

very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on May 19, 2016. They were married at St. Patrick's Church in Missouri Valley, Iowa.

Irene and Richard's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Irene and Richard Swanson on this momentous occasion.

SCREWORM AND THE ZIKA
VIRUS CORRELATION

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an example of the significance of federally sponsored scientific research.

I would like to especially commend two scientists, Dr. Edward Knipping and Dr. Raymond C. Bushland, and their research entitled "The Sex Life of the Screwworm Fly". These two distinguished individuals conducted extensive research in the 20th Century on a devastating disease in the cattle industry caused by the then-infamous Screwworm Fly.

Through perseverance and dedication, the researchers ultimately discovered a novel method to eradicate the Screwworm Fly. Sterilized male specimens of the fly were released into the wild, overwhelming the native Screwworm Fly population and eventually negating the threat to cattle across the Southeast.

Despite heavy disapproval and ridicule from some of their colleagues, the \$250,000 in research conducted by Dr. Knipping and Dr. Bushland collectively saved the U.S. cattle industry billions of dollars, earning them the Golden Goose Award. This immense societal benefit from such a small public investment is why they will be honored with the Golden Goose Award this September.

The research put into "The Sex Life of the Screwworm Fly" is a great example of the impact federally funded scientific research can make and exemplifies the purpose of the Golden Goose Award.

Regarding current epidemics, Dr. Knipping and Dr. Bushland's research may possibly provide creative solutions as we try to control the transmission of the Zika virus from the Aedes mosquito today. In order to confront and overcome modern health challenges, we must be mindful of the importance of federally funded research, and support creative initiatives whenever possible.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
CHARLOTTE NURGE

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Charlotte Nurge, a constituent of mine who passed away at the age of 95 on June 29 of this year in Ashburn, Virginia.

Charlotte was born in New Jersey and moved to Virginia in the 1940s. Since the first day she moved to Loudoun County, Charlotte worked tirelessly to improve the lives of her neighbors. Beginning her life of public service in the administrative offices of Langley High School, Charlotte never complained about working long hours.

Known as the "Mayor of Ashby Ponds", the Ashburn retirement community in which she lived, Charlotte gave more than 3,300 volunteer hours of service to her community since the 1990s. She worked tirelessly to enhance benefits for seniors in my district through her work on the Loudoun County Tax Relief program, and I worked closely with her as chairperson of the Commission on Aging. Always willing to lend a hand to a neighbor in need, Charlotte was an irreplaceable pillar of our community, as noted by her regular attendance at the Loudoun County Board meetings well into her 90s.

Charlotte will be sincerely missed by all those who had the pleasure of knowing her both on a personal and a professional level. I know that she has impacted many lives over the years, and we are all grateful for having known her. She is survived by two daughters, Barbara and Catherine; five grandchildren, John, Michael, Monday, Tom and Bridget; and six great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of, and bidding farewell to, Charlotte Nurge. May she rest in peace, and her family be comforted.

IN HONOR OF DEREK AND DYLAN
THOMSON FOR THEIR EFFORTS
ON THE CONNOLLY TOUGH FUND

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2016

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Derek and Dylan Thomson, both of whom are New Hampshire residents who have committed themselves to cycling across the United States to raise awareness and funds for the Connolly Tough Fund. The Thomson brothers have dedicated themselves to biking from San Francisco, California to Seabrook, New Hampshire, a 4,500 trek in

order to raise awareness for ALS as well as funds for their former principal, Gene Connolly, who was recently diagnosed with the disease. It is with great pride and respect that I join others in congratulating and thanking them for their tremendous efforts.

The Connolly Tough Fund was started in September 2014 to help Gene Connolly's family with expenses and have since risen over \$85,000. Derek and Dylan Thomson hoped to raise an additional \$20,000 through fundraising efforts throughout their bike ride. At this time, they have risen over \$14,000.

The Connolly Tough Fund has transferred their focus to supporting a scholarship fund in Gene's name. This decision follows Mr. Connolly's decision to retire from Concord High School. This retirement ends Mr. Connolly's 38-year public school career in New Hampshire, serving students like the Thomson brothers selflessly and tirelessly. While the fund has transferred its attention, the Thomson brothers are committing themselves to aiding Mr. Connolly, directly, through their fundraising program.

