

INDIAN ARTS AND CRAFTS
AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2010

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 725, the Indian Arts and Crafts Amendments Act of 2010, and specifically the tribal law and order provisions now included.

The federal government has a unique trust relationship with the 564 sovereign tribal nations in the United States, and it is part of this trust responsibility for the federal government to provide law enforcement in Indian Country. The United States is not meeting its obligation. There are not enough law enforcement officers patrolling reservations, and the statistics illustrate the consequences. American Indians and Alaska Natives suffer from the highest crime rates in the nation. Federal law enforcement failed to prosecute more than half of the violent crimes in Indian Country, including sexual assault cases. This is especially troubling because the U.S. Justice Department found that one in three Native women will be raped in her lifetime.

That is why I urge my colleagues to support this bill and the tribal law and order provisions within it. This legislation improves law enforcement on tribal land by encouraging the prosecution of more crime, by increasing penalties for reservation offenders and by establishing protocols to address sexual violence. It encourages coordination between federal agencies, law enforcement officials and tribal communities for investigation and prosecution purposes. Under this act, tribal courts would be able to sentence offenders up to three years; currently, they can only sentence for up to one year. These changes are desperately needed.

This bill is a positive step towards meeting our trust responsibility and protecting Indian Country. As a member of the Congressional Native American Caucus, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 725.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, on Monday, July 26, 2010, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 467 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1320, as amended), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 468 (on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1504, as amended), and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 469 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3101, as amended).

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 5817, THE
FOSTERING SUCCESS IN EDU-
CATION ACT**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I am proud to sponsor the Fostering Success in Education Act. This legislation is the House companion to Senator FRANKEN and Senator MURRAY's bill and lays out a clear road map to assisting young people in the child welfare system.

This legislation continues the efforts of the P.L. 110-351, Fostering Connections Act by improving educational assistance for those most in need—children and youth in the child welfare system. I hope that the Fostering Success in Education Act will enjoy the same bipartisan support and consideration to help these young people who have no one else.

Today, more than half a million children are living in foster care. As a member of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support, I have constantly heard from young people who struggle as they are constantly moved from home to home, and school to school when they are in foster care. Those in the child welfare system have not chosen this life; they did not ask to be victims of neglect and abuse. For a variety of reasons beyond their control, foster care children are uprooted from all that they know and rely on us for help.

We all remember our years in elementary, middle, and high school. We recall our friends, classmates, teachers, extracurricular activities, favorite classes, and hardest subjects. For foster care youth, it's a whirlwind of memories. Names, faces, classes, teachers, grades, and subjects are a blur. Imagine being the new kid, over and over and over again without the support you need. Imagine maneuvering the bureaucracy and politics of different schools and school districts on your own as a 12-year-old, as a 16-year-old, as a 6-year-old. This bill ensures that youth in foster care have school stability, immediate access to tools and resources, and the necessary support for academic success.

Madam Speaker, I believe that each and every young person has a right to a childhood; each has a right to a basic education. I believe that in addition to consistency, friendships, and healthy relationships, education is the key to opportunity, stability, and success. It is a cornerstone of our nation's values of democracy, hope, and infinite possibility.

The Fostering Success in Education Act takes us one step further in the right direction and responds to these all-too-real issues. Madam Speaker, I hope all of my colleagues will support this worthy and important legislative effort.

HONORING BILL LEGERE

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bill Legere on being

named the Maine Hospital Association's Caregiver of the Year and to recognize his many accomplishments as a medical professional.

After studying health care at the University of Southern Maine, Bill went on to work at Central Maine Medical Center. As a nurse practitioner in the ER at CMMC, he provides medical care and comfort to patients and their families.

When he suddenly and tragically lost his 9-year-old daughter, Grace, two years ago, Bill's response was not to give in to grief. Instead, Bill and his wife launched the Foundation for Hope and Grace, a charity in Grace's memory that provides grants to families looking to adopt and financial help to organizations that help orphans and other children in need.

