

COMMENDING THE WORK OF JOHN MOLIERE AND STANDARD COMMUNICATIONS

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 Hickles 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 Hickles 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.

He held multiple positions in New York state government, interrupted by a stint in Washington, D.C., as Director of Administration for the American Society for Public Administration.

The Virginia General Assembly established the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) in 1973, and Ray was hired as the first director. JLARC was created to assist the General Assembly in its oversight responsibilities by auditing state government agencies and analyzing their effectiveness. In this mission, JLARC located an ideal founding director in Ray. He assembled a strong team and performed his duties with rigor and attentiveness. When I was a member of the House of Delegates, I saw firsthand the importance of JLARC's mission and contributions; Ray's work for twelve years at JLARC helped build that institution and made it a model for other states.

After winning election in 1985, Governor Gerald Baliles appointed Ray to serve as the Commissioner of Virginia's Department of Highways and Transportation, now the Department of Transportation (VDOT). His time at JLARC had familiarized him with the Commonwealth's transportation needs. Under his leadership, which lasted through the terms of Governor Baliles and his successor Doug Wilder, VDOT completed many important projects, became more efficient, and improved its communications with the public about its work.

Ray continued to work on transportation after leaving office at Virginia Tech's Transportation Institute. He brought his knowledge of highways and transportation to the institute's research, and it now stands as one of the country's leading academic centers in the field. In this capacity, I had the opportunity to work with Ray.

For his leadership over the years, Ray won numerous awards and recognitions, including the New Century Region High Tech Leader-

ship Award, American Society of Highway Engineers Robert E. Person P.E. Person of the Year Award, the Rotary Foundation International Paul Harris Fellow, the Virginia Tech University Transportation Fellow, the Penn State Alumni Fellow, and the Roanoke-Blacksburg Technology Hall of Fame.

Ray is survived by his wife, Mary Jane, his three daughters, Jennifer, Leslie and Judy, his grandchildren, Austin, Stephanie and Kathleen, and his sons-in-law, Tom, Ken and Scott. I would like to offer my condolences to them on the loss of this committed and diligent public servant.

SUPPORT FOR THE UYGHUR MUSLIMS: H.R. 6210, UYGHUR FORCED LABOR PREVENTION ACT AND H.R. 6270 UYGHUR FORCED LABOR DISCLOSURE ACT

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my unequivocal support for the Uyghur Muslim people, and to support the Uyghur bills being considered in the House.

For several years, China has violated international human rights through the mass surveillance and internment of as many as 1,800,000 Uyghurs, ethnic Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, and members of other Muslim minority groups in Xinjiang—an Autonomous Region in western China. Those detained in internment camps have described forced political indoctrination, torture, beatings, food deprivation, and denial of religious, cultural, and linguistic freedoms. What are the alleged high crimes that warrant such inhumane punishment against Uyghurs? Wearing long beards, refusing alcohol, or other behaviors that Chinese

authorities deem to be signs of “religious extremism.”

Alarming, there is a widespread forced labor system that exists inside the mass internment camps as confirmed by the testimony of camp survivors, satellite imagery, and leaked official documents from the Chinese government. In its 2019 Annual Report, the Congressional-Executive Commission on China found that goods produced with forced labor included textiles, electronics, food products, shoes, tea, and handicrafts. We can not allow these goods to reach our shores. America must not profit off the denial of religious freedom and basic human rights that is perpetuated against Uyghur Muslims.

That is why I support the Uyghur Forced Labor Disclosure Act of 2020, H.R. 6270, and the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act, H.R. 6210. These bills will hold private companies wishing to import goods into the U.S. accountable by ensuring that they demonstrate a clean supply chain where goods or raw materials are not produced using forced labor. Additionally, these bills will authorize the President of the United States to apply targeted sanctions on anyone responsible for the labor trafficking of Uyghurs and other Muslim ethnic minorities.

There is no doubt that the United States has economically benefitted from the bilateral relationship with China. Yet, the United States' moral authority must be paramount to the economic relationship we have enjoyed. We must be willing to sacrifice any monetary gain. Our core democratic and constitutional principles to practice religion freely must be unwavering. In the plight of religious freedom around the world and for the Uyghur Muslims in China—the United States stands with you.

I urge my colleagues to support the Uyghurs and I urge my colleagues to support these bills.