Derek and Dylan's journey is a personal and selfless act. Gene Connolly aided Derek in finding his passion for filmmaking and mentored him through his college experience at both Keene State College and Emerson University. For this, Derek is determined to "pay back Connolly for his generosity and inspiration." Derek has created films for Mr. Connolly and his family and became inspired to help monetarily, with his brother, through this bike riding effort.

Dylan, also a recent graduate, is completing this ride before heading to University of New Hampshire this fall. The brothers started their cross-country trek on May 21st and hope to finish by mid-July. They should be commended for their tenacity and commitment.

Derek and Dylan Thomson have been tireless in their commitment to the Connolly Tough Fund and have improved the Connolly family's life tremendously. Their work, both in Concord and on their bikes have helped Gene Connolly and his family throughout this transformative experience. As Mr. Connolly stated in a film, made by Derek, these brothers are helping "to the best of their ability." Derek and Dylan Thomson are role models for all of us and I applaud them for their efforts.

H.R. 5456

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2016

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following extraneous materials on H.R. 5456, the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2016:

NORTH AMERICAN COUNCIL
ON ADOPTABLE CHILDREN,
St. Paul, MN, June 14, 2016.

Hon. KEVIN BRADY,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. ORRIN HATCH,
Chairman, Committee on Finance, U.S. Senate,
Washington DC.

Hon. VERN BUCHANAN,
Chairman, Human Resources Subcommittee,
Committee on Ways and Means, House of
Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. SANDER LEVIN,
Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and
Means, House of Representatives, Wash-
ington, DC.

Hon. RON WYDEN,
Ranking Member, Committee on Finance, U.S.
Senate, Washington DC.

Hon. LLOYD DOGGETT,
Ranking Member, Human Resources Sub-
committee, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMEN BRADY AND HATCH, RANK-
ING MEMBERS LEVIN AND WYDEN, AND CHAIR-
MAN BUCHANAN AND RANKING MEMBER DOG-
GETT: The North American Council on Adopt-
able Children (NACAC) is pleased to support
the Family First Prevention Services Act,
and we look forward to working with you to
ensure passage and implementation of this
important legislation. NACAC is a national
organization dedicated to the belief that
children and youth need and deserve a per-
manent family.

I want to particularly highlight three pro-
visions of the Act:

We were glad to see that the act speci-
fically mentions that Title IV-E will be able
to cover preventive services for adoptive and
guardianship families, along with birth fami-
lies and relative caregivers. We have known
far too many adoptive families who have
been told that their children must reenter
foster care to access services. In some of
these cases, adoptive families must be
charged with abuse and neglect for their
children to receive the services they need.
The Act will expand the availability of such
services and reflects the reality that many
families, including adoptive families, need
targeted, effective services to meet their
children's needs and prevent foster care
entry.

The emphasis on family-based placements
rather than group care is something that
NACAC has long supported. We firmly be-
lieve that far too many children are placed
in group care for no therapeutic reason,
which research suggests can harm children.
We also know that placement with relatives
or foster families increases the likelihood
that children will achieve permanency,
whether through reunification, kin place-
ment, guardianship, or adoption. Group care
has a place in the child welfare system when
it is therapeutic and effective, never as a
convenient default.

Finally, we are pleased to see that the
Government Accounting Office will study
and report on how states are reinvesting the
funds they receive as a result of the Fos-
tering Connections Act's expansion of Title
IV-E adoption assistance eligibility. We
know that too few families currently have
access to needed post-adoption and post-
guardianship services, and think these rein-
vested funds can be a valuable tool to sup-
port families post-permanency.

We are also pleased to see the reauthoriza-
tion of Title IV-B and the Adoption and
Guardianship Incentive Program. The incen-
tive program has been an important source
of funding for support services for adoptive
and guardian families. In addition, we
strongly support increased investment in
services to prevent foster placements for all

families, the supports for kinship care pro-
viders, and the expansion of the National
Electronic Interstate Compact Enterprise.
We have seen through the pilot that the use
of such a system will speed placements of
children in foster care and adoption.

