

In Shelby County, Tennessee, there were 123 children who did not make it to their first birthday in 2016. In the United States, our infant mortality rate is comparable to countries like Bosnia, Chile, and Cuba, and a recent study found that a child is 76 percent more likely to die before their first birthday in America than in 19 other wealthy nations, including Australia, Canada, France, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

More concerning is the racial and ethnic infant mortality disparities that continue to exist. In 2015, the rates for infant mortality were over double for black infants compared to white ones.

This is unacceptable. That's why I am introducing the NEWBORN Act.

If enacted, the NEWBORN Act would create infant mortality-focused pilot programs in the highest-risk areas of the country.

The pilot programs would focus on addressing one or more of the top five reasons for infant mortality: birth defects, preterm birth and low birth weight, sudden infant death syndrome, maternal pregnancy complications, and injuries to the infant.

The NEWBORN Act would specifically encourage the development of community-specific practices to promote pre-natal care and community outreach and education.

The current infant mortality rates are tragic, but good practices can improve health and save lives.

I urge my colleagues to help pass this bill.

SEPARATION OF CHILDREN

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2018

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the awful situation that has transpired over immigration in our country. When President Trump asked Congress to come to a legislative solution over DREAMERS in our country, it should never have come to a point where our country no longer treats immigrants with compassion and respect. Families and children should have never come in the cross fire of politics, and our nation should have never witnessed a humanitarian crisis on our own land.

President Trump, since the beginning of his term, has issued a number of executive orders on immigration, refugees, and border security. These actions include President Trump's border wall, extreme deportation policies against undocumented immigrants, three bans on refugees and travelers from predominately Muslim countries, and a rescission of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). President Trump has created fear and uncertainty for many that legally reside in our country, including thousands of legal immigrants in our district in Houston and Harris County, Texas. Congress has offered several bipartisan legislative solutions, including the DREAM Act and the USA Act, but it is the President who refuses to work with Congress until all of his unreasonable demands are met.

Today, our chamber is left with only two choices: H.R. 4760 and H.R. 6136. These bills are not only bad policy, but they also only make matters worse. The so-called Securing America's Future Act, H.R. 4760 offers no

path to citizenship for Dreamers, removes protections for all unaccompanied minors, and harms our communities. This bill absolutely fails to help fix actual immigration problems in our country and instead pushes the propaganda that immigrants are criminals and a burden to our society. This is false. The 29th District of Texas is home to one of the largest immigrant populations in the country. I have seen with my own eyes how they bring innovation, entrepreneurship, and hard work that have been an integral part of making Houston a world-class city.

The Border Security and Immigration Reform Act, H.R. 6136 is being sold as a compromise, but this is a sham. This bill limits the eligibility criteria for DACA, cutting off most Dreamers and many DACA recipients. For those that will be eligible, this legislation does not guarantee citizenship, as the participants will be pitted against each other in a point system to obtain permanent residence. The administration must stop treating Dreamers as pawns—their lives are not ours to play with. The Border Security and Immigration Reform Act will also fund an expensive and arbitrary border wall. Even worse, the problems this legislation seeks to solve, such as family separation, are exacerbated. It will eliminate requirements for children in confinement that ensures they are safe, sanitary, and appropriate for children.

In a few months, the President has led our country into a manufactured humanitarian crisis. We have mistreated children and family members as they come to our borders seeking asylum. President Donald Trump's "zero tolerance" policy is inhumane, cruel and un-American. President Trump's Executive Order on June 20th creates a dangerous situation for the future requiring children to be detained for prolonged periods, resulting in dangers for their health and mental well-being, and there is no solution for over 2,000 children that have already been separated from their parents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask Congress to think about the children and families' lives that we are destroying. Many will still not be able to reunite—a travesty that I am sad to say is because of our President. The separation of families has never been an option for any other administration and it is unthinkable that it is a choice today. We must come together to address how to create an immigration system that is humane and honors our nation's history and traditions. We are America and we must start acting like it.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF LUDLOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2018

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ludlow United Methodist Church of Ludlow, Illinois, on the occasion of its 150th anniversary.

Ludlow United Methodist Church was founded in 1868 by the Rev. M.L. Kurle and soon thereafter joined the Flagg Circuit. Initially, services were held in nearby schoolhouses. The first church building was dedicated on September 4, 1871. Throughout the years,

various additions and remodeling projects took place as the congregation expanded. Currently, the church building is accompanied by an auditorium and parsonage.

With an extensive background in missionary work and community engagement, Ludlow United Methodist has impacted many lives for over a century and a half. This historic church proudly maintains its legacy of service to its congregants and neighbors, and I hope that it continues that legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Ludlow United Methodist Church for this important milestone, and I wish it and its Pastor, Reverend Fred Sistler, the very best as they celebrate the church's 150th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING THE 2017–2018 PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS NOMINEES FOR THE PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2018

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2017–2018 Prince William County Public Schools nominees for the Principal of the Year Award.

Principals who meet the criteria for the award are those who effectively manage, demonstrate, and encourage creativity and innovation, foster cooperation between the school and community by maintaining an open dialogue with students, parents, faculty, and staff, and exemplify commitment to providing a quality education for all students to learn and develop. The selected winner will be named the Prince William County Principal of the Year.

As the second largest school division in the Commonwealth of Virginia, Prince William County Public Schools educates 90,000 students in ninety-eight schools, including sixty elementary schools, sixteen middle schools, twelve high schools, one Governor's school, three special education schools, one nontraditional school, two traditional schools, two special site schools, and one K–8 school.

I extend my personal congratulations to the following 2017–2018 Prince William County nominees for Principal of the Year Award:

Andrew Buchheit, T. Clay Wood Elementary School

Robert Eichorn, New Directions (Independent Nontraditional School)

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the nominees for 2017–2018 Principal of the Year Award in Prince William County, and in thanking them for their dedication and leadership to the students, teachers, and faculty to ensure a bright future for all who pass through the doors of their schools. Their continued service is truly commendable and worthy of the highest praise. I thank them for ensuring our Prince William County students are provided a world-class education in a vibrant learning community.