

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

less than 40 percent of people with mental illness receiving any treatment.

These bills address this mental health care crisis.

H.R. 1646, the bipartisan HERO Act introduced by Rep. AMI BERA creates a data system at the CDC to capture public safety officer suicide incidences and study successful interventions, authorize grants for peer support behavioral health and wellness programs within fire departments and emergency medical service agencies. It also requires the development of best practices for addressing post-traumatic stress disorder in public safety officers and educational materials.

H.R. 4564, the bipartisan Suicide Prevention Lifeline Improvement Act of 2019 introduced by Reps. KATKO, BEYER, and NAPOLITANO increases the authorization funding level of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline program to \$50 million each year, from FY 2020 through FY 2022. The bill also includes a pilot program to research, analyze, and employ various innovative technologies and platforms for suicide prevention.

H.R. 4585, the bipartisan Campaign to Prevent Suicide Act, introduced by Reps. BEYER and GIANFORTE directs HHS to carry out a national suicide prevention media campaign to advertise the new 9–8–8 number.

Finally, H.R. 5619, the bipartisan Suicide Prevention Act, introduced by Reps. STEWART and MATSUI, establishes two grant programs to prevent self-harm and suicide.

Our health as a Nation, both physical and mental, will be tested in the months ahead. These bills will help people find the care and treatment they need and can save lives. I urge my colleagues to support these bipartisan bills.

RECOGNIZING CONWAY COUNTY
FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize The 3 Brothers Farm as the 2020 Conway County Family Farm of the Year. The farm, located near Sardis, is run by brothers Lucas, Nicholas, and Josh Moore.

Nicholas and Lucas started farming together 20 years ago by raising cattle and conducting a custom hay baling operation while they attending Morrilton High School.

In 2013, the two brothers began their crop-rotation program after they acquired more land after their former employer, Randy Pettingill, retired.

Today, all three brothers raise a mixed breed of cattle using Black Angus bulls which they sell based on their sterling reputation and word-of-mouth sales. One day, they hope to open their own retail store stocked by their own beef.

I thank our farm families, whose contributions to our communities and state keep our economy strong while producing the best agricultural products in the country. Congratulations to the Moore Family for winning the 2020 Conway Family Farm of the year.

SCARLETT'S SUNSHINE ON
SUDDEN UNEXPECTED DEATH ACT

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. 2271, the Scarlett's Sunshine on Sudden Unexpected Death Act. I'm proud to have advanced this bipartisan bill through my Health Subcommittee and I'm pleased to support it on the Floor.

No family should suffer the death of a child without knowing why, yet over 400 children and 3,600 infants die each year from unexplained causes.

We honor these children today by passing the Scarlett's Sunshine Act, which provides funding to improve data collection and death scene investigations related to unexpected deaths and promotes safe sleep practices.

Because of the lack of a specific way to record sudden and unexplained deaths in children, it's impossible to know how widespread the problem is or to conduct more research into the potential causes.

The Scarlett's Sunshine Act addresses this problem by funding child death review teams and improvement to the CDC's National Review Case Reporting System.

The bill also provides resources for the promotion of evidence-based safe infant sleep which the American Association of Pediatricians say will clarify guidelines making them easier for parents to follow. I urge my colleagues to honor these lost children by supporting this bill.

RECOGNIZING SUZANNE HOGAN
FOR HER WORK ON THE LI-
BRARY OF CONGRESS'
GERSHWIN PRIZE

HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Suzanne Hogan and her contributions to the Library of Congress' Gershwin Prize for Popular Song. The Gershwin Prize celebrates the work of an artist whose career reflects lifetime achievement in promoting songs as a vehicle of musical expression and cultural understanding. Suzanne's dedication, leadership, and expertise were instrumental to the success of the Gershwin Prize during her tenure at the Library of Congress.

Suzanne was recognized by former Librarian of Congress, James Billington, for her ability to successfully facilitate relationships between the Library of Congress and the many stakeholders involved in supporting the Prize, as well as for developing and executing the move of the Gershwin Prize concert from the White House to Constitution Hall. This move highlighted the connection between the Prize and the Library's mission and work, which Suzanne is credited with strengthening over the course of her work on the Prize.

Suzanne's work on the Gershwin Prize was also recognized by former Deputy Librarian of

Congress, Robert Dizard, Jr., who credited her work as being an example for other projects undertaken by the Library of Congress. Deputy Librarian Dizard also attributed Suzanne's work strengthening the administration of the Gershwin Prize as influential to its sustainability for many years to come. Not only was Suzanne able to build up the Gershwin Prize within the Library itself, she was able to work alongside legal professionals, production agencies, artists, and others to elevate the prestige of the Prize and build a foundation for its future success.

Suzanne's work on the Gershwin Prizes embodies initiative, commitment, and excellence. Her thoughtful leadership in this endeavor, acknowledged and celebrated by her colleagues, is to be admired and emulated. I commend her for a job well done.

PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE
IN THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Mr. BUCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my concern regarding the ongoing deterioration of good governance in the Republic of Georgia. Recent reports indicate the Georgian government has undermined the Digital Silk Way, a digital communications project meant to transform the region's technological integration and increase independence from Russian and Iranian influence. In light of Russia and Iran's ongoing corruption and threats to international peace and stability, this matter is of strategic importance to American foreign policy.

While the Georgian government is an important ally of the United States, it has become increasingly hostile toward investors in Georgian infrastructure, which threatens critical projects in the region. Additionally, the administration's recent adoption of new taxes and bureaucratic barriers for Western businesses only serves to further undermine American companies' ability to operate within Georgia. I fear these changes to Georgian business practices risks increasing the nation's dependence on Russia and Iran.

As an aspiring NATO member and United States ally, Georgia must continue to remove itself from Russia and Iran's sphere of influence. By focusing on infrastructure projects that bypass American adversaries in the region, the Georgian government can create new economic opportunities, attract additional foreign investment, and protect the country's sovereignty from perverse international influences.

The partnership between Georgia and the United States relies on Georgia's ongoing commitment to fair international business and governance practices. I urge the Department of State to raise these issues with the government in Tbilisi and ensure the Georgian government facilitates an environment where businesses are able to develop projects to help Georgia remain free from Russian and Iranian influence.