

The Free Veterans from Fees Act has bipartisan support and has been endorsed by AMVETS, a veteran organization that represents 250,000 members nationwide.

I thank the House Committee on Natural Resources for holding a hearing on this bill and I am pleased to see it on the legislative calendar. You may also remember this bill was passed through the Committee and through suspension on the House floor last Congress, and we hope that we can get this bill passed under suspension this Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HAALAND) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1702, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill waive the application fee for any special use permit for veterans' special events at war memorials on land administered by the National Park Service in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

B-47 RIDGE DESIGNATION ACT

Ms. HAALAND. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 490) to designate a mountain ridge in the State of Montana as "B-47 Ridge".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 490

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "B-47 Ridge Designation Act".

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF B-47 RIDGE, MONTANA.

(a) DESIGNATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The unnamed mountain ridge located at 45°14'40.89" N., 110°43'38.75" W. that runs south and west of Emigrant Peak in the Absaroka Range in the State of Montana, which is the approximate site of a crash of a B-47, shall be known and designated as "B-47 Ridge".

(2) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the ridge described in paragraph (1) shall be deemed to be a reference to "B-47 Ridge".

(b) AUTHORIZATION FOR PLAQUE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture may authorize the installation and maintenance of a plaque on B-47 Ridge that—

(A) memorializes the 1962 crash of the B-47 aircraft at the site; and

(B) may include the names of the victims of the crash.

(2) AUTHORIZED TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary of Agriculture may include any terms and conditions in the authorization for a plaque under paragraph (1) that the Secretary of Agriculture determines to be necessary.

(3) FUNDING.—No Federal funds may be used to design, procure, install, or maintain the plaque authorized under paragraph (1).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HAALAND) and the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. CHENEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HAALAND. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

Ms. HAALAND. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 490 the B-47 Ridge Designation Act.

One of our priorities on the House Natural Resources Committee this Congress has been to enhance public lands access for veterans and servicemembers and that includes allowing our public lands to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

This bill would designate an unnamed mountain range near Emigrant Peak in the State of Montana as "B-47 Ridge" and allow the installation of a commemorative plaque at the site.

The name and plaque would memorialize the tragic end to a routine training flight on the night of July 23, 1962. Four U.S. Air Force servicemembers lost their lives when their B-47 strategic bomber crashed at 8,500 feet. Debris from the crash can still be seen on the ridge today.

This bill appropriately honors the memory and sacrifice of Captain Faulconer, Lieutenant Lloyd Sawyers, Lieutenant David Sutton, and Lieutenant Hixenbaugh.

I urge its immediate adoption, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 490 designates the mountain ridge where an Air Force B-47 strategic bomber crashed while on a training mission in Montana in 1962 as the "B-47 Ridge."

This bill is the Senate companion to H.R. 1267, which our Congressman GIANFORTE led here in the House. Nearly 60 years have passed since that U.S. Air Force B-47 bomber left Texas and crashed into Montana's Emigrant Peak just north of Yellowstone National Park in the Paradise Valley. Debris remains on the ridge where the plane crashed. S. 490 will rename the area the "B-47 Ridge" to honor the four-man crew who perished in the wreck.

Those brave airmen who died that day on the southwestern slope of Emigrant Peak during a training mission were: Captain Bill Faulconer, Lieutenant Lloyd Sawyers, Lieutenant David Sutton, and Lieutenant Fred Hixenbaugh.

This legislation will also allow for the placement of a memorial plaque

which will be paid for by the crew's families and the local community.

This is a good and important bill honoring the sacrifice of those airmen and I applaud Congressman GIANFORTE and the entire Montana delegation for their efforts to get this lasting tribute signed into law.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HAALAND. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HAALAND) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 490.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TRIBAL SCHOOL FEDERAL INSURANCE PARITY ACT

Ms. HAALAND. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 895) to allow tribal grant schools to participate in the Federal Employee Health Benefits program.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 895

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Tribal School Federal Insurance Parity Act".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO THE INDIAN HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT.

