

COVID-19 LANGUAGE ACCESS ACT

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, with over 25 million people across our nation who have limited English proficiency, there is a critical need for translated COVID-19 outreach materials during this pandemic response.

We must ensure language barriers do not prevent individuals from accessing vital and potentially lifesaving COVID-19 information, especially as our federal, state, and local governments are working to get every single individual in the United States vaccinated.

Madam Speaker, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated already existing vulnerabilities, inequalities, and disparities, particularly in access to health care. Inadequate access to health care for reasons such as language barriers increases health disparities among vulnerable populations, especially those of communities of color.

Health disparities are often magnified for individuals who have limited English proficiency. For weeks after the COVID-19 public health emergency was declared, the government provided little to no information about COVID in languages other than English and Spanish, which left millions of people in the dark. No one should be left in the dark.

That is why I am re-introducing the COVID-19 Language Access Act, which would require any federal agency that receives coronavirus-related funding to provide COVID-19 written resources to the public in 20 languages: Spanish, Arabic, Cambodian, Chinese, Haitian Creole, French, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Tagalog, Urdu, Vietnamese, Greek, Polish, Thai, Portuguese, Laotian, and Hmong. These selected languages are based on the languages required in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Language Access Plan for Disaster Assistance dated October 1, 2016. And Hmong has been added to reflect existing federal standards, including at Department of Homeland Security, for requiring Hmong translations in addition to Laotian.

I am proud that my bill has served as a basis for President Biden's presidential memorandum to address cultural and linguistic barriers to COVID-19 relief and recovery, especially for Asian Americans. President Biden's executive actions underscores the inequities of language access particularly in the midst of this COVID-19 outbreak.

Madam Speaker, fighting this pandemic requires everyone to have the right information and to be vaccinated. But to do so, we must eliminate any language barrier so that everyone is best prepared, informed, and ready to defeat this pandemic together. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF SHERRY
McDAVID

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sherry McDavid,

a regional development champion in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, upon her retirement after 27 years of service as Executive Director of the FIVCO Area Development District in rural, northeastern Kentucky.

Sherry's love for northeastern Kentucky has been evident in her tireless dedication and adamant advocacy to strengthen communities in Boyd, Carter, Elliott, Greenup and Lawrence counties for nearly four decades through her leadership at the FIVCO ADD and the FIVCO Service Agency. In addition to being a staunch advocate for economic development and infrastructure enhancement in Kentucky's Appalachian region, Sherry has been an organizational powerhouse, cultivating unlikely partnerships and rallying volunteers from across county-lines to meet the needs of our people. Whether distributing food commodities, caring for our elderly residents, or extending water and sewer service in our communities, Sherry filled the gap on many occasions and was the glue that held multiple programs together across the local, state, and federal levels. Sherry is the type of leader that accepts every challenge and surpasses every expectation for the good of the people around her.

When we examine the growth and progress in the FIVCO region over the last 38 years, we can see the influence of Sherry's astute business sense and her unmatched work ethic. Although she is retiring, Sherry should be proud of the firm foundation that she has laid for the next generation to build upon. She has made a resounding difference in our part of Kentucky.

In closing, I want to express my deep appreciation for Sherry's service to the people of northeastern Kentucky, her leadership and her assistance for our local leaders in the FIVCO region. It has been an honor to work alongside such an inspiring advocate for our communities. I wish Sherry and her family tremendous joy and blessings in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF THESPIAN
TROUPE 1555 AT RANCOCAS
VALLEY REGIONAL HIGH
SCHOOL

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Thespian Troupe 1555 at Rancocas Valley Regional High School for their exceptional service to New Jersey and their community.

Amid a global crisis, the students of Thespian Troupe 1555 at Rancocas Valley Regional High School revitalized the discontinued Trick or Treat So Kids Can Eat program and became true leaders. In response to the hunger they witnessed in their community, Thespian Troupe 1555 raised over 90 pounds of food for the RVRHS Food Pantry as part of the Trick or Treat So Kids Can Eat program.

In this time, where a growing number of New Jersey residents are going to bed hungry, we should be doing all we can to ensure that we feed those in need. Thespian Troupe 1555's work exemplifies the best of New Jersey and New Jersey's compassion for all of its citizens.

I could not be prouder of the students in this troupe, and I thank them for their service.

IN MEMORY OF DR. ALAN GREEN

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Ms. KUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Dr. Alan Green, the esteemed former Chair of the Department of Psychiatry at Dartmouth College's Geisel School of Medicine. Dr. Green radiated resilience, energy, and a joy for life that carried him through both sickness and health until he passed away from cancer. Although he was diagnosed with a viral illness in 1974 that forced him to pause his psychiatry training for seven years, Dr. Green bounced back with a demonstrated passion for scientific research.

Dr. Green dedicated his life to researching schizophrenia, substance misuse disorders and establishing effective programs to treat those afflicted. As a beloved and respected professor and mentor, Dr. Green is often remembered by his students and colleagues for his curiosity, ambition, and drive. He was relentless in his aim to improve the lives of others and give back to those around him. His commitment to his work and his students will forever inspire the Hanover community.

I express my wholehearted appreciation for Dr. Green and his devotion to medicine and science. As an alumna of Dartmouth College, I am deeply grateful for Dr. Green's service to his students and the New Hampshire medical community. Although he will be profoundly missed, his memory will live on through the research he conducted, the treatments he developed, the students he taught, and the community he cared for. I offer my deepest condolences to his family. I wish them and the Dartmouth community comfort and warmth during this difficult time. May he rest in peace.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PASSING
OF FRED SPACE

HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a fixture in our northern New Jersey community, Fred Space. Fred was born in Beemerville, a community where he lived in, raised his family, and dedicated himself to improving throughout his entire life.

As the second-generation owner and zookeeper of Space Farms Zoo & Museum, and a 77-year member of the Beemerville Fire Department, Fred's commitment to his community was legendary to those who knew him. As part of his more than seven-decade career with the Beemerville Fire Department, Fred served as Fire Chief from 1951 to 1953. He was also a founding member of the Kittatinny Recreation Association, which would go on to become the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce. An avid outdoorsman, Fred translated his love of hunting, fishing, and trapping into the Beemerville Hunting Club, as its founding member. He continued his passion for the outdoors by becoming a Lifetime Member of the Sussex County Board of Agriculture, serving as its President. He was Director of the NJ Farm Bureau and served on the New Jersey