first-ever floor vote on the bill. I rise today to introduce a revised version of the bill, the purpose of which is to make technical and conforming changes and to address transition issues.

On January 3, 2019, the first day of this Congress, I introduced H.R. 51, the Washington, D.C. Admission Act, which has 224 cosponsors, a record for the D.C. statehood bill and far more cosponsors than most bills passed by the House. The bill I introduce today includes the text of H.R. 51, but makes technical and conforming changes to the text, provides transition assistance to the new state and establishes a transition commission to assist with the orderly transition to statehood and to a reduced federal district. The D.C. statehood bill is well within the authority of Congress, and is in compliance with the Admissions and District clauses of the Constitution, as well as the 23rd Amendment.

While the Constitution does not establish prerequisites for admission of states into the Union, Congress has generally considered three factors: commitment to democracy, support for statehood and requisite population and resources for the state to support itself. The District meets each prerequisite. The District has a larger population than two states, pays more in federal taxes than 22 states and pays more in federal taxes per capita than any other state. D.C. has a higher per capita per-

sonal income and gross domestic product than any state. In November 2016, over 86 percent of District residents voted in favor of an advisory referendum requesting that the D.C. Council petition Congress for statehood.

Congress has two choices. It can continue to exercise undemocratic, autocratic authority over the 705,000 American citizens who reside in our nation's capital, treating them, in the words of Frederick Douglass, as "aliens, not citizens, but subjects." Or it can live up to this nation's promise and ideals, end taxation without representation and pass the Washington, D.C. Admission Act.

Since the founding of the nation, District residents have always carried all the obligations of citizenship, including serving in all of the nation's wars and payment of federal taxes, all without voting representation on the floor in either house of Congress or freedom from congressional interference in purely local matters. The bill I introduce seeks to end this unequal treatment and give the residents of the nation's capital their full rights as American citizens.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNDERSTANDING AND STUDYING AMERICAN (USA) CIVICS ACT OF 2020

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Understanding and Studying American (USA) Civics Act of 2020.

Today, only 32 percent of Americans can name all three government branches. That means two-thirds of the people in the U.S. are not equipped with foundational knowledge necessary to participate in and navigate our democracy. Investing in civics education is key to ensuring that future participants and leaders in our democracy are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to do so.

The USA Civics Act of 2020 would provide grants to establish and strengthen civics programs to promote more comprehensive understandings of the history, achievements, and global impacts of American constitutional and representative democracy. Specifically, the bill supports the efforts of social science teachers in primary and secondary schools. In addition to funding teacher initiatives and educational curricula and materials, the USA Civics Act of 2020 would provide funding to develop open educational resources and outreach activities.

The USA Civics Act promotes the study of American political thought and constitutional democracies globally, invests in opportunities for civics educators to deepen their knowledge of the field, and opens new doors for our young future leaders to learn how they can participate in the country's political life. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF THOMAS RAILSBACK

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor and remember the life of Congressman Thomas Railsback, who passed away on January 20, 2020, at the age of 87.

Born in Moline, Illinois in 1940, Tom displayed a natural gravitation towards leadership. He began his studies at Grinnell College in Iowa and then Northwestern Law School in Illinois. Not long after he finished his formal education, Tom served in the United States Army from 1957 to 1959. After the completion of his military service, Tom returned home to the Quad Cities to practice law.

Tom had a resilient passion for ethical leadership, which pushed his desire to hold public office promoting just ideals, supporting bipartisan solutions advocating for good constituent service. In 1962, he was elected to the Illinois General Assembly as a republican state representative, where he served for two terms. In 1966 he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where he represented Illinois' 19th congressional district for 16 years. While serving in the House, Tom played a key role in the passage of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, which provides critical support for state programs that assist communities to take a comprehensive approach to juvenile justice. Tom was the second ranking republican on the House Judiciary Committee and a key member during the Nixon presidency.

Tom found joy in his life through his family and many lifelong friends. He and his first wife, Patricia (Sloan) Railsback, raised four daughters: Kathryn, Julie, Maggie, and Lisa. Tom married Joyelyn Railsback on Oct. 23, 1998. They enjoyed golfing together, playing word games, and traveling during their 21 years of marriage.

Congressman Tom Railsback's steadfast work to improve the lives of American citizens stands as a model for progress to further the greater good and prosperity of the union. He set the standard for the values and priorities which current—and future—public servants should strive to uphold in order to better our communities. It's my honor to commemorate his life and his tireless bi-partisan work to improve the lives of Americans and strive for ethical leadership. My deepest condolences go out to his wife, family, colleagues, and friends during their time of mourning.

PATHWAY TO STABLE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR ALL ACT

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the human right of every person to have a safe and affordable home. As we know, our nation is faced with a staggering housing crisis. At least 600,000 Americans are experiencing homelessness in a given night—

and this number can vary throughout the year. In the State of New York, we are faced with more than 90,000 New Yorkers without a home. Furthermore, nationwide, only 37 affordable and available homes exist for every 100 extremely low-income renter households. In my own Sixth Congressional District of New York, these numbers are even worse; only 18 housing units are available for every 100 extremely low-income households.

Madam Speaker, these are not just data points; these are heartbreaking numbers—especially when one considers the families, the children in these households. We know that children living in stable, affordable homes are more likely to thrive in school and have greater opportunities to learn inside and outside the classroom.

And yet, low-income families continue to face the unjust and heartbreaking decision of choosing between paying rent or paying for necessary expenses such as groceries, childcare, or prescription drugs.

Madam Speaker, this is a cruel and impossible decision.

