

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## STOP SETTLEMENT SLUSH FUNDS ACT OF 2023

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 788.

H.R. 788 would prevent the Department of Justice from negotiating settlements in court cases to include payments to third parties, such as nonprofits, community organizations, trusts, or foundations. This redirection of funds is especially important in cases when harm is difficult to monetize, such as assessing damage to the environment or unknown health outcomes to individuals resulting from chemical exposures. In these cases, third parties are able to utilize the small portion of settlements they receive to help rectify the harm done by the plaintiff. For example, after the 2010 BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, \$20 million was redirected to groups aiming to restore the health of the Gulf—one way to further remedy the environmental harm caused by BP. It is critical the federal government retains its ability invest in harm remediation while holding bad actors accountable.

Congress should not be undermining the Department of Justice's ability to hold corporations accountable when they do harm to the public. The federal government must retain all its tools in its effort to protect the public interest and enforce our nation's laws. Instead of undermining the ability to settle cases with just outcomes for those impacted, we should be focused on passing legislation that serves the needs of the American people.

## PROTECTING U.S. SECTOR INVESTMENTS IN HONDURAS

**HON. STEVEN HORSFORD**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2024

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of protections for U.S. private sector investments in Central America, which addresses the root causes of illegal immigration to the United States of America.

In 2023, it was announced that the Government of Honduras would open six new consulates in the United States. They are intended to address the needs of Hondurans who made the dangerous journey to the United States and entered the country illegally. This after-the-fact approach is emblematic of a multilateral failure to deal with the root cause of illegal immigration—a fundamental lack of opportunity in Central America. Once a local economy has failed to provide opportunity, job seekers are forced to look elsewhere to provide for their families. They often come to the U.S., but the battle is lost at this stage. Con-

sulates in foreign land serving those who arrived here due to shortcomings of broken political systems are too little, too late. What do those who emigrate desire most? A secure, well-paying job in their own country.

A thriving domestic private sector provides a job market that allows capable and ready-to-work individuals to support their families. We know this can be done. In fact, in Honduras, it has been proven that U.S. private sector investment, spent wisely and properly deployed, is creating thousands of jobs in the local economy. One prominent example is Honduras Prospera, a U.S.-led developer of special economic zones called ZEDES. Prospera has invested over \$100 million to bring new industries and new opportunities into Honduras. But now the underpinning Honduran constitutional ZEDE-law is under attack by President Xiomara Castro's administration. They are threatening illegal retroactive repeal of the ZEDE law via an illegitimate reshuffling of the country's Supreme Court. We cannot stand by and allow the expropriation of U.S. investment while denying thousands of Hondurans the right to a stable job. And this action violates a 50-year legal stability guarantee under the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR).

Undermining U.S. private sector investment will have significant and lasting negative effects for the Honduran people. Over the past few years, Honduras has confronted both the destruction wrought by Category 4 Hurricanes Eta and Iota, along with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. As Hondurans work to rebuild, ensuring stable U.S. investment will afford Hondurans a fair working environment that provides good economic, educational, health care, labor, and housing opportunities. Better domestic opportunities help to reduce the pressures that lead citizens to irregular migration.

Sustained U.S. investment in Honduras is strongly in our national security interest. After breaking Honduras' alliance with Taiwan and establishing diplomatic ties with China, President Castro recently traveled to China to meet with President Xi Jinping "to jointly plan for the future development" and inaugurate Honduras' embassy in Beijing. The promise of Chinese investment is both a powerful motivator for President Castro and a growing concern for global stability in the region. Preserving and furthering U.S. investment and engagement in Honduras is critical for our national security.

I encourage my fellow Members of Congress to ensure that all hard-working Hondurans who wish to live and work in their country can have the opportunity to do so. So, let's request that U.S. agencies that control American visa access deny these benefits to any Honduran politician or policymaker advocating the expropriation of U.S. assets or investments. Strategic U.S. private sector investment is proving to make Honduras a land of opportunity for Hondurans while alleviating an ever-growing migration crisis here in the U.S.

## TRIBUTE TO FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR HERBERT (HERB) KOHL

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2024

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to extend my deepest condolences to the family and community grieving the loss of the esteemed former United States Senator Herbert Hiken Kohl. Senator Herb Kohl, a notable figure in the political, sporting, and education spheres, passed away on December 27, 2023, at the age of 88.

Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to the union of his Polish Jewish immigrant father, Max Kohl, and his Russian Jewish mother, Mary Kohl. Senator Kohl's humble beginnings trace back to Washington High School. He later earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1956, where he also became a Pi Lambda Phi fraternity member. Continuing his academic pursuits, he obtained a Master of Business Administration degree from Harvard Business School in 1958, concurrently serving in the United States Army Reserve from 1958 to 1964.

Senator Kohl entered the political scene around the 1970s, initially as a donor and fundraiser for then Governor Patrick Lucey. Following Governor Lucey's 1974 inauguration, Senator Kohl assumed a prominent role as the chairman of the Wisconsin Democratic Party (WisDems). Under his leadership, WisDems achieved historic victories in the 1976 election, securing a supermajority in both chambers of the legislature. He remained chairman of WisDems until he resigned at the June 1977 state party convention.

A stalwart public servant, Senator Kohl dedicated four consecutive terms to representing Wisconsin as a U.S. Senator from 1989 to 2013. Notably, he holds the distinction of having an undefeated record in politics, winning all 72 counties in Wisconsin during the 2006 election. His bipartisan approach and commitment to addressing crucial issues earned him respect across party lines.

In addition to his political contributions, Senator Kohl left a permanent mark on the world of sports as the owner of the Milwaukee Bucks in the National Basketball Association. Acquiring the team in 1985, he guided them through challenges and triumphs, demonstrating his commitment to both the local community and the sport of basketball. Under Kohl's stewardship, the Bucks became a source of pride for Milwaukeeans, and his passion for keeping the Bucks in the city of Milwaukee was evident when he pledged \$100 million of his own money to support the construction of what many now know as the Fiserv Forum.

Beyond his political and sports achievements, Senator Kohl's passion extended to

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