

Ms. SANCHEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Alexander Lopez of Santa Ana.

Alex, a junior pursuing a Bachelor of Science Business Administration degree at California State University, Fullerton, has been appointed to one of the two student slots on the California State University Board of Trustees.

Student trustees are an important part of the governing body overseeing the 23-campus California State University system. They are responsible for creating policies, for hiring university presidents, and for representing the concerns of over 400,000 students in the California State University system.

I met Alex following a commencement address I gave at Cal State Fullerton this past year. He was all the things we hope our young people will grow to be: bright, ambitious, and compassionate. In addition to serving as the president of the student government, Alex is committed to advocacy for programs that will help low-income and minority students attend college.

I am very proud of Alex for his achievement, and I wish him luck. I also wish we would take note of this and invest in education instead of war.

OVERSIGHT HEARING TO INVESTIGATE HESHAM HEDAYET

(Mr. GEKAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEKAS. Madam Speaker, as chairman of the Subcommittee on Immigration of the Committee on the Judiciary, I am scheduling an oversight hearing next week on the bizarre case of Hesham Hedayet. He is the Egyptian national who killed two people at the Los Angeles International Airport back on July 4.

After that incident happened, the press reported that this individual had applied for a green card and was denied, and then later, was granted a green card based on the diversity application lottery that we have for visas based on diversity.

Later on, we got so worried about it that I issued a letter to the INS commissioner asking for full access to that Hesham Hedayet file so that we could inquire into it. Madam Speaker, 2½ months later, we still have not received a reply and then, somehow, that became clear to the Attorney General that there were questions about this individual, and the Attorney General has asked the INS to clarify it.

We are going to have an oversight hearing next week to determine answers to all of the inquiries about this matter.

MORE MONEY FOR FIRE PREVENTION

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about an incident that is

occurring now in the San Gabriel Valley in California and that is the Williams fire. We just went through a very, very debilitating fire several weeks ago in the same area. Now the Williams fire is continuing to burn there without much success to put it out.

Every day we spend about a million dollars just to try to bring resources to put this out. The problem here, though, is that there is not enough money being put in for preventive measures, and that is when the forest, the national forest is but up against our communities. We have community development areas, we have housing, we have people that are going to be affected.

Madam Speaker, 44 structures have already been burned; and I can tell my colleagues right now that with the conditions in California, the drought, the fact that we do not have enough preventive measures going in to help with containment is a serious problem. We need to put more money into this area, because we cannot afford to lose houses and human life and not even to mention the habitat that will not be replaced. It is important for us to understand that.

Madam Speaker, I ask this House to help by considering providing more support for fire prevention.

HOMELAND SECURITY

(Mr. REHBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. REHBERG. Madam Speaker, time is of the essence. With national security on the minds of many Americans, I urge my colleagues to seize the opportunity and pass legislation to create the Department of Homeland Security.

Each day that passes without this coordinating effort is a day that America is vulnerable to the very people who attacked this country on September 11. Creating the Department of Homeland Security will send a resounding message to the world: America is stronger and safer than it was 12 months ago.

I applaud those who have put partisan agendas aside to do what is right for this country. An entire year has passed. Let us get our work done. Let us put an end to the politics and provide Americans with the safety they deserve.

A NOTE OF REMEMBRANCE

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning with a note of remembrance. Raymond Hall Hayworth, age 98, passed away peacefully yesterday. The last teammate of Ty Cobb has now left his earthly field.

Ray Hayworth wore a major league uniform in parts of 3 decades. His career spanned 13 years in the major

leagues, first called up in 1926 to the Tigers.

For purposes of full disclosure, Madam Speaker, I should note that Ray Hayworth was my granddad; and the lessons he taught me, not only about sports, but about life, are lessons far more valuable than I can express on the floor of this House.

Our founders said they moved to secure the blessings of liberty for themselves and their posterity. In much the same way, my grandfather has left a legacy of freedom, as an athlete, as a role model, but, most of all, as a man. I was blessed for having his example to guide me.

SUPPORT H.R. 4600, THE HEALTH ACT

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, was forced to close its trauma unit after 57 of 58 surgeons quit, citing exposure to costly medical malpractice. In LeHigh, Pennsylvania, one-third of the surgeons quit because of unrelenting problems with medical malpractice. In Wheeling, West Virginia, all of the neurosurgeons have left, so that trauma patients needing brain surgery must be flown to Pittsburgh. And in Philadelphia, the Methodist Hospital stopped delivering babies June 30 because of malpractice insurance costs.

But this House will have an opportunity to do something about that with the passage of H.R. 4600. This will help get health care malpractice premiums in line that will bring some balance, protect the interests of the patients, and restore the doctor-patient relationship.

The objective of H.R. 4600 is to put patients into the emergency room and not get lawyers into the courtroom. I urge my colleagues to support it.

HELP FOR FIGHTING FIRES

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, over the last several months we have seen the terrible fires that have hit Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Oregon, and other parts of the country. We are feeling the impact of the droughts. But now the fires have hit the Los Angeles area, and over the past several weeks we have had what was known as the Curve fire burn over 20,000 acres, and right now, the Williams fire, which started 5 o'clock Sunday afternoon, has hit the Angeles National Forest, the number one most-used national forest, national park in the country. We have had many structures damaged.

