

consideration the bill (H.R. 5972) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 5972. While this is not a perfect bill, it will fund important transportation and housing projects creating well-paying jobs across this country.

I am pleased that this bill provides a much-needed increase to Amtrak, which will greatly help Amtrak accommodate growing ridership and develop intercity passenger rail. It also continues to invest in the FAA's NextGen air traffic control modernization effort, which will help to keep our public airspace safe and reduce flight times. The Community Development Block Grants program is also fully funded helping local governments to address housing and social service issues unique to their communities. It also fully funds the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program, providing the nearly 70,000 homeless veterans with long-term housing when they need it.

However, I want to express my deep disappointment that this bill does not provide any funding to high speed intercity passenger rail or the TIGER program. Both of these programs have proven to be successful and play an integral role in bringing our infrastructure in to the 21st Century. At a time when you have labor and business—the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and AFL-CIO—calling for stronger investment in our infrastructure, it is short-sighted that we not provide this necessary funding. We cannot continue to compete with our neighbors abroad if we are not improving and growing our infrastructure. My colleagues in the House, on the left and the right, have called for a jobs package and this funding could have been that first step.

I am disappointed at the lack of funding for critical housing programs. This bill drastically cuts funds to the Project-Based Section 8 voucher program that provides rental assistance to approximately 1.2 million low-income families. Furthermore, there is no funding for programs that would help rebuild blighted communities. Not only would eliminating blight and rebuilding neighborhoods create jobs, but they would also rejuvenate communities in areas like Southeast Michigan that were hit so hard by the collapse of the housing market and the economic recession.

Taken as a whole Mr. Chair, H.R. 5972 will make needed investments in our transportation and housing infrastructure, but more must be done. As our bridges, roads, sewers, buildings, and neighborhoods crumble, we cannot afford to underfund critical programs that rehabilitate and rebuild. We cannot move in to the 21st century with 20th century investments. I call on my colleagues to pass a strong surface transportation reauthorization that will fix this oversight of needed funding and put Americans across the country back to work bettering our neighborhoods and communities.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN JOHNSON

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and service of one of my constituents, John Johnson, President and CEO of Alice Hyde Medical Center in Malone, New York. John's time as a public servant in the North Country and hospital administrator reflects an enduring commitment to our community and to improving the access and quality of healthcare for the people of Northern New York.

After graduating with a Bachelor's of Science degree from SUNY Plattsburgh in 1971, John went on to rise through the ranks of the Franklin County Probation Department to become its Director in 1977. He later worked as Franklin County Manager in 1984 until he joined Alice Hyde as an Associate Director in 1990. He soon became the Executive Vice President of the Acute Care Facility, the Outpatient Health Center, and the Adjacent Skilled Nursing Facility. John went on to become President and CEO of Alice Hyde in 1994 where he has served till recently.

Under John's tenure as President and CEO, the AHMC has established five health centers and opened cancer, hemodialysis, ambulatory and orthopedic and rehabilitation centers. In 2009, AHMC was recognized as the Organization of the Year by the Malone Chamber of Commerce for its efforts to pursue innovative medicine, growth, and community programs.

I had the privilege to serve with John on the Plattsburgh State University College Council where he exemplified his community commitment. While I am saddened by the departure of John as President and CEO of AHMC, his work will continue to have an impact for years to come. I congratulate John on his retirement and wish him all the best in the many years ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 28, 2012, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on rollcall No. 442, "yea."

IN HONOR OF MIKE SEDELL

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of my close personal friend Mike Sedell, who is retiring next week as the City Manager of the City of Simi Valley, California.

Mike and I have worked together for 33 years. When I was first elected to the Simi

Valley City Council, he was Simi Valley's Deputy City Manager under then-City Manager Lin Koester. When I was elected to Congress in 1986, he came to Washington, DC, to serve as my first Chief of Staff. After three years in Washington, he returned to Simi Valley as Assistant City Manager, becoming City Manager in 1995.

Mike and I are not just professional associates. We are personal friends and have continued to be personal friends in the 17 years since he left my employ. Not a week goes by that we don't connect to discuss a federal issue, or a local issue, or our respective families.