Section 409 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1647b) is amended by inserting "or the Tribally Controlled Schools Act of 1988 (25 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.)" after "(25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.)".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HAALAND) and the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. CHENEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HAALAND. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

Ms. HAALAND. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 895, introduced by Representative DUSTY JOHNSON of South Dakota, authorizes Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations operating Tribally controlled schools the ability to access the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program.

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Prior to 2010, Tribal employees generally lacked access to the FEHB program. To fix this, Congress passed the Indian Healthcare Improvement Act in 2010.

However, eligibility for Federal health benefits was granted only to the Tribal nations that utilized the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, leaving behind the tribally controlled schools that operate pursuant to the Tribally Controlled Schools Act.

This gap has resulted in significant financial strains on 126 tribally controlled schools and has made it difficult for them to recruit and maintain quality educators. Passage of H.R. 895 will remove this disparity and ensure that all BIE-operated and BIE-funded tribally operated schools' employees have access to the FEHB program.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank our colleague, Representative JOHNSON, for championing this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 895, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 895. As my colleague from New Mexico described it, this bill would enable Tribal grant school employees to participate in the Federal Health Benefits Program.

Under current law, the Bureau of Indian Education employees and tribally managed schools operating under a self-determination contract are already eligible for this benefit. It is time that we helped Tribal grant schoolteachers.

This bill will not only provide parity for the benefits that employees receive at other schools serving Native children, but it will help keep essential moneys focused on education itself.

I want to thank the sponsor of this legislation, my colleague Congressman DUSTY JOHNSON, for his thoughtful leadership on this issue.

This stand-alone legislation will go a long way to help Tribal grant schools during the COVID-19 recovery period and beyond.

I am disappointed, however, Mr. Speaker, that the Democrat majority has refused to act on S. 886, the Indian Water Rights Settlement Extension Act. S. 886 includes the text of this bill and would also help Tribes in one of the hardest hit COVID-19 regions of the country, the Navajo Nation, which has cited lack of water as a complication for fending off and defeating this deadly virus.

S. 886 addresses this very issue by ensuring better access to water for the Tribe. Unfortunately, the majority has let this water settlement agreement for the Navajo collect dust. It has been 90 days since the Senate passed this bipartisan bill. Despite repeated requests for its consideration, the Democrats have taken no action to see this critical agreement enacted into law.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from Navajo President Nez

asking Speaker PELOSI to schedule a vote on final passage on S. 886.

THE NAVAJO NATION,
Window Rock, AZ, July 28, 2020.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Republican Leader,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI AND LEADER MCCARTHY: We respectfully request that you schedule a vote on final passage of S. 886, the Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Act (NUWRSA), before the House leaves for the August recess. As discussed and explained in our June 22, 2020 letter to the House, nearly 40 percent of the Navajo Nation lacks running water or adequate sanitation in their homes. To make matters worse, the Navajo Nation's COVID-19 infection rate on a per capita basis is one of the highest in the country and the Navajo Nation has more COVID-19 deaths than many states. The House has an opportunity to take immediate action to mitigate future COVID-19 outbreaks and address the drinking water crisis on the Navajo Reservation by passing S. 886. Although the Senate unanimously passed S. 886, the House of Representatives has so not acted on it, further delaying the relief that it will ultimately bring to the Navajo people.

The Navajo Nation has over 300,000 enrolled members and is the largest Indian reservation spanning portions of Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. The conditions on Navajo are dire and the pandemic only compounds our needs. With so few watering points across the Navajo Nation, families must travel hours to reach these points and must ration their water accordingly. Without access to clean drinking water, the Navajo Nation will continue to struggle, and its members will be more susceptible to deadly illnesses such as COVID-19.

S. 886 would provide the means to begin to address these critical needs. Through NUWRSA, the Navajo Nation would receive approximately \$220 million in federal and state funding for desperately needed drinking water infrastructure on the Reservation in exchange for the Nation waiving its water-related claims against the United States and State of Utah. In 2016, Congress first introduced the settlement legislation and on June 4, 2020, the Senate unanimously passed S. 886, demonstrating the broad bipartisan support for the legislation.

