

EXTENSION OF PORT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM THROUGH 2015

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, each day, U.S. ports move both imports and exports totaling some \$3.8 billion worth of goods through all 50 States. Additionally, ports move 99.4 percent of overseas cargo volume by weight and generate \$3.95 trillion in international trade. Given the importance of ports to our national economy, they must remain competitive and secure.

Thus, we must remain vigilant and make sure we are giving States the resources necessary, so they can address the constant security threats that continue to loom at our Nation's ports. Whether its scanning foreign cargo for nuclear material or patrolling essential waterways, port security has become increasingly important as we expand into a 21st century global economy. However, funding for these efforts continue to be a challenge as maritime security continue to expand and broaden with ever-evolving threats. Additionally, the economic downturn has forced cash-strapped States to cut funding for these vital security initiatives.

That is why I am introducing the Port Security Grant Act, which will extend the Port Security Grant Program through 2015. The Port Security Grant Program addresses these problems by allowing States to receive the Federal funding they need in order to secure their vital ports of entry. The program provides up to \$400 million for states to train personnel, expand port recovery and resiliency capabilities, and increase their capacity to detect, respond to, and recover from attacks involving explosive devices.

However, Congress has failed to extend this vital program beyond 2015. By not extending this program, we risk compromising the critical progress that has been made in port security and increasing the overall risk.

By passing this bill, we will ensure that States continue to receive the funding they need in order to protect our Nation's gateways to the rest of the world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 854, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

ACKNOWLEDGING WORLD REMEMBRANCE DAY 2011

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to take a moment to pay my respects to road traffic victims in honor of World Remem-

brance Day, this Sunday, November 20th. Since 1993, this special Remembrance Day responds to the great need that road crash victims and their loved ones harbor for public recognition of their loss and pain.

The sense of grief and distress of this large group of people is all the greater because many of the victims are young and many of the crashes could have been prevented. The response to road death and injury is often experienced as inadequate, cruelly unsympathetic, and inappropriate to a loss of life or quality of life. In 2005, the United Nations took it global, endorsing it to be the third Sunday in November each year, encouraging NGOs, such as the Association for Safe International Road Travel to commemorate this day.

I am proud to say, this past July, Indiana became the 32nd state to ban texting while behind the wheel. On May 11, Gov. Mitch Daniels signed the legislation which became effective July 1, 2011. Distraction is still a factor in too many serious crashes, and the new law is a small step to help make Indiana roads safer—and a small initiative which I hope will inspire road safety initiatives worldwide.

It is estimated that 1.3 million people die in road crashes each year. Unless action is taken, road traffic injuries are predicted to become the fifth leading cause of death by 2030.

It is my hope that recognizing Remembrance Day will signal the importance the issue of reducing road danger to government.

GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Global Entrepreneurship Week, a celebration of the innovators and job creators who launch new companies. These innovators bring forth new ideas, drive economic growth and expand human welfare. This year, I am pleased to announce that Global Entrepreneurship Week, supported by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation in my district, will be celebrated in 123 different countries, directly engaging more than seven million participants.

During this week each November, Global Entrepreneurship Week inspires Americans from all walks of life through local, national and global activities designed to help them explore their potential as self-starters and imaginative innovators. These activities, from large-scale competitions to intimate networking gatherings, connect participants to potential collaborators, mentors and even investors—introducing them to new possibilities and exciting opportunities.

But G.E.W. is more than just an awareness campaign supported by world leaders and celebrity entrepreneurs. It is a rallying cry, calling us to unleash ideas and bring them to life—recognizing opportunities, taking risks, solving problems, being creative, building connections and learning from both failure and success. It is about challenging young people to think big and to make an impact on the world.

Entrepreneurs do three things—they advance innovation, build wealth for society, and create jobs. In fact, research from the Kauffman Foundation shows that almost all

net new jobs in the United States over the past 25 years have come from firms less than five years old. It's not surprising that policymakers are looking to reinvest their economies by focusing on ways to stimulate new firm formation.

