

on H.R. 2866—Reducing Barriers for Relative Foster Parents Act.

EVAN VIGIL

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 21, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Evan Vigil for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Evan Vigil is a student at Arvada West High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Evan Vigil is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Evan Vigil for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE ENSURING SUCCESSFUL REENTRY ACT**

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 21, 2017*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Ensuring Successful Reentry Act, a bill to eliminate so-called “subsistence fees.” Federal law currently requires the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to impose a subsistence fee on the income of returning citizens living in residential reentry centers (RRCs), supposedly to promote financial responsibility by requiring RRC residents to pay a portion of their housing costs. The fee is currently 25 percent. However, many returning citizens living in these centers often work minimum wage jobs, so the loss of 25 percent of their paychecks is a significant hurdle to successful reentry, and it makes it extremely difficult for them to save money for rent, pay child support, or fines and fees associated with their conviction (such as restitution). Only last year, BOP eliminated the subsistence fee for returning citizens on home confinement, who cost BOP nothing for maintenance. Far from promoting financial responsibility, subsistence fees actually prevent returning citizens from meeting their financial obligations.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has already recognized how “counterproductive” subsistence fees are, both for returning citizens and BOP. In a November 2016 memo, then-Deputy Attorney General Sally Q. Yates noted that BOP’s “process for collecting these subsistence fees is costly and administratively burdensome for both RRC’s and [BOP],” and called for DOJ to “develop a plan to limit the

use of counterproductive ‘subsistence’ fees imposed on indigent residents.” BOP can already waive subsistence fees in certain situations for residents of RRCs, but only a change in federal law can remove this unnecessary barrier to reentry.

We should not be imposing additional burdens on returning citizens, setting them up to fail, especially those who are employed and working toward independence from the criminal justice system. Jobs and affordable housing are crucial components in ensuring successful reentry—charging subsistence fees is antithetical to this goal. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

**MODIFICATIONS OF CREDIT FOR PRODUCTION FROM ADVANCED NUCLEAR POWER FACILITIES**

SPEECH OF

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 20, 2017*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, as an original cosponsor of H.R. 1551, I would like to thank Mr. RICE and Mr. BLUMENAUER for authoring this bill that modifies the credit for energy production from advanced nuclear facilities. I would also like to thank Chairman KEVIN BRADY for guiding this legislation favorably through the Committee on Ways and Means, and House leadership for helping to bring it to the floor today.

My congressional district in North Texas is home to many people that are currently employed and actively engaged in the planning, approval, and construction of advanced nuclear facilities. One such constituent company, Fluor Corporation, is headquartered in Irving, Texas. This US-based engineering and construction company employs 15,000 employees working on energy and power, infrastructure, mining, and industrial projects in Texas alone. Currently, Fluor supervises the construction of the four reactors at two sites employing almost 6,000 people.

Employees at this and other companies nationwide work to advance the construction of these nuclear facilities. Finishing these projects is crucial for the employees, engineers, and the industrial base that we need to retain in the United States.

I believe, and I am sure my colleagues agree, that the impacts of these projects are important for both our civilian and military markets. In addition, the changes presented in H.R. 1551 will potentially benefit many companies involved in design, fabrication, and construction of additional nuclear units.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this legislation and urge my colleagues to do so as well.

EZRA WRIGHT

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 21, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ezra Wright

for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Ezra Wright is a student at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Ezra Wright is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Ezra Wright for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

**HONORING THE WAUKEGAN TO COLLEGE (W2C) PROGRAM**

**HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 21, 2017*

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rafael Aguilera, Guadalupe Bueno, Ezau Calderon, Elisa Flores, Juan Carlos Flores, Elijah Glaze, Jared Herrera-Sanchez, Estrella Limon, Anjelica Linares, Ivan Martinez, Veronica Martinez, Sebastian Salgado-Gonzalez, Tamara Sanchez, and Emily Sostre for their admittance into the Waukegan to College (W2C) program.

A year-round college readiness service, W2C launched in 2009 and seeks to advance local students’ intellectual and emotional development, cultivating a strong commitment to community and a profound belief that they can build a brighter future for themselves, their families and their communities. By establishing high academic expectations and counseling students and their families on the college application process, W2C helps students realize their full potential by making the dream of college a reality.

All of these students will be the first in their families to attend college, and were selected for the W2C program due to both their impressive academic achievements as well as their contributions to their communities. As leaders inside and outside the classroom, these students show tremendous dedication and potential.

Strengthening our communities requires rebuilding the ladders of opportunity so that all Americans have the opportunity to succeed and thrive. This begins with providing each and every child, regardless of zip code, access to a high quality, affordable education, continues by ensuring all families can afford to send their sons and daughters to college.

When our nation’s talented young people pursue their passions and follow their dreams, they accomplish far more than personal growth. They serve as role models in their communities and their achievements inspire and motivate other young people to equally strive and achieve.

These students truly are Champions of Change. I wish them the very best of luck in their higher education and in all their future endeavors.