

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING BISHOP CLARENCE AND PROPHETESS DR. JOYCE HADDON

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Bishop Clarence Haddon and Dr. Joyce Haddon for their nearly five decades of service to the community at High Praise Cathedral in Detroit and Inkster, Michigan.

Bishop Haddon grew up in a family steeped in an appreciation for a strong foundation in faith. Following in his father's footsteps, Bishop Haddon pursued a career in ministry and took over the pastorship at Church of God in Unity, which would eventually become High Praise Cathedral. As the congregation grew, the High Praise family made their home at its current address in Detroit and eventually opened a sister location in Inkster.

Bishop and Dr. Haddon, drawn together by their faith and passion for serving others, have been united in ministering to the family in faith at High Praise and the surrounding communities. They have created numerous programs, including the Bread Basket Program, a back to school program to ensure students are prepared to start the school year with a fresh haircut and the supplies they need to succeed, as well as youth summer camps.

Please join me in tribute to Bishop Clarence and Dr. Joyce Haddon in celebration of their forty-nine years in spiritual service to High Praise Cathedral, as we wish them well in their retirement.

RECOGNIZING 2023 BEST COMMUNITY FOR MUSIC EDUCATION RECIPIENT BURRELL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. GUY RESCENTIALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. RESCENTIALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Burrell School District for being recognized by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation as one of the best communities for music education in 2023.

The NAMM Foundation celebrates schools and school districts by recognizing their ability to train and educate the next generation of musicians. 830 school districts, including Burrell School District, were recognized for the outstanding efforts of their teachers, administrators, parents, and students.

According to NAMM, over 3 million children did not have access to proper music education in 2019. Every student deserves a chance to learn and develop their artistic capabilities, and Burrell School District's continuous efforts undoubtedly help our children in Southwest Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I congratulate Burrell School District on this momentous occasion.

COMBATING ANTISEMITISM AND ISLAMOPHOBIA

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, America's colleges and universities should be places where all students can learn, grow, and express their ideas without harassment or discrimination.

Since the October 7 attacks on Israel by Hamas, I've been communicating with college and university presidents, school districts, and law enforcement leaders to make sure we combat any rise in antisemitism, Islamophobia, or other forms of discrimination.

I voted YES on Amendment No. 114 to H.R. 5894—Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024 on Wednesday, November 15, 2023 to combat antisemitism on campus and I would likewise support a similar amendment to combat Islamophobia or other forms of discrimination.

HONORING COLETTE'S CHILDREN'S HOME

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the exceptional efforts of an extraordinary organization, Colette's Children's Home (CCH). With a remarkable history spanning over 25 years, CCH has been at the forefront of providing crucial homeless housing intervention programs and supportive services to over 6,000 homeless women and children in Orange County.

Founded by William O'Connell and his daughter Colette O'Connell, CCH originated as a grassroots organization in response to the pressing need for housing and supportive services for homeless women and children. CCH has now expanded to own and operate 21 emergency, transitional, and permanent housing sites across multiple cities, including Anaheim, Garden Grove, Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach, and Placentia.

CCH's mission is to provide homeless single women and homeless mothers with children a safe and nurturing environment, offering compassionate support and services necessary for achieving self-sufficiency. As of January 2023, CCH has demonstrated its commitment by providing shelter and support for up to 400 homeless single women, homeless mothers

and children, and low-income individuals at any given time.

The impact of CCH extends beyond housing, encompassing life skills classes, job search support, resource referrals, and access to computers for job leads. Financial stability is emphasized, with clients encouraged to establish budgets and savings plans. The organization's commitment to increased self-determination and self-sufficiency is made further evident by the weekly life skills classes addressing parenting, job skills, financial management, and substance abuse prevention.

Notably, last year, the organization achieved significant milestones, including 94 women obtaining/sustaining full-time employment, 130 women and children transitioning to permanent housing, 26 mothers reunified with 51 children, and \$171,679.10 deposited into the Client Savings Program.

Through their unwavering dedication, CCH has not only transformed individual lives but has also made a lasting positive impact on the community. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Colette's Children's Home remarkable achievements.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ERNESTINE RACLIN

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and honor the legacy of Ernestine Raclin, who passed away at the age of 95 earlier this year.

Born and raised in South Bend, Indiana, as the youngest daughter of Ernest and Ella Morris, Ernestine devoted much of her life to making her home community an even better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Many times that meant being a trailblazer and taking on roles and responsibilities like few women before her did.

That meant chairing 1st Source Bank and 1st Source Corporation for more than 20 years, being the first woman Board Member of the University of Notre Dame, and being the first woman to chair a major campaign for the University. Ernestine was also the first woman in our country to chair a United Way campaign and to serve on the Board of United Way of America.

In addition to her business acumen, Ernie was also deeply passionate about the arts. Ernestine believed strongly in the transformative power of the arts and the many ways that art can elevate and improve the human spirit. That passion translated into action, and throughout her life Ernie gave back to the wider South Bend community by generously volunteering her time, talents, and treasure to countless projects rooted in the arts.

