

NATIONAL CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN CONTINUOUS PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING ACT OF 2020

SPEECH OF

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 21, 2020*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4866, the National Centers of Excellence in Continuous Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Act of 2019. I'm proud to have advanced this bipartisan bill through my Health Subcommittee and I'm pleased to support it on the Floor.

The National Centers of Excellence in Continuous Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Act was introduced by Chairman Frank Pallone and Representative Brett Guthrie.

The bill directs FDA to designate National Centers of Excellence in Continuous Pharmaceutical Manufacturing which would work with the FDA and industry to craft a national framework for continuous manufacturing implementation.

The bill authorizes \$80 million to be appropriated from 2021 through 2025.

Continuous Manufacturing is an emerging technology that has been shown to greatly reduce both the time and the cost of developing and manufacturing medicines. It also enables significant improvements in the quality of the final product and the reliability of the manufacturing process.

Through H.R. 4866, the Centers of Excellence in continuous pharmaceutical manufacturing will organize industry efforts to develop continuous manufacturing technologies.

The Centers could help grow the number of companies capable of using these technologies from the current group of approximately ten companies to as many as 100 users.

Our nation's dangerous overreliance on foreign production of critical drugs and their ingredients have led to drug shortages, subpar manufacturing and drug quality. This threatens patient health and safety and poses national security risks to our allied forces.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated this vulnerability and demonstrates the national security and public health risks inherent in allowing China or another foreign nation to gain control of critical drug manufacturing.

This bill is an important first step to bring pharmaceutical manufacturing back to the United States, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

RECOGNIZING MICHELLE HARVEY AS CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

**HON. MIKE LEVIN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 22, 2020*

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Michelle Harvey, founder of the San Diego Face Mask Sewing Group, a Facebook community page dedicated to sewing face masks for donation. Now more than ever, as we continue addressing this unprecedented health crisis, it is on all of

us to do our part in stopping the spread of COVID-19. With this in mind, Michelle Harvey found herself getting to work behind the family sewing machine.

Ms. Harvey discovered her newly found sewing abilities when her friend, an ICU nurse at Tri-City Medical Center in Oceanside, informed her the hospital would begin taking mask donations. In hopes of providing face masks for as many essential workers as possible, Michelle reached out to others who would be interested in helping her cause and found an overwhelming amount of volunteers. From there, the now 1,800 member San Diego Face Mask Sewing Group took off.

Providing members of our community with a face mask is one of the easiest and most effective ways to slow the spread. So far, with the unwavering support of her mask-making group, Michelle coordinated the donation of around 50,000 masks to hospitals, charities, and community members across San Diego County. In an effort to ensure all followers are covered, The San Diego Face Mask Sewing Group also offers tutorials for people to create their own mask from scratch without ever having to leave their homes.

I launched a Constituent of the Month program to recognize individuals who have gone above and beyond to make our region and our country a stronger place for everyone to live and thrive. Today, I am proud to recognize Ms. Harvey as my Constituent of the Month, and I thank her for being a leader and role model in helping our community collectively work together to both protect our frontline workers and helping to stop the spread of COVID-19.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF AIS AND SEW THE MASKS

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 22, 2020*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Affordable Interior Systems (AIS) of Leominster, Massachusetts, a company in my Congressional District which manufactures office furniture and which has organized and joined together with people from across the United States to create an amazing new nonprofit initiative called Sew the Masks.

Like so many other patriotic Americans, when the AIS team began to see the terrible toll the coronavirus pandemic was inflicting on our country, they jumped into action. Affectionally drawing on the inspiration of World War II icon Rosie the Riveter, AIS leveraged their expertise and retrofitted a chair production line to produce high-quality, reusable masks.

Then, they mobilized their own employees, as well as individual sewers across the country, affectionately known as "Rosies," to create high-quality reusable masks for first responders and other essential employees at risk of COVID-19.

Fifty masks at a time, these volunteers are sewing the pre-cut masks that AIS provides and then shipping them out to corporate sponsors across the country, which then are distributed to communities in need.

AIS has also launched a special partnership with the United Way of North Central Massachusetts to help combine efforts and provide masks for United Way volunteers.

Madam Speaker, I find this dedication to the fight against COVID-19 nothing short of awe-inspiring. During these challenging times, AIS has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to helping their fellow Americans. They now have hundreds and hundreds of volunteers across the country, and their leadership is a true testament to the value of bringing people together to make a difference. I am sincerely grateful to the employees of AIS, including President and CEO Bruce Platzman, and to all the volunteers across America who have given their time and talent to this awe-inspiring and selfless cause.

On behalf of the United States Congress, the people of Massachusetts' Second Congressional District, and all the people impacted by this incredible work, it is my great honor and privilege to recognize AIS and Sew the Masks for their tireless efforts to support our communities during this unprecedented time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. WILLIAM R. TIMMONS, IV**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 22, 2020*

Mr. TIMMONS. Madam Speaker, I missed the votes the week of September 14, 2020, due to full-time military duties with the South Carolina Air National Guard.

Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 183; YEA on Roll Call No. 184; NAY on Roll Call No. 185; NAY on Roll Call No. 186; YEA on Roll Call No. 187; YEA on Roll Call No. 188; NAY on Roll Call No. 189; YEA on Roll Call No. 190; YEA on Roll Call No. 191; NAY on Roll Call No. 192; NAY on Roll Call No. 193; YEA on Roll Call No. 194; and NAY on Roll Call No. 195.

SUPPORTING FOUR BIPARTISAN BILLS THAT ADDRESS THE MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 22, 2020*

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of four important bipartisan bills that address the mental health crisis in our country during the pandemic and economic recession. H.R. 1646, the Helping Emergency Responders Overcome Act of 2019, H.R. 4564, the Suicide Prevention Lifeline Improvement Act of 2019, H.R. 4585, the Campaign to Prevent Suicide Act and H.R. 5619, the Suicide Prevention Act advanced through my Health Subcommittee and I'm pleased to support them on the Floor.

In a recent poll, half of adults report that their mental health has been negatively impacted due to the coronavirus. Add to this the mental impacts on those Americans who are grieving loved ones lost to the virus.

The economic downturn is also taking a mental toll on our fellow Americans. Studies found for every 1 percent increase in the unemployment rate, the suicide rate increases by 1 to 1.6 percent.

Despite the frequency of mental illness, too many suffer in silence. Mental health is a neglected part of our health care system, with