I invite my colleagues to take part in Global Entrepreneurship Week in your community. Support the innovators and engage the entrepreneurs that are a driving economic force in each of our districts. Together, we can encourage and empower aspiring and existing entrepreneurs to unleash their ideas and create the startups of the future that will change our country forever.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. BOBBY MUKKAMALA

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend congratulations to Dr. S. Bobby Mukkamala as he completes his term as the youngest president of the Genesee County Medical Society.

Bobby and his family have dedicated their lives to providing health care to our community. His parents, his wife, his sister and brother-in-law are all physicians. Bobby fondly remembers playing as a child on the grounds of Hurley Medical Center while his mother, Dr. Sumathi Mukkamala made her hospital rounds. The twin sons of Bobby and his wife Dr. Nita Kulkarni, Nikhil and Deven, play today on that same playground while they wait for their parents to finish rounds.

Despite his young age, Dr. Mukkamala has extensive leadership experience. Bobby served on the Michigan State Medical Society Board as Young Physicians Section Chair in 2002 and was elected as a District Director to the Board earlier this year. Governor Jennifer Granholm appointed Bobby to the Board of Audiology for the State of Michigan. In 2008, Bobby received the American Medical Association Foundation Leadership Award.

Dr. Mukkamala was tapped in October of 2010 to serve as President of the Genesee County Medical Society where in his tenure he dramatically increased membership while encouraging his colleagues to focus on the many diverse needs of the Flint community. This was a realization of his dream to serve as President as his father, Dr. AppaRao Mukkamala, did in 1994. His commitment is best illustrated by the scholarship that was created by Bobby and his wife Nita at the University of Michigan-Flint and the endowment fund they established for the Community Foundation of Greater Flint.

Mr. Speaker, I find Dr. Mukkamala's dedication and leadership in the community a great inspiration and I am a better person for knowing him. That is why I ask You to please join me in congratulating Dr. Mukkamala on his many accomplishments as President of the Genesee County Medical Society. We graciously thank him for the leadership and vision he continues to bring to our community.

NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

HON. ROBERT T. SCHILLING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mr. SCHILLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Adoption Day and to celebrate the many families who graciously open their homes and their lives to the most vulnerable and often forgotten children in our communities. As the father of 10 children I understand the importance of family. I also understand the many sacrifices parents make to provide the best opportunities for their kids. This is why I deeply respect adoptive and foster parents; they so readily take on additional expenses and sacrifices to provide a safe home for a child.

I recently joined the Congressional Caucus on Foster Care which is dedicated to protecting and promoting the welfare of the more than 424,000 children who are part of the foster care system in the U.S. The Caucus provides a forum where Members can come together to discuss ways we can improve the system and help these children make a successful transition out of care and into society.

Tomorrow, National Adoption Day will be celebrated across the country. There are more than 400 events planned to highlight the need for more families to open their hearts to children in need and to show gratitude to those who have taken that step. I want to thank each and every foster parent and adoptive parent for opening your safe and loving home to a child. Thank you for taking the time to enrich the lives of those children who need it the most.

ON THE OCCASION OF MARY LOUISE PETERS-HUGHES' 100th BIRTHDAY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the most special purpose and privilege of honoring the life of Mary Louise Peters-Hughes on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

Mary Louise Peters-Hughes is a most remarkable woman, having lived through 100 years of the most changeable times in human history; she is also my aunt, big sister to my late father Herb, and the matriarch of our family.

Born on September 20, 1911, Mary came of age amidst the burgeoning era of women's rights. Her achievements embodied the kind of progress and leadership envisioned by that movement; throughout her life, Mary has held herself to a high standard of achievement and leadership.

In 1929, she graduated valedictorian from Rochester High School, after serving in the National Honor Society and as president of her senior class. Mary matriculated at Alma College, during a time when only 10% of young people sought higher education. Mary studied English and Latin and continued to be

a leader among her peers by serving as President of the Wright Ladies Hall and member of the Philamathion Ladies Social Society. Within four years, she graduated with a near-perfect grade point average. Finally, before embarking upon a career in teaching, Aunt Mary obtained her Master's Degree from the University of Michigan.