Above all, Ernie was a leader who loved her family and possessed a unique ability to inspire and rally people around serving causes greater than themselves.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

In her life Ernestine “Ernie” Raclin wore many hats: she was a wife, a mother, a grandmother, a great grandmother, a mentor, a colleague, a philanthropist, and a dear friend.

The sheer number of remembrances that have come in since her passing goes to show just how many lives Ernestine Raclin touched and shaped for the better.

I know that Ernestine’s family and many friends dearly miss her and her kindly presence. But I also know that we “do not grieve like those who have no hope,” and take comfort in knowing that God-willing, one day we will be reunited with her for all eternity.

I am proud to have known Ernestine and to help celebrate a life very well-lived. I join so many others in thanking God for sending us this compassionate soul who became a friend to so many and such a pivotal leader in the wider South Bend community.

God bless Ernestine Raclin.

RECOGNIZING 2023 BEST COMMUNITY FOR MUSIC EDUCATION RECIPIENT SOMERSET AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. GUY RESCENTIALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. RESCENTIALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Somerset Area School District for being recognized by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation as one of the best communities for music education in 2023.

The NAMM Foundation celebrates schools and school districts by recognizing their ability to train and educate the next generation of musicians. 830 school districts, including Somerset Area School District, were recognized for the outstanding efforts of their teachers, administrators, parents, and students.

According to NAMM, over 3 million children did not have access to proper music education in 2019. Every student deserves a chance to learn and develop their artistic capabilities, and Somerset Area School District’s continuous efforts undoubtedly help our children in Southwest Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania’s 14th Congressional District, I congratulate Somerset Area School District on this momentous occasion.

OPPOSING REP. LAWLER’S AMENDMENT NO. 114

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address my vote against Rep. LAWLER’S Amendment No. 114 to the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations bill.

This amendment would prohibit funding to any institution of higher education that authorizes, facilitates, funds, or otherwise supports events that are deemed to promote antisemitism. To be clear: I condemn antisemitism in all its forms and stand with the Jewish community as they mourn the losses sustained in

the October 7 terrorist attack by Hamas and the subsequent increase in antisemitic incidents in the U.S. and around the world.

I concur with J Street that the amendment is “designed to pave the way for ill-considered crackdowns on free speech under the guise of combating antisemitism.” This amendment violates students’ First Amendment rights to share and debate ideas and express peaceful dissent. It is too broad and could lead to colleges and universities banning student groups that aim to provide safe refuge, community, and space to discuss issues that are important to them based on the opinion or statement of one student. This amendment would foster a chilling effect for universities, who risk losing all federal funding for an apparent violation.

This amendment also completely fails to address the concurrent rise in anti-Muslim and anti-Arab hate. It is a glaring omission not to include other protected classes and misses an opportunity to condemn hate in all its forms on our college campuses and in our communities. Every student deserves a safe environment in which to learn and live, and I wish Rep. LAWLER’S Amendment had been inclusive of all protected classes.

COMMEMORATING WOMEN’S ENTREPRENEURSHIP DAY 2023

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of Women’s Entrepreneurship Day, a global celebration observed annually on November 19th.

In the United States, the staggering statistic reveals that women own nearly 13 million out of the 33.2 million small businesses, employing approximately 10 million workers and contributing an awe-inspiring \$1.8 trillion in revenue. My heartfelt commendation goes out to these women and their economically indispensable enterprises.

I extend my enthusiastic applause to the Women’s Entrepreneurship Day movement, led by the remarkable Wendy Diamond. A decade ago, Wendy founded the Women’s Entrepreneurship Day organization, dedicating herself to empowering women entrepreneurs and tirelessly advocating for the prominence of women in business and entrepreneurship when the world was not fully recognizing their importance in the economy. Over the years, the organization has been unwavering in its efforts, providing microloans to 20,000 impoverished women, sponsoring disadvantaged female students to attend the United Nations, supporting the ReStart Academy for 13 to 21-year-old students in transitional settings, and spearheading WEDO’s groundbreaking initiative, the “Women’s Disability Startup Cohort,” the pioneering Accelerator Program for disabled women in business.

In collaboration with Defy Ventures, WEDO has catalyzed a transformative EIT entrepreneurship program boasting an exceptional 84 percent success rate, propelling incarcerated women to unprecedented heights of achievement. Reflecting on a decade of profound impact, the Women’s Entrepreneurship Day organization has not only initiated a global movement but has also garnered over 300

ambassadors worldwide, making a substantial impact in 144 countries, 65 international universities, and colleges.

As we mark this remarkable 10th anniversary, the Women’s Entrepreneurship Day Organization Pioneer Awards take center stage, honoring distinguished women who have emerged as leaders and innovators across multiple fields. Notable awardees include Sue Wagner, a co-founder of BlackRock and a member of Apple’s board of directors, receiving the Financial Pioneer Award; Fran Weissler, Tony Award-winning Broadway producer of Pippin and Chicago, esteemed with the Broadway Pioneer Award; Jenny Just, co-founder and managing partner at PEAK6, earning the Technology Pioneer Award; Dr. Ruth, a pioneer in the psychology of human sexuality and world-renowned sex therapist, receiving the Psychology Pioneer Award; and Nancy Brinker, founder of the Susan G. Komen Foundation and The Promise Fund of Florida, acknowledged with the Philanthropy Pioneer Award, Carol Reiley, co-founder of Drive.ai and DeepMusic.ai, will be honored with the Science Pioneer Award. Furthermore, Bonnie Anderson, founder of Veracyte, Inc. and Pink Dx, will receive the Health Pioneer Award.