Mike began working for the people of Simi Valley in 1972 as a California State University, Northridge, intern and subsequently served the City in a variety of assignments. He first worked as Simi Valley's Personnel Administrator and Community Services Coordinator, which included working on the Neighborhood Council Program, the Youth Council, and Youth Services. In 1975, he was asked to become part of the City Manager's office.

Once in the City Manager's Office, Mike effectively supervised several programs, including public affairs, media relations, City Council/staff relations, governmental affairs, labor relations, transit system operations, and elections.

When Lin Koester left Simi Valley to become the Chief Administrative Officer for Ventura County in 1995, the City Council unanimously appointed Mike as City Manager, a position he has held since.

In addition to serving as Simi Valley's City Manager, Mike periodically teaches an Intergovernmental Relations Seminar in the Master's Degree program in Public Administration at Cal State Northridge, and has served as past Chair of the Board of Directors of Interfaith Children and Family Services of Ventura County.

With his contacts developed over the years in both Washington and Sacramento, Mike is often called upon by Simi Valley, and occasionally other cities, to assist whenever a legislative or intergovernmental crisis occurs. Mike also works with Sacramento and Washington legislators on budget issues affecting Simi Valley and other California cities, and he has been a key player in developing the final funding formula for local agencies, and crafting complex intergovernmental agreements.

His liaison work between the City and The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library has been instrumental in forming a strong operating bond between the Library and the City, and Mike was proud to be a member of the coordinating team that put together the local events for the funeral of President Reagan.

Mr. Speaker, Mike Sedell has spent a lifetime in public service at the local and federal level. He has steered the City of Simi Valley through many difficult times with great success and his expertise is recognized and sought after by many other government officials. I know my colleagues join my wife, Janice, and me in thanking Mike for his lifetime of public service and in wishing our good friends Mike and his wife, Judie, the best in retirement.

HONORING BRIAN A. MANN

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation:

Whereas, Brian A. Mann has distinguished himself as an outstanding researcher in the area of Science from Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology; and

Whereas, Mr. Mann has competed throughout the state of Georgia, the Nation and internationally; and

Whereas, his research project the "Piezo-electric Nanogenerators" received the designation and prestigious ranking of #3 worldwide as a Bronze medalist this year in Istanbul, Turkey; and

Whereas, he has studied hard, sacrificed much and balanced his life as a teenager maintaining a high grade point average throughout the school year; and

Whereas, he is a model student leader with the heart to serve his community and a drive to one day be the best of the best for his school, his family and his country; and

Whereas, his boundless energy and enthusiasm has opened internationally recognized opportunities, helping Fourth District Congressional students understand that their futures are as limitless as the skies; and

Whereas, we are grateful for the accomplishments and work of this outstanding student of honor who define the power of education and imagination; and

Now therefore, I, Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr. do hereby proclaim June 26, 2012 as Brian A. Mann Day in Georgia's 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 26th day of June, 2012.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5972) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Chair, I rise today to address the dire need to provide resources to repair our nation's infrastructure and put Americans back to work.

One of the best ways to create jobs today is to invest in American transportation and infrastructure through the fiscal year 2013 Transportation-Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill.

According to the Federal Highway Administration, approximately 35,000 jobs are created for every \$1 billion spent on highway and bridge construction. If Congress can spend a billion dollars each month fighting wars in Iraq

and Afghanistan, then we should be able to invest in America's workforce and infrastructure.

The very foundation of America, our infrastructure, is crumbling beneath our feet. The current condition of the infrastructure in the U.S. earns a grade of "D".

One-third of our roads are in poor, mediocre or fair condition and nearly 70,000 of our bridges are structurally deficient.

China and India have outpaced the U.S. with respect to infrastructure spending. Among developed countries, we rank 23rd in the world, behind South Korea, Taiwan and Barbados.

Now is not the time to short change our future; now is the time to repair our infrastructure.

