

portions that I think are a mistake. But, Mr. Speaker, this is our time for action. The good in here outweighs the bad. Do not hold this bill up. We owe it to the citizens of this great country who are struggling. We owe action for them today.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FRED STARR

HON. TED BUDD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 7, 2020*

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Fred Starr of Greensboro, North Carolina.

Fred was born on December 11, 1932 in Springfield, Massachusetts. He graduated from Trinity College in 1955 and went on to serve his country in the U.S. Army for two years. After more than a decade in sales and management positions, Fred eventually found his way to Thomasville Furniture Industries. He started there in 1974 and rose up the ranks to become President and CEO by 1982. He oversaw Thomasville Furniture Industries until 1998.

Outside of being active in the furniture world, Fred was deeply involved with many different organizations in our community. Some of the positions he held included President of the Piedmont Triad Partnership, Vice Chairman of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, board member of High Point University, board President of the Eastern Music Festival, and chairman of the North Carolina Shakespeare Festival.

When thinking of the giants in the North Carolina furniture industry, Fred Starr is certainly at the top of the list. He had a significant impact on his community and on the state of North Carolina. His contributions will live on for years to come.

Please join me in gratitude for Fred's life and in praying for Sue, his wife of 62 years, and for the entire Starr family.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IMPROVING ACCESS TO JOBS ACT

HON. JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 7, 2020*

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Improving Access to Jobs Act along with my colleagues Congresswoman AYANNA PRESSLEY and Congressman MARK TAKANO.

Americans are stuck in congestion, on crumbling roadways and transit systems, and are too often forced to travel further and further for jobs because our system fails to provide safe and convenient choices other than a car trip.

The Improving Access to Jobs Act requires that 'safe and convenient access to employment' is an added condition for States' minimum standards for public roads—for both new construction and roadway improvement projects.

States and metropolitan planning organizations will assess how the transportation system connects people to jobs by auto, transit, bike, and pedestrian investments, and ensures new investments do not degrade transit, bike, and pedestrian access.

The Improving Access to Jobs Act will also adjust the definition of access to incorporate a measurement of travel times, travel stress for active travel (bike and pedestrian), and cost for low-income travelers.

I am glad that the Improving Access to Jobs Act is endorsed by Transportation for America (T4A), Sierra Club, National Resources Defense Council (NRDC), National Association of

City Transportation Officials (NACTO), Environmental Law and Policy Center (ELPC), Rails-to-Trails Conservancy.

The Improving Access to Jobs Act will reconnect our communities, enabling people to take shorter, more convenient trips, reducing congestion and emissions, and improving access to jobs for all.

I urge this body to swiftly pass this legislation.

THANK YOU TO WASHINGTON STATE'S FIRST RESPONDERS

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 7, 2020*

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank the 3,360 emergency medical technicians and paramedics, 7,190 firefighters, and 9,670 police and sheriffs patrol officers who are on the front lines in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic in Washington state.

While most workers are under stay at home orders, these Washingtonians go out into the field, risking exposure to a contagious and deadly virus in order to protect the public.

The lack of personal protective equipment for public safety offers is unacceptable. I have spoken with first responders from my district who have contracted COVID-19 or been forced to self-isolate because of potential exposure.

Madam Speaker, I rise to express my gratitude for first responders and call on Congress to ensure firefighters, police officers, EMTs and paramedics have the personal protective equipment they need to do their dangerous jobs safely during the ongoing pandemic.