As we celebrate this profound milestone, let us be resolute in our commitment to providing the essential tools and programs needed for young women to not only survive but to truly flourish in the dynamic world of entrepreneurship.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FOOD BANKS, FOOD PANTRIES, AND OTHER COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS THAT FIGHT TO END FOOD INSECURITY

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution to declare the House of Representative’s support and gratitude for the work done by food banks, food pantries, and other community-based organizations across the United States to end food insecurity and provide other essential services.

As many of us come together with our friends and family this holiday season to give thanks and enjoy good conversation—and even better food—we recognize how blessed we truly are. But that is not true for everyone in America, as food insecurity presents a significant and present problem in many of our communities.

Even with the many federal, state, and local programs centered around this problem, 44 million people, including over 13 million children, lived in food-insecure households in the United States in 2022. This represents nearly 13 percent of all households, many with children.

In 2021, 1 in every 6 military and veteran families experienced food insecurity—the same people that have sacrificed to protect us and secure our freedoms. At the same time, 1 in 14 seniors over the age of 60 face food insecurity in America. These are the tragedies that food banks work to rectify.

Moreover, food banks are essential to the prosperity of our Nation. Food insecurity costs the United States economy at least \$160 billion each year in additional health costs and poor health outcomes. Children who face hunger are more likely to repeat a grade in elementary school, as well as experience developmental impairments, and they are more likely to face social and behavioral problems.

The employees and volunteers at the hundreds of food banks and over 60,000 community partners, including pantries and meals programs, across America tirelessly and collectively work to end food insecurity. In 2022, they served over five billion meals to the 49 million people who turned to them for assistance.

Every year during the holidays, my family and I volunteer at a local food bank, the Community Action Partnership of Orange County (CAP OC), packing and handing out nutritious food boxes and other supplies to families and individuals in need. We are proud and humbled to join the countless employees and volunteers spending their time helping others.

Food banks, food pantries, and other community-based organizations provide essential food assistance to so many across the country. They collect, store, and distribute items, as well as deliver to those in need, including to senior centers and schools during the weekdays, weekends, and summers.

The work food banks do goes way beyond simply providing food. They and their partners provide nutrition education, diapers, and other essential items to people in need. Through their efforts, food banks have rescued and distributed millions of pounds of food that otherwise would have been wasted. Their work to end food insecurity will lead to fewer chronic health problems and save the U.S. economy billions of dollars.

Food banks rely heavily on private donations. Ending food insecurity is a team effort—food banks and their partners work with private donors, volunteers, farmers, grocery stores, retailers, shippers, packers, and others to meet the demand. Even with food coming in from many different places, food banks often find themselves running out of items—but they never give up.

I am very proud to introduce this resolution. I want to thank my colleagues from Orange County, Representatives STEEL, PORTER, LEVIN, SÁNCHEZ, and KIM for joining me as original cosponsors. We all recognize the critical work done by the major food banks in our area, CAP OC and Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County, and their local partners in the mission to end food insecurity in Orange County.

As you enjoy the holiday season, please consider joining me and my colleagues from Orange County in expressing bipartisan support and gratitude to the food banks, food pantries, and local community-based organizations who work year-round to assist those in need and to end food insecurity.

RECOGNIZING 2023 BEST COMMUNITY FOR MUSIC EDUCATION RECIPIENT
CANON-MCMILLAN
SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Canon-McMillan School District for being recognized by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation as one of the best communities for music education in 2023.

The NAMM Foundation celebrates schools and school districts by recognizing their ability to train and educate the next generation of musicians. 830 school districts, including Canon-McMillan School District, were recognized for the outstanding efforts of their teachers, administrators, parents, and students.

According to NAMM, over 3 million children did not have access to proper music education in 2019. Every student deserves a chance to learn and develop their artistic capabilities, and Canon-McMillan School District's continuous efforts undoubtedly help our children in Southwest Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I congratulate Canon-McMillan School District on this momentous occasion.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF WILLIAM P. "BILL" SEXTON

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and honor the legacy of William P. "Bill" Sexton, who passed away last month at the age of 85.

Throughout his life, Bill wore many hats. He was a teacher, a loyal friend, a successful fundraiser, a family man, a devout Catholic, and a leader who left an indelible mark on the University of Notre Dame, the wider South Bend community, and on the many lives he touched and shaped for the better.

