

During 2019 state legislative sessions alone, more than 300 anti-abortion bills were introduced, and 58 restrictions were enacted—nearly half of which were abortion bans.

Right now, six states are pushing for anti-abortion constitutional amendments.

There are five states in the nation that already have only one abortion provider.

This President has packed the courts in unprecedented and extraordinary ways.

Nearly 200 Trump-appointed judges now occupy lifetime positions on the federal bench, many with extreme records hostile to reproductive health and rights, and are poised to make decisions about our reproductive rights and health for a generation.

And these fights go beyond abortion.

The administration's domestic gag rule forced Planned Parenthood and other health care providers out of Title X, the nation's only program dedicated to affordable birth control and other reproductive health care.

The move jeopardized health care for Title X's four million patients, 40 percent of whom received care at Planned Parenthood health centers prior to the rule.

Last month, the administration approved Texas' request to implement a Medicaid family planning program that bars patients from accessing care at Planned Parenthood.

When Texas first barred Planned Parenthood from serving patients, nearly 40 percent fewer women got the health care they needed.

This sets a dangerous precedent for other states, which could now pursue similar state-level measures with grim consequences for health care access nationwide.

Madam Speaker, this is not what the American people want.

Support for abortion access is at an all-time high; nearly 80 percent of Americans do not want to see *Roe v. Wade* overturned.

There is no state in the nation where making abortion illegal is popular.

The American people want more access to health care, not less, and it is more critical than ever to see through this inflammatory misinformation campaign.

Madam Speaker, the right to make decisions about reproductive health care, including abortion, is central to individual equality.

The right enables a person to decide if, when, and how to start and grow their family.

It enables people to pursue and advance in their education and employment, and to be full and equal participants in society.

Laws that restrict reproductive freedom, including restrictions on abortion and birth control, perpetuate harmful stereotypes about gender roles and undermine gender equality.

Courts, federal law, and the public have long connected reproductive freedom with equality.

Reproductive freedom is central to women's equality, for as the Supreme Court said in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, "The ability of women to participate equally in the economic and social life of the Nation has been facilitated by their ability to control their reproductive lives."

Americans understand this connection and it is reflected in a January 2019 national poll showing 71 percent of voters agree—48 percent agree strongly—that equal rights for women includes access to reproductive health care.

ALEXA CLAUSSEN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Alexa Claussen for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Alexa Claussen is a student at Wheat Ridge High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Alexa Claussen is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Alexa Claussen for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

**PROTECTING AMERICAN LUNGS
AND REVERSING THE YOUTH TOBACCO
EPIDEMIC ACT (H.R. 2339)**

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2020

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2339, the Protecting American Lungs and Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act.

After years of declining smoking rates in the United States, the introduction of e-cigarettes has caused an alarming uptick in the rate of smoking, particularly amongst younger Americans. According to the U.S. Surgeon General, more than 5.3 million middle school and high school students used e-cigarettes in 2019, an alarming increase of more than 3 million in two years.

H.R. 2339 offers a comprehensive approach for how we can reverse the youth vaping epidemic by banning promotion and advertising targeted at kids, taxing e-cigarettes the same way we tax other forms of tobacco, and banning online sales of most tobacco products. More specifically, this bill fulfills the promise that the Trump Administration failed to follow through with by banning all flavors for e-cigarettes and e-liquids for devices that use open-tank systems.

While I support the overall bill, I maintain some concerns with certain provisions within the legislation. Specifically, I am concerned with the effects this flavor ban may have for older Americans that use pipe tobacco and/or hookah. Some of my constituents who have been using the same flavored tobacco for pipes or hookah for decades should not be forced to give up their flavor of preference, especially when statistics indicate that younger Americans are not prone to use these products.

Although I have these various concerns, I am still eager to take on "Big Nicotine" and support the passage of H.R. 2339 to curb

youth tobacco usage. I look forward to fixing any issues my colleagues and I may have when this bill goes to conference with the Senate.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for Protecting American Lungs and Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act.

**TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM "BILL"
FLOYD ON HIS RETIREMENT**

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2020

Ms. PINGREE. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize a visionary social justice advocate and leader in my state who is retiring after several decades of working to improve the lives of his fellow citizens.

William ("Bill") Floyd trained as a social worker, held leadership roles in state government, and worked for over three decades to develop housing and provide services for individuals with disabilities, people with very low income, and those experiencing homelessness. His advocacy on behalf of marginalized Mainers is legendary, and in 2015, Bill received the Joseph Brannigan Community Excellence Award in recognition of his work to address the housing and support needs of individuals with mental illness.

His commitment to volunteerism is exemplified by leading and serving on myriad boards, including Mobius, Inc., the Maine Association of Nonprofits, the Northern New England Housing Investment Fund, and the Community Development Advisory Council for the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. Prior to becoming the Executive Director of the Genesis Fund in 2007, he also served six years on their Board of Directors.

The Genesis Fund, a Certified Community Development Financial Institution, provides innovative financing to create affordable housing and community facilities for underserved people and communities. Under Bill Floyd's leadership, both their assets and loan portfolio have grown by over 600 percent, and they have extended their reach by providing technical assistance to nonprofit organizations across Maine seeking state, federal, and private funding opportunities.

Bill Floyd's leadership at the Genesis Fund has resulted in resources for some of Maine's most vulnerable citizens, including single parents and their children, low-income working families, the elderly, homeless individuals and families, and people with disabilities. Bill knows that the impact of affordable housing on individuals and families is profound and leads to better health, improved student performance, better job opportunities, and increased financial stability and personal security. Further, it transforms entire communities.

Bill Floyd has spent his professional life ensuring that no one in our society be written off. His public service to struggling individuals, families, and communities across Maine has left a legacy, and for that I thank him wholeheartedly and wish him all the best in his retirement.