In addition to repairing America's infrastructure, it is imperative that I address the lack of funding for housing in the Transportation-Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill. Allowing drastic cuts in the HUD budget squanders the opportunity to create jobs and address the nation's affordable housing needs.

Simply stated, vulnerable Americans will lose their housing if Congress passes this bill in its current form. This bill will "short fund" project-based Section 8 contracts, which will force HUD to straddle fiscal years to shift costs from FY2013 to FY2014 and beyond. Because contracts are currently funded for 12 months, the proposed \$1.1 billion in "savings" will have to be made up in the next fiscal year.

If the funds are not replenished in fiscal year 2014 and beyond, the consequences will be dire:

1.3 million families, 53 percent of whom are elderly or disabled, face losing their housing;

100,000 jobs will be in jeopardy;

\$460 million in local tax receipts could be lost; and

\$13.6 billion in Federal Housing Authority insured debt will be at risk.

If funding for contract renewals under the Tenant Based Rental Assistance program is not increased, 58,000 low-income households will lose rental assistance in fiscal year 2013.

The reality is that millions of low-income families, who need a strong safety net, are assisted by HUD to help them through difficult times. By eliminating this funding, we are pulling the safety net from underneath them allowing more Americans to fall into poverty and homelessness.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this Appropriations bill.

IN HONOR OF ANTHONY A. TORRE AND JOHN GALLACHER, PH.D.

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the careers of Dr. John Gallacher and Anthony A. Torre. As they prepare to retire as the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Schools for the town of Enfield, respectively, they leave behind a legacy of excellence.

Dr. John Gallacher's passion for education began in 1968, when he started his career as a sixth grade teacher for the Elmhurst U-205 School District in Elmhurst, Illinois. He moved

to Iowa eight years later to become an Elementary School Principal: first for the Ponora-Linden Community School District in Ponora, Iowa, and then for Washington and Torrence Schools in Keokuk. Dr. Gallacher continued his work in Keokuk until 1992, serving as the Instructional Services Coordinator and the Superintendent of Schools for the district. Having held a variety of positions within the public school system, Dr. Gallacher brought an impressive knowledge and diverse set of skills to Enfield, Connecticut. He has worked as the Superintendent for the past twenty years, where he earned the reputation of an astute problem solver and tireless worker.

Like Dr. Gallacher, Anthony Torre served in different facets of education before becoming an administrator for the Enfield Public School System. In 1959, he started out a classroom teacher at A.D. Higgins Junior High School, working for six years before transitioning to the Chair of the Math Department at Enfield High. Mr. Torre went on to serve as the school's Assistant Principal and Principal, as well as the Principal of Enrico Fermi High School in town. He has remained at his current position of the Assistant Superintendent of Schools for nearly forty years, playing a key role overseeing the expansion of the town's High Schools and ensuring that technological advances were integrated into classrooms.

These two men share nearly 100 years of experience between them that has been an invaluable asset to the children of Enfield. Both have been passionate advocates of education and have gone above and beyond the boundaries of their job description to transform the lives of thousands of youngsters. They will be missed greatly. I ask my colleagues to join with me to recognize the exemplary service that Dr. John Gallacher and Mr. Anthony Torre have provided to Connecticut's children.

IMPORTANCE OF THE WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw our colleagues' attention to the OP-ED that appeared in Roll Call's online issue on June 20 authored by Tim Warfield, the Executive Director of the National Association for State Community Services Programs. The OP-ED, which I have included below, addresses the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), our nation's largest residential energy efficiency program. Energy efficiency represents one of our greatest opportunities to reduce energy expenditures for industry, government, and for individual citizens. Dollars we do not have to spend to heat or cool homes and buildings are dollars that can be invested elsewhere. Reducing energy use extends the years we can use non-renewable energy sources and brings us closer to achieving the goal of energy independence. Buildings represent a significant proportion of our energy use and heating and cooling expenditures are a significant portion of household budgets. At a time when we want to create jobs and lower energy costs for our constituents, programs like WAP should receive our full support.

I am disappointed that the Energy and Water Appropriations bill that we passed earlier did not maintain funding for this important