

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2012*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, the bill on the Floor today is not the bill we should be debating. Rather than extending surface transportation law for the ninth time, we should vote on the Senate-passed, bipartisan MAP-21 bill, which has been introduced in the House as H.R. 14.

This debate is yet another example of the Republican Majority's absolute refusal to compromise—even with Senators in their own party. They have spent six weeks arguing internally about this legislation. They have refused to work across the aisle. And this week they have waited until Thursday, two days before the surface transportation law expires, to hold a vote on this issue.

This is not a time for games. We should be voting today on legislation to invest in critical infrastructure projects and support 1.8 million jobs nationwide. We should send legislation to the President to ensure a strong construction season for an industry facing 17.1 percent unemployment. Instead, the Republican Leadership insists on further delay.

### THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MINNESOTA: A REFUGEE RE- SETTLEMENT AND JOB TRAIN- ING SUCCESS STORY

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 30, 2012*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, over the past four decades, tens of thousands of refugees who have fled lands of conflict, persecution, or turmoil have traveled to Minnesota to find a new home and start a new life. Often, these families or individuals, young and old, arrive in Minnesota without possessions, without language skills, and without certainty about their futures. Minnesota has welcomed refugees from Laos, Vietnam, Russia, Sudan, Ethiopia, Liberia, Somalia, Burma, Bosnia, and dozens of other countries who are now our friends, neighbors, and co-workers. There are thousands of success stories, but starting a new life in Minnesota requires support, assistance, and a willing partner.

The St. Paul-based International Institute of Minnesota, IIM, is one of America's premier refugee resettlement agencies. Since 1975, IIM has sponsored and resettled more than 22,000 refugees. Their resettlement work, along with the extensive education and train-

ing programs they provide for new Minnesotans, has resulted in refugees transitioning from conflict and uncertainty to stability and economic self-sufficiency. IIM's work is both valuable and essential to the contributions refugees continue to make, as they become New Americans, to Minnesota's economy and the strengths they bring to our communities.

One of IIM's innovative and successful job training programs is the Medical Careers Pathway for New Americans, a sectoral-based training model within the healthcare industry. IIM developed the program that defines a pathway to employment and economic independence for newcomers in Minnesota. It has evolved over the years to meet both the needs of low-income New Americans and the demand from the industry for a well trained and qualified healthcare workforce. The program includes three areas of training—Nursing Assistant Training, NAR; College Readiness Classes, CR; and Medical Career Advancement, MCA.

This established career pathway helps participants move from entry to advanced positions in healthcare by helping them navigate complex higher education systems so that their long-term goal of career advancement and economic independence are attained. Critical language, academic support services and life skills tools are provided, including strategies for balancing work, family and the stress of living in poverty. The pathway recently added a FastTRAC Initiative with St. Paul College and Roseville Adult Basic Education to increase passing rates for students in the Anatomy and Physiology course.

The program has graduated and certified nearly 1,800 nursing assistants. Eighty-five percent of these certified graduates have been employed. Two-thirds of these IIM clients were unemployed when they entered the training program. Because of their dedication to their work and caring for the elderly, eighty-eight percent of graduates are still employed at one year, helping several longterm care business partners stabilize their workforce. The Director of Nursing from St. Anthony Park Home recently said, "I do not know what we would do without this training program."

The Pathway program has helped nearly 400 New Americans advance from entry-level positions in healthcare to nursing and other professional jobs within the industry. These program graduates are providing quality healthcare to hospital patients and long-term care residents, some of whom require bilingual caregivers, while easing the expected healthcare labor shortage in Minnesota.

The IIM is a model for refugee resettlement in the U.S., but the innovation and success of their Pathway program should also be considered a refugee job training model deserving of expansion, as well as replication across the country. I want to commend IIM for their valuable work and urge state and federal partners working on refugee resettlement and job training to continue to support IIM's success.

### HONORING KAREN POPPEN

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 30, 2012*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Karen Poppen, retiring Superintendent of Keyes Union School District, and to thank her for her leadership and dedication to the academic advancement of the Central Valley.

Karen was born and raised in Merced, California, where she graduated from Merced High School and Merced College. She received a Bachelor of Arts in English at Whitworth College, now Whitworth University, in Spokane, Washington. After that, she began her career teaching English at Merced High School, where she taught from 1971 through 1974.

Karen retired from teaching in 1974 to raise her two sons. During this time, she volunteered at Catherine Everett and Ensen Elementary Schools in the Modesto City School District and in the Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint Unified School District.

In 1988, she returned to teaching and taught at Yucaipa Middle School and Park View Middle School until December of 1993. During this time, she received her master's degree and administrative credential. In January 1994, she became principal of Yucaipa Adult School and principal of Calimesa Elementary School in July of 1995.

In 2001, she was moved to the District Office as Director of Data Analysis, Grants, and Public Relations.

A year later, Karen moved to Beaumont Unified School District as Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Support Services, where she worked for almost five years. In addition, she was an adjunct professor for CSU San Bernardino for five years. On July 1, 2007, Karen became Superintendent of Keyes Union School District and currently serves as a member of the Keyes Municipal Advisory Council.

Karen married Daryl Poppen on July 1, 1972, and this summer they will celebrate their 40th anniversary.

After retirement, Karen and her husband plan to do some short-term mission work overseas with Operation Mobilization, a worldwide ministry and relief organization working in 110 countries.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending Karen Poppen, Superintendent for Keyes Union School District, for her numerous years of selfless service to the education of our community.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON  
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR  
2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2012*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 112) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2013 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2014 through 2022:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, the Republican budget is yet another missed opportunity to confront America's challenges in a balanced and responsible way. A budget is a statement of values. This budget makes it crystal clear that Republicans value tax cuts for the wealthy and special interests, even at the expense of America's middle class, our children, the elderly, and even our economic recovery. The values supported by several other budgets—the Democratic budget, the Progressive budget, and the Black Caucus budget—would restore fairness to our broken tax system, invest in rebuilding and renewing America, and maintain America's commitment to providing for our most vulnerable citizens. The bipartisan budget offered by Reps. COOPER and LATOURETTE fell short of the balanced approach required to address America's challenges that was contained in the Simpson-Bowles proposal.

The Republican budget cuts taxes by an additional \$4.6 trillion over the next decade and extends the Bush tax cuts, totaling \$10 trillion, the vast majority of which benefits the top one percent of Americans. Republicans are not serious about deficit reduction in their call to pay for this tax cut by eliminating tax expenditures and loopholes that they refuse to identify. Would they eliminate the mortgage interest deduction for middle class families? Or the employer-provided health care deduction? Independent analysts have determined it is necessary to cut the mortgage interest deduction, the health care deduction, and most other expenditures in order to pay for their \$10 trillion tax cut.

Instead of making hard choices, Republicans choose to shift the burden even further onto low and middle-income families, seniors, and the next generation.

The Republican budget would cut Medicaid services for disabled individuals, children, and low-income families and seniors by \$810 billion over the next decade. It would also cut \$122.5 billion from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP, that lifted 3.9 million Americans, including 1.7 million children, out of poverty in 2010. This would mean 1,771 fewer jobs and 189 million fewer meals for hungry families in Oregon alone.

For decades, Medicare has guaranteed quality and affordable health care to seniors. The Republican budget