We acknowledge that the Act would delay
the implementation of expanded IV-E eligi-
bility to children under age four, but we be-
lieve that the bill's provisions are so impor-
tant that we are able to support this offset.

We will offer support in implementation of
the Act to ensure that the post-adoption
services in the bill are available to families
who need them and that states are investing
in efforts to recruit, develop, and support
foster and kin families for children who
would otherwise be in group care. We will
also review the GAO study to ensure that
states are investing as required in post-adop-
tion and post-guardianship services.

Thank you again for your support of these
valuable improvements in our child welfare
system. Please let me know if you need any-
thing from us as you move forward with the
Act.

Sincerely,

MARY BOO,
Executive Director.

THE NATIONAL
CRITTENTON FOUNDATION,
Portland, OR, June 14, 2016.

Hon. KEVIN BRADY,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives.

Hon. ORRIN HATCH,
Chairman, Committee on Finance, U.S. Senate.

Hon. VERN BUCHANAN,
Chairman, Human Resources Subcommittee,
Committee on Ways and Means, House of
Representatives.

Hon. SANDY LEVIN,
Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and
Means, House of Representatives.

Hon. RON WYDEN,
Ranking Member, Committee on Finance, U.S.
Senate.

Hon. LLOYD DOGGETT,
Ranking Member, Human Resources Sub-
committee, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives.

DEAR WAYS AND MEANS AND SENATE FI-
NANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN BRADY AND
HATCH, RANKING MEMBERS LEVIN AND WYDEN
AND HUMAN RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR-
MAN BUCHANAN AND RANKING MEMBER DOG-
GETT: On behalf of The National Crittenton
Foundation, I am pleased to support the
Family First Prevention Services Act (H.R.
5456) introduced today by House Ways and
Means Human Resources Subcommittee
Chairman Vern Buchanan (R-FL) and joined
by eleven other bi-partisan original co-spon-
sors. We understand that the development of
this proposed legislation has been a long and
complex process, and believe that this bipar-
tisan compromise represents a positive step
toward reducing the unnecessary reliance on
group care while also improving critical pre-
vention services for children in or at risk of
entering the child welfare system.

Headquartered in Portland, Oregon,
TNCF's mission is to advance the self-em-
powerment, health, economic security and
civic engagement of girls and young women
impacted by violence, childhood adversity
and trauma. TNCF and its 26-member Fam-
ily of Agencies currently serve 31 states and
the District of Columbia and have more than
130 years of expertise in delivering the high-
est quality of gender and culturally-specific,
trauma-informed, strengths-based and devel-
opmentally-appropriate services to girls and
young women involved in the child welfare,
juvenile justice and other child and family
service systems.

Among the many populations of young
people it serves, the Crittenton Family of

Agencies has a particular interest and exper-
tise in providing cutting-edge supports for
pregnant and parenting girls and young
women, both those who are at risk of child
welfare involvement and those already in the
foster care system. As you know, these
young women represent a relatively small
percentage of the overall population of chil-
dren in foster care, but they face a number of
critical challenges, most notably the unnec-
essary separation from or permanent re-
moval of their own children. When pregnant
and parenting youth do not receive the com-
prehensive range of services they need to
parent effectively, the result is often long-
term, dual-generation involvement in the
child welfare system.

The proposed legislation supports the
young people we serve in several important
ways. Most importantly, it allows federal
Title IV-E foster care funding to be used for
time-limited, evidence-based services for
those young people who are at imminent risk
of entering or re-entering foster care, preg-
nant and parenting youth in foster care and
parents and kinship caregivers of children at
risk.

Expanding states' ability to direct critical
dollars towards prevention will help young
people who seek help from our agencies ac-
cess services in the community, especially
those young parents who need basic commu-
nity services and supports to stay together
with their children. In addition, the elimi-
nation of time limits for family reunifica-
tion services will be extremely helpful in
providing ongoing support for young children
after they have returned home to their par-
ents, including parents who are teens.

The National Crittenton Foundation is
also supportive of the proposed approach to
eliminating inappropriate group care. As you
know, our agencies strongly believe that
children belong in families whenever possi-
ble. They work extensively with state and
local child welfare agencies, other commu-
nity-based organizations, and families to
provide a range of services—from prevention
to post-permanency services—to help chil-
dren return home or transition to kinship
care.

