

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, on July 6, 2016 through July 8, 2016, I was unable to vote on Roll Call votes 357 through 400. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Roll Call 357—No, Roll Call 358—No, Roll Call 359—No, Roll Call 360—No, Roll Call 361—No, Roll Call 362—No, Roll Call 363—No, Roll Call 364—No, Roll Call 365—No, Roll Call 366—No, Roll Call 367—No, Roll Call 368—No, Roll Call 369—No, Roll Call 370—No, Roll Call 371—Yes, Roll Call 372—Yes, Roll Call 373—No, Roll Call 374—No, Roll Call 375—Yes, Roll Call 376—Yes, Roll Call 377—No, Roll Call 378—No, Roll Call 379—Yes, Roll Call 380—Yes, Roll Call 381—Yes, Roll Call 382—Yes, Roll Call 383—Yes, Roll Call 384—Yes, Roll Call 385—Yes, Roll Call 386—Yes, Roll Call 387—Yes, Roll Call 388—Yes, Roll Call 389—Yes, Roll Call 390—Yes, Roll Call 391—Yes, Roll Call 392—Yes, Roll Call 393—No, Roll Call 394—No, Roll Call 395—Yes, Roll Call 396—Yes, Roll Call 397—No, Roll Call 398—Yes, Roll Call 399—Yes, Roll Call 400—Yes.

GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA: STOPPING THE BLOODSHED

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I am shocked and devastated by the multiple, tragic deaths occurring across our country.

The most recent senseless deaths of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile at the hands of police and the equally senseless killing of five Dallas police officers were all completely avoidable and intolerable.

Words alone cannot describe my heartbreak—nor can words alone bring resolve.

Mr. Speaker, our resolve should be real solutions to stop the bloodshed.

Enough is enough—the American people are fed up, Congressional Democrats are fed up, the Congressional Black Caucus is fed up, and I am fed up.

Republican Leadership should immediately bring to the floor:

1. The Public Safety and Second Amendment Rights Protection Act, H.R. 1217, which would expand the existing background check system to cover all commercial firearm sales.

2. Denying Firearms and Explosives to Dangerous Terrorists Act, H.R. 1076, also known as “No Fly, No Buy,” which would allow the FBI to block gun sales to people on the terrorist watch list.

3. Background Check Completion Act, H.R. 3051, which would require that a background

check be completed before any gun sale proceeds, and

4. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, H.R. 4603, which would ban the sale of firearms to those convicted of assaulting someone based on their race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or disability.

Mr. Speaker, we continue to mourn the loss of lives in Newtown, Aurora, Charleston, Orlando, and so many others.

Last month, House Democrats, led by our CBC colleague and iconic civil rights leader Congressman JOHN LEWIS from the 5th district of Georgia, held a 26-hour sit-in on the Floor of the House of Representatives to demand House Republican Leaders hold a vote on legislation to address gun violence.

Mr. Speaker, after this sit-in, voters will not be silent.

Americans across the country are coming together and organizing.

In my district, I led a conference call with diverse leaders, activists, elected officials, religious and civic organizations, businesses and individuals in Central Ohio to discuss paving the way forward to curb gun violence and to unite our community.

Mr. Speaker, we’re not asking for a lot—we are simply asking to save lives.

Mr. Speaker, what will it take?

Our former colleague, U.S. House Representative Gabrielle Gifford, resigned due to being gun downed while trying to represent her constituents to the fullest.

In the words of Martin Luther King Jr., “We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now.”

Mr. Speaker, it is time you heed those words.

Our nation is in an urgent crisis, yet, we remain trapped in Congressional inaction.

HONORING SENATOR LOIS WOLK

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Senator Lois Wolk upon her retirement from the California State Senate.

Senator Wolk has lived in Davis, California since 1978, and began her career in public service in 1990 when she was elected to the Davis City Council. During her service as a councilmember, Senator Wolk prioritized initiatives that improved environmental sustainability and expanded access to health services for the people of Davis, including leading the efforts to restore and preserve Putah Creek and to build Sutter Davis Hospital.

