

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR. QUINTARD TAYLOR

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Dr. Quintard Taylor of the University of Washington on receiving the 2015 Washington State Jefferson Award from Seattle CityClub.

The Jefferson Award is given to the unsung heroes who make a difference in their community through public service. Also known as the "Nobel Prize" of social service, the Seattle CityClub presents the Jefferson Award to community leaders who exemplify volunteerism and action to better their communities.

Today, Dr. Taylor is the Scott and Dorothy Bullitt Professor of American History at the University of Washington's Seattle campus, and has taught in Washington, Oregon, California, and Nigeria over the course of almost 40 years. He has edited, written and published multiple writings on African American History, providing his expertise on African American history specific to the American West.

In addition to his commitment to teaching, Dr. Taylor created a website resource called BlackPast.org, a non-profit website that features over 10,000 pages of information on African American history. In particular, this resource features voluntary academic contributions from various scholars verified through a rigorous process. This site is the largest reference center of its type and is a testament to his dedication to providing citizens with vital information on American history.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize and congratulate Dr. Quintard Taylor on receiving Seattle CityClub's 2015 Jefferson Award.

RECOGNIZING MERCEDES SANTANA

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2015

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mercedes Santana, a talented young lady and athlete.

Born on August 30, 2003, Mercedes has studied the martial art of Tae Kwon Do at Mechelle's Way Tae Kwon Do in Schenectady, New York for the last several years. During this time, she successfully earned the level of Red Belt, and she continues to pursue her goal of earning a Black Belt as well as completion of martial arts weapons training.

Mr. Speaker, in July of 2013, Mercedes attended and competed in the 2013 Junior Olympics, held in Detroit, Michigan. At this event Mercedes earned a Bronze Medal in Tae Kwon Do, a feat which currently makes her the only Junior Olympian in Schenectady, New York. This accomplishment has proven Mercedes to be an impressive role model for her peers and fellow New Yorkers.

Outside of Tae Kwon Do, Mercedes holds a diverse range of interests, including playing the drums, painting and reading.

Mr. Speaker, the Junior Olympics have been held over 30 times since their inception

in 1967. The event has included over 20 sports in this time span and the 2013 event alone had over 12,000 athletes in attendance. By winning a Bronze Medal, Mercedes has truly proven herself to be an impressive student of Tae Kwon Do and overall athlete.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other congressional colleagues join me in recognizing Mercedes Santana for her tremendous accomplishments, and to encourage Mercedes to continue to inspire those around her.

CELEBRATING BETHESDA ACADEMY'S 275TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the 275th Anniversary of Bethesda Academy, Savannah's iconic boarding and day school for boys in grades six through 12.

Bethesda Academy was founded in 1740 by Reverend George Whitefield as a home for boys, and it has the distinction of being America's oldest child caring institute. This values-laden educational institution has raised the bar when it comes to educating Georgia's young men, strongly emphasizing Whitefield's founding mission to teach "a love for God, a love of learning and a strong work ethic." Today, Bethesda Academy is an AdvancEd accredited institute with 95 percent of its students graduating on time and 87 percent going on to higher education.

Designing its curriculum around the way that the boys learn most effectively, Bethesda Academy features a wildlife management program, an on-site video production studio, an organic farming program and a nationally-ranked chess team. Bethesda does not receive any state funding to operate and depends largely on private donations, external scholarship programs such as the Georgia GOAL Scholarship Program, annual fundraising, and a collection of on-campus business enterprises that cumulatively help meet the school's annual budget. Though the school has faced many challenges over the years due to funding, Bethesda has evolved into a thriving and award-winning middle and high school.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to commemorate the 275th Anniversary of Bethesda Academy. With a wide range of academic, athletic, vocational and spiritual development opportunities, there is no doubt that Bethesda is preparing these young men for future success in life.

PROTECTING CYBER NETWORKS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1560) to improve cybersecurity in the United States through

enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats, and for other purposes:

Mr. NUNES. Madam Chair, I submit the following exchange of letters regarding H.R. 1560:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, April 7, 2015.

