

know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 241, THE
ACCESS ACT

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to have had the opportunity to testify today at the U.S. House Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Constitution and Civil Justice Hearing, "Examining Legislation to Promote the Effective Enforcement of the ADA's Public Accommodation Provisions."

As you know, the Americans with Disabilities Act is undoubtedly one of the most important pieces of civil rights legislation. We can all agree that providing all Americans with access to public accommodations is an invaluable legislative objective.

The purpose of the ADA is to ensure access for the disabled to public accommodation and provide appropriate remedial action for those who have suffered harm as a result of non-compliance. Although there are times when litigation by harmed individuals is necessary, there are an increasing number of lawsuits brought under the ADA that are based upon a desire to achieve financial settlements rather than to achieve the appropriate modifications for access. These lawsuits filed by serial litigants, often referred to as "drive-by lawsuits," place exorbitant legal fees on small businesses, and often times business owners are unaware of the specific nature of the allegations brought against them.

In early 2011, frivolous ADA lawsuits against small businesses reached an all-time high throughout California, and as a result, my good friend and colleague, former Congressman Dan Lungren (R-CA), championed the issue and introduced the original ACCESS Act (H.R. 3356) in the 112th Congress. I was pleased to have been afforded the opportunity to take over the legislation for reintroduction beginning in the 113th Congress. In January 2015, I reintroduced the legislation as H.R. 241, the ACCESS Act (ADA Compliance for Customer Entry to Stores and Services).

H.R. 241 is a cost-free and commonsense piece of legislation that would alleviate the financial burden small businesses are facing, while still fulfilling the purpose of the ADA. Any person aggrieved by a violation of the ADA would provide the owner or operator with a written notice of the violation, specific enough to allow such owner or operator to identify the barrier to their access. Within 60 days the owner or operator would be required to provide the aggrieved person with a description outlining improvements that would be made to address the barrier. The owner or operator would then have 120 days to make the improvement. The failure to meet any of these conditions would allow the lawsuit to go forward.

I think we can all agree that we must ensure that individuals with disabilities are afforded the same access and opportunities as those without disabilities. Frivolous lawsuits do not accomplish this goal. Allowing small business owners and cities alike to fix ADA violations

within 120 days, rather than waiting for lengthy legal battles to play out, is a more thoughtful, timely, and reasonable approach.

While the ADA is a national law, California has become ground zero for ADA violation lawsuits. In fact, California is home to more federal disability lawsuits than the next four states combined. A 2014 report determined that since 2005, more than 10,000 federal ADA lawsuits had been filed in the five states with the highest disabled populations; 7,188 of which were filed in California. Violating the ADA in California carries a minimum \$4,000 penalty in addition to the plaintiffs legal fees. As of 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, 31 individuals made up at least 56 percent of federal disability lawsuits in California. As was mentioned during the second panel of today's hearing, California has 12 percent of the nation's disabled population, but accounts for over 40 percent of ADA lawsuits. Those figures and the real life toll it takes on small business owners, are why I introduced this legislation to allow for a "fix-it" period.

However, it is clear that this is not just a major problem in California. The introduction, in November 2015, of similar legislation by the gentleman from Texas, Representative TED POE, shows just that. His legislation authorizes a training and education component for the affected community and Certified Access Specialists, which I would welcome and embrace as an amendment to my bill.

This is also a bipartisan issue supported by states. I was pleased to see that California SB 269 passed unanimously in the State Assembly and Senate, and was signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown on May 10th, 2016. SB 269 was authored by a friend of mine, Democratic State Senator, Gen. Richard Roth. The legislation is similar to the ACCESS Act in that it allows businesses to take immediate steps to become accessible by providing them with 120 days, from receipt of a Certified Access Specialist report, to resolve any identified violations without being subject to litigation costs or statutory penalties. I worry that with California acting to curb these lawsuits, some of these serial litigants will try their trade in other states.

Without question, the ACCESS Act will ensure that the ADA is used for its true purpose of guaranteed accessibility to public accommodations for all Americans while eliminating abusive, costly and unnecessary lawsuits for small business owners.

It is more important than ever that the House of Representatives act to move this vital piece of legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, on Monday May 16, my return to Washington, D.C. was unavoidably delayed. As a result, I missed two recorded votes.

On Roll Call Vote Number 194, H.R. 4743—National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium Act;

On Roll Call Vote Number 195, H.R. 4407—Counterterrorism Advisory Board Act;

Had I been present, I would have voted Yes.

THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR
TECHNICAL COLLEGES

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Committee on Education and the Workforce, under the leadership of Chairman JOHN KLINE held a hearing on the importance of reauthorizing the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act.

This Act provides individuals with the necessary academic and technical tools to succeed in this skills-based jobs market. We should support our career and technical colleges that improve the lives of many hard-working Americans.

In South Carolina, we have sixteen remarkable technical colleges that have been successful in helping to create jobs throughout the state and particularly the Second Congressional District. Apprenticeship Carolina has been successful in creating more than 15,000 apprentices to date, partnering with businesses such as Michelin and Continental. Thank you to their Director Brad Neese and the South Carolina technical college presidents. A special congratulations to Dr. Forest Mahan, who was selected to be the fifth president of Aiken Technical College on Monday. Godspeed President Susan Winsor.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops and may the President by his actions never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

TRIBUTE TO THE SUNSHINE CLUB

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sunshine Club for their 61st year of fellowship, service and support in central Iowa.

The Sunshine Club was founded in 1955 by three residents of the Morrisburg area, south of Panorama, Iowa. The club's membership today has 22 members of various ages who reside in the areas of Panorama, Stuart, Menlo, Dexter, Redfield and Casey. Its threefold purpose of service to their community, socializing and enjoying life is what brings them together. Club members now say that faith, friendship and food has kept the group together this long.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Sunshine Club for making their communities in central Iowa a better place to live by their acts of service. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating the Sunshine Club and wishing them nothing but continued success.

HONORING JENNY KAYLIN HUNZICKER ON BEING ACCEPTED BY THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF FUTURE PHYSICIANS AND MEDICAL SCIENTISTS AS A DELEGATE TO THE CONGRESS OF FUTURE MEDICAL LEADERS

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hollister High School student Kaylin Hunzicker, of Neosho, Missouri, on her being accepted as a delegate to the Congress of Future Medical Leaders by the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists.

The Congress of Future Medical Leaders is an honors-only program that is designed to motivate and direct the top students in the United States. Specifically, it's designed for students aspiring to become physicians or medical researchers, and provides a path and mentorship for students to accomplish their goals.

To be considered for acceptance as a delegate, applicants are either recommended by a teacher or member of the Academy based on a proven track record of academic excellence. Delegates represent all 50 states plus Puerto Rico, and must have a minimum 3.5 GPA. Students like Hunzicker who qualify for this incredibly selective honor exemplify top-tier diligence and academic talent.

Mr. Speaker, Kaylin Hunzicker has not only demonstrated that she is qualified to represent Missouri through her strong academic performance, but has also displayed a true passion for medical science and medicine that will serve her well in future endeavors. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating her for this achievement. On behalf of Missouri's Seventh Congressional District, I wish Kaylin the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE HONORING THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FREEDOM RIDERS WHO BRAZENLY DESEGREGATED INTERSTATE TRAVEL

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the Freedom Rides Museum in Montgomery, Alabama in its commemoration of the 55th anniversary of the Freedom Riders—the brave civil rights activists who peacefully fought against the unconstitutional public transportation segregation in the deep South in 1961.

On May 14, 1961, Freedom Riders arrived in Anniston, Alabama on a Greyhound bus. They were met by an angry mob of nearly 200 white people who surrounded the bus and caused the driver to pass the bus stop. They were followed by the angry mob until the bus tires blew out which is when a bomb was thrown into the bus filled with peaceful civil rights activists. Barely escaping with their lives, the Freedom Riders watched the bus burst into flames and were then brutally beaten by members of the surrounding mob.

A second bus traveled to Birmingham, Alabama. Those Freedom Riders were also met by angry mobs and were savagely beaten, some by metal pipes. The Birmingham Public Safety Commissioner at the time stated that he knew the Freedom Riders would be met with violence but posted no police protection because it was a holiday—Mother's Day.

On May 20, 1961, it was the Montgomery, Alabama city line where the Governor-appointed Highway Patrol abandoned the Freedom Riders they were charged to escort into the city. Their nonviolence was met with organized brutality of the worst kind. At the historic Montgomery Greyhound Station, the Freedom Riders were attacked as they exited by Jim Crow enthusiasts, beaten within inches of their lives by bats and iron pipes. Many riders were left for dead in the streets. Ambulances refused to transport the wounded to hospitals. Some members of the community stepped in, and tried to rescue the lives of those who dared challenge the unconstitutional Jim Crow laws of the South.

