

EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING
CENTER OF CHATHAM 25TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the time to congratulate the Early Childhood Learning Center in Chatham for its 25 years of service.

The ECLC is an accredited, non-profit organization that strives to educate students ages 5 to 21 with moderate to severe learning and/or language disabilities.

In 1970, a group of devoted parents formed the ECLC of New Jersey as a means of providing early intervention services to pre-school children. By 1983 the ECLC expanded its services to offer classes for children up to age 16. Today the ECLC accepts over 700 students in New Jersey. The Chatham Campus alone educates over 220 students; plus 26 adult clients in enrichment classes. This organization has come a long way from its small six-student pre-school.

The success of this organization can be attributed to its innovative and extensive programs. ECLC takes a unique approach to education by promoting self-sufficiency and success. The pre-vocational program called SKIL (Seeking Knowledge for Independent Living) teaches appropriate work-related behaviors and places students in volunteer jobs in the community. Students have the opportunity to participate in after-school activities, such as bowling, sleepovers, and dinner and a movie, where they can have fun with friends, instead of watching from the sidelines. Because of the small classroom sizes, the students receive the attention they need. The student-teacher ratio at the schools is 4:1 with the maximum number of 12 students per class. As a result of this intimate environment, the students feel comfortable to learn and explore.

Graduates of the ECLC participate in Alumni Activities, which give them a chance to get together with old friends by participating in dances, bingo, or movie night. The relationships made at the ECLC do not end once the students graduate, and the ECLC seeks to promote these bonds. In addition to Alumni Activities, Community Personnel Services, helps graduates find jobs in their home communities and coaches them to success. Evening Adult Enrichment classes are offered to alumni to further their education in subjects, such as computers, cooking, painting, reading, and banking, so they can continue their path of learning for an independent future.

The men and women at the ECLC of Chatham deserve both recognition and praise. Without these hard working and dedicated individuals, the ECLC would not be as successful as it is today. They help our fellow citizens become independent and educated despite mental challenges. For 25 years, these committed individuals have worked both in the classroom and behind the scenes to ensure that their students lead happy and meaningful lives. The Foundation raises money with their annual fund-raising events, which include gala dinners organized by staff and parents; a summer golf outing; and the Chatham Jaycees "Fishawack" 4-mile run. The enthusiasm and dedication of the ECLC teachers and staff en-

sure the future success of this important organization.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Early Childhood Learning Center in Chatham as it celebrates its 25th Anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN K. DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, on June 10th, 2014, I was unable to cast votes for the following amendments:

Denham Amendment, rollcall vote 288. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Blackburn Amendment, rollcall vote 289. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Schock Amendment, rollcall vote 290. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Gosar Amendment No. 1, rollcall vote 291. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Gosar Amendment No. 2, rollcall vote 292. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Schiff Amendment, rollcall vote 293. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Sessions Amendment, rollcall vote 294. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Gingrey Amendment, rollcall vote 295. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

I was also unable to cast votes for the following:

Democratic Motion to Recommit. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Final Passage of H.R. 4745, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING THE
CONTRIBUTIONS OF GINA DUNCAN

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Gina Duncan. She was born into a large family in Cookeville, Tennessee on October 24, 1955. Gina was originally named Greg Pingston at birth by his parents, Edward and Rae Pingston. Along with his two brothers and two sisters, he lived in 12 states and Europe before the family settled in Merritt Island, Florida in 1964.

At an early age, "Greg" excelled in sports and leadership. At Merritt Island High School in 1973, "Greg" was class president as well as the captain and middle linebacker of an undefeated state championship high school football team. His senior year, he was named to the Florida All-State Team. "Greg" received a football scholarship to East Carolina University and started as strong safety under Head Coach, Pat Dye. While at East Carolina, "Greg" was also elected Student Government Vice President, becoming the first non-fraternity/sorority elected officer.

In 1977, "Greg" returned to Central Florida to start a family and his career in mortgage

banking. He was named Central Florida Area Manager for Wells Fargo and Company in 1997, and was promoted to Regional Manager for the firm in 2006, overseeing 26 branches, 250 employees and a multi-million dollar budget. During that time, "Greg" served on the Board of Directors of the Mid-Florida Home Builders Association and as President of the Mortgage Bankers Association of Central Florida.