Hon. DEVIN NUNES,
Chairman, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN NUNES: I am writing concerning H.R. 1560, the "Protecting Cyber Networks Act," which your Committee ordered reported on March 26, 2015.

As you know, H.R. 1560 contains provisions within the Committee on the Judiciary's Rule X jurisdiction. As a result of your having consulted with the Committee and in order to expedite the House's consideration of H.R. 1560, the Committee on the Judiciary will not assert a jurisdictional claim over this bill by seeking a sequential referral. However, this is conditional on our mutual understanding and agreement that doing so will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would request that you include a copy of this letter and your response in the Committee Report and in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE,
Washington, DC, April 10, 2015.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1560, the Protecting Cyber Networks Act. As you noted, certain provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary. As you also noted, the language of those provisions was the result of consultations with you in advance of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence's consideration of the bill. I agree that your letter in no way diminishes or alters the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or any similar legislation.

I appreciate your willingness to forego consideration of the bill in the interest of expediting this legislation for floor consideration. I will include a copy of your letter and this response in our Committee's report on H.R. 1560 and the Congressional Record during consideration of the legislation on the House floor. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,
DEVIN NUNES,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,
Washington, DC, April 13, 2015.

Hon. DEVIN NUNES,
Chairman, Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On March 26, 2015, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

ordered H.R. 1560, the Protecting Cyber Networks Act reported to the House. Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform with regard to H.R. 1560 on those matters within the Committee's jurisdiction. I am writing to confirm our mutual understanding with respect to the consideration of the bill.

The bill contains provisions that fall within the Rule X subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The Committee has purview over the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA, 5 U.S.C. 552), which H.R. 1560 directly amends. Section 10 of the bill directly amends 5 U.S.C. 552 to create a new 5 U.S.C. 552(b) provision that exempts the entire Act from FOIA, including any subsequent amendments. Prior to floor consideration, we will work together to remove section 10 and consider improvements to other sections of the bill referencing 5 U.S.C. 552.

In the interest of expediting the House's consideration of H.R. 1560, I will not request a sequential referral of the bill. However, I do so only with the understanding that this procedural route will not be construed to prejudice the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform's jurisdictional interest and prerogatives on this bill or any other similar legislation and will not be considered as precedent for consideration of matters of jurisdictional interest to my Committee in the future.

I respectfully request your support for the appointment of outside conferees from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform should this bill or a similar bill be considered in a conference with the Senate. I also request that you include our exchange of letters on this matter in the Committee Report on H.R. 1560 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

JASON CHAFFETZ,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE,

Washington, DC, April 13, 2015.

Hon. JASON CHAFFETZ,
Chairman, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1560, the Protecting Cyber Networks Act. As you noted, certain provisions of the bill related to 5 U.S.C. § 552 fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. As you also noted, we have agreed to continue to work with you on these provisions. I agree that your letter in no way diminishes or alters the jurisdiction of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or any similar legislation.

I appreciate your willingness to forego consideration of the bill in the interest of expediting this legislation for floor consideration. I will include a copy of your letter and this response in our Committee's report on H.R. 1560 and the Congressional Record during consideration of the legislation on the House floor. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

DEVIN NUNES,
Chairman.

THE GLOBAL MAGNITSKY HUMAN RIGHTS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I recently chaired a hearing on the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012 directed the President to publish and update a list of each person the President had reason to conclude was responsible for the detention, abuse, or death of Sergei Magnitsky, a legal and accounting adviser with Firestone Duncan, an international law and accounting firm with offices in Moscow and London.

William Browder, Chief Executive Officer of Hermitage Capital Management Ltd., who was one of the witnesses at the hearing, has provided a detailed account of the violent expropriation of the assets of Hermitage—the largest foreign investment brokerage in Russia—by rampant Russian Government corruption, bribery, fraud, forgery, cronyism, and outright theft.