I would like to congratulate the President and thank him for the fact that we are going to, through the Federal Emergency Management Agency,

have reimbursement to those who are fighting the fire. I also want to say that our challenge will be dealing with reseeding which, as we face the rains that will hit come this winter, the mudslides can have an even more devastating impact.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who are on the frontline fighting these fires, and we look forward to a quick resolution.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2215, 21ST CENTURY DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE APPROPRIATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 552 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 552

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2215) to authorize appropriations for the Department of Justice for fiscal year 2002, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. DIAZ-BALART asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, House Resolution 552 is a standard rule waiving all points of order against the conference report to accompany H.R. 2215, the 21st Century Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act and against its consideration.

It has been over 20 years since Congress last authorized appropriations for the Department of Justice. This conference report that we are preparing to consider takes the long overdue step of putting our mark on the vital justice programs and funding levels that we have addressed solely through appropriations, since the 96th Congress. This conference report is a product of a careful deliberative bipartisan process. Every member of the conference committee, Republican and Democrat, House and Senate, has signed the conference report.

I believe that all of the conferees, especially the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENENBRENNER), the chairman, and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), the ranking member, should be commended for their work.

The conference report establishes fundamental and budgetary administrative authorities that simplify, harmonize, and clarify over 2 decades of statutory authorities. Few times in our national history has it been so important that we update and provide direction to the Department of Justice. The conference report helps the Department of Justice to adjust to the new century and the new challenges facing America. As President Bush has noted, "We are today a Nation at risk to a new and changing threat."

The Department of Justice has played and obviously will continue to play a very important, a pivotal role, in securing our Nation against the possibility of terrorist attacks.

Importantly, the conference report also reasserts congressional oversight of the Department. The administration has gone to extraordinary lengths to secure the Nation, while respecting the free and open society which we are privileged to live in.

Nevertheless, Congress is designed to serve as a check on the actions of the executive branch, to oversee the executive branch, that is obviously as fundamental a role for Congress as is legislating; and this conference report reaffirms our oversight responsibility.

This conference report is not by any means limited to the streamlining and strengthening of the Department of Justice's law enforcement responsibility or congressional oversight of its actions.

The conference report provides 94 additional U.S. Attorneys to work with State and local law enforcement to enforce existing Federal laws, firearms laws, for example, especially in and around schools.

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The conference report also provides eight new permanent Federal judgeships in the State of Florida. Also in my State and that of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), it creates a new temporary Federal District Court judgeship for the Southern District to ease the extraordinary burden on our Federal courts.

The conference report provides an increase in funds for the Boys and Girls Club, which will allow them to increase outreach efforts and increase membership throughout the Nation.

I think it is also worth a commendation that the conference report establishes a permanent, separate, and independent Violence Against Women Office in the Department of Justice. The office will be headed by a director who reports directly to the Attorney General and has final authority over all grants and cooperative agreements and contracts awarded by the office.

The conference report contains important provisions regarding drug abuse prevention and treatment, safeguarding the integrity of the criminal justice system, and providing for the enactment of juvenile justice and delinquency prevention legislation.

Madam Speaker, the conference report before us I believe is an extremely important piece of bipartisan legislation that will serve the Nation in innumerable ways.

The conference report, and I believe the rule, obviously, providing for its consideration, deserve our support. Accordingly, I urge all of my colleagues to support this rule and this very important underlying legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in full support of the conference report for H.R. 2215, the 21st Century Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act.

As my colleagues know, H.R. 2215 passed the House of Representatives in July, 2001, by a voice vote. I am quite certain that my colleagues will join us today and approve the conference report in an overwhelming way again.

Madam Speaker, while sitting in the Committee on Rules yesterday afternoon, and in reviewing the conference report, I am in true admiration of the bipartisanship that was shown by the committee's chairman, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENENBRENNER), and the ranking member, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS). I applaud the bipartisanship that the two of them showed while working on this report, and thank the conferees for their inclusion of many Democratic amendments.

As the House works on a variety of contentious issues in the coming days, I urge my colleagues to heed the bipartisan lessons of the chairman and ranking Democrat of the Committee on the Judiciary.

Many Members of the House were here this morning and spoke about the words that are being slung around on homeland security, and faulting the other body for delays in that regard. I would remind my colleagues that we have not completed the appropriations process, and all of us need to be about that business.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 2215 authorizes funding to the Department of Justice for the current fiscal year and the following one, which begins next Tuesday. In addition to authorizing dollars to the Department for the salaries of the Federal judges, attorneys, and support staff, the report also authorizes funding for many important programs utilized by millions of Americans every year.

As the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) says, he and I are happy to report that the Southern District of Florida will be the recipient of one of the judges authorized under this legislation.

Additionally, H.R. 2215 serves as a commitment to keeping drugs off of our streets and out of our schools. While much of the Nation focuses on the war on terrorism and a possible