The Navajo Nation recognizes that there is more to be done for Indian Country and we stand ready to assist you on this work, but S. 886 is ready for final passage. The House's inaction on S. 886 or sending it back to the Senate for further consideration will only delay addressing the basic human needs of the Navajo people. Therefore, we respectfully request that you schedule a vote on final passage of S. 886 before the House recesses in August.

Sincerely,

JONATHAN NEZ, *President*.

MYRON LIZER, *Vice President*.

Ms. CHENEY. Again, Mr. Speaker, we support the passage of Congressman JOHNSON's bill, H.R. 895, and would also prefer to enact this provision into law along with measures that will help the Navajo Nation with their broader water shortages.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I will begin by thanking Ranking Member CHENEY and Congresswoman HAALAND for their support

and for their warm words of support for this measure.

They are right. H.R. 895 is about fairness; it is about equity; and it is about improving Tribal school outcomes across this country.

Now, I don't know that it matters where you live in this country, and I don't know that it matters where you are in the political spectrum, it seems like one of the things you should be able to recognize is that one of our most difficult and most important challenges in this country is ensuring quality education for our Native students.

Unintentionally, a few years ago, Congress complicated those efforts. We passed the Indian Healthcare Improvement Act. As a part of that act, we made it clear that section 638 Tribal schools could access the Federal employee health insurance benefits. But we denied that same treatment—again, unintentionally—for the section 297 schools. In the decade since we have done that, millions of dollars have flown out of the classroom and, instead, toward these health insurance benefits.

Our bill, my bill, the Tribal School Federal Insurance Parity Act, fixes that oversight, closes that loophole, and addresses this problem without costing our Federal Government a nickel.

I have visited Tribal grant schools, most recently just a few weeks ago. I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, Superintendent Whirlwind Horse and her team work hard every single day. They are at Wounded Knee School on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. They work hard to provide these educational opportunities even with incredibly scarce resources.

My friend, Cecilia Fire Thunder, the president of the Oglala Lakota Nation Education Consortium, understands those challenges, which is why she has been focused on this issue for a long time.

If we pass this bill, we will make their jobs just a little bit easier as they work to shift those dollars into the classroom to focus them on student education, to focus them on student outcomes, and to focus them on improving the lives of young people in Indian Country.

So, I ask my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, for a "yes" vote, and I ask us all to work with the Senate to pass H.R. 895 before the end of the 116th Congress.

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HAALAND. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HAALAND) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 895.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JUSTICE FOR JUVENILES ACT

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5053) to exempt juveniles from the requirements for suits by prisoners, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5053

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Justice for Juveniles Act”.

SEC. 2. EXEMPTION OF JUVENILES FROM THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SUITS BY PRISONERS.

Section 7 of the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (42 U.S.C. 1997e) is amended—

(1) in subsection (h), by striking “sentenced for, or adjudicated delinquent for,” and inserting “or sentenced for”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(i) EXEMPTION OF JUVENILE PRISONERS.—This section shall not apply to an action pending on the date of enactment of the Justice for Juveniles Act or filed on or after such date if such action is—

“(1) brought by a prisoner who has not attained 22 years of age; or

“(2) brought by any prisoner with respect to a prison condition that occurred before the prisoner attained 22 years of age.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5053, the Justice for Juveniles Act. This bipartisan bill, which I introduced along with my colleagues Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, and Mr. JEFFRIES, would eliminate the administrative exhaustion requirement for incarcerated youth before they may file a lawsuit challenging the conditions of their incarceration.

By passing this bill today, the House will advance a measure to correct a manifest wrong currently present in Federal law and continue bipartisan efforts to support incarcerated youth.

This bill recognizes the same conclusion that has been embraced by the Supreme Court and experts for decades—that incarcerated young people have different cognitive abilities than adults, that they are less mature, and

that they have a higher chance of being assaulted while incarcerated.

