

it. The organization combined with several other service-oriented groups over the years to better serve its constituency of women in need while continuing to offer low-cost, women-friendly counseling and support services. Today, the Women's Center, based out of Ann Arbor, Michigan, builds on this legacy, offering divorce support, job coaching, personal counseling, and other services through its staff of social workers, graduate interns and community volunteers. Collectively, these individuals help the Women's Center provide direct services to approximately 500 individuals each year, as well as referral services to over 1,000 other individuals to access additional community resources.

The assistance provided by the staff and volunteers of the Women's Center provides professional services that build confidence, strengthen connections and create positive energy. Women find a network and gain access at a low affordable cost to therapists, job coaches, legal aid, divorce specialists, financial advisors and other important tools they need for support and success. The Women's Center's unique approach and comprehensive resources have empowered countless women to address issues in a confidential and specialized setting, and it is my hope that the Center continues to build on its legacy of success.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Women's Center of Southeastern Michigan on its 17th annual Swing into Spring fundraiser. The Women's Center offers important services and supports to women in need.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL ROOFING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION AND NATIONAL ROOFING WEEK

HON. RANDY HULTGREN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2017

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA) headquartered in Rosemont, Illinois, and its efforts to designate the week of June 4–10, 2017 as National Roofing Week.

The roof is one of the most important components of any home or business. It is the first line of defense against natural elements, such as rain, snow or wind, and yet it is often taken for granted until it falls into disrepair. National Roofing Week honors the thousands of roofing contractors and roofing-related businesses across the country and the industry's commitment to public service. National Roofing Week is a valuable reminder of the significance quality roofing has on every home and business in the United States.

Established in 1886, NRCA is one of the nation's oldest trade associations and the voice of professional roofing contractors worldwide. Today, the NRCA has more than 3,800 members located across all 50 states and represents a variety of industry stakeholders, including roofing, roof deck, and water proofing contractors. Using its vast network of roofing contractors and industry-related members, NRCA is responsible for the installation of a majority of new construction and replacement

roof systems on commercial and residential structures in America. Most of its members are small, privately-held businesses that provide high-paying jobs for thousands of hard-working families and individuals that are the backbone of our economy.

Professional roofing contractors provide vital services to their communities, both on and off the clock, in all 50 states. NRCA members will recognize National Roofing Week on June 4–10 by supporting numerous charitable community service roofing projects throughout the nation. I commend the NRCA and the vital role the organization and its members play in every community and I ask all my colleagues to join me in acknowledging their contributions during National Roofing Week.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "KEEP OUR PENSION PROMISES ACT"

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2017

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduce the Keep Our Pension Promises Act to reinstate the long standing federal law and principal that prohibited cuts to private pension benefits in plans for retirees.

Pensions are one of the surest means to afford millions of middle class families' security in retirement. They have allowed millions of Americans to enjoy their golden years without fear that they have not saved enough. For decades, pensions guaranteed our senior citizens the peace of mind that a check would arrive every month for as long as they live: this is true retirement security.

But in December 2014, Congress uprooted this security for millions of retirees. At the last minute, in a must pass funding bill, Congress included the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act (MPRA) eviscerating this protection. With little understanding of what the provisions meant, Congress changed a forty year old pension law that ensured retirees were given the highest level of pension-defense. The Employee Retirement Income Security Act, or ERISA, allowed for pension benefits in multi-employer plans to be cut only when a plan runs out of money—and even then, the retiree benefits should face cuts last. This held true because it was the right thing to do.

Pensions are not handouts, they are deferred wages earned over a lifetime of hard work. An estimated 1.5 million participants, including retirees, are in multiemployer pension plans that are in danger of running out of money in the near future. The passage of MPRA allowed for the first time, benefits of current retirees to be cut in an attempt to address the fiscal distress confronting some of these multiemployer plans.

This was wrong then, and remains a blemish on the Congressional record that little action has been taken to correct the undue burden it placed on retirees. That's why today I introduce the "Keep Our Pension Promises Act" with Senator BERNIE SANDERS of Vermont.

This Act corrects the injustices bestowed upon our most vulnerable retirees by restoring anti-cutback rules so retirees in financially troubled multiemployer pension plans are protected from having their earned benefits cut.

It will allow plans to partition off "orphaned" participants into a separate plan, giving participating employers relief from shouldering the full financial burden and risk of underfunded "orphaned" participants—ensuring the ability for plans to become financially secure once more.

This bill recognizes funding is the ultimate concern. It shores up the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp and creates a legacy fund to ensure participants in partitioned plans will continue to receive the benefits they depend upon. The costs to create this fund are covered by closing tax loopholes the very wealthy use to avoid taxes on like-kind exchanges and supersized IRA accounts that hold millions, despite laws that limit accounts to much smaller tax deductible amounts.

Further the bill ensures pension obligations are prioritized during bankruptcies, which will help the remaining employers in the plan by making it less likely they become responsible for underfunded orphan plans.

Over the past few years the retirees facing these cuts mobilized. They organized dozens of committees to spread the message of how damaging the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act has and will be to their lives and financial security. The Keep Our Pension Promises Act recognizes shared sacrifice is the appropriate course of action to save the golden years of retirement for these retirees. I encourage my colleagues to support this measure and correct the misguided action of passage of the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAYNE HOMCO FOR HER DISTINGUISHED CAREER AND WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jayne Homco for her outstanding achievements and career with Kroger Co. As president of Kroger's Michigan division, Ms. Homco's leadership and business expertise have helped make Kroger one of America's premier companies.

After graduating from Indiana University, Ms. Homco joined Kroger in 1978 and has served with the company in a variety of roles. She was named co-manager of an Indianapolis store before she turned thirty, and has held management positions with five different divisions within the company across six states. Prior to being named president of Kroger Michigan, Ms. Homco served as vice president of merchandising for Kroger's Southwest division, where she oversaw merchandising for over 200 Kroger supermarkets. In her current role, Ms. Homco leads a division of 16,000 Michigan employees across over 100 stores, which collectively account for billions of dollars in revenue each year.

Ms. Homco's pioneering career has helped her break down barriers for women in the workplace while providing outstanding leadership for Kroger Co. During her career, Ms. Homco became the first woman vice president at Kroger's Dillion's and QFC divisions. Additionally, she is active in the Michigan business community, serving as a board member of the