

Without further support, hospitals will face another financial crisis just months from now as the government begins to withhold Medicare payments for services provided after the pandemic fades and until the loans are repaid. While the \$175 billion provider grant program, designed to provide support to all providers, is helpful, much more support is needed.

This legislation will provide Medicare Accelerated and Advance Payments loan forgiveness to ensure the additional financial support hospitals and other providers direly need. Forgiveness would be for health care related expenses or lost revenues that are directly attributable to coronavirus. And, just like the requirement in the provider grant program, providers electing to have their advance payment loans forgiven would be obligated to abstain from balance or surprise billing any patient for COVID-related treatment.

The bill outlines: forgiveness would be for health care related expenses or lost revenues that are directly attributable to COVID-19, providers electing to have their advance payment loans forgiven would be obligated to abstain from balance billing any patient for COVID-related treatment, and criteria for transparency and accountability of the loan forgiveness, including no executive compensation.

Hospitals across my district have shared that in the absence of more financial support, including this forgiveness, it is possible some hospitals will be forced to close or significantly scale back operations. This would be a tragic consequence, especially if the country is hit with another round of the viral epidemic in the near future. I thank my colleague and fellow Ohioan Representative BOB GIBBS for his bipartisan work on this, and our growing list of bipartisan cosponsors—we look forward to working with the Senate to further action on hospital loan forgiveness.

MAREK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CELEBRATES THEIR 2020 KINDERGARTEN CLASS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 22, 2020

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marek Elementary School in Alvin, Texas for their work making their kindergarten class' graduation special amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Students and parents were caught off-guard by schools closing their doors for the rest of the school year in March due to the coronavirus. Many worried that their students would not experience their last days of kindergarten. However, the staff at Marek Elementary came up with a creative way to stay safe while celebrating its younger learners: a drive-by parade.

The Marek Elementary staff held the parade so that the students had a fun way to say goodbye to their kindergarten year without going inside the building. Music, decorated cars and costumes filed in outside of the school to let students know the pandemic would not stop their graduation.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I thank the staff of Marek Elementary for making sure these students were able to celebrate moving onto first

grade. Congratulations to the kindergarten students of Marek Elementary for finishing their kindergarten year.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF GEORGE WASHINGTON BIGGS

HON. RUBEN GALLEGOS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 22, 2020

Mr. GALLEGOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 95th birthday of George Washington Biggs, and recognize his service as a veteran of Army Air Corps and Air Force. As a Tuskegee Airman and recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal, he is an exemplary American and Arizonan to whom we all owe a debt of gratitude.

A native of Nogales, Arizona, Mr. Biggs joined the Army Air Corps in 1944 and trained at the Tuskegee Institute, the all-black flight training school in Alabama. He was one of two Arizonans to graduate from the program. After training during World War II, Mr. Biggs re-enlisted in the Army Air Corps as a non-commissioned officer and subsequently received direct commission as an officer in the newly formed United States Air Force. He went on to achieve the rank of major and flew B-47 and B-52 bombers in the Korean and Vietnam wars.

Since retiring from the military, Mr. Biggs has lived and worked in Nogales for the U.S. Customs Service. He has raised a family and since retired. In 2007, Mr. Biggs and other Tuskegee Airmen received the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian recognition awarded by Congress, for the group's "unique military record that inspired revolutionary reform in the Armed Forces."

I believe that Mr. Biggs' character and actions truly embody what it means to serve one's country. Not only did he fly in multiple wars, he rose above expectation and obligation as a pilot and an officer. In addition to his time in the Army Air Corps and Air Force, his integrity, modesty, and principled character are values that we can all learn from and should strive to emulate.

I would like to express my personal appreciation for the service of George Washington Biggs, and my hopes that he has a happy 95th birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF RALPH BUNCHE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 22, 2020

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the great history of Ralph Bunche High School in King George County, Virginia. As one of the first African-American schools to receive equitable contributions in its funding, Ralph Bunche High set the standard for our nation in addressing racial inequality.

At the time of Ralph Bunche High School's inception, America was still under the wing of the discriminatory Jim Crow laws. It was a

somber period where African-Americans were treated unjustly and were not afforded equitable opportunities. Moreover, school segregation made it such that African-American students were not sufficiently supported in terms of decent provisions in technology, infrastructure, and even quality of education.

Finally, on July 29, 1948, Civil Action 631 set the stage for the construction of Ralph Bunche High School and provided much-needed relief for the students that attended the school. Just like other prominent civil rights leaders, the plaintiffs for this case faced the same dangers from radical segregationists. Nevertheless, the brave plaintiffs, composed of pupils and concerned parents, persevered and provided a great service to their community by advocating for equal financial distribution for African-American students.

The construction of Ralph Bunche High School was a landmark event for King George County. The school's namesake has a noteworthy history in serving both his community and country. For instance, his steadfast efforts in achieving the 1949 Armistice Agreements between the Arab states and Israel culminated in his award for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1950. In addition, during the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. Bunche played a significant role by participating in iconic events, like the 1963 March on Washington.

To sum up, the legacy of Ralph Bunche High School lives as strong today as it did in 1949. Among the first cases to be brought forward, Civil Action 631 begun a series of cases that ultimately led to the integration of African-American students nationwide and mandated that the latter receive equitable educational support. Having the school named after Dr. Bunche proved highly commendable and the school's designation as a State and National Historic Landmark was well-deserved.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask that you rise with me in remembering the history of Ralph Bunche High School, the heroes that participated in its birth and those who continue the legacy to preserve educational equality.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF JASON TERRELL

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 22, 2020

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Jason Terrell, who passed away on Tuesday, June 9, after a long battle with cancer.

Jason was born on July 10, 1974, in Indianola, Mississippi. Shortly after graduating high school, Jason joined the United States Marine Corps and fought our nation's enemies during Operation Restore Hope Somalia. He went on to obtain the rank of Corporal, and later joined the Mississippi Highway Patrol. Jason not only patrolled Mississippi highways, but also served as an expert marksman for the Mississippi Highway Patrol SWAT team. When Sargent First Class Terrell was not patrolling Mississippi highways, he was hunting, fishing, or worshipping at First Baptist Church of Vardaman.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife, Tara Winter Terrell; daughter, Maddie Terrell; mother, Beverly Charlotte Mitchell; step-father,