

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on July 24, 2017, I missed three recorded votes on the House floor so that I could be present for the birth of my daughter, Caroline. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call 407, yea on Roll Call 408, and yea on Roll Call 409.

RECOGNIZING SOPHIE EUBANKS,
2017 NFIB YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR
OF THE YEAR FINALIST

HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished accomplishment of a constituent in my district, Sophie Eubanks, on the occasion of her 2017 NFIB Young Entrepreneur Award.

Miss Eubanks, of Raleigh, NC, is the founder and owner The PinkyGirl, a web based monogramming apparel company.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Miss Eubanks on her outstanding achievements. We wish her nothing but the best for her future entrepreneurial and educational endeavors.

MEDICARE PART B IMPROVEMENT
ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE BISHOP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2017

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3178, the Medicare Part B Improvement Act. This bill would make specific improvements to Medicare Part B programs, like protecting access to orthotics and prosthetics for Medicare beneficiaries who need them.

In particular, a provision within this bill, spearheaded by Representative GT THOMPSON, MIKE THOMPSON, and myself, would allow additional information provided by prosthetists and orthotists—the trained clinical experts who evaluate and fit the beneficiary—to be considered by Medicare to support documentation of medical necessity for orthotics and prosthetics.

This straightforward, bipartisan bill will improve the quality of life of beneficiaries, save jobs of orthotic and prosthetic suppliers, and provide a foundation to better meet the healthcare needs of our aging constituents.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3178, the Medicare Part B improvement Act.

COUNTERING AMERICA'S ADVERSARIES
THROUGH SANCTIONS
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2017

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3364.

I rise in support of the Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act, to strengthen sanctions against Russia, North Korea, and Iran. These sanctions have been a long time coming.

Russian aggression towards the United States and our allies is at a level not seen since the Cold War. Although you wouldn't know it from the conduct of our president, Russia is unparalleled in its willingness to use illicit "active measures" to try to weaken the rules-based international order that has benefited the world for decades. Although the techniques in many ways aren't new—we saw similar tactics during the Cold War—the power of social media and the Internet have only amplified Russia's capabilities.

It's thought that Russia has been behind the hacking of the attempted hacking of campaigns, infrastructure systems, and government entities in many of our European allies, including Denmark, France, Georgia, the Netherlands, Germany, Ukraine, and Estonia. In Ukraine, Russia is thought to be behind a power blackout in 2015.

Many of Russia's attempts have failed, but in Russia's influence campaign in the 2016 presidential election, it was partially successful. Russia and its government-backed hackers have undermined the integrity of our democratic processes and our system of representative government, the foundation of our country, since its inception. It may not have succeeded in changing the outcome of the election, but it has accomplished one of its goals, to sow discord and mistrust in an already-divided country. We must not let it accomplish its other aims.

President Trump has often seemed more admiring of Vladimir Putin and Russian officials than he has of his own country. In many cases, he's been friendlier to the Russian government than to his own advisors. As president, astonishingly, he's talked about a joint cyber-security task force with our biggest cyber adversary.

This bill is a crucial step in ensuring that we make clear to Russia that we will not accept the meddling of foreign governments in our democratic processes or the endangerment or intimidation of our allies and our people. We must make sure that Russia is not emboldened by our president's apparent determination to improve relations with Russia at any cost, and that it does not continue to endanger our democracy, our infrastructure, or our allies.

Make no mistake—Russia poses a huge threat to the United States. If the U.S. government fails to respond, Ukraine's power blackout should serve as a warning of what is to come, to ignore at our peril. Russia's appetite for cyber and information warfare and its willingness to employ criminals and malicious hackers forsworn by other countries make it especially dangerous. We must protect our

people and our infrastructure, and this bill makes sure that Congress has the ability to do that.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL
DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE
SUBMITTED BY BUREAU OF CONSUMER
FINANCIAL PROTECTION
RELATING TO ARBITRATION
AGREEMENTS

SPEECH OF

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2017

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition of House Joint Resolution 111 which would eliminate the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's rule prohibiting mandatory arbitration clauses in financial services contracts. These clauses, which are buried in the fine print of banking contracts, strip consumers who are scammed, cheated, or defrauded by big banks of their constitutional right to seek justice in our nation's courts. Instead, they force consumers to go through a secretive non-judicial process overseen by an arbitration provider chosen by the bank. According to a study conducted by the CFPB, when these disputes are resolved through arbitration, consumers receive relief in only 9 percent of claims and even when consumers do win, they recover, on average, only 12 cents for every dollar claimed. I support the CFPB rule and oppose this effort to allow big banks to deny customers access to the justice system.

The elimination of the forced arbitration rule protects the special interests of Wall Street and hurts consumers. I therefore urge my colleagues to vote no on this Resolution.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND
LEGACY OF EMILIO VARGAS, JR.

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Emilio Vargas, Jr., a civil rights activist, local historian, and community leader who recently passed away at the age of 83. The Goliad native's reach was immense as he helped both his neighbors and Hispanics throughout Texas gain recognition at the State Capitol.

Mr. Vargas joined the U.S. Air Force in 1954 and served until 1958 when he was honorably discharged. He also served on the Goliad school board and as Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace from 1995 to 2006. Vargas was then employed by the Texas Department of State Health Service for over 30 years.

Mr. Vargas made it his mission to educate and empower people in communities across the state of Texas. Realizing that only through education could Hispanics advance, he set out to influence many lives, especially those of Hispanic youth. An avid historian, he worked tirelessly to share stories of struggle and the proud traditions of those whose heritage he shared. Through his tireless efforts with the