

IN HONOR OF SPRING GARDEN WINNING THE AHSAA CLASS 1A BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Spring Garden girls basketball team for winning the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) Class 1A basketball championship.

The Panthers defeated St. Luke's 53 to 45 in the championship game on February 27th. Spring Garden has won three titles over the last five years.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating the students and faculty of Spring Garden High School, the coaches, the players and all the Panther fans on this exciting achievement. Go Panthers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, I am not recorded on roll call vote No. 79. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

I am not recorded on roll call vote No. 80. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

I am not recorded on roll call vote No. 81. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

I am not recorded on roll call vote No. 82. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

RECOGNIZING BONNIE HESTER FOR HER WORK IN THE PEORIA COMMUNITY FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bonnie Hester for her work in the Peoria community and to honor her as a part of Black History Month. Bonnie spent 35 years in the public sector and was most recently a Program Assistant for the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program.

Bonnie Hester earned a certificate in Labor History from the University of Illinois and a Clerical Certificate from the Vocational School of Southern Illinois. Bonnie worked for the Peoria City/County Health Department for 25 years. Bonnie served on the Health Care Committee for Peoria County employees and was President of local AFSCME Union Chapter No. 3665 for 14 years. She represented District 1 on the Peoria County Board for eight years and served as the board's precinct committee person.

Now retired, Bonnie serves on the Executive Board for the West Central Labor Council representing AFSCME retirees and volunteers for the American Red Cross Disaster Services, the Heart of Illinois United Way, and the Make-A-Wish Foundation. She also serves on

the school board for Peoria Christ Lutheran School, and is a long-time member of Christ Lutheran Church, where she teaches Sunday School. Bonnie and her husband, Jerry, have been married for 39 years and have three children and six grandchildren. I commend Bonnie on her service to the Peoria community.

It is because of community leaders such as Bonnie Hester that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally recognize Bonnie Hester for her great work in the Peoria community and honor her as a part of Black History Month.

SUPPORT FOR THE SOCIAL SECURITY 2100 ACT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, let me commend my colleague and friend Congressman JOHN LARSON, the chair of the Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee, for his leadership and his legislation the Social Security 2100 Act. He is a tireless advocate for upholding our promise to our seniors, with respect to their retirement and their economic wellbeing.

Perhaps the ultimate legislative expression of our nation's shared values is our Social Security program. In 1935, our federal government made a promise to American workers that if they worked hard all of their lives, they would not fall into poverty when they retire. Social Security is foundational to tens of millions' Americans economic security as they retire. It provides a stable and secure source of income for our nation's seniors and their families. We continue to keep that promise today, as Social Security lifts out of poverty 22 million seniors nationwide and 130,000 in Connecticut.

In fact, according to the Economic Policy Institute, quote, "Social Security remains by far the most important source of income for most seniors. It constitutes most of the income of seniors in the bottom half of the income distribution."

Yet, a cliff is coming. Social Security no longer stretches as far as it once did. Even with their Social Security benefits, more than 5 percent of Connecticut's seniors are living in poverty. And, if we do nothing, in less than 15 years, Social Security benefits will be cut by nearly 25 percent.

When Social Security does not keep up with the cost of living, or modern economic challenges, seniors are robbed of their dignity and independence. They suffer when we do not uphold our promise. That is why we need to protect and enhance Social Security and to ensure it is able to help those who need it. That is why we need the Social Security 2100 Act.

It was introduced by my dear friend Congressman JOHN LARSON. I am an original cosponsor. The bill expands benefits, strengthens the Social Security trust fund, and cuts taxes for seniors. The bill and House Democrats' leadership is critical at a time when Americans are struggling with stagnant incomes and a lack of good-paying jobs.

In total, this bill would boost benefits for 62 million people. And, it will put the program on sound financial footing for the next 75 years.

It does so with several smart steps, including by having millionaires and billionaires pay the same tax rate as everyone else. For many Americans, this is commonsense. What is nonsensical, however, is that Republicans passed a \$1.5 trillion tax giveaway for the wealthy and well-connected. 83 percent of the benefits go to the top 1 percent.

Instead of a giveaway to the rich, it is time for an investment in working people and seniors. That is what we are trying to do with the Social Security 2100 Act.

Experts have pointed to its economic benefits, for both individuals and the nation. For example, former Council of Economic Advisors Chair Jason Furman and former Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers, have said this legislation would positively impact economic growth.

As President Franklin Delano Roosevelt said of Social Security in 1934, quote, "This seeking for a greater measure of welfare and happiness does not indicate a change of values. It is rather a return to values lost in the course of our economic development and expansion."

Values lost, an apt description for our economy today. Costs skyrocketing. Wages stalling. Savings stagnating. And, seniors suffering. But, with this legislation, we can be returning to values lost, to upholding our promise, to ensuring economic security.

All Americans must keep up the fight to protect and expand social safety net programs like Social Security. The 60 million Americans receiving Social Security and countless more who will receive it are counting on us, and we will deliver.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENVER RIGGLEMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I was unable to attend votes on March 3, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 81, and YEA on Roll Call No. 82.

FEMA DISASTER PREPAREDNESS IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the "FEMA Disaster Preparedness Improvement Act," with support from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and the California State Association of Counties. I want to thank my colleague Congressman MIKE THOMPSON (D-CA) for his support as the original cosponsor.

This legislation would increase FEMA support for disaster preparedness and emergency response to reflect the needs of communities across the country. As states like California face increasingly severe and frequent natural disasters due to man-made climate change and global public health emergencies, Congress and the federal government must step up.