After a lifelong struggle with gender identity disorder, in 2007, Greg Pingston transitioned to her authentic self, Gina Leigh Duncan.

Since her gender transition, Ms. Duncan has been a visible and articulate advocate for the gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender communities. Gina was the first transgender president of a major chamber of commerce in the country, being elected to head the Metropolitan Business Association in 2010. Gina also served on the National Business Council of the Human Rights Campaign and on the Central Florida Steering Committee of Equality Florida.

In 2012, Ms. Duncan retired from mortgage banking and ran for public office. Garnering over 40% of the vote in an unsuccessful bid for the office of Orange County Commissioner, she was the first openly transgender candidate to run for office in Central Florida.

Also in 2012, Ms. Duncan released her first book entitled, *Attraversiamo*, "Let's Cross Over": A Story of Gender Transition.

Gina Duncan is now the Transgender Inclusion Director for Equality Florida, the state's largest LGBT advocacy organization. She is recognized as a national and international corporate trainer and speaker specializing in corporate transgender inclusion. She works with major corporations, elected officials, school boards, colleges, universities and non-profit organizations to improve knowledge and understanding of the transgender journey; and the development of competencies in supporting transgender people in the workplace. She provides firsthand knowledge of the dynamics of the transgender community, with the belief that embracing diversity and inclusion in the workplace allows people to be their true selves. This provides for an open and equal corporate culture, and increases economic well-being in society overall.

I am happy to honor Gina Duncan, during LGBT Pride Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community and to furthering equality in corporate culture.

HONORING MS. KAREN KALLENS,
RN, AND THE HUNTERDON COUNTY
MEDICATION ACCESS PART-
NERSHIP

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Karen Kallens, RN, for her outstanding contributions to Hunterdon Medical Center and the Hunterdon County Medication Access Partnership. Ms. Kallens has been committed to underserved patients in Hunterdon County. As coordinator of the Hunterdon County Medication Access Partnership, Ms. Kallens has brought prescription medication assistance and access and disease education to many residents in need.

The Hunterdon County Medication Access Partnership is a successful model where dedicated staff assist patients in evaluating their prescription medication needs and educating the community on affordable prescription medication opportunities through programs such as pharmaceutical company patient assistance programs, local pharmacy generic medication programs and Medicaid and Medicare. Ms. Kallens has helped over 4,000 patients thanks to the team at HCMAP who diligently and passionately assist numerous patients who would not otherwise receive the medications they need to live their lives in full.

Ms. Kallens does what most physicians cannot—follow each filed application and appeal the case if it is unjustly rejected and ensure compliance with prescription medicine.

I thank Ms. Kallens and the staff at the Hunterdon County Medication Access Partnership for their dedicated public service.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SANDY HOOK LIGHTHOUSE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Sandy Hook Lighthouse as it celebrates its 250th Anniversary this year. The Sandy Hook Lighthouse has served as a beacon for the New Jersey coastline and the New York Harbor since it was first illuminated on June 11, 1764. Its historical significance is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

The oldest original, operational lighthouse in the United States, the Sandy Hook Lighthouse is one of the 11 lighthouses built during the colonial era. First lit by whale oil, the lighthouse is currently illuminated by electricity, which became the standard for most lighthouses in the 1930s. To accommodate the increased harbor traffic, two beacons were added in 1817, for a total of 3 lights and 32 lamps and reflectors. With the increased work, three assistants were assigned to help the lighthouse keeper in 1857. Also that year, the lighthouse was renovated to include its glass Fresnel lens, an iron lens house, brick interior lining for stability and an iron staircase.

During the American Revolution, the Sandy Hook Lighthouse served as a significant navigational aid. Held under British control for much of the war, it was a target due to its important location. Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Tupper and his troops attempted to destroy the tower in March of 1776. After the attack, the lighthouse was closely guarded by British loyalists with the support of the British Army and Navy.