It is my great honor to represent the 7th Congressional District—an area that is rich with the history of the young activists who defied systemic oppression, fought for the rights of others and asked for nothing except recognition as humans in return. These individuals continue to inspire me and the work I do day after day.

In commemoration of the 55th anniversary, I want to recognize the Freedom Riders who risked their reputations and lives for the humanity of others. This diverse group of young people believed in persistence for obtaining equality and justice for all people and inspired millions to take a stand for their own beliefs of equity. The Freedom Riders made a daring choice in 1961—to fight against segregation and oppression in an innovative way that changed the course of American history forever.

The valiant efforts of Freedom Riders such as Charles Person, William Harbour, Catherine Burks-Brooks, Bernard Lafayette, Jr., Ernest "Rip" Patton, Jr., Kwame Leo Lillard, Frances Wilson Canty, Allen Cason Jr., David Dennis, Larry Hunter, Alphonso Petway, Kredelle Petway, Betty Daniels Rosemond, Mary Jean Smith, Doratha Smith-Simmons, Willie Thomas, Jean Thompson, Joan C. Browning and Etta Simpson Ray led the charge to the ultimate desegregation of the bus system in Montgomery and the unification of a people to continue to fight for their rights.

The Freedom Rides Museum in Montgomery, AL serves as a strong cornerstone in the narrative of the role of Alabama in the Civil Rights Movement. I want to thank the Alabama Historical Commission and its director Lisa Jones for their role in safeguarding Alabama's historic buildings and sites such as the Freedom Rides Museum. A special thanks to the leadership of Museum director Dorothy Walker and the amazing supporting staff members of the Freedom Rides Museum for their efforts in honoring the past and preserving the present for future generations to learn. The Freedom Rides Museum could not have been what it is without support from community members as well such as Judge Myron Thompson who helped save the building that is now the Museum as well as Johnnie Carr, former President of the Montgomery Improvement Association for all of her support as well as Louretta Wimberly of the

Black Heritage Council. A special thanks to historian Dr. J. Mills Thornton who played a pivotal role in the creation of the Museum.

The Freedom Riders are quintessential examples of how change can happen when we work together and fearlessly stand for what is right. I give us all the charge to—like the Freedom Riders, continue to battle against inequality and stand strong by our great nation's principles of democracy, liberty and justice for all.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 55th Anniversary of the Freedom Riders who in the summer of 1961 dared to make a difference and forever changed America for the better.

BREAKING THROUGH POWER: A HISTORIC CIVIC MOBILIZATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following. Ralph Nader is a resident of Connecticut's First District, and has long been a champion for social justice, as well as a crusading consumer advocate who has had a lasting impact on consumer rights and the American political milieu.

RALPH NADER PRESENTS—BREAKING THROUGH POWER: A HISTORIC CIVIC MOBILIZATION

Celebrating the 50th anniversary year of Ralph Nader's book *Unsafe at Any Speed*, the Center for Study of Responsive Law announces four days of civic mobilization at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. on May 23, 24, 25 and 26, 2016. *Unsafe at Any Speed* unleashed fresh energies and sparked the creation of numerous advocacy organizations leading to major consumer, environmental and worker safety protections. The theme of this citizen mobilization will be elaborating ways to break through power to secure long-overdue democratic solutions made possible by a new muscular civic nexus between local communities and Washington, D.C.

On these four days, speakers will present innovative ideas and strategies designed to take existing civic groups to higher levels of effectiveness. The participants will be asked to support the creation of several new organizations. One such group will work to open up the commercial media, which use the public airwaves free of charge, to serious content. Another will facilitate action by retired military, national security and diplomatic officials who want to deter unconstitutional and unlawful plunges into wars that lead to calamitous and costly blowbacks.

This "Civic Mobilization" will involve thousands of people at Constitution Hall and around the country and connect long-available knowledge to long-neglected action for the necessities and aspirations of people from all backgrounds. Many of the presentations will feature reforms and redirections for the common good enjoy Left/Right support.

Breaking Through Power: How it's Done—May 23, 2016 will feature presentations by seventeen citizen advocacy groups. Over decades these activists have produced amazing accomplishments against powerful odds. These civic leaders will demonstrate how, with modest budgets and stamina, they have improved the health, safety and economic well-being of the people and focused public opinion onto decision-makers and opponents. Through greater visibility, broader support