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THE OCCASION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OAKLAND LIVINGSTON HUMAN SERVICE AGENCY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency's (OLHSA) 50th Anniversary. OLHSA, founded in 1964 as a part of President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty, provides over 70 collaborative programs to the elderly, disabled, and low-income residents of Oakland and Livingston Counties.

Created with the mission of empowering individuals to attain self-sufficiency, OLHSA has developed a long record of success. Just last year, it provided information, advice, and material assistance to over 50,000 people—support that helped them to improve their own lives, as well as the vitality of their communities. OLHSA provided them with crucial resources such as food assistance, tax preparation, financial planning, foreclosure prevention counseling, referral guidance, early childhood development and energy assistance.

Recognizing the key role that education plays as a tool that empowers individuals to shape their own future, OLHSA has directed significant resources into education at the youngest ages with its Head Start program. Centered on the principle of involving parents directly in their children's learning process, OLHSA sees its Head Start program as a vital component of its efforts to break the poverty cycle. Through this program, OLHSA continues to demonstrate its commitment to strengthening communities by providing the basic services that enable its clients to attain prosperity.

Veterans facing housing insecurity can also turn to OLHSA to access the VA Supportive Services for the Veteran Families program, which was created with the goal of eliminating homelessness amongst veterans and their families. By providing case management, rent payment assistance, and emergency housing, OLHSA energetically works to ensure that veteran families in Oakland and Livingston Counties receive the housing and peace of mind they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, as the Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency celebrates its 50th Anniversary of service to communities across Southeastern Michigan, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the remarkable impact it has made on its clients. Thanks to OLHSA's leadership and the dedication of its staff, many tens of thousands of residents of Oakland and Livingston counties of Michigan have received

support at critical moments in their lives. In the face of the recent economic challenges in Michigan, OLHSA's programs were vital to families' continued well-being. I congratulate OLHSA's staff on all of their organization's accomplishments over the last five decades and I look forward to continuing to work with them to strengthen the Southeast Michigan community by empowering its residents with the necessary tools to build a successful future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PREVENTING TERMINATION OF UTILITY SERVICES IN BANKRUPTCY ACT OF 2014

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2014

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, utility companies provide many basic and life-saving services, such as electricity to light our homes, water to drink, and gas to heat our homes. Sometimes, however, individuals, through no fault of their own, struggle to pay for these services often in the face of devastating medical debt, job loss, or economic disruption caused by divorce. While resorting to bankruptcy provides some relief from financial distress, current law permits utility companies to force these debtors to pay security deposits for continued service even if they were current on their bills before filing for bankruptcy or if they promise to be current on their bills after bankruptcy. Utility companies typically insist that debtors pay at least two months or more of their average bills as a deposit—in addition to requiring that they remain current on their utility bills after bankruptcy—in exchange for the utility continuing to supply service.

H.R. _____, the "Preventing Termination of Utility Service in Bankruptcy Act of 2014," corrects this injustice. It provides that if the debtor remains current on his or her utility bills after filing for bankruptcy relief, the debtor should not have to pay a deposit to the utility to continue service.

In Detroit, for example, families across the city have seen their water rates increase by 119 percent over the past decade. During the same period, the Nation generally and Detroit in particular suffered in the aftermath of a global financial crisis that left one-in-five local residences in foreclosure and sent local unemployment rates skyrocketing.

Fortunately, we are incrementally recovering from the Great Recession of 2008. For those individuals who must seek bankruptcy relief, however, we should ensure that their ability to pay their utility bills going forward is not hindered by unnecessary demands for deposits if these debtors remain current on their payments to these companies.

Terminating a family's access to such life-saving services that keeps the lights on, warms our homes, and ensures that they can bathe, hydrate and prepare meals is simply wrong if these utility bills are being paid on time.

This legislation is part of a range of solutions that are needed to address the still pervasive adverse impacts of the Great Recession of 2008. I continue to work with my colleagues in Congress, state and federal officials, and my constituents to defend the right

to water and protect public health. I will not tolerate the notion that—in the 21st Century, in the wealthiest nation on earth—families should go without access to affordable public water and sanitation services.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2014

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, on June 26, 2014, I was unavoidably detained from votes due to a conflict. Had I been present on the House floor I would have voted as follows on amendments to H.R. 4899, the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act: "no" on rollcall No. 360, the Wittman/Duncan (SC) Amendment; "aye" on rollcall No. 361, the Lowenthal/Capps/Farr/Holt/Honda/Huffman/Langevin/Peters(CA)/Pingree/Shea-Porter/Lee Amendment; "aye" on rollcall No. 362, the Capps/Brownley/Huffman/Lowenthal Amendment; "aye" on rollcall No. 363, the Deutch Amendment; "aye" on rollcall No. 364, the Blumenauer Amendment; "no" on rollcall No. 365, the Bishop (UT) Amendment; "aye" on rollcall No. 366, the DeFazio Amendment.

A TRIBUTE TO THE JERSEY BOYS . . . THE FOUR SEASONS: A BAND FOR ALL SEASONS . . . DOO WOP DO WA!

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2014

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following poem penned by Albert Carey Caswell.

"Are the stars out tonight"
 "it doesn't matter who's wrong or right"
 "I've only got eyes for you" . . .
 doo wop do wa!
 In the rhythm of our lives . . .
 In these moments that we're alive . . .
 All in the music of our lives!
 Comes these beats,
 these rhythms,
 and these measures . . .
 we all so feel inside . . .
 These lyrics . . .
 these sounds . . .
 which so gives us such pleasure,
 all in our strides . . .
 All within our hearts,
 which so makes us cry . . .
 Taking us all so back in time,
 to all those moments . . .
 we so cherished so deep down inside . . .
 Which so "Stay" with us,
 as so timelessly they do reside!
 And no matter where we are,
 when we hear them we all so smile . . .
 Making us all want to get up and dance,
 so all the while!
 To move to that beat,
 to that music,
 to that rhythm,
 to that cadence oh so very sweet!
 As it was the birth of Rock and Roll,
 and doo wop was King as so!
 When a King once so ruled the show!
 The one who could so shake,
 rattle,
 and roll!