

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

program. As Mr. Warfield's editorial points out, the funding level in the House bill will not sustain this important program through 2013. I hope our colleagues in the other body will do better.

[Special to Roll Call; June 20, 2012]

WARFIELD: WEATHERIZATION IS EFFECTIVE INVESTMENT

(By Tim Warfield)

The Weatherization Assistance Program employs workers in every state and county in America and has weatherized more than 7.1 million homes over the past 35 years. Weatherization has proved its value and is a highly successful and effective investment in the American workforce—weatherization improvements funded by the 2009 stimulus law alone created 14,000 new jobs, according to the White House Recovery.gov website.

Weatherization reduces household energy use by almost 35 percent in the typical weatherized home, allowing families to use their limited funds for other necessities. The reduction in energy demand also reduces our nation's reliance on foreign oil.

The success of a program that brings the threefold benefit of jobs, household savings and energy conservation is a powerful argument to sustain and fully fund the program, yet it still has its opponents on Capitol Hill, where two Republican House Members have introduced bills to abolish it.

Unfortunately, much of the information that has been presented as an argument to cut funding is a disingenuous misrepresentation of facts. Opponents have created the false impression that remaining stimulus funds will allow the program to serve just as many households in 2013 as it did before the program expansion under the 2009 law. This misstatement occurred again during floor debate recently on the House Energy and water development appropriations bill. The argument about "available funds" would seem to demonstrate that the Weatherization Assistance Program can absorb proposed cuts and still maintain services at a fiscal 2010 level. This characterization is entirely wrong.

Program opponents in the House are taking advantage of the confusion that arises because the "program year" is not the same as the federal fiscal year. The program year was set later in the year at the Weatherization Assistance Program's inception so it wouldn't suffer the disruptive and costly effects of funding gaps that might result from prolonged federal budget negotiations.

In most states, the new program year begins in April, and by that time almost all stimulus funding will be spent. Nominal amounts will remain in three states, but in the vast majority the "available funds" that program opponents propose to use for the 2013 program year will already be used up. Additionally, regular appropriations are similarly depleted, with the \$68 million provided for 2012 being far below a sustainable level. States have already begun slowing down operations and eliminating jobs.

The funding levels debated on the Hill threaten the nationwide network and many states will be hard pressed to operate a program at all in fiscal 2013. For example, at the \$54 million level in the House-passed bill, Arizona, Hawaii and Delaware could weatherize about a dozen homes each in 2013, effectively forcing them to halt services. The ripple effect will disperse a well-trained workforce, reduce purchases from vendors that provide supplies, leave the government investment in equipment and vehicles unused, and leave many families to struggle financially because of high utility bills.

Rather than dismantling a beneficial and cost-effective operation that has been suc-

cessful for 35 years, Congress should allocate funds to sustain the program at its true pre-stimulus level of \$220 million to \$240 million.

We are mindful of the difficult budget choices that face Congress, but these choices should be made based on facts. The facts show that the Weatherization Assistance Program performs a vital role in reducing the burden of high energy prices on low-income families. The program creates jobs and strengthens the economy through the purchase of materials and equipment from the private sector. Each dollar is multiplied as it flows through our communities.

Congress must restore the program to pre-stimulus levels to maintain an effective commitment to weatherization, maintain the trained workforce and provide a much needed economic boost to a fragile economy. Don't allow distortions of the facts to put the truly effective 35-year effort that is the Weatherization Assistance Program in peril.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 441, 442 I would not participate in what I strongly believe was an abuse of power by the majority who, for illegitimate reasons, chose to hold the Attorney General, Eric Holder, in contempt of Congress. I was against the rollcall votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

HOME HEALTH COMMUNITY

HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, America's health care sector is wrought with waste, fraud and abuse, but the home healthcare industry has proposed thoughtful reforms that will strengthen program integrity and achieve substantial savings without burdening beneficiaries.

Among the home health community's proposals are measures to reduce the abusive use of home health care services in order to eliminate excessive overpayments, as well as implement initiatives that will drive innovation and reduce program costs. Other proposed safeguards achieve savings by screening questionable claims, improving payment accuracy, and targeting bad actors. The home health care industry's proposal is a responsible initiative and should be taken into consideration as Congress continues to address ways to reduce health care costs and improve patient care.

Home health care is a key source of clinical treatment for millions of Americans and is meeting complex needs in the most cost-effective, patient-preferred setting available—patients' own homes. Unfortunately, some are now advocating the reintroduction of a copayment for home health services at a time when the industry is already threatened by arbitrary yearly payment cuts. I believe that the imposition of a home health care copayment and

misguided cuts could seriously impact Florida's seniors and result in increased Medicare costs.

The home health community is vital to upholding our commitment to America's seniors and the millions of beneficiaries who depend on a meaningful and affordable Medicare program.

RECOMMENDING THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL ERIC HOLDER BE FOUND IN CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose this misguided effort to inject the politics of a presidential election year into what should be a serious investigation. I oppose the resolutions to hold the Attorney General Eric Holder in criminal and civil contempt, because they are unwarranted and motivated by politics instead of facts. I voted for a resolution sponsored by Rep. JOHN DINGELL to require the Oversight and Government Committee to conduct a real investigation into the Fast and Furious operation. The American public deserves a legitimate investigation into the actions of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) in Arizona. Members of Congress have a responsibility to ensure that the ATF was abiding by the law and ensure that the "gun-walking" programs that took place under the Bush and Obama Administrations do not take place again. The American people deserve answers and they deserve an investigation that is based on fact and the truth, not on political gamesmanship and finger-pointing. Unfortunately, these resolutions are not based on real investigations or the desire to prevent future "gun-walking" operations.

This contempt resolution alleges that the Attorney General is not cooperating with the Oversight and Government Reform Committee's investigation. The Attorney General has testified before Congress nine times and the Department of Justice (DOJ) has produced 7,600 pages of documents to the Oversight and Government Reform Committee. Additionally, two dozen DOJ officials have testified before the Congress. Something lost in the political allegations on cable news is that the documents at issue in the Contempt Citation are not related to the Committee's investigation into how "gun-walking" was initiated and utilized in Operation Fast and Furious. Attorney General Holder has turned documents relating to Operation Fast and Furious over to the committee. This contempt citation is over the DOJ's internal deliberative documents unrelated to the actual Fast and Furious operation. This contempt resolution does not list any proof that the Attorney General had any knowledge of the Fast and Furious operation. In fact, when the Attorney General did discover the Fast and Furious program he took action to shut down the operation, held those responsible accountable, requested an investigation by the DOJ's IG office and cooperated with House and Senate investigations. To this day, no evidence has shown that he or the President had any knowledge of the Fast and Furious operation.