Bill started on the faculty of the Management Department at the University of Notre Dame in 1966, an institution he served faithfully for more than half a century. From his teaching post, Bill went on to serve as Vice President of University Relations for 20 years. With Bill at the helm, Notre Dame was the beneficiary of what at the time were the two most successful capital campaigns in Catholic higher education history. His leadership also helped grow the Notre Dame Alumni Association to more than 200 clubs around the world; clubs that have become a model that other colleges and universities have sought to emulate.

His service on the Board of South Bend's Center for the Homeless is also a testament to how Bill never forgot about the obligation all of us have to remember and give back to the least among us.

In a life filled with many accomplishments and professional accolades, Bill valued the gift

of family above all else: especially his love for his bride of more than 62 years Ann, their six children, 20 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren and counting.

Now that he is gone, I and so many others will dearly miss Bill's sunny optimism, his love of all things Notre Dame, and his steadfast commitment to advancing the common good. And while we mourn Bill's loss, we above all are united in celebrating a life well-lived and in giving thanks to God for sending us this good and faithful servant.

May God bless Bill Sexton.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF DR. JOHN PIPKIN

HON. RONNY JACKSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. JACKSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable legacy of Dr. John Pipkin of Amarillo, Texas. On December 11, 2023, Dr. Pipkin will retire from West Texas A&M University, where during his 30 years of service he created one of the most successful equine programs in the United States.

At West Texas A&M University, Dr. Pipkin acted as a Regents Professor of Animal Science and the Director of the Equine Industry Program, preparing thousands of students to succeed in a career in the horse and agribusiness industries. As the head coach of the distinguished horse judging team at West Texas A&M, Dr. Pipkin led his teams to over 160 national champion and reserve champion titles, and his competitive equine and ranch horse teams have won over 60 national and reserve national championship honors.

Outside of his accomplishments in the university setting, Dr. Pipkin's legacy in the equine industry spans over 40 years, officiating over 400 horse events across the globe, including over 20 world championships. Dr. Pipkin also serves as a National Director for the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) and was the Chairman of the AQHA Judges Committee, AQHA Show and Professional Horsemen Committee, AQHA Show Council, and the World Conformation Horse Association Judges Committee. In 2022, Dr. Pipkin was named the Nutrena Don Burt AQHA Professional Horseman of the Year for his lifelong commitment to the equine industry and his development of numerous educational and testing materials for the AQHA judging program that have been instrumental in developing many of the scoring systems currently used to judge classes such as western riding, trail, showmanship, horsemanship, and equitation classes.

On December 4, 2023, Dr. Pipkin will transition to his role as the American Quarter Horse Association's Director of Officials. There, Pipkin will be responsible for working alongside the AQHA show department and judges committee to manage the direction of the AQHA judges, stewards, and drug-testing programs.

I would like to thank Dr. Pipkin for his dedication to the success of the students and faculty of West Texas A&M University Equine Department and wish him the best as he supports the AQHA membership and continues to advance the equine industry.

RECOGNIZING 2023 BEST COMMUNITY FOR MUSIC EDUCATION RECIPIENT TRINITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. GUY RESCENTIALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. RESCENTIALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Trinity Area School District for being recognized by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation as one of the best communities for music education in 2023.

The NAMM Foundation celebrates schools and school districts by recognizing their ability to train and educate the next generation of musicians. 830 school districts, including Trinity Area School District, were recognized for the outstanding efforts of their teachers, administrators, parents, and students.

According to NAMM, over 3 million children did not have access to proper music education in 2019. Every student deserves a chance to learn and develop their artistic capabilities, and Trinity Area School District's continuous efforts undoubtedly help our children in Southwest Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I congratulate Trinity Area School District on this momentous occasion.

HONORING MARK TRESNOWSKI ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor and congratulate Mark Tresnowski on his retirement following an exceptional legal career.

An accomplished and highly respected attorney, Mark served as a founding member of the American Investment Council. Upon his retirement from Madison Dearborn and his term of leadership of the Council, I recognize Mark for his service to the Council, his professional contributions, and his support to his community.

Mark has dedicated much of his career to helping people achieve their personal and professional dreams. Throughout his distinguished career, he has served as a mentor to countless attorneys who have valued his wisdom, work ethic, and experienced perspective. He also serves as a faculty member in the Practicing Law Institute seminars and has published articles in *Venture Capital Journal*, *Buyouts*, and the *M&A Lawyer*.

Mark is also very involved in his local community and is a leader in supporting children and their families as a trustee of Children's Home & Aid in Chicago, Illinois. Mark exemplifies the values of dedication and leadership.

I want to express the utmost gratitude to Mark. I am certain that my fellow Illinoisans feel the same pride and respect towards him that I do. Congratulations Mark, and best wishes for a happy and relaxing retirement.

HONORING EVANGELIST BARBARA GREEN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Evangelist Barbara Green, a devoted Crossing Guard in Clinton, Mississippi.

Barbara Green is a native of Bolton, Mississippi, and now resides in the city of Raymond. She is a mother of 2 children, a grandmother of 3 and a great grandmother of 2. Barbara Green started her first job right out of high school at Blackstone restaurant on Historic Farish Street in Jackson, Mississippi. She then went on to work at Hunter Engineering for 17 years.