In recent years, our Nation has finally come to the realization that youth and adults have fundamentally different decisionmaking abilities. The Supreme Court has repeatedly cited adolescents’ lack of maturity as a reason why they are not as culpable as adults for their actions or able to recognize either certain consequences or dangers. Yet, in current law, there are no allowances for these differences in cognitive abilities when it comes to addressing deficiencies in conditions of confinement.

Pursuing claims under the Prison Litigation Reform Act, which requires an understanding of detailed grievance procedures and timelines, is nearly impossible for incarcerated youth, particularly when courts have been exacting in their requirements that the exhaustion requirements be followed, no matter how sympathetic the situation.

Understanding the grievance process is made even more challenging by the educational deficits faced by a substantial number of incarcerated juveniles. According to one study, among incarcerated youth, 85 percent are functionally illiterate, and the baseline reading levels vary from grade 1 to grade 6. In addition, approximately 70 percent of incarcerated juveniles have at least one learning disability. Youth are, furthermore, less likely than adults to recognize as risks the circumstances they face in a correctional facility.

Compounding these challenges, incarcerated youth, as a group, experience extraordinarily high rates of mental illness. Nearly 50 percent of incarcerated 16- to 18-year-olds suffer from a mental illness. Juveniles housed with adults are 10 times more likely to have psychotic episodes and have a suicide rate that is 7.7 times higher than those housed in juvenile facilities.

In recent years, the public has become more aware of the many dangers that lurk in correctional facilities. Hurricanes have flooded facilities; cold snaps have left prisoners freezing to death; and heat waves have killed prisoners when they lack proper ventilation or air-conditioning.

Of course, the 2019 expose by The Philadelphia Inquirer exposed a longstanding pattern of abuse of adolescents committed to the Glen Mills School, which was thereafter closed.

Incarceration or detention poses a special danger to youth who often don’t have the ability to experience or recognize that they are in immediate danger. Adolescents incarcerated with adults are also more prone to both physical and mental abuse. Youth are 50 percent more likely to be physically assaulted when they are housed in adult facilities than in juvenile facilities.

Taken together, incarcerated youth are simply not able to recognize or to effectively communicate when their prison conditions become dangerous or unconstitutionally deficient. There re-

mains little doubt that the current process needs to be changed.

That is why this bill proposes a modest reform to the Prison Litigation Reform Act. It simply exempts youth in correctional facilities from having to comply with technical grievance procedures before they can go to court to challenge the unconstitutional conditions of their confinement.

While I would like to see us do much, much more, this bill is a necessary first step, which I ask that my colleagues support today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. ARMSTRONG) will control the minority’s time.

There was no objection.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5053, the Justice for Juveniles Act. This bill eliminates some of the obstacles for juvenile prisoners seeking relief from our correctional facilities in Federal court.

Juvenile offenders often lack the knowledge to pursue and exhaust all the complex administrative rules and grievance procedures in our correctional facilities. H.R. 5053 will provide juvenile offenders quicker access to courts when they feel they are being abused or mistreated.

President Trump has been a leader on criminal justice reform. He signed into law the bipartisan First Step Act in December 2018. The President has also commuted the lengthy prison sentences of several nonviolent offenders and, more recently, pardoned Alice Johnson, who served 22 years of a life sentence for nonviolent drug trafficking.

This bill is another important step in criminal justice reform. I was honored to be the Republican lead on this bill. It was a pleasure to work with Ms. SCANLON from Pennsylvania, the bill’s primary sponsor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Mr. Speaker, this bill is a good piece of bipartisan legislation.

I agree with Ms. SCANLON; it is an important first step. But I also think it is important to recognize that, when we do place juvenile offenders in the adult criminal justice system, we are doing some things in a different way, and they have unique challenges that they face in those systems.

This is neither the time, necessarily, nor the place for the larger debate, but I think the least we can do is exhaust some of those administrative remedies, given what we know.

I was proud to be the Republican colead on this bill, and I look forward to its passage.