Our agencies also understand first hand
that children are too often placed in poorly
regulated group settings without compre-
hensive assessments and timely and clinically
appropriate placements. By clearly defining
Qualified Residential Treatment Programs
(QRTP) and requiring timely and com-
prehensive assessments and careful ongoing
court review, we believe that this legislation
balances the need to address the treatment
needs of young people and reduce the over-
reliance on group home placements. In addi-
tion, the provisions to support young preg-
nant and parenting teens will help ensure
that those young women who do not have
supportive family placement options or kin-
ship resources are able to access the services
they need before and after the birth of their
children.

Finally, TNCF is pleased to see the addi-
tional reporting requirements for children
who are not placed in family foster care
homes. Accurate data collection on residen-
tial treatment, hospital-settings and those
individuals who are pregnant and parenting
will be instrumental in helping our agencies
better meet the needs of young people by
identifying gaps in services and supports.

Thank you all for your strong leadership
and bipartisan coordination on these impor-
tant issues and for your ongoing commit-
ment to children and their families.

Sincerely,

JEANNETTE PAI-ESPINOSA,
President.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA,

June 21, 2016.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development and Catholic Charities USA, we write in support of H.R. 5456, the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2016.

In his recent Apostolic Exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*, Pope Francis wrote:

The choice of adoption and foster care expresses a particular kind of fruitfulness in the marriage experience. . . . In the light of those situations where a child is desired at any cost, as a right for one's self-fulfilment, adoption and foster care, correctly understood, manifest an important aspect of parenting and the raising of children. They make people aware that children, whether natural, adoptive or taken in foster care, are persons in their own right who need to be accepted, loved and cared for, and not just brought into this world. The best interests of the child should always underlie any decision in adoption and foster care (no. 180).

The Church thus recognizes and values the often heroic witness of those who provide loving foster care to children in need. At the same time, we understand that, where possible, meaningful support for families experiencing serious challenges can be critically important. For some, well-timed assistance can help keep families together, strengthening child outcomes and building toward long-term thriving.

Catholic Charities has extensive experience, both in supporting families with mental health care, substance abuse treatment and parenting skills training, and in providing foster care support. Last year alone over 11,000 children received foster care support and over 1,500 children were adopted from foster care programs through Catholic Charities supported programs.

Given our deep understanding and concern for family and our breadth of experience in helping parents in need, we urge you to pass H.R. 5456. Among the commendable provisions are:

Resources to assist parents with mental health, substance abuse or parenting skill issues to increase opportunities for children to remain in their homes where safe to do so;

Increased priority for placing children with other family members or in family foster settings;

Funding for evidence-based services to prevent child abuse and neglect related to substance abuse;

Additional support for the transition of foster children into adulthood.

As Saint John Paul II remarked, "As the family goes, so goes the nation, and so goes the whole world in which we live" (homily, Perth, Australia, November 30, 1986). The importance of supporting parents, children and families by improving the foster care system is critical for the good of our nation. Please support H.R. 5456.

Sincerely yours,

MOST REVEREND THOMAS
G. WENSKI,
Archbishop of Miami,
Chairman,

*Committee on Domestic Justice and Human
Development.*

SR. DONNA MARKHAM, OP,
PH.D.,
President & CEO,
Catholic Charities USA.

JUNE 21, 2016.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
Speaker of the House,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Minority Leader,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE RYAN AND MINORITY LEADER PELOSI: As organizations representing advocates for children, youth and families, public and private providers, foster parents, adoptive parents, kinship caregivers and alumni of foster care, we are writing in support of the bipartisan, bicameral Family First Prevention Services Act, H.R. 5456. This legislation represents an historic step forward by better aligning federal child welfare funding with improved outcomes and goals for children and families who come into contact with the child welfare system. Over the decades Congress has approved many bipartisan, bicameral child welfare bills to better meet the needs of our most vulnerable children and families, and the Family First Prevention Services Act continues to make important gains for children.