After her retirement, a friend of Barbara Green's informed her of an open position at Sumner Hill for a crossing guard. She then went to try it out and fell in love with the job.

She has been a crossing guard for 14 years in the Clinton community. Some of Barbara Green's most genuine moments are seeing the kids and parents every day as she directs them safely through traffic with a smile on her face.

Outside of her inspirational job as a crossing guard, she is a devoted community servant. Mrs. Green is a choir member and Evangelist at Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church and Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church.

When asked what words she lives by, Evangelist Green expressed her favorite Bible Scripture which is "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Evangelist Barbara Green for her hard work and dedication to her community.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 5894, the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. The bill before us today is unprecedented in many unfortunate ways. This bill makes devastating cuts across some of our most vital government agencies; it decimates education spending, abandons low-income workers and college students, stifles medical innovation, and harms women's health.

This bill was pulled from consideration on the House Floor because Republicans do not have the support within their own Conference to pass this legislation. It is another example in a long line of Appropriations failures by House Republican leadership, where there has been no effort to find middle ground and find a bipartisan path forward.

Let me begin with House Republicans' unilateral decision to skip the full committee

markup for this bill and for the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Act. House Democrats were denied the opportunity to debate, amend, and mark up H.R. 5894 in committee. This bill is so deeply unpopular that Republican appropriators did not want to go on the record in committee in support of its deep cuts to our nation's education, workforce development, and public health funding.

Not only have House Republicans deviated from the longstanding committee process, but they have taken the unheard-of step of adding partisan riders to the bill and report in advance of consideration on the House Floor. Democratic appropriators had no say in their inclusion—in fact, we only saw these changes once they had been made public. The report is not amendable on the House Floor, so there was no recourse in challenging any of these new alterations beyond demanding they be removed in the conference process with the Senate.

Now let's talk about some of the policy decisions within H.R. 5894, starting with the astounding 28 percent cut to the Department of Education. This bill decimates support for children in K–12 elementary schools and early childhood education; including an 80 percent cut to Title I that is meant to help the most vulnerable students and school districts in our country.

I have heard from my constituents—teachers, principals, paraprofessionals, parents, and students—that we are facing a crisis in our classrooms. This bill does not address the teacher shortage or the extensive learning loss occurring in our schools post-COVID; and this bill does not help make college more affordable.

Instead, this bill makes devastating cuts to the bedrock of American education, leaves our teachers out in the cold without sufficient resources, and eliminates opportunities for students to access need-based financial aid for their postsecondary education. This bill also eliminates all funding to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, including their educational programming for young children, Ready To Learn.

In addition to education spending cuts, House Republicans have also taken aim at workforce development. This bill eliminates funding for the Federal Work Study, Youth Job Training, and Adult Job Training programs, effectively denying job and employment training services to 420,000 Americans who face barriers to finding a good-paying job. House Republicans also cut \$313 million from worker protection agencies like OSHA, putting hard-working Americans at risk at home in Minnesota and across the country.

This bill hurts the National Institutes of Health by cutting \$2.8 billion from their topline budget, which will stymie medical innovation. It makes a \$139 million cut to the National Institute of Mental Health at a time when our country is facing a mental health crisis. The bill also contains major cuts to the National Cancer Institute, hurting our research and treatment capabilities for those with cancer here in America and around the world.

Unsurprisingly, this bill also takes aim at women's health by cutting programs that support maternal and child health, eliminating programs that provide access to health services and contraception, and adding numerous poison pill riders that further strip a women's right to make medical decisions about her own

body with her doctor. H.R. 5894 prohibits funding to Planned Parenthood, eliminates funding for Title X Family Planning, and makes a \$35 million cut to the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant.

Supporting our children and families is the bare minimum of what our government should do for its people. This bill fails at every level to do so. Instead of reevaluating their extreme funding bills and working together with Democrats to create legislation that will improve American lives, House Republicans are distracted by their own chaos and are intent on placating the most extreme in their caucus. For these reasons and more, I must oppose H.R. 5894 and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

RECOGNIZING 2023 BEST COMMUNITY FOR MUSIC EDUCATION RECIPIENT GREATER LATROBE SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. GUY RESCENTIALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. RESCENTIALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Greater Latrobe School District for being recognized by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation as one of the best communities for music education in 2023.

The NAMM Foundation celebrates schools and school districts by recognizing their ability to train and educate the next generation of musicians. 830 school districts, including Greater Latrobe School District, were recognized for the outstanding efforts of their teachers, administrators, parents, and students.

According to NAMM, over 3 million children did not have access to proper music education in 2019. Every student deserves a chance to learn and develop their artistic capabilities, and Greater Latrobe School District's continuous efforts undoubtedly help our children in Southwest Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I congratulate Greater Latrobe School District on this momentous occasion.

HONORING TIERRA DEL SOL HOUSING CORPORATION ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GABE VASQUEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Tierra del Sol Housing Corporation and commemorate their 50th anniversary. Tierra del Sol has proudly been serving the needs of low-income families in my district since 1973 and has promoted economic and social empowerment through homeownership programs, employment training, and access to financial resources. Their work has helped ensure financial security for New Mexican families and build stable communities where all can thrive.