Senator Wolk was elected to serve as a Yolo County Supervisor in 1998, and while serving on the board of Supervisors she spearheaded efforts to improve children’s welfare. The culmination of those efforts was the

creation of Multi-Disciplinary Interview Center for abused children, a Crisis Nursery, and a new Juvenile Hall. Given the importance of agriculture to Yolo County’s economy, Senator Wolk led a major revision of the county’s Agricultural Zoning Ordinance as a supervisor to preserve the county’s land quality for generations to come.

After her service as County Supervisor, Senator Wolk was elected to the California State Assembly for three consecutive terms, serving from 2002 until 2008. She became the first woman to chair the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee, where she advanced legislation addressing flood protection, the crisis in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and climate change.

Senator Wolk was elected to the California State Senate in 2008. As a senator, she has introduced and advanced legislation related to environmental protections and social equality. She also spearheaded the creation of a statewide registry to ensure more children are immunized and to increase consumer access to affordable clean energy. Most recently, Senator Wolk led the effort to pass the groundbreaking End of Life Option Act, ensuring that Californians suffering from terminal illness can choose to die on their own terms. Senator Wolk currently serves as the Majority Whip and chairs the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Resources, Environmental Protection, Energy and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, Senator Wolk is my friend and a valued colleague, and has been an exemplary public servant for close to three decades and it is therefore fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF EXTENDING THE RARE PEDI- ATRIC DISEASE PRIORITY RE- VIEW VOUCHER PROGRAM

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity today to urge my colleagues to not let the Rare Pediatric Disease Priority Review Voucher Program lapse. As the co-chair of the House Congressional Rare Disease Caucus, I know first-hand how successful this program has been for children and their families throughout the country and I am determined for it to continue. Unfortunately, the program expires September 30th, which could curb continued research and development in the areas of rare pediatric conditions.

One condition that very much relies on the incentives of the Rare Pediatric Disease Priority Review Voucher Program is epidermolysis bullosa (“EB”), and those suffering from the condition are in desperate need of treatments and cures. EB is a rare, debilitating, and potentially fatal connective tissue disorder that manifests through severe

• 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.

blisters on the skin, eyes, throat, and internal organs. Children with EB are often called “butterfly children” because their skin so fragile. As with most rare diseases, EB can vary in progression and severity among its various types and subtypes.

The most severe form of EB, recessive dystrophic EB, puts children at especially high risk for infection. Typically, even a mild localized trauma can cause skin to fall off, leading to open sores that do not heal, which cause indescribable pain and agony. In addition to the risk of infection, other conditions associated with EB include cancer, heart failure, malnutrition, and foot and hand deformities.

I have heard the heartbreaking stories of children with this form, such as Rafi Kopelan and Jackson Silver of New York City and Mikey Fullmer of Irvine, California. Imagine being eight years old, unable to play soccer or swim, covered in bandages, enduring regular painful vinegar and bleach baths, and fighting through the discomfort to eat and breathe. This has been a reality for kids like Rafi, Jackson, and Mikey.

New York City is home to two of the three leading patient advocacy and research organizations representing the EB community—debra of America and the EB Research Partnership. I would like to recognize the tremendous impact both organizations, as well as the Los Angeles, California based EB Medical Research Foundation, are having on the community. Due to their efforts, several drug manufacturers are currently in the research and development phase for various treatments for EB—from topical creams to protein replacement therapies.

The Rare Pediatric Disease Priority Review Voucher Program has been instrumental in creating an incentive for these companies to finally allocate resources to investigating potential solutions for children with EB beyond pain management and wound care. But more progress is needed. Further research is necessary, for example, to develop interventions against a particularly virulent form of squamous cell carcinoma in EB patients, which has a mortality rate approaching 90 percent.

Congress has long supported EB research funding through the National Institutes of Health, which has helped lay the foundation for these existing development programs. Reauthorizing the Rare Pediatric Disease Priority Review Voucher Program, however, is a critical way of providing the necessary incentives to ensure children like Rafi, Jackson, and Mikey will soon benefit from this important research in the form of FDA-approved therapies.