The Sandy Hook Lighthouse was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1964. With the introduction of electricity, a lighthouse keeper is no longer necessary. Today, its tower is maintained by the National Park Service and its light is maintained by the United States Coast Guard.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in recognizing the Sandy Hook Lighthouse and marking its 250th Anniversary.

OPPOSITION TO H.R. 4660, THE FY15 COMMERCE-JUSTICE-SCIENCE APPROPRIATIONS BILL

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in reluctant opposition to H.R. 4066, the Commerce-Justice-Science (CJS) Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2015.

I commend Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member FATTAH for their dedicated work on crafting this legislation. However, I cannot vote for it in its current form. While I can support the overall \$51.2 billion in discretionary spending, a number of specific programs were short-changed. For example, the bill cuts important investments in key areas such as law enforcement, access to justice for the poor, and climate research. In addition, a number of pernicious policy riders were added on the House floor which poisons the overall bill.

With respect to funding levels, I have serious concerns about cuts that were made to a number of programs within the Department of Justice. This bill cuts the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program by \$117.5 million from FY14 and is \$177.5 million below the Presidents' request. And while an amendment was adopted to increase funding for COPS by \$110 million on the House floor this came at the direct expense of the Census Bureau, which was already funded below the Administration's request. This is a false choice that is both unnecessary and arbitrary.

I also oppose reductions in funding for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC), which is the single largest funder of civil legal aid for low-income Americans, including many military families and veterans. This bill would reduce funding for LSC by \$15 million in FY15 and would be \$80 million below the President's request. Over 1,000 full time employees have been terminated as a result of cuts to LSC in recent years and a continued lack of funding will result in tens of thousands of Americans being denied vital legal assistance.

I am also disappointed in the arbitrary and short-sighted cuts to climate research at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that will limit our understanding of mid-term weather forecasting, including drought. These damaging cuts will hinder our ability to understand and respond to changing weather patterns across the country.

I also strongly object to many of the policy riders that were included in the final passage of H.R. 4066. I was disappointed that an amendment offered by Rep. MORAN to strike sections 528 and 529 was not adopted, leaving in place the misguided provision to continue funding restrictions on the construction or modification of detention facilities in the United States to house Guantanamo detainees. As the President made clear in his State of the Union Address earlier this year, we cannot wait any longer to lift the remaining restrictions on detainee transfers and close down this facility once-and-for-all.

The legislation also includes language that severely limits the ability of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives

(ATF) to combat illegal gun trafficking. Specifically, the ATF is prohibited from denying an application to import particular models or configurations of a shotgun that do not meet the statutory "sporting purposes" test.

There were also many amendments adopted on the House floor that I strongly opposed. An amendment introduced by Rep. SCOTT GARRETT would prohibit funds from being used by the Justice Department to pursue litigation using the "disparate impact" legal theory. This not only flies in the face of the Civil Rights Act but would prohibit the Justice Department from getting involved in litigation where whole classifications of individuals are being systematically discriminated against.

I was also disappointed that an amendment passed on the House floor that would not allow for funds to be used to transfer or assign employees to the Pardon Attorney's office for the purpose of screening clemency applications. This severely undermines the Justice Department's efforts to scale back prison sentences for individuals incarcerated for non-violent drug offenses. Another ill-conceived amendment offered by Representative STEVE KING would handcuff Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) by limiting its use of prosecutorial discretion.

Despite my opposition to the overall legislation, I was encouraged that a bipartisan amendment led by Rep. MIKE THOMPSON and Rep. PETER KING to lift funding for the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) was adopted. This increased funding matches the level of funding requested by states for NICS grants in FY14 and will ensure that Maryland has the necessary resources to implement the technology to automate criminal history and mental health records in our background check system.

In addition, I supported the funding levels of many other programs and priorities. Within the Department of Justice, I was encouraged that Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution programs, Byrne-JAG formula grants, and the Youth Mentoring program all received funding at or above the President's request.

I will continue to monitor the progress of this bill and it is my hope that my concerns are resolved in conference with the Senate and I will be able to vote for it in its final form.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,555,165,805,212.20. We've added \$6,928,288,756,299.20 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.