We applaud the historic step the Act takes to increase federal investments in prevention to keep more children safely with their parents or family caregivers and out of foster care. The Act would allow funds under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, now used primarily for out-of-home care for children, to be used for quality mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment services and in-home parent skill-based programs. Requirements that these new services be evidence-based and trauma-informed, along with data reporting on performance outcomes, helps to ensure the quality of and accountability for services provided. These and other provisions in the Act also recognize the current challenges created by the opioid and heroin crises in many states.

The Family First Prevention Services Act over time also will take important steps to ensure children who need foster care will be placed in the least restrictive setting appropriate to their needs, by targeting federal dollars only on children in family-foster homes or residential settings for children and youth with special treatment needs or those in special circumstances, such as pregnant and parenting teens or older youth in independent living settings. The Act builds on activities in a number of states to preserve group care for children with special treatment needs.

The Act includes a number of other important changes to help improve outcomes for children and families. It continues to recognize the special role grandparents and other relatives play when they step in to care for children when their parents cannot and the supports relative caregivers need; requires states to have a plan to track and prevent child maltreatment fatalities; addresses the special needs of pregnant and parenting teens and protections for their children; promotes permanent families for children by extending adoption and guardianship incentives, enhancing interstate placements of children, and ensuring appropriate investments in post-adoption services; continues the Court Improvement Program; and offers increased supports to help older youth transition from foster care to adulthood.

Children and society pay a high cost when current systems fail to adequately address the needs of the children who come to the attention of our child welfare systems. We believe the specific changes proposed will go far in encouraging state and local child welfare agencies, private providers, courts, and advocates for children and families, including those who have been involved in the child welfare system, to work together to

achieve significant change for children over the next decade.

The Family First Prevention Services Act will truly benefit vulnerable children and families who come to the attention of the child welfare system. We urge strong bipartisan support of H.R. 5456. Thank you.

Sincerely,

National Organizations:

Adoption Exchange Association
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Psychological Association
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Center for Native American Youth
Center for the Study of Social Policy
Child Care Aware® of America
Children and Family Futures
Children's Home Society of America
Children's Hospital Association
Children's Rights
Children's Advocacy Institute
Children's Defense Fund
Children's Leadership Council
CLASP
Coalition on Human Needs
CSH (Corporation for Supportive Housing)
Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption
Every Child Matters
First Focus Campaign for Children
Foster Family-based Treatment Association
FosterClub
Generations United
Healthy Teen Network
Human Rights Project for Girls
(Rights4Girls)
Juvenile Law Center
National African American Drug Policy Coalition, Inc.
National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds
National Association for Children of Alcoholics
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association of Counsel for Children
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Social Workers
National Center on Adoption and Permanency
National Center on Child Welfare and Housing
National Center on Shared Leadership
National Child Abuse Coalition
National Children's Alliance
National Family Preservation Network
National Foster Parent Association
National Indian Child Welfare Association
National Kinship Alliance for Children
North American Council on Adoptable Children
Parents Anonymous Inc.
Ray E. Helfer Society
Strengthening Families All Across America
The Dalton Daley Group
The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy
The National Crittenton Foundation
Think of Us
Voice for Adoption
Youth Law Center
Youth Villages
ZERO TO THREE
State Organizations:
Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc. and the Kinship Program
AAJ Research & Evaluation (Florida)
Arizona's Children Association
CASA Youth Advocates (Pennsylvania)
Child and Family Services of New Hampshire
Children & Families First (Delaware)
Children Awaiting Parents (New York)
Children's Action Alliance (Arizona)
Children's Home + Aid (Illinois)
Children's Home Society of North Carolina
Children's Advocacy Alliance (Nevada)

Children's Defense Fund—California
 Children's Defense Fund—Minnesota
 Children's Defense Fund—Mississippi
 Children's Defense Fund—New York
 Children's Defense Fund—Texas
 Children's Hospital of Wisconsin
 Citizens' Committee for Children of New York, Inc.