We must not let this deadline slip and this important program expire, and I hope all my colleagues recognize the urgency of this issue.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, on July 13, 2016, I was unable to be present to cast my vote on amendments Number 76 and Number 78 to H.R. 5538, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017. I wish to reflect that had I

been present for roll calls No. 453 and 454, I would have voted “nay.”

RECOGNIZING POTTSTOWN SUPERINTENDENT DR. JEFFREY R. SPARAGANA

HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pottstown School District Superintendent, Dr. Jeffrey R. Sparagana, as he prepares to retire after a career in education spanning more than four decades.

For the past 23 years, Dr. Sparagana has held a variety of teaching, administrative, and coaching positions in the Pottstown School District. He was appointed superintendent in December 2012, demonstrating outstanding leadership during what his colleagues described as “the most tumultuous period of change” in the District’s 177-year history. It was a period that saw the District revise attendance boundaries, close one elementary school and renovate four others, and realign the Middle School to include fifth grade. Innovation, a commitment to academic excellence and accountability and an incredible ability to collaborate with teachers, parents and the community were hallmarks of Dr. Sparagana’s tenure. Those traits undoubtedly contributed to Pottstown earning national accolades for its PEAK program, which ensures students start kindergarten properly prepared for a lifetime of learning. Pottstown students also benefit from a healthy living program, one of just 20 comprehensive high school programs in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, virtual and alternative learning academies for customized instruction and an active Foundation for Pottstown Education, which provides supplemental funding for unique educational opportunities.

Despite the tremendous demands as the top educator in a district with 3,200 students, Dr. Sparagana always was an engaged citizen and made countless positive contributions to the greater Pottstown community. He is a past president of the Pottstown Area Industrial Development organization, helped facilitate quarterly joint meetings with the District and Pottstown Borough Council and fostered partnerships with Montgomery County Community College and The Hill School, resulting in Pottstown CARES days during which more than 600 volunteers pitch in on an array of projects in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in expressing gratitude for Dr. Jeffrey R. Sparagana’s more than 40 years of outstanding service as an educator and genuine passion for ensuring that each student in the Pottstown School District has the opportunity to learn and develop into a responsible, engaged citizen and offering best wishes for a long, healthful retirement.

S CORPORATION MODERNIZATION ACT

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Representative RON KIND and I reintroduced the S Corporation Modernization Act to reform and repeal unnecessary rules and limitations on S Corporations. This bill supports growth in communities across the country and builds upon last year’s success. With broad bipartisan support in December, Congress passed the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act that provided permanent built-in gains tax relief for S Corporations. The legislative history of this provision makes clear that Congress intended this permanent relief for built-in gains to also apply to Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and mutual funds.

HONORING MARALIN NISKA

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Maralin Niska who passed away at home in Santa Fe, New Mexico on July 9, 2016. Maralin sang leading roles with both the Metropolitan Opera and the New York City Opera and was widely known as one of the greatest talents of her generation. She was not only an acclaimed soprano, she was a devoted teacher who loved sharing her passion with admirers and her community.

Born in San Pedro, California, on November 16, 1926, Maralin Niska showed early promise as a musical student. In her youth, she performed as a young soloist in the First Presbyterian Church of San Pedro as well as with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Despite the advice of teachers and friends, she refused to go to Europe to study and build a career. She told the New York Times, “I’ve never even been to Europe, and I don’t have any desire to go . . . I’m still one of the few holdouts who are truly American in training, experience, everything.” She never wavered in her love for her community and country. Ms. Niska completed her degree at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), in English literature and continued to study voice at the University of Southern California (USC) and UCLA. All the while, she continued to sing as a resident soloist at several community churches.

Ms. Niska had a rewarding career in education and was a Torrance elementary school teacher for seven years, while continuing to perform for local opera companies and the community. She loved teaching, and appreciated all students at whatever level they could achieve. In 1968, Ms. Niska sang the title role in *Madama Butterfly* for the opening of the new house at the Santa Fe Opera. After retiring in Santa Fe, Ms. Niska continued her passion for teaching and maintained a private vocal studio. There, she taught Master Classes to aspiring students who shared her love for music. The Arizona Daily Star even wrote that Ms. Niska left “most of the traditional diva