

for major Bay Area transit expansion projects. During his tenure, MTC has developed a well-earned reputation for being one of the nation's most creative and effective transportation organizations.

Tom's career achievements reflect not only his deep knowledge of transportation policy but also his genuine respect and affection for the people of both parties who put policy into action. Congratulations, Tom, on an outstanding career. Please accept our deepest appreciation to you for dedicating your intellect, your energy, and your gregarious good humor to keeping our nation on the move.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PREVENTING UNWARRANTED COMMUNICATIONS SHUTDOWNS ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2020

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I'm proud to introduce the Preventing Unwarranted Communications Shutdowns Act, a bipartisan bill to limit presidential powers to control or shut down communications networks, including the internet.

The American people rely on the internet for nearly every aspect of their personal and professional lives and this dependence has only increased during the pandemic. As such, internet shutdowns are an extraordinary infringement of individual rights. Sadly, authoritarians in many countries have used internet shutdowns as a tool to squash rights. The public interest group Access Now reports that in 2019, the internet was shutdown at least 213 times.

Section 706 of the Communications Act (47 U.S.C. 606) currently authorizes the President to take control of communications facilities or equipment in certain circumstances. While the internet is, by design, decentralized and cannot be 'shut down,' this provision leaves open the possibility for a presidential order that leads to Americans not being able to access the internet.

While this provision is codified as part of the Communications Act of 1934, and it was amended in 1942 and 1951, the provision directly traces back to Section 2 of the Radio Act of 1912. President Woodrow Wilson used the authorities granted by the Radio Act during World War I in 1914 and 1918 with respect to telephone systems, radio stations, and marine cables. Earlier still, in February 1862, Congress gave President Abraham Lincoln the authority to take over telegraph lines during the Civil War.

While historians can debate about whether these actions were warranted, they serve as an important basis for my rationale that the appropriate public policy measure to reform Section 706 is not to cut the power completely, but to add strict checks to it.

The Preventing Unwarranted Communications Shutdowns Act limits the President's authorities and adds checks to any actions taken under section 706. In particular, my legislation limits the reasons the President may take action under Section 706 to ones necessary to protect against an imminent and specific threat to human life or national security, if such action is narrowly tailored and is the least restric-

tive means for the purpose; requires that the President notify congressional leaders (i.e., Speaker, House Minority Leader, and Senate Majority and Minority Leaders), senior executive branch officials (i.e., Vice President, department heads, intelligence community heads, Joint Chiefs of Staff), and the FCC before or not later than 12 hours after taking any action authorized under Section 706; nullifies Section 706 orders 12 hours after issuance of the order if the President does not provide notification in the specified time and form; nullifies Section 706 orders 48 hours after the President provides notice unless three-fifths of each of the House and the Senate vote to pass an approval resolution, with an affirmative vote of at least one-quarter of the minority party in each chamber; requires a report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) after every Section 706 order, and requires a one-time GAO report estimating the impact of a communication shutdown; and requires that the U.S. government compensate providers and customers of providers for any communications shutdown under Section 706.

Unchecked executive powers and the emergency authorities of the President under Section 7–6 of the Communications Act need to be revisited. May there never be in a situation where these authorities are needed, but if there is, the representatives of the people should decide the scope and extent of any shutdown, not any single individual.

I thank my colleague Congressman MORGAN GRIFFITH for partnering with me to introduce this important, bipartisan legislation, and I ask my colleagues to support it.

UNITED STATES AND REPUBLIC OF INDIA RELATIONS

HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2020

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the robust friendship and solidarity between the United States of America and the Republic of India.

Our two nations share a long history of partnership in response to the most ardent of global challenges. In 2007, Vice President of the United States Dick Cheney and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, along with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Australian Prime Minister John Howard, created the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue. This framework led to the creation of the Malabar naval exercise. This agreement has proven to be prescient given the Chinese Communist Party's recent malign actions in the South China Sea. In recognition of China's threatening posture, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and United States President Trump, along with their Japanese and Australian counterparts have invested in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue as a commitment to a more free and open Indo-Pacific. I urge our G–7 partners to consider inviting the Republic of India into the G–7 to further our multilateral cooperation.

During a previous meeting with the Consul General of India in Atlanta Dr. Swati Kulkarni, I learned of the recent conflict at the Line of Actual Control and the Galwan River. While India records countless times where China

has crossed this border, this increase in tensions resulted in the deaths of Indian soldiers. I appreciate Prime Minister Modi's interest in reducing tensions and agree with the recent statements from United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo regarding the conflict. I applaud joint efforts by the United States and the Republic of India to combat terrorism and urge both countries to find additional areas of cooperation.

Our two nations have grown closer and increased collaboration as a result of COVID–19. This global pandemic has shown the world that it must do more to secure pharmaceutical supply chains and insulate them from harmful actors. It is my firm belief that increasing trade partnerships between the United States and the Republic of India will result in greater prosperity for our people.

Madam Speaker, I thank the Consul General for her time and for her sincere desire to build a better relationship between the United States and the Republic of India.

INDEPENDENCE FOR ARTSAKH

HON. TONY CÁRDENAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2020

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call on the United States government to formally recognize the independence of the Republic of Artsakh.

For too long, we have failed as a country to state unequivocally that the people of Artsakh, a historical part of Armenia populated by Armenians to this day, have a right to self-determination as an independent republic and it has opened the door to violence.

For weeks, Artsakh has suffered a brutal assault by Azerbaijan and Turkey in the form of merciless rocket attacks and bombings. This is, in part, the consequence of our past failures to exert leadership in this region of the world.

We must make clear that we will stand against the aggression of Azerbaijan and their allies in Turkey when they would wage war against a people for seeking self-rule and independence, a people for whom the specter of genocide still lingers.

It is time for the United States to correct course and make it clear that we stand behind the protection of life and preservation of human dignity by standing behind the Republic of Artsakh. As the world's oldest modern democracy, it is our heritage and duty to do so.

IN CELEBRATION OF MS. RAFAELA "LALI" GARCIA'S 93RD BIRTHDAY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2020

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with abundant joy and immense pride to celebrate the 93rd birthday of Ms. Rafaela Garcia, known to friends, family, and community members as "Lali." A cornerstone of the Hispanic community in Kansas City, her work as a private citizen, as an activist, and as an