Bill's ability to set people at ease, his willingness to stay late to support his colleagues and his empathy and selflessness in all aspects of his life meant that this year he was nominated by co-workers for the Caregiver of the Year award. He was selected from among 19 Maine doctors and nurses by the award committee, who was impressed by his outstanding work and humanistic approach to medical care.

An accomplished, compassionate, and deeply humble man, Bill Legere exemplifies the type of caregiver that every hospital and community would be lucky to have. His co-workers related stories of Bill taking the time to reassure a frightened child and being an ally for patients who might otherwise be intimidated by the medical process.

Bill has left a lasting mark on CMMC, its workers, its patients, and their loved ones. On behalf of the people of Maine, it is with pride that I congratulate Bill for his excellent work. I wish him, his wife Teresa, and his daughters Sarah and Deanna the best, especially as Sarah and Deanna become big sisters to their new sisters from Uganda.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Bill Legere for his continued commitment to providing medical care and support to the people of Maine.

NEXT GENERATION PUBLIC
SAFETY DEVICE ACT OF 2010**HON. JANE HARMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the bipartisan Next Generation Public Safety Device Act of 2010 with my Energy and Commerce colleague Representative JOHN SHIMKUS, Co-Chair of the E-911 Caucus. Our legislation is intended to spur development of 21st Century public safety communication devices that will provide the highest-speed transmission of data, voice, and video services over the Internet.

Almost a decade after 9/11, America's first responders still do not have the communication tools they need to support their mission.

Currently, the public safety device market is a monopoly. There are two reasons for lack of competition: first, this particular market is relatively small, and second, the device requirements are unique. As a result, first responders and local governments can pay up to \$5,000 per radio. The money spent on these devices

has not enabled seamless on-the-ground coordination between first responders or the ability to access databanks, fingerprint records, facial recognition software, or streaming video.

To solve the problem, our bill authorizes \$70 million for a research and development grant program to build devices that support data, video, and voice communications.

This bill charges the National Telecommunications and Information Agency to coordinate with a working group, consisting of the Federal Communications Commission, the DHS Office of Emergency Communications, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and public safety stakeholders, to develop criteria, evaluate devices in multiple stages, and select products for funding and licensing. This process will produce devices ready for first responders' use within five years—hopefully sooner. Thereafter, the GAO will study the process by which the program was carried out, the impacts of the grant program on competition in the market and the development of first responder devices. The cost of this program will not add to the deficit because it is offset by extending the authority of the FCC to auction spectrum.

Directed research and development is essential to achieving interoperability because it will drive down cost and develop devices that public safety has a hand in selecting. Equally as important, this bill will accelerate the development of those devices, quickly giving public safety more options with new cost savings to states and localities, and assurance that the technology can be trusted for their important work.

This bill has the support of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials, which has identified research and development as one of its top priorities. The Fraternal Order of Police and the National Emergency Numbers Association also endorse the bill, as do Sprint and the Rural Cellular Association.

We in Congress must ensure public safety officials have access to a competitive, dynamic, and innovative market for the devices that are used to save lives and help protect our communities.

I hope that this effort will bring technologists, first responders, and government together to create innovative solutions for a major national security concern, and urge prompt action on this legislation.

THE DIRECT CARE WORKFORCE EMPOWERMENT ACT

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, imagine a very tall corporate office building, and a man is working inside sitting at his desk dressed in a suit and tie. He is talking on the phone while working from his computer and sipping a latte.

Now imagine a very small home in a quiet neighborhood, and a woman is working inside, wearing sneakers and comfortable clothes. She is straining to lift up an elderly man almost twice her size trying to help him put on his t-shirt to get ready for lunch.

Is the work the corporate man is doing more important than the home-worker? More valued? Better paid?

I am here to say that all work has dignity. I am here to say that our nation's laws should respect the work we all do.

Yet, even in America, some workers are paid less than the minimum wage.

Even in America, some are denied overtime pay.

Even in America, some people do not have health insurance or other benefits, and their wages are so low that they need to turn to food stamps to make ends meet.

I am introducing legislation today to show that in America, all work does have dignity.

