

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOHN
LEWIS

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2020

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I join in the tributes to John Lewis with great personal appreciation for his extraordinary life and work and for the opportunity to have served alongside him as friend and colleague for more than thirty years.

My wife Lisa and I first got to know John and his late wife Lillian as new members of the House, classmates first elected in 1986. I have seen him advance to a senior position on the Ways and Means Committee, fighting especially to secure good, affordable health care for all. He has also invested great effort in protecting, and then restoring, the Voting Rights Act after the Supreme Court eliminated the crucial preclearance process.

From the start, however, John used his position to interpret and educate as well as to legislate. Most famously, he led the annual Faith and Politics pilgrimage to that bridge in Selma, the site of Bloody Sunday, where John almost lost his life, among other civil rights sites. But a day did not go by that he did not recount to colleagues or constituents or total strangers the history and meaning of the Movement. He was never too busy—I expect all of us have witnessed this—to stop whatever he was doing to greet a school group with a word of inspiration or to answer a visitor's questions.

While John's place in history is secured by his bold and visionary civil rights leadership, exemplified by his courage to press forward on that bridge, his greatness also consists of a lifetime telling and retelling the story and calling our country and all of us to our better selves. His leadership had biblical qualities, evoking both the call to justice of the Hebrew prophets and the love ethic of the Sermon on the Mount. We often say that someone was "one of a kind", but of John it was really true.

John's death leaves a huge void. His memory leaves us profoundly grateful to have shared some portion of his journey and also compels us to carry forward his vision of justice that "rolls down like waters" and the struggles it requires.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN
OPERATIONS, AND RELATED
PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2020

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, let me thank Chairman SANFORD BISHOP and Chair NITA

LOWEY. I also appreciate the commitment that Ranking Members JEFF FORTENBERRY and KAY GRANGER have shown to support the hard work of our farmers and the safety of consumers. I had the honor of chairing this subcommittee a number of years ago, and I know firsthand the amount of work it takes. We face a health crisis and an economic crisis that have exposed serious disparities in our systems. This pandemic has further demonstrated how many were living on a knife's edge, and I strongly believe we must be doing more, not less.

This 2021 bill is recommending an increase of \$487 million, almost \$24 billion. It builds on the work we have done in the emergency response bills for our nation's farmers, families, frontline food workers. This pandemic has pinpointed to us where our system of supports, our social safety net, is not as strong as we believed it to be, as strong as our families, our farmers and our food workers need it to be. So, I am glad this bill is making short-term and long-term investments. Let me touch on a few areas of strength.

The bill makes strong investments to address the scourge of hunger in our country. The Census Bureau recently conducted a Household Pulse Survey to gather household information during the COVID-19 Pandemic. They found, quote, "Households with children were more likely to report permanent loss of employment and food shortages since the start of the pandemic."

Along with providing the necessary funding for the Food Stamp Program, Women, Infants and Children, and Child Nutrition Programs, the bill includes language to block implementation of rules that would threaten benefits for hundreds of thousands of people. I want to remind my colleagues that food stamp spending is a powerful anti-recession tool. It has previously been estimated that for each dollar spent from benefits, a \$1.70 is generated in economic activity.

The bill also takes action to ensure the safety of our nation's food supply, as well as the health of the workers producing that food. Workers on the frontline of our food supply chain—food processing, meat and poultry plant employees, and farmworkers—play an essential role in the availability of food. I thank the Chairman for his leadership on including language to prevent USDA from granting linespeed waivers to corporate meatpackers as well as the inclusion of language encouraging USDA to prioritize financial assistance to employers of farmworkers who can show they are complying with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines. We must push for leadership and accountability.

Recently, FDA Commissioner Hahn refused to refute the president's false claim about the severity of the virus. As has been reported by the Boston Globe, quote, "the World Health Organization has said about 20 percent of those diagnosed with COVID-19 progress to severe disease, including pneumonia and respiratory failure." But, the president said 99 percent of cases were, quote, "totally harm-

less." CNN's Dana Bash pressed Commissioner Hahn on this false claim. But, Commissioner Hahn said, quote, "I'm not going to get into who's right and who's wrong." That is the mission of the FDA, as the public's primary regulatory agency for public health. The mandate of the agency is to distinguish between right and wrong, especially as it relates to misleading claims about this virus. So, as we invest in the FDA's mission, I look forward to working with others on the subcommittee and the full committee to make sure the agency provides the most accurate information to the public.

Finally, I am proud of the \$2 billion in international food aid provided by this bill. The COVID-19 pandemic has increased hardship around the globe and I believe we have a moral obligation to lend a helping hand. The bill includes \$1.775 billion for Food for Peace grants, \$235 million for McGovern-Dole, and again provides \$1 million in funding for the International Agricultural Education Fellowship program.

I close by thanking the leadership of this committee for continuing to be taking the long term and near-term actions necessary to be protecting the public, for food security, for food safety, and worker safety. This is what the social safety net is for: To assist members of our community in their time of need. No one should fall through the cracks. No one need suffer.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN
OPERATIONS, AND RELATED
PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2020

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my support for H.R. 7608, the State and Foreign Operations, Agriculture, Rural Development, Interior, Environment, Military Construction, and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2021. This year's legislation includes a number of priorities that I have advocated for which will benefit my home state of Rhode Island, protect our environment, benefit families, serve our nation's veterans, and strengthen our national security. I would like to thank Chairwoman LOWEY and Ranking Member GRANGER, as well as the Subcommittee Chairs and Ranking Members for their work on this year's House legislation.

The State and Foreign Operations division makes important strides in strengthening our national security. For the past three and a half years, the Trump Administration has made us less safe. The State Foreign Operations and Related Agencies funding bill, however, would make the country, and Rhode Islanders, safer. Along with funds for diplomacy—something that the United States should be investing in,

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