

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

LAUDING TURKEY AND ARMENIA FOR STEPS TOWARD NORMAL- IZATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, the Republics of Turkey and Armenia took a major step forward in August moving closer to normalizing diplomatic relations and developing productive bilateral relations. Such a step chips away at the past tension between the two nations.

The protocols agreed to by the two parties will ultimately lead to the opening of the border between the two countries. This will not only ease tensions between Armenia and Turkey but will also enhance stability in the region. These protocols also established a timetable and process for normalizing relations. As a Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Turkey, I support the statements by the international community such as the NATO Secretary General and the U.S. Department of State in welcoming improvements in Turkey-Armenia relations.

These efforts are a tremendous step in the proper direction, but there are still further steps to come. I encourage the two governments to move forward with their internal consultations and parliamentary ratifications of the protocols as quickly as possible, so that a new chapter in the Turkish-Armenia bilateral relationship can begin to unfold. This is an historic change that will benefit both nations, and the United States wholeheartedly supports these actions.

STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, I voted to oppose H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009, because I cannot support legislation that amounts to a government takeover of student loans, and at the expense of private industry. The same legislation does continue several efforts I have championed throughout my time as a Member of Congress, and it is regretful that these initiatives were not taken up separately to make it easier for students to get the financial aid they need to get a college degree.

I support increasing the amount of aid available to college students through Pell Grants awards and voted to do so twice in the 110th Congress (H.R. 4137 and H.R. 2669). This program is vital to ensuring the accessibility of higher education for all Americans and I'm pleased this bill continues this increase in Pell Grants.

In addition, I supported efforts to cut interest rates on federal student loans in half (H.R. 5) and to expand eligibility for parents to qualify for education loans for their children (H.R. 5715). I have also been a strong supporter of funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority Serving Institutions, which received valuable support in this bill as well.

I was a proud supporter and original sponsor of legislation that would help bridge economic opportunity and the digital divide between minority institutions and their counterparts (H.R. 4137 in the 110th). I will continue to fight for these critical initiatives and others to improve access and quality in American education.

Pell Grants awards, HBCUs, community college funding, and pre-K programs are too important to include them in the same bill alongside reckless provisions that restrict the student loan market and place the fate of student access to financial aid under the care and supervision of the federal government.

HONORING B. TODD JONES

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate B. Todd Jones on his confirmation as the U.S. Attorney for Minnesota.

For U.S. Attorney Jones, my dear friend, this appointment represents the latest record in a life time of proud service to his beloved State of Minnesota, and to his country.

Upon graduating from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1983, B. Todd served on active duty for six years in the Marine Corps. He was called back to active duty and served with distinction in Operation Desert Storm.

In the private sector, B. Todd has tirelessly worked to uphold equal justice under the law. As an attorney with several Minnesota law firms, his diligent work on behalf of his clients has earned him broad respect in the legal community.

Also noteworthy are his efforts to promote diversity in the legal community so that it may better serve all Americans. To this end, B. Todd helped found, and served on the executive board of, Twin Cities Diversity in Practice.

Mr. Jones previously served as the U.S. District Attorney for Minnesota from 1998 to 2001. Based on a life steeped in public service, I have every confidence that B. Todd Jones will once more serve Minnesota and our nation with distinction.

Madam Speaker, let me again extend my most sincere congratulations to my friend and wish him well as he continues his service to our country.

HONORING MESOTHELIOMA AWARENESS DAY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the importance of September 26, which the Illinois House of Representatives has declared as Mesothelioma Awareness Day.

According to the National Cancer Institute, about 2,000 cases of mesothelioma are diagnosed each year in the United States. Understanding that diagnosing mesothelioma is often difficult and could be years and years after exposure, a biopsy is required to make a confirmation. This means that many people may go without proper diagnosis and medical care.

Research is being conducted, funded by the National Cancer Institute, pharmaceutical companies, and the Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation. The Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation is the beneficiary of a fundraiser on September 26 in Alton, Illinois—the Miles for Meso 5K.

I want to congratulate the law firm of Simmons Browder Gianaris Angelides & Barnerd, the many volunteers who put together Miles for Meso, and all the participants in the 5K run and walk.

The Simmons firm and its employees and John and Jane Simmons personally have shown their commitment to the region as evident in their efforts at Miles for Meso and through many other community service projects and donations.

STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 3221, important legislation that will provide critical resources for community colleges and expand access to higher education for our nation's students. While I have some remaining concerns with this bill that need to be addressed before enactment, I am voting to move this measure forward in the process because it strengthens our student aid programs while decreasing our federal deficit by \$10 billion.

H.R. 3221 provides an historic investment in Pell Grants and ensures that interest rates remain low on need-based federal student

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