Connecticut Voices for Children
 Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch (North Dakota)

Florida's Children First, Inc.
 Foster Adopt Connect (Missouri and Kansas)
 Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota
 Lutheran Social Services of Indiana
 Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange
 Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
 Partners for Our Children (Washington)
 The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
 The Children's Partnership (California)
 University of California Davis Guardian Professions Program

Voices for Children in Nebraska
 Voices for Ohio's Children
 Voices for Virginia's Children
 YMCA of San Diego County, Kinship Support Program

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,343,541,768,823.97. We've added \$8,716,664,719,910.89 to our debt in 7 years. This is over \$8.7 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TRIBUTE TO KENNEDY PLOWMAN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Kennedy Plowman of Adair-Casey High School. Kennedy Plowman was recently honored for outstanding academic achievement at the Fourteenth Annual Governor's Scholar Recognition on May 1, 2016.

This statewide program is sponsored by the Iowa Governor's Office, the Iowa high school Athletic Association and the Iowa Farm Bureau. Each Iowa high school was invited to select a senior with the highest academic ranking. Not only are they academically gifted, but the selected students are often the youth who are successful in extracurricular activities and community endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Kennedy Plowman in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to reach her goals. I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Kennedy on receiving this esteemed designation, and wishing her the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2016

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote Number 391 on the Mullin of Oklahoma Amendment No. 43 to H.R. 5485, Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2016

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, during the roll call votes on Thursday, July 7, 2016, I missed a vote on an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2017 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations.

Had I been present, on roll call number 394, I would have voted Yea.

TO COMMISSION A STATUE OF ELIE WIESEL TO BE PLACED IN THE CAPITOL

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2016

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a bipartisan bill I introduced today with several of my colleagues to authorize a statue of Elie Wiesel to be placed in the U.S. Capitol building.

Holocaust survivor and Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel was a great American, whose moral leadership served as a beacon across our country and around the globe. President Obama rightly called him, "the conscience of the world."

Wiesel was born in Romania in 1928. In 1944, at the age of fifteen, Elie Wiesel was sent to the Nazi concentration camp of Auschwitz, and later to Buchenwald. Both of his parents and his younger sister died in the concentration camps.

After the war, Elie Wiesel became a journalist and wrote about his experiences during the Holocaust. He spent his life as a vocal witness against both the evil that gave rise to the Holocaust and man's inhumanity against his fellow man. His purpose was to speak the truth in the face of power and to clearly and repeatedly say "Never Again." His memoir, *Night*, has been translated into over 30 languages.

He fought against indifference, intolerance, and injustice.

He helped create the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Elie Wiesel was one of the greatest moral forces in the world. He was brilliant, pure, honest, and courageous.

I met Elie Wiesel when I was a Tennessee State Senator and he was honored at Vanderbilt. He was the inspiration for me founding the Tennessee Holocaust Commission in 1987. I

have a picture of him and me hanging in the foyer of my Washington, DC office. The photo was taken when he was honored at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis.

His voice was strong and will be sorely missed. He was one of my heroes.

I urge my colleagues to help pass this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2016

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote Number 389 on the Messer of Indiana Amendment No. 40 to H.R. 5485, Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY ACT OF 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 5, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1252, the "Global Food Security Act of 2015," which requires the President to develop and implement a Global Food Security Strategy to reduce hunger and maintain global food security and nutrition.

Even in an age of globalization and industrialization, hunger and food security remain fundamental impediments to global wellbeing.

According to UN estimates, 795 people currently live undernourished lives, with 12.9 percent of the population of underdeveloped countries living without proper nutrition and 3.1 million children under the age of five dying of malnutrition every year.

Moreover, with the world's natural resources and biodiversity rapidly degrading, global food security continues to be threatened, as one of the global economy's most crucial driving forces, agriculture, continues to suffer globally, and particularly in underdeveloped states.

Even as the threats of hunger and food instability loom, the necessity of global food security remains, as solutions to global food issues also represent instrumental steps to poverty eradication and economic growth.

In an age where food concerns plague underdeveloped nations and largely industrialized international powers alike, moreover, it is more important than ever to remain committed to proven food initiatives and measures of global food assistance.

In particular, the Food Security Act specifies the importance of promoting activities and programs that strive to promote global food security, resilience, and nutrition.

These measures include programs that:

1. place food insecure countries on a path toward self-sufficiency by coordinating U.S. assistance programs;
2. accelerate agricultural and economic growth in a manner that reduces global poverty, hunger, and malnutrition;
3. increase the productivity and livelihoods of small-scale producers;