

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP ACT
OF 2020

SPEECH OF

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2020

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my colleague Congresswoman TITUS' amendment to H.R. 8294, the National Apprenticeship Act of 2020, which I cosponsored.

Our travel and tourism industry employs nearly 16 million workers across our nation. In my home state of Hawaii, tourism is our main economic pillar, with one out of five workers statewide employed within this industry.

I have literally hundreds of thousands of constituents and their families who are dependent on travel and tourism fear for their future due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of tourists arriving in Hawaii each day has dropped over 97 percent compared to a year ago. COVID-19 has devastated Hawaii's economy and threatened the livelihoods of countless individuals, forcing all into uncertainty and too many into unemployment and worse.

This bipartisan amendment will ensure these families and millions of their fellow workers and families across the country are not left behind by adding hospitality and tourism to the list of non-traditional apprenticeship industries eligible for the 21st Century Grants in the Modernizing the National Apprenticeship System. The amendment supports our workers and businesses in the hospitality industry at a time of great need, and it invests in this critical sector of our economy to help ensure a clearer path to recovery.

I am proud to support Congresswoman TITUS' amendment, and I remain committed to finding and pursuing opportunities that will help the travel and tourism industry swiftly recover from the impacts of this pandemic.

Mahalo.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 20, 2020

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I regretably missed one vote on Monday November 16, 2020. On Roll Call vote 220, S. 3147 Improving Safety and Security for Veterans Act, I would have voted YEA.

CONDEMNING ACTS BY PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND GOV-
ERNMENT OF HONG KONG SPE-
CIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
THAT VIOLATE FUNDAMENTAL
RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF
HONG KONG RESIDENTS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Congressional China Caucus and senior member of the House of Representatives, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1033, "Condemning acts by the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region that violate fundamental rights and freedoms of Hong Kong residents as well as acts that undermine Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy".

First and foremost, I wish to thank my colleague, Chairman ENGEL, for his leadership on the Foreign Affairs Committee as well as on this vital, bipartisan piece of legislation.

Time and time again, the Federal Government of the United States has had to rebuke Beijing for its aggression against Hong Kong and the Chinese Government's continuous efforts to restrict the region's autonomy.

Today, we will once again defend Hong Kong by passing this resolution, which calls on Beijing to rectify national security law provisions inconsistent with the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law and advises the U.S. government to coordinate with allies and partners to respond to the deterioration of rights and freedoms in Hong Kong.

In 1997, the British relinquished control over Hong Kong to China under a unique agreement which created the infamous "one country, two systems" principle.

For over two decades, the people of Hong Kong enjoyed strong democratic institutions, including an independent judiciary, and have been able to proudly exercise their civil liberties.

However, since 2014, the Chinese government has increasingly sought to undermine Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy.

Most recently, on July 1, 2020, the Government of China imposed sweeping national security legislation on the people of Hong Kong, fundamentally altering Hong Kong's autonomy and undermining the basic rights and freedoms promised to the people of Hong Kong under the Sino-British Joint Declaration, a legally binding international agreement guaranteeing that the social and economic systems, as well as the life-style, in Hong Kong will remain unchanged through 2047.

Beijing's national security law is the culmination of Xi Jinping's years long assault on Hong Kong's democratic freedoms and autonomy, and we must do our part as defenders of democratic freedom around the world to push back on Beijing's aggression.

Under the national security law, the Chinese Government has criminalized any acts of:

Secession, breaking away from the country;
Subversion, undermining the power or authority of the central government;

Terrorism, using violence of intimidation against people; and

Collusion with foreign or external forces.

In addition, it authorizes China's national security agencies to establish a presence in Hong Kong.

This national security law gives Beijing a new tool with which to crack down on protesters and dissidents as well as push forward education that trumpets the successes of the Communist Party.

Mr. Speaker, you may remember that last year, pro-democracy protests erupted in Hong Kong in response to legislation that would have enabled suspected criminals to be extradited to mainland China.

Thousands of students, lawyers, pro-democracy legislators, corporate executives, and others came together to protest that grave incursion of Hong Kong's autonomy and appealed to the United States support their pro-democracy movement, and we did by making the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act public law.

By passing this crucial resolution today, Members of Congress are standing up for the democratic principles we hold so dear.

Since its founding, the United States has been a city upon a hill, the model of democracy for the rest of the world, and a fierce defender of civil liberties for all.

It is our moral duty to stand up for what is right and condemn what is wrong.

Our vote to pass H. Res. 1033 sends a clear message to China and the world that the U.S. not only condemns Beijing's actions as violation of international law but also that we will continue to stand with Hong Kong.

I urge all Members to join me in voting for H. Res. 1033.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 20, 2020

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on Nov. 17, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 221.

HONORING KELLIE MARKEY AS
IOWAN OF THE WEEK**HON. CYNTHIA AXNE**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 20, 2020

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Kellie Markey, the founder and executive director of Dorothy's House in Des Moines, as our Iowan of the Week for the week of October 16, 2020.

Raised and educated in Iowa, Kellie moved back to Des Moines in 2011 and began volunteering in order to reconnect with her community. She started working with teen girls at Youth Emergency Services & Shelter (YESS) and began to learn more about not only the nature of abuse against kids in our area, but also the extreme challenges these individuals face as they age out of care systems and try to find success in the world without proper resources.