Aunt Mary was a devoted teacher, always encouraging her students to fulfill their best potentials. She did the same with family, too. Ever the supportive big sister, she sent my father money every week as he worked to get his own degree from her alma mater, Alma College. My father often talked of his deep gratitude for her vital support of him during those lean depression. After marrying my uncle, Halley Hughes, Mary took a leave from her career and devoted herself full time to family and raising her three sons: Bob, Dick, and Jim.

Later in life, Aunt Mary returned to her beloved career and for another 21 years. And as a passionate educator, Aunt Mary joined both the National Education Association and Delta Kappa Gamma to enhance the status and fight for the rights of her fellow teachers across Michigan and the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, though she is my beloved aunt, by any objective measure Mary Louise Peters-Hughes has lived an exceptional life, marked by academic excellence, an admirable professional career and a most compassionate and strong family life. Her story and path is truly one we can all look to as an example for our own lives. I, my wife and children and Mary's three children, six grandchildren and nine great grandchildren are grateful for the 100 years she has lived and the lessons and love she has shared with each of us. We wish for many more lived in health and happiness.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2112, CONSOLIDATED AND FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Fiscal Year 2012 Conference report for the Agriculture, Commerce-Justice-Science, and Transportation-HUD appropriations bill.

However, I regret the process that brought this bill to the floor. A full one third of this bill, the Transportation-HUD appropriations, has never been considered by the House before. This bill was not written in an open process and members were not allowed to offer amendments to improve the bill.

I am pleased that this bill included the funding I fought for to help our local residents recover and rebuild from the flooding which caused so much destruction in New Jersey. This bill provides \$2.3 billion in needed disaster assistance to ensure Central New Jersey's businesses and home owners have the resources they need to mitigate the damage and put in place preventive measures in advance of future disasters.

Further, this bill rejects the dangerous attempt by House Republicans to end the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) and provides the program with almost \$200 million to help local police departments keep our communities safe despite the local budget constraints. While this represents a steep cut in funding from last year, these funds will help some local departments who are having to make tough decisions about firing police officers for a lack of resources. Going forward, we must do far more to get more cops back on the beat.

In these difficult times, this bill also denies an attempt to reduce funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC). SNAP and WIC help our fellow Americans during their most difficult times with some food assistance to help make ends meet. As millions of our fellow Americans are struggling in this difficult economy, this bill provides \$105 billion for domestic food assistance programs, an 18 percent increase from last year, to make sure they are at least able to keep some food on the table.

As a research scientist, I have long supported the important role of federal investment in basic research. I am glad this bill increases funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF) to \$7 billion, an increase of \$173 million. It also provides the necessary funding to continue the development of the James Webb Space Telescope that will allow researchers to find the first galaxies and help create jobs now. Further, this bill provides the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office a 29 percent increase in funding to ensure that our Nation's inventors are able to get their ideas to market and help grow our economy.

I am also pleased that this bill makes needed changes to ensure that the maximum loan limits for the Federal Housing Administration are maintained at a level necessary for areas with high cost housing like we have in New Jersey. With the housing market still weak, this will help provide some necessary stability and support for prospective home owners.

It is unfortunate that this bill freezes funding for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission which is tasked with implementing many of the commonsense Wall Street reforms we approved last year. Without additional funding the CFTC will struggle to prevent future financial crises, and not have the resources needed to fight oil speculation which is increasing the cost of gas at the pump.

Finally, I regret that this bill contains a number of funding restrictions that will limit our Nation's law enforcement officers from combating gun trafficking and prevent sensible regulations from being established to prevent guns from falling into the hands of criminals. Yet again the NRA has been given an early Christmas present with the inclusion of these special giveaways tucked into this bill without a vote or any debate on them.

This is not a perfect bill but it prevents a looming government shutdown. Further, it provides funding increases for a number of critical programs and rejects many of the dangerous cuts contained in the funding bills that the House previously approved. I support passage of this bill despite its pessimistic view of what America can achieve through ambitious funding of the programs covered under the bill.