

train and educate workers for higher employment, ensure equal childhood development opportunities, and foster environments suitable to entrepreneurship and homeownership.

In addition to providing educational and training opportunities to both adults and children, CAP Services also provides innovative programs to low income families so that they may better participate in the economy. One such example is their Work-n-Wheels program where CAP Services provides interest free car loans to individuals who need reliable transportation to get to work. Another innovative program CAP Services provides is their Home Weatherization program where they help low income families reduce heating costs and improve energy efficiency by enabling individuals to weatherproof their homes or apartments.

Empowering individuals to become financially independent through human, child, and business development is one of the most efficient ways to lift people out of poverty. I am proud to have this Stevens Point based community action agency in Wisconsin's Third Congressional District and I hope the great work they are conducting will serve as a model for the rest of the country.

RESTORE THE VOTE

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to address the ongoing problem of voter suppression in this country. The Voting Rights Act was passed in 1965 and sadly today—over 50 years later, Americans continue to be blocked from the ballot box. This ongoing suppression absolutely must stop—now. Congress must lead the way in upholding democracy and equal rights in this great nation. This is why I'm so proud to join my colleagues and serve as co-chair of the first ever Congressional Voting Rights Caucus.

The importance and great need of the Congressional Voting Rights Caucus cannot be overstated. The purpose of the Congressional Voting Rights Caucus is to educate the public on local voter suppression tactics, inform constituents on their rights as voters and to create and advance legislations such as the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015 that help prevent current and future discriminatory and suppressive tactics that would deny American citizens the sacred right to vote.

This 2016 Election will be the first time in over 50 years—that a presidential election will occur without the full protections of the Voting Rights Act. As a daughter of Selma, Alabama, I am painfully aware that injustices suffered on the Edmund Pettus Bridge over 50 years ago have not been fully vindicated. Though we may not be counting marbles in a jar, in over 30 states such as Alabama, Arizona, North Carolina, Texas and Wisconsin—there remains example after example of modern day barriers that are keeping eligible Americans from the ballot box.

We are desperately in need to join together and restore the vote. These threats to our democracy and civil rights bar thousands of Americans from their right to the voting polls. Along with Representative MARC VEASEY and my fellow colleagues, I am committed to push

for improving and strengthening Voting Rights legislation that makes voting easier, not harder for the American people. I believe this Caucus is a symbol of great hope for change, however—I do look forward to the day it is no longer needed. This is America, this is a democracy and eligible voters should have full and free access to the polls.

I ask that not only members of this new Caucus, but that all my colleagues stand up and speak out in order to restore the vote. We all must fight against voter suppression and discrimination at the polls. We all must protect the principles of this great country and the integrity of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. We must restore the vote.

On this Restoration Tuesday, I give us all the charge to battle against the continued suppression of the American vote and stand strong by our principles of democracy, liberty and justice for all. Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues should join the 168 members of Congress and support H.R. 2867—the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015. Let's restore the Voting Rights Act of 1965. It is the right thing to do.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. SCOTT H. PETERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4909) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Chair, today I rise to support a simple, but important effort that everyone in this chamber can agree on.

My amendment adds to this bill a Sense of Congress that when practical and cost-effective, the DoD should seek ways to maximize the number of veterans employed to build military construction projects.

Many members of this chamber, on both sides of the aisle, have stood on this floor and championed the cause of hiring veterans.

It's a policy that we've incentivized private corporations to do, and criticized employers for not doing it, or doing improperly.

It makes sense that if we are going to be good stewards of tax dollars, that we should encourage that money is used to hire veterans.

We're talking about good jobs here—jobs that take valuable skills, determined initiative, and produce pride in a job well done.

This is not intended to add any burden to the DoD or their military construction projects, but it's a reminder that oftentimes, we have skilled veteran laborers that live near these projects and are ideal candidates for the job.

If Congress is going to continue its efforts to support our veterans as they transition out of the military and back into the civilian world, then voting in favor of this amendment is a no brainer.

Support this amendment and join me in showing that our military readiness can often

best be built by those who know how important that readiness is when fighting for our freedom.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4909) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Ms. COMSTOCK. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer a bipartisan amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017. My amendment seeks to protect our children and teens from access to opioids in hopes of reducing the number of individuals we see addicted to heroin and other drugs.

This amendment directs the Secretary of Defense to study the feasibility and effectiveness of dispensing opioid medications in vials using affordable technologies designed to prevent access to stored medications by anyone other than the intended patient.

Today, our prescription pill bottles use what are generally referred to as "child-resistant" standards but today's teens have remarkably easy access to pain medications that are stronger and more addictive than those of the past.

It is not unusual for today's youth to find these opioids in the medicine cabinets of family members or friends. Technologies like locking prescription vials (LPVs) are already on the market and are a cheap efficient way to reduce the likelihood that our children and teens start down the path to addiction.

The implementation of child-resistant standards generated a 45 percent reduction in mortality rates. It is my hope that a feasibility study conducted by the Department of Defense would show additional benefits stemming from the implementation of more advanced LPVs.

I urge my colleagues to protect our youth from this epidemic and support my amendment.

TAIWAN PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, on May 20, the 23 million people of Taiwan inaugurated their democratically elected president, Dr. Tsai Ing-wen. It was a nation-wide celebration.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating President Tsai on her election. I also congratulate the people of Taiwan for successfully conducting another presidential election. They continue to show that their country is a strong and vibrant democracy.