I am introducing legislation that will say, "Regardless of the work you do, if you do it well, you should be compensated enough to take care of your family and put food on the table."

This legislation is meant to provide equity to those we trust enough to let in our homes and care for our loved ones. Home care workers are the linchpin of our nation's long-term care system, providing essential care and daily living services to more than 13 million Americans.

However, they are among the worst-paying jobs in America—mostly because of Department of Labor regulations that exclude them from federal minimum wage and overtime protections.

In 1975, after Congress had revised the Fair Labor Standards Act to include previously excluded domestic service workers, the Department of Labor issued rules that exempted home care aides from the federal overtime and minimum wage protections.

The Clinton Administration's Department of Labor issued proposed rules to correct this injustice, but the Bush Administration withdrew those proposals.

Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, tasked with the tough job of trying to fix eight years of neglect and anti-worker policies at the Department of Labor, has committed to remedy this injustice by including it on her regulatory agenda. And I commend those efforts.

But I believe that workers not only need the right regulations, but they also need the right law. I want to make sure that any administration—whether it is this one, or one to come, can never tell any worker they are "less than."

The Direct Care Workforce Empowerment Act would do three things: ensure that home care workers receive the federal minimum wage and overtime protections of the Fair Labor Standards Act; improve federal and state data collection and oversight with respect to the direct care workforce; and establish a grant program to help states improve direct care worker recruitment, retention, and training.

Yesterday, someone asked me why this was so important to me. Home care touches all of us—most of us in this room know someone who has required the assistance of a home care worker.

They help their patients with daily living, enabling them to stay in their homes and maintain independence. As the daughter of a father living with Alzheimer's—I know just how important home care workers are.

Yet, every year, home care aides land on Forbes magazine's list of the "25 worst-paying jobs in America." The mean annual wages put them behind parking lot attendants.

Once hired, they leave in droves; turnover rates run 50 to 80 percent a year.

Rights earned decades ago by similar workers continue to be denied to these hard-

working healthcare providers. Yet, even healthcare reform signed into law this year failed to protect these workers, even though their jobs directly relate to quality of care.

People with disabilities, seniors, and anyone needing home care on a permanent or temporary basis deserves caring, decently trained, and well-paid workers caring for them.

Direct-care workers constitute one of the largest and fastest-growing workforces in the country, playing a vital role in job creation and economic growth, particularly in low-income communities.

These workers help their clients bathe, dress, eat, and negotiate a host of other daily tasks. They are a lifeline for those they serve, as well as for families struggling to provide quality care.

If labor conditions are not improved, the demand for more workers may prove difficult to meet and the quality of care may decline. Those who work in the industry will become less and less able to meet basic living expenses for themselves and their families.

Let's make things right for workers—no matter whether they sit behind a desk or care for someone in a home.

Our working Americans—care givers and care receivers—deserve this.

RECOGNIZING THE FREIGHT RAILROAD INDUSTRY

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1401, expressing gratitude for the contributions that the air traffic controllers of the United States make to keep the traveling public safe and the airspace of the United States running efficiently, and for other purposes. I must commend and thank Congresswoman MCCARTHY for her leadership on this legislation and her dedication to recognizing the brave work of air traffic controllers.

Just last week, a plane taking off from my home state of Georgia was forced to make an emergency landing at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport after a tire blew during takeoff. The plane circled the skies for several hours and with the help of air traffic controllers on the ground, the plane was able to land safely. No one was injured, and the passengers were routed to another flight.

This example is just one of many describing the crucial job of air traffic controllers, a group that might remain unrecognized were it not for this resolution. Everyday air traffic controllers work to keep the traveling public safe and U.S. airspace running efficiently. They execute their job with the highest level of efficiency and maintain a calm and professional manner despite the stressful circumstances they may encounter.

H. Res. 1401 serves as a small thank you and acknowledgement to air traffic controllers for their often heroic actions, dedication, and quick and skilled decision making to help avert many accidents and tragedies. Additionally, the resolution serves as an opportunity to encourage greater investment in the modernization of the air traffic control system so that