

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF MARK
ANTHONY

HON. LAUREN UNDERWOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2020

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mark Anthony for his service in my office in Washington, D.C.

Mark joined our office as a legislative fellow and served as an advisor for my work on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, in addition to handling a policy portfolio that included defense, foreign affairs, agriculture, and trade. Among other accomplishments, he coordinated legislation to improve mental health care delivery at the VA and worked with our agricultural community to navigate the challenges of COVID-19 and ongoing trade tensions. Mark was instrumental in the development and introduction of the Lethal Means Safety Training Act, the Veterans in STEM Act, and the No Coronavirus Copays for Veterans Act.

Mark's professionalism, work ethic, and dedication were invaluable assets throughout his time in my office. I commend his drive to advance mental health and suicide prevention services for veterans and to improve outcomes for women veterans and younger veterans. Although Mark may be leaving our office, our veterans in northern Illinois and our community members who support and honor them will continue to benefit from the results of his hard work and expertise.

Prior to joining my staff, Mark earned a Bachelor of Science from George Mason University and served our country as an officer in the United States Marine Corps, where he deployed twice in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. I am grateful he chose to continue his career in public service by joining my office. Our office will miss his kindness, diligence, and friendship.

Madam Speaker, I would like to formally thank Mark Anthony for his service to my office, to Illinois' 14th Congressional District, and to our country.

UYGHUR FORCED LABOR
DISCLOSURE ACT OF 2020

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2020

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor and a senior member of the Committees on the Judiciary and Homeland Security, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6270, the "Uyghur Forced Labor Disclosure Act of 2020", which directs the Securities and Exchange Commission to issue rules requiring U.S. publicly traded companies to disclose imports of manufactured goods and materials

that originate in or are sourced in part from the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) on an annual basis.

With this bill, companies would also be required to disclose that the goods and materials did not originate from forced labor as well as describe the nature and extent of commercial activity related to the products.

Furthermore, companies must also provide the gross revenue and net profits attributable to the good.

The legislation also stipulates that companies must say whether they intend to continue importing from that entity.

H.R. 6270 ensures that both the SEC and GAO would be required to report to Congress on compliance, oversight, and effectiveness.

For years, the Chinese government has engaged in a systematic campaign of repression targeting Uyghurs and other Muslim groups.

Chinese authorities have used the pretext of terrorism to suspend the Uyghurs' civil and political rights and pursue the internment of Uyghurs in "educational training centers" where they are forbidden from practicing their religious and cultural beliefs.

These same education centers are forced labor camps.

According to the BBC, approximately one million Uyghurs have been detained without trial, forced into mass internment camps, and subjected to forced labor, torture, political indoctrination, forced renunciations of faith, and other severe human rights abuses.

The U.S. Holocaust Museum's Simon-Skjoldt Center for the Prevention of Genocide recently determined that there is reasonable basis to believe crimes against humanity are being committed in the XUAR.

Furthermore, satellite imagery, leaked official documents from the Chinese government, and the testimony of camp survivors have confirmed a widespread and pervasive forced labor system that exists inside the mass internment camps.

This is a systematic, widespread, and shocking violation of basic human rights for which the Government of China must be held accountable.

The United States cannot and should not sit idly by while these gross injustices are happening.

According to numerous reports, forced labor by the Uyghur detainees in labor camps and factories feed into the supply chains of more than 80 well-known global brands.

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.

Mr. Speaker, companies have a moral duty to ensure the goods they purchase are made using free workers who are paid a fair wage, and the transparency measures in this bill are key to ending the persistence of modern-day slavery in supply chains.

Importing products made wholly or in part from forced or prison labor is not only against U.S. law but also international human rights standards.

However, audits and due diligence efforts to ensure clean supply chains are nearly impossible due to government surveillance and the pervasiveness of forced labor in the regional economy.

Time and time again, the United States has been the beacon of freedom in the world and a fierce defender of human rights.

Today, we, as Members of Congress, have a duty to continue that legacy by condemning the heinous human rights violations against the Uyghur people in the XUAR.

By passing H.R. 6270, our actions send a message to China that Congress not only stands in solidarity with the Uyghur people but also that we will always speak up for the vulnerable and the voiceless whether that is in the Xinjiang region of China or anywhere else in the world.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank Congresswoman WEXTON for introducing this vital piece of legislation, and I am proud to do my part in leading this bill through the House.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in voting for H.R. 6270.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDY
CHRISTOFOLIS

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2020

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend, Judy Christofolis. Not only was she my close friend, she was also a community leader and a successful businesswoman. Over the last ten plus years of her life, she exhibited her incredible spirit and determination as she bravely fought metastatic breast cancer. Sadly, she lost her battle on March 12, 2020. I will forever cherish my memories of her.

Judy was born on January 19, 1962, in Indianapolis, Indiana, to Gerald and Martha Morford. She proudly attended school in Warren Township in Indianapolis at Moorehead Elementary, Woodview Junior High, and graduated from Warren Central High School in 1980. Judy attended Butler University, graduating in 1984 with a Bachelor of Science in accounting and finance.

Judy began her career as a CPA with Geo. S. Olive, a regional accounting firm. There she met her future husband, Ted, whom she married in 1986. Judy later was controller at Baker & Daniels law firm but eventually founded her own accounting business, Windsor Accounting Services, which later became Redwood Accounting Services. In 1998, she and Ted started Redwood Investment Advisors, an independent fee-only investment advisory firm. In 2011, Judy joined my campaign team, and served as my treasurer since 2012.

Judy and I met as members of the Junior League of Indianapolis, an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism,

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