In September 2019, the Trump Administration took aim at individuals experiencing homelessness in the U.S. by releasing a report that targeted a handful of states and cities by offering policy responses that adopted an “out of sight, out of mind” approach, such as rounding up and increasing the policing of vulnerable communities. Slashing HUD programs, tripling the rents for the lowest-income subsidized residents, allowing homeless shelters to discriminate against the LGBTQ community, and evicting thousands of people will only exacerbate the homelessness crisis in America.

In addition, the Administration has repeatedly taken steps to increase the number of families and individuals living in unstable housing situations and those at risk of homelessness. While Congress has continued to push back against the Administration’s every attempt to gut and dismantle our federal homelessness and affordable housing programs, Congress must—and can—do more.

That is why I am introducing the Pathway to Stable and Affordable Housing for All Act. We need bold and robust solutions to address these housing challenges that every single congressional district faces. That is why, today, I am introducing the Pathway to Stable and Affordable Housing for All Act—a bill sets forth a 10-year investment plan based on estimates from frontline service providers and experts that focus on meeting the challenges our states and communities face every day.

Specifically, this bill consists of four provisions: two of which would help states and organizations on the ground assist individuals experiencing homelessness into homeless shelters quickly and efficiently, and two focused on getting those in the shelter system into safe, affordable housing:

\$10 billion per year in additional funding for Emergency Solutions Grants;

\$10 billion per year in additional funding for Continuum of Care grants so organizations can move those experiencing homelessness into the shelter system and provide needed supports;

\$40 billion per year direct appropriation to the Housing Trust Fund—on top of the existing funding provided by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac—to begin to chip away at the deficit of units in our nation’s affordable housing stock; and

Fully funding tenant-based rental assistance to allow all eligible households to get into permanent, safe, affordable housing.

The National Low Income Housing Coalition estimates, if enacted, this bill would effectively end homelessness and housing poverty.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this critical bill—the Pathway to Stable and Affordable Housing for All Act—to ensure housing justice for all Americans.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE MATTHEW W. MCFARLAND’S NOMINATION TO THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Mr. WENSTRUP. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Judge Matthew McFarland on his confirmation to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio.

Raised just outside of Portsmouth, Ohio, Judge McFarland has extensive personal and professional history practicing law across Scioto County and Southern Ohio for the last 20 years. His dedication to public service is admirable.

As an appellate judge, Judge McFarland authored over 1,000 opinions and made over 2,900 panel votes and served as the Presiding and Administrative Judge for multiple years. He has served as a visiting Judge on the Supreme Court of Ohio on four separate occasions allowing him to sit on each level of the Ohio Judiciary including the trial, appellate, and supreme court bench.

Judge McFarland is now only the second federal judge to serve the Southern District of Ohio from Scioto County.

I’m proud to recognize Judge McFarland for his outstanding public service and for his recent confirmation. I am confident he will continue to serve the people of Ohio well and I wish him the best of luck as he begins his tenure on the federal bench.

CLARIFICATION OF CHANGES TO THE ALTERNATIVE FUEL MIXTURE CREDIT CONTAINED IN H.R. 1865

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, in December Congress addressed a number of expired or expiring tax provisions, commonly known as “tax extenders,” by passing H.R. 1865 as part of year-end, FY’20 spending measure.

For the most part, these tax provisions were simply extended seamlessly through 2020, which I viewed as a wasted opportunity to create real certainty around these provisions for taxpayers.

Additionally, one provision extending a fuel excise tax credit known as the Alternative Fuel Mixture Credit (AFMC) contained modifications prohibiting the blending of certain categories of fuels in order to claim the credit. These fuel

categories had been part of the AFMC and the related Alternative Fuel Credit since both were created in a Surface Transportation bill in 2005, and they had also been extended multiple times since then in past tax extenders bills. The intended purpose of these provisions was to reduce the United States’ dependence on foreign oil and to encourage cheaper, cleaner burning fuels (whether for transportation or other uses).

One of the longstanding fuel categories eliminated in H.R. 1865 was liquefied petroleum gas. Since enacted, the AFMC had provided a credit to taxpayers for mixtures of liquefied petroleum gas, including propane, and taxable fuel. The modification in H.R. 1865 eliminates the credit for any mixture that includes any type of liquefied petroleum gas.

Madam Speaker, I have long been an opponent of retroactive tax increases, and there are currently several taxpayers in disputes with the Internal Revenue Service over whether they can properly claim the AFMC on past tax returns.

I will note that the subsection of H.R. 1865 that eliminated the longstanding classes of fuels from the AFMC also contained “no inference” language stating:

“Nothing contained in this subsection or the amendments made by this subsection shall be construed to create any inference as to a change in law or guidance in effect prior to enactment of this subsection” (enactment occurred when H.R. 1865 was signed into law on December 20, 2019).

The Congressional intent of this “no inference” language is unambiguous—this provision should ensure a fair day in court for taxpayers in legitimate disputes with the IRS over the AFMC.

HONORING SPECTOR FURNITURE AS THEY MARK THEIR 130TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the many family, friends, and community leaders who have gathered today and extend my very best wishes to Howard and Ken Kreiger as they mark the 130th Anniversary of their iconic Main Street store, Spector Furniture. Family owned and operated since its doors opened in 1890, Spector Furniture is a cornerstone of the community of Ansonia, Connecticut.

One hundred-thirty years of Spector Furniture is an impressive achievement. As old as the City of Ansonia itself, it is the oldest furniture store in Connecticut and a testament to the honored traditions of Yankee craftsmanship as well as entrepreneurial spirit. Simon Spector opened the business and it has been passed down generation to generation—from Simon to George Spector, then Lawrence Winer, followed by David Kreiger, and now Howie and Ken—with each facing their own challenges to survival. Spector Furniture has weathered World War I, Prohibition, the Great Depression, the devastating Flood of 1955, de-industrialization, stagflation, NAFTA, and the rise of Made in China. Through it all, and all of the changes that have taken place in the