Throughout their 50 years of service, Tierra del Sol has instituted various programs to as-

sist rural New Mexicans. From rural farm rental housing to supportive housing for the elderly to major subdivision developments, Tierra del Sol Housing Corporation has tirelessly worked towards their mission.

In recent years, Tierra del Sol has led the construction of single-family housing under their self-help housing program. That recent construction has allowed community members access to affordable housing and energy-efficient living, putting New Mexico well on the road to becoming a leader in clean energy practices. As we look to the future, I am confident that Tierra del Sol will continue to find innovative ways to reach out to New Mexicans, while promoting the health of our State more broadly.

On behalf of the great people of New Mexico's 2nd Congressional District, I thank Tierra del Sol for their service to the people of New Mexico and congratulate them on celebrating 50 years of service. Their work has made our community stronger, safer, and more prosperous, and I am excited to see what they accomplish for generations to come.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF JOHN BRANDON, PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MARION COUNTY COMMISSION ON YOUTH

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of John Brandon, President and Executive Director of the Marion County Commission on Youth (MCCOY), who will enter his retirement at the end of this year.

For 45 years, John has dedicated his life to youth development, leading positive changes in local programs and agencies and at larger city, state, and national systemic levels. As an adjunct professor at the undergraduate and graduate levels, an agency director focused on increased opportunities for young people, and a trainer and facilitator for youth workers' continued education John has nurtured Indianapolis' young people in countless ways.

John's legacy is one of advocacy and empowerment. He has been instrumental in guiding projects and initiatives aimed at the development of our youth, including a city-wide youth employment effort, developing more support and services for unhoused youth, and reforming our child welfare system to be more family-focused. Under John's leadership, MCCOY has been an instrumental partner in my yearly Youth Opportunities Fair, which connects young people to employment, internships, and other programs during the summer months. His passionate belief that young people must be part of the systems that impact them is evidenced through youth participation on MCCOY's board and the agency's facilitation of the Mayor's Youth Council.

Active in his community, John has served on numerous community-based nonprofit boards, including the Martin Luther King Jr. Multiservice Center, the Indiana Afterschool Network, and the Hawthorn Community Center. At a national level, John dedicated a decade to the Partnership for America's Children's board of directors.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring John Brandon as he enters this new chapter filled with cycling, reading, and family. We celebrate his legacy of outstanding accomplishments as we continue to ensure a brighter future for our nation's youth.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment that was included in the En Bloc amendment to the FY 2024 Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education funding bill.

My amendment would recognize the success of the TRIO program.

The TRIO program provides low-income, first-generation college students' with academic financial and social support.

TRIO has produced more than 6 million college graduates—including me.

When I was 18 years old and beginning college, I became pregnant with my daughter. As a single mother, it felt nearly impossible to complete my degree.

But Marquette University's TRIO program provided the support I needed to reach my potential.

TRIO championed me, and now as a Member of Congress, I can champion them.

Because without TRIO I would not be here in these halls today.

And it goes to show how high someone can climb if they are given the chance.

November 8 was First Generation College Student Day—a now annual celebration focusing on the need to help first-generation college students, faculty, staff, and alumni succeed in every possible way, a goal that TRIO is working everyday to help achieve.

I am so proud to stand here today, as a TRIO alum, as a TRIO Caucus Chair, and as a Member of Congress, to advocate for this program.

I know the Ranking Member understands very well the value of this program and greatly appreciate her support for its inclusion in this En Bloc.

RECOGNIZING 2023 BEST COMMUNITY FOR MUSIC EDUCATION RECIPIENT KISKI AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. GUY RESCENTIALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. RESCENTIALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Kiski Area School District for being recognized by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation as one of the best communities for music education in 2023.

The NAMM Foundation celebrates schools and school districts by recognizing their ability

to train and educate the next generation of musicians, 830 school districts, including Kiski Area School District, were recognized for the outstanding efforts of their teachers, administrators, parents, and students.

According to NAMM, over 3 million children did not have access to proper music education in 2019. Every student deserves a chance to learn and develop their artistic capabilities, and Kiski Area School District's continuous efforts undoubtedly help our children in Southwest Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I congratulate Kiski Area School District on this momentous occasion.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF LONNIE MCKISSIC, SR.

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr Speaker, today I pay tribute to the life of a mid-Michigan icon who was a builder in every sense of the word. Lonnie McKissic, Sr. passed away on November 3, 2023, but the legacy he worked so hard to construct in his 88 years on this planet—physically, emotionally, and spiritually—lives on in this community and in the many lives he touched.

Lonnie was born in Clarksdale, Mississippi, in 1935, the son of Robert and Myrtle McKissic, and his early years were by no means easy. His father passed away when he was just a toddler, and Lonnie was only able to attend school through the third grade. Though still a child, he was sent to work in the cotton fields, and later at a mill yard, to help support the family. He was just 16 years old when he married the love of his life, Odell, and shortly after the two made the move north to Lansing, Michigan.