Magnitsky had documented Hermitage's losses and other illicit financial dealings, including draining \$230 million from the Russian treasury by tax fraud. He was arrested in November 2008, reportedly for tax evasion, and denied medical care, family visits, or due legal process, in custody. He was beaten and tortured, and died in prison in November 2009. He was 37 years old and married with two young children.

The Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012 targeted those who participated in related liability concealment efforts, financially benefited from Sergei Magnitsky's detention, abuse, or death, or were involved in the criminal conspiracy uncovered by Magnitsky, or were responsible for extrajudicial killings, torture, or other human rights violations committed against individuals seeking to expose illegal activity carried out by Russian officials, or against persons seeking to promote human rights and freedoms. The Act directed the Secretaries of State and Treasury to annually report to Congress on actions taken to implement the Act, including rejecting visa applications, revoking existing visas, and blocking property transactions, for persons the President put on the Magnitsky List.

The United States is a land of opportunity, but it should not be for those who misused and murdered Sergei Magnitsky. Without the original Magnitsky Act, the government officials and businesspeople who perpetrated crimes against a young man, against a major international firm, and against even the Russian people themselves by stealing from them, could have taken their ill-gotten gains and come to this country to purchase property and live the good life that the United States offers.

The hearing examined the need for H.R. 624, "The Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act," which extends these human rights and anti-corruption tools to other countries. The House passed the 2012 act by a vote of 365–43, and there is now strong Majority and Minority co-sponsorship for H.R. 624.

Since the original Magnitsky Act became law on December 14, 2012, human rights vic-

tims and advocates from around the world, and anti-corruption champions, have asked for a Magnitsky Act for their specific country. H.R. 624 ensures—with minimal cost or burden on the United States—that our government gives some justice to victims and stands in solidarity with them in a tangible way, shines a spotlight on perpetrators, making them pariahs, and pressures governments to prosecute perpetrators who are their citizens.

The Global Magnitsky Act is intended to disrupt the impunity and comfort that far too many international human rights violators currently enjoy and to keep their tainted money out of our financial systems. It also fights the human rights abuses and corruption that generate national security, terrorism, and economic threats to the United States.

A few years ago, Teodorin Obiang Mangué son of the President of Equatorial Guinea, visited the United States regularly. Using funds siphoned from American companies operating in his country, he lived a glamorous life in Malibu, California, dating celebrities and collecting expensive cars. When France issued a warrant for his arrest after he refused to appear at a money-laundering hearing, his father provided him with diplomatic immunity to escape prosecution.

In June 2012, after years of trying to track Teodorin's wealth, the U.S. Department of Justice finally filed a lawsuit in a California court alleging massive money-laundering and listing, among the scandalous catalog of assets, his \$35 million Malibu mansion, with a four-hole golf course, tennis court and two swimming pools. That's just one of the acquisitions he made in the U.S.

The financial manipulations of young Mr. Obiang's family led in part to the closing of Riggs Bank in Washington, one of the capital's premier financial institutions. Such people should not be able to steal from foreign firms and their own people and use these funds to live lavishly in our country.

Similarly, those who torture and otherwise commit the worst human rights violations against others should not be welcome here either and I have written legislation over the years to enforce that principle. The Ethiopia Freedom, Democracy, and Human Rights Advancement Act of 2006 would have prevented officials who ordered the callous shooting of peaceful demonstrators in Ethiopia from entering this country. The Foreign Relations Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001 became law and required the U.S. Government to impose visa bans on any foreign national the Secretary of State has determined is directly involved in establishing or enforcing population control policies that force a woman to undergo abortions against her will or force a man or woman to undergo sterilization against his or her will. The Belarus Democracy Reauthorization Act of 2006 also became law and imposed visa bans and asset freezes on government officials from the Government of Belarus because of their violations of basic human rights and freedoms.

If we stand by quietly when governments refuse to prosecute human rights abusers and financial fraudsters, and then welcome those guilty of such crimes into the United States and into our financial systems, we are enabling their crimes. The 2012 Magnitsky Act was a major step in freeing ourselves from aiding and abetting international perpetrators. H.R. 624 makes the next step in taking a