

also pleased to see restored funding for authoritative reports such as the National Climate Assessments and the Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments program to help provide regions with decision making support services and tools.

This bill makes much needed investments at the Department of Energy, which supports the world-class facilities and expertise of our national laboratories as well as many important activities at our universities and in the private sector. DOE also serves as one of our most valuable tools in the fight against climate change. Alone, the \$12.5 billion dedicated to DOE's non-defense research, development, and demonstration activities in this bill would amount to a slight cut of 0.2 percent compared to FY20 enacted levels. However, the bill also includes \$12.4 billion in additional, critical research infrastructure investments. Thus DOE's Office of Science, ARPA-E, and other applied energy programs would all receive significant funding increases under this bill, which would significantly enhance the development of new clean energy technologies and provide valuable support to the U.S. research enterprise when such support is desperately needed.

I also want to speak on important provisions within the Health and Human Services funding division. In consideration of our current public health crisis, this appropriations bill rebuilds our nation's aging public health infrastructure by providing \$24.425 billion in emergency spending to support state and local public health departments, public health laboratories, and global health activities. This investment is essential to developing national resilience amid the current pandemic caused by the novel coronavirus and from future public health threats. We also have included operational and contingency funding to assist states with the unanticipated unemployment insurance workloads, as millions of individuals have come to rely on such benefits to survive the current economic turmoil.

Among the multiple laudable improvements made in this bill, I am specifically encouraged by the inclusion of my report language on telehealth training and education for Medicaid beneficiaries. Our nation has recognized the potential for telehealth, remote monitoring, and digital health technologies to help meet the needs of patients and families, especially during this public health emergency. As healthcare providers expanding their delivery of virtual care, we must have a comprehensive understanding of the training and education needs of beneficiaries and caregivers on how to successfully utilize such telehealth services and technologies. My language directs the Administration of Community Living to work with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and other stakeholders to develop such resources that account for age-related differences in our interactions with technology.

With all that is happening across our nation, we must make sure that our communities have the mental health services and support their need to withstand and recover from these months of turmoil. That is why I am proud of the \$21 million allocated for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, which is \$2 million more than last year. Additionally, this bill includes \$758 million for the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant, which will provide our states and territories the mental health resources that are so needed during these times.

This bill also includes critical funding for lupus programs, which I supported as co-chair of the Congressional Lupus Caucus. The National Lupus Patient Registry at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is to receive \$8.5 million, and the Office of Minority Health and their National Lupus Training, Outreach, and Clinical Trial Program is to receive \$2 million.

Now, let me turn my attention to the Education funding division. As we continue to address the needs of Americans during this pandemic, I am happy to see that this bill includes critical funding necessary to ensure our young people have access to quality education, whether it be at home, in school, or a hybrid model. I am particularly pleased to see the subcommittee recommend \$28.5 million in funding for the Innovative Approaches to Literacy program. This is an increase of \$1.5 million over the Fiscal year 2020 funding level. The increased funding for this program will ensure that schools, libraries, and non-profits can continue providing books and other literary materials to families in high need communities. As we try to address the stark differences in educational opportunity during this pandemic, programs like IAL are needed more than ever to ensure underserved students do not fall further behind in the areas of literacy and writing.

This bill also increases funding for Title I schools, Head Start, and special education programs, ensuring that the most vulnerable and needy get the services they need in the classroom.

Regarding Higher Education, this bill increases funding to various HBCU programs and raises the maximum Pell Grant amount by \$150 to \$6,495. This funding increase will help students keep up with the rising cost of higher education.

Regarding the funding provisions for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, I am pleased at the increased investments made to affordable housing and homelessness programs. We have dedicated \$9.1 billion for the Office of Community Planning and Development, an increase of \$1.1 billion above the 2020 enacted level. There is also \$3.5 billion for Community Development Block Grants, a critical program that the President's budget request proposed to eliminate. As co-chair of the Congressional Homelessness Caucus, I am very supportive of the \$3.4 billion for Homeless Assistance Grants, which is \$638 million more than what was dedicated in fiscal year 2020. Multiple other programs have also received funding increases, including \$103 million for the Education for Homeless Children and Youth program, \$140 million for Runaway and Homeless Youth program, and \$57.5 million for the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program. With the economic upheaval caused by this coronavirus, we must be completely dedicated to preventing and alleviating homelessness, as that is the only way to lessen the difficulties currently experienced by our communities.

As representatives of Americans from all corners of our country, we have a responsibility to protect the livelihood and well-being of our families and communities, especially during this public health emergency. On behalf of the constituents of the 30th District of Texas, I urge my colleagues to support this funding bill for fiscal year 2021.

## RECOGNIZING UTAH TEACHERS AND EDUCATORS

**HON. BEN McADAMS**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 31, 2020*

Mr. McADAMS. Madam Speaker, all of us have fond memories of a favorite teacher—someone who became a mentor that inspired us to reach for our dreams. In ordinary times, classrooms are where we discover—with help from our teachers—the doors an education will open for us as we pursue our passions.

These are far from ordinary times. Just a few short months ago, kids left school on a Friday and then started the following Monday in an entirely new learning environment. They learned lessons from teachers talking to them on a computer screen, as teachers quickly shifted their lesson plans to online learning. Parents got a crash course in what it's like to keep children engaged with assignments and learning over a seven-hour day.

We have always asked a lot of our teachers and school principals in Utah. They juggle resources that are stretched thin. They must be prepared to teach children with a range of learning styles and abilities. They wear many hats beside that of teachers—counselor, referee, nurse, bookkeeper, fundraiser and organizational expert. This fall, they are being tested by a dramatically more difficult circumstance—preparing to go back to school in the face of a highly-contagious virus, about which not much is known, except that sometimes it can be lethal.

I'm a father of four school-age children and the son of a teacher. I like to think that I value and appreciate the teaching profession and unique ability teachers have, to connect a curious child's mind with knowledge, aspiration, and discipline.

As this unprecedented fall 2020 school year approaches, as we all struggle to make sense of what classrooms this fall will look like, I would like to salute all Utah teachers and staff and thank them for their extraordinary dedication to their work and to our children.

## SARAH KEYS EVANS PLAZA RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

**HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 31, 2020*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the profound contributions of North Carolina's own, Sarah Keys Evans, a civil rights pioneer in the fight against racial segregation, and to celebrate the unveiling of the Sarah Keys Evans Plaza in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina. The unveiling Ceremony for the plaza will take place on Saturday, August 1, 2020; at the M.L. King Community Park.

Before the 1955 arrest of Rosa Parks and the Montgomery bus boycott that followed, there was Sarah Keys Evans. Her refusal to give up her seat on an interstate charter bus prompted the landmark court case, *Sarah Keys v. Carolina Coach Company*, in which the Interstate Commerce Commission outlawed the segregation of Black passengers in buses traveling across state lines.