When Lonnie picked up his first construction job at age 18 in Lansing, he likely didn't know he was laying the foundation for his future. After years of hard work and learning the ins and outs of the industry, in 1969 he was ready to make a go on his own and launched the family business: McKissic and Sons Construction. Not only did the company break ground on numerous homes, churches, and well-known Lansing-area buildings, Lonnie broke barriers by becoming one of the first Black contractors in the region.

Over the years he also built a large and loving family, raising six sons, three daughters, and ten grandchildren, and prided himself on passing the trade to younger generations. Today, the construction company continues with his son Michael at the helm. In addition, Michael shares his father's lessons with the community through his non-profit, which teaches construction skills to young people in an effort to provide a meaningful path for the future that can help turn the tide of violence in the Lansing area.

A man of profound faith, Lonnie was deeply involved with Mt. Zion All Nations Church, where his 69 years of devotion earned him the title of longest-serving member. During that time, he held various other titles, including Chairman of the Board, Deacon, Vice-Chair of the Executive Council, Elder, and choir mem-

ber. He mentored hundreds of young people over the years, and was known as a spiritual father to many.

In everything he did, Lonnie McKissic used his hands, his heart, and his life to build up the community. Brick by brick, word by word, lesson by lesson, he laid out a blueprint for what it means to be a servant leader, and constructed his life on a bedrock of faith, family, and hard work. I send my condolences to his family, and ask that we now dedicate ourselves to building upon his memory, which will live on in Lansing.

RECOGNIZING THE PORTERVILLE
ELKS LODGE

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Porterville Elks Lodge on their 100-year anniversary and thank them for their significant contributions to the Porterville community. The Porterville Elks Lodge was established in 1923 on Porterville's Main Street.

For more than a century, the lodge has served as a meeting place for residents of the community and the home of the Porterville Elks Lodge Club. The club's unwavering commitment to public service and the Porterville community has guided its mission since the lodge's founding. Today, the club has 149 members, all of whom dedicate their time to giving back to and investing in the local community. The club is passionate about the well-being of Porterville's residents and focuses many of their efforts on helping children and veterans

Last year, the club raised more than \$32,000 for the Purple Pig Major Project—the second-largest contribution from the California delegation of clubs. The project's funds are used to support disabled youth with the medical treatments and therapies they need to thrive. Through their affiliation with the Elks National Foundation, the Porterville Elks Lodge Club has also awarded students throughout the community with scholarships to support their academic goals and connected veterans and servicemembers with rehabilitation services.

During the recent flooding in California, the Porterville Elks Lodge Club worked with the Central California Family Crisis Center and Parenting Network to donate jackets, baby formula, and other items to residents in need. Their efforts were critical in helping families in my district recover from the devastating storms. The club's longstanding history of service is ingrained in the fabric of the Porterville community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the Porterville Elks Lodge on their 100-year anniversary. Their work to enrich the community of Porterville will be felt for generations to come.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF
WYNONA LIPMAN

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a great trailblazer from my district, Wynona Lipman, on what would have been her 100th birthday. Born in 1923, Mrs. Lipman was the first African-American woman to be elected to the New Jersey State Senate when she won her seat in 1971. She served the 29th Legislative District for 27 years, the Senate's longest-serving member at the time of her death in 1999.

Before she was a political trailblazer, Mrs. Lipman was a teacher. She taught French at Morehouse College and tutored a famous civil rights advocate, Martin Luther King, Jr. She left that position to pursue a Ph.D. degree at Columbia University. During her time at Columbia, Mrs. Lipman earned a Fulbright fellowship to study at the Sorbonne in Paris for two years. When she returned, Mrs. Lipman finished her Ph.D. degree and eventually moved to Montclair, New Jersey, where she became an associate professor at Essex County College.

In Montclair, Mrs. Lipman became active in local politics. In 1968, she won her first election to become an Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholder, where she became President of the Board in 1971. Then Mrs. Lipman ran for the New Jersey State Senate and defeated Republican Senator Milton Waldor by less than 1,000 votes out of 170,000 cast. During her 27 years in the State Senate, Mrs. Lipman was often the only woman serving there and worked diligently to protect the LGBTQ+ community and children on the Governor's Advisory Council on AIDS and Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect.

Mrs. Lipman's tireless efforts to serve her district earned her induction into the New Jersey's "Women's Hall of Fame" in 1998. Today, her legacy is supported throughout the area. There is the Wynona Lipman Ethnic Studies Center at Kean University, the Wynona Lipman Chairholder at the Center for American Women in Politics and Rutgers University, the Wynona Lipman Child Advocacy Center (known as Wynona's House) for abused children in Newark, and the future Wynona Lipman Courthouse in Essex County. Next week, there will be an exhibit titled "Stronger than Steel: The Wynona Lipman Story" at the New Jersey Historical Society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating her life of public service and her legacy in New Jersey politics.

RECOGNIZING 2023 BEST COMMUNITY FOR MUSIC EDUCATION RECIPIENT HEMPFIELD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Hempfield Area School District

for being recognized by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation as one of the best communities for music education in 2023.

