

COMMENDING THE WORK OF JOHN  
MOLIERE AND STANDARD COM-  
MUNICATIONS

**HON. DENVER RIGGLEMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 22, 2020*

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work being done by 5th District residents to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The employees of Standard Communications, Inc. have worked diligently with the Department of Veterans affairs to install medical IT solutions. This work has included a new device to aid in the decontamination of medical equipment using ultraviolet light.

As we continue to face the COVID-19 pandemic, we have had to adapt and change the way we practice medicine in America. As the Congressman for Virginia's 5th District, I have been meeting with doctors, nurses, and other frontline healthcare workers to address our medical needs. One thing has become clear: Increasing our telehealth capabilities is critical to treating patients during the ongoing pandemic. In rural communities, we have seen a drop-off in patients seeking medical treatment for non-coronavirus related illnesses and injuries. This can create serious long-term issues in our healthcare system, where veterans can be vulnerable.

The work done by Standard Communications and their founder John Moliere is helping to alleviate some of these issues. During the COVID-19 pandemic we must strive to find innovative solutions to the medical needs of our community. Telehealth is now helping connect patients with healthcare providers in a way we had not considered before the outbreak. By increasing the number of doctor visits that can be done without face-to-face meetings we can continue to slow the spread of the virus and flatten the curve. I am grateful for the work of John Moliere and Standard Communications.

HAPPYBOTTOMS DURING DIAPER  
NEED AWARENESS WEEK

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 22, 2020*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize HappyBottoms. HappyBottoms is a very important organization as they help bridge the gap for the almost 22,000 children that do not have enough diapers and bring awareness to the need during Diaper Need Awareness Week, which is celebrated the week of September 21 through 27, in Missouri.

HappyBottoms is Kansas City's only diaper bank and they have been instrumental in alleviating the need of diapers for families in the Kansas City area since its creation. Created in 2011, HappyBottoms has provided over 13 million diapers for low income families in collaboration with 41 partner agencies at 54 distribution sites across 6 counties. In addition to their work within the community, HappyBottoms is also active within 5 area hospitals providing diapers to eligible mothers of newborns under their "Bundle of Joys" program. I strongly support these efforts to ad-

dress the dire need of diapers within the Kansas City area as I believe this will ultimately lead to improved health for families within our communities.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing HappyBottoms for their effort in collecting, packaging and distributing diapers to low income families across the Kansas City metro area. I am honored to represent this wonderful organization in the United States Congress.

MATERNAL HEALTH QUALITY  
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2020

SPEECH OF

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 21, 2020*

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4995, the Maternal Health Quality Improvement 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.

My thanks to Reps. ENGEL, KELLY, BUCSHON, TORRES SMALL, LATTA, ADAMS, and STIVERS for introducing the Maternal Health Quality Improvement Act of 2019, a bipartisan bill to address the maternal health crisis.

"The U.S. is the most the dangerous place in the developed world to deliver a baby." This quote was the conclusion of a major investigation by USA Today.

Each year, 700 American women die and 50,000 women are severely injured due to complications related to childbirth. If you're a Black woman in the U.S., the risks are greater. Black women are three times more likely to die from childbirth than white women in the U.S., a startling statistic.

This is unacceptable and it's preventable. The CDC estimates as much as 60 percent of these deaths could be prevented.

This bill would prevent these deaths by expanding programs that improve the practice of maternal care across the country by developing and disseminating best practices.

For example, the bill authorizes and funds the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health or AIM, which includes provider, public health, and consumer groups working at the state level to implement evidence-based "maternal safety bundles."

AIM works. States who implement AIM safety bundles have reduced their maternal morbidity rate as much as 22 percent. This data-driven approach was spearheaded in my Congressional District. Stanford's California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative has reduced severe health problems from pregnancy-related hemorrhages by 21 percent and has contributed to reducing the maternal mortality rate in California by 55 percent.

H.R. 4995 also addresses the maternal mortality crisis in rural areas. Rural mothers are 60 percent more likely to die during or after having a child than mothers in American cities, and it's even more dangerous for rural minority women, including Native American women.

Fewer than half of rural women live within a 30-minute drive to a hospital with perinatal services, and over 10 percent have to drive 100 miles or more.

This bill will close those gaps by expanding telehealth grants and increasing training op-

portunities for medical professionals to provide care in rural community-based settings. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MARTHA ROBY**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 22, 2020*

Mrs. ROBY. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on Thursday, September 17. Had I been present I would have voted as follows: NAY on Roll Call No. 193; YEA on Roll Call No. 194; and YEA on Roll Call No. 195.

IN RECOGNITION OF AUSTIN  
HICKLE SELFLESS EFFORTS TO  
DEFEAT COVID-19

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 22, 2020*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express appreciation for Southern Methodist University Student Body Vice President Austin Hickle of Lubbock, Texas.

During this pandemic Austin has demonstrated true leadership. He used his position as SMU Student Body Vice President to establish the College Health Alliance of Texas and recruited other student body presidents from colleges and universities across Texas to become a unified voice. Together, this alliance would be able to amplify the urgency of public health compliance and coordinating greater student engagement in all necessary measures to decrease the risk of outbreaks among students. By creating this alliance, Austin eliminated a leadership vacuum in the COVID-19 response due to the absence of a strong student voice encouraging students to do their part and maintain best safety practices on campus. The message of these campus leaders was carried throughout the state in various media outlets. It encouraged students to step up to keep their campuses and communities safe.

For leadership that advanced the cause of public safety during a global pandemic, I would like to thank Austin Hickle for his selfless efforts on behalf of the State of Texas.

HONORING RAY PETHTEL, JR.

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 22, 2020*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I offer these remarks in honor of Ray Pethtel, Jr. of Christiansburg, Virginia, who passed away on September 12, 2020 at the age of 83. Ray was a longtime public servant who was committed to accountability and high performance in Virginia state government.

Ray was born in Gallipolis, Ohio and graduated from high school in New Kensington, Pennsylvania. After service in the United States Air Force, he returned to Pennsylvania and earned a bachelor's and a master's degree from the Pennsylvania State University.