The NAMM Foundation celebrates schools and school districts by recognizing their ability to train and educate the next generation of musicians. 830 school districts, including Hempfield Area School District, were recognized for the outstanding efforts of their teachers, administrators, parents, and students.

According to NAMM, over 3 million children did not have access to proper music education in 2019. Every student deserves a chance to learn and develop their artistic capabilities, and Hempfield Area School District's continuous efforts undoubtedly help our children in Southwest Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I congratulate Hempfield Area School District on this momentous occasion.

SAVING NEMO ACT

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my House colleagues to join in protecting our world's fragile coral reef ecosystems by restricting international imports of protected ornamental reef fish and coral species collected by destructive and unsustainable practices.

Our oceans are indispensable to life on our planet, not only to our global environment but to the billions that are directly or indirectly reliant on its resources. Our oceans in turn rely on the health and diversity of our coral reefs, some of our most diverse ecosystems, with nearly 25 percent of the ocean's fish dependent on coral reefs for shelter, food and reproduction. And our coral reefs are interdependent with healthy, diverse and sustainable marine flora and fauna.

Among these are prized ornamental reef fish and coral species highly valued by collectors. While it is possible to collect them at sustainable levels which do not harm the coral reef or broader marine ecosystem, high demand leads too often to unsustainable and destructive collection practices such as overcollection of species overall, overcollection of younger specimens, collection through reef dredging, gill nets, explosives or poison, and harm to specimens leading to excessive deaths in transit. Most of the collection occurs internationally where most of our world's coral reefs are found, in countries, such as in Southeast Asia, which do not have strong regulation or enforcement regimens against unsustainable or destructive practices.

As the largest importer of ornamental reef fish, our country has both responsibility for creating the demand that leads to such prac-

tices, and the opportunity to channel that demand to sustainable collection. The Saving Natural Ecosystems and Marine Organisms Act would do so by prohibiting the import into our country of protected reef species taken using unsustainable or destructive practices. The enforcement mechanism would be administrative certification, in conjunction with cooperating collecting countries where possible, that ornamental reef fish and species to be imported into our country were collected without following those practices.

I ask for my colleagues' support of this bill which is one piece of a much larger effort to save our oceans from their own worst enemy: us.

HONORING THE HEROICS OF RICHARD FIERRO AND THOMAS JAMES

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, November 19, 2023 marks the one year anniversary of a violent attack in Colorado Springs killing five people and injuring 22 others. I would like to once again extend my prayers of peace and healing for the families and victims. During the incident, two heroes took action that night to prevent further harm and should be honored for their heroic acts.

Richard Fierro and Thomas James stepped up at their own peril to save lives and protect others. The two heroes worked together to stop the gunman and remove the firearm from him, Mr. James even incurred injuries when a bullet was fired into his abdomen. Because of the decisive, quick, and selfless action of these two men, more lives were not taken by the attacker. This is the true spirit of selflessness and duty that we are privileged to experience so commonly in Colorado Springs.

Information Technician 2nd Class Thomas James was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal, the highest non-combat decoration the Navy can award for heroism.

Richard Fierro, a retired Army Major, received the Lifesaving Military Hero of The Year Award from the American Red Cross.

May we all remember their actions to save the lives of others and thank them for their service to our Nation and community on the anniversary of this terrible event.

RECOGNIZING DAVID KLINE

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today the 12th Congressional District recognizes David Kline

for his outstanding contributions as the City of Dearborn's Veteran of the Year.

Born and raised in Detroit, Mr. Kline enlisted in the United States Army in 1966 after graduation from Detroit's Cody High School. During his ten years and eleven months of service, Mr. Kline earned many commendations and certifications, including the Army Commendation Medal, Presidential Citation, Unit Citation, the Vietnam Gallantry Cross, Good Conduct, and the National Defense Service Medal. After serving in the army, Mr. Kline returned home to Michigan and began a thriving career in construction.

An engaged member of the community, Mr. Kline remains active numerous veterans' organizations in southeast Michigan, including Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 267 and American Legion Post 364. He has held multiple leadership positions at both organizations. He is passionate in his commitment to helping his fellow service members, especially those in need, and works tirelessly to ensure they receive the support and care they deserve.

Please join me in recognizing Mr. David Kline as he is honored as Dearborn, Michigan's 2023 Veteran of the Year. We are grateful for his service and leadership.

RECOGNIZING 2023 BEST COMMUNITY FOR MUSIC EDUCATION RECIPIENT MOUNT PLEASANT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Mount Pleasant Area School District for being recognized by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation as one of the best communities for music education in 2023.

The NAMM Foundation celebrates schools and school districts by recognizing their ability to train and educate the next generation of musicians. 830 school districts, including Mount Pleasant Area School District, were recognized for the outstanding efforts of their teachers, administrators, parents, and students.

According to NAMM, over 3 million children did not have access to proper music education in 2019. Every student deserves a chance to learn and develop their artistic capabilities, and Mount Pleasant Area School District's continuous efforts undoubtedly help our children in Southwest Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I congratulate Mount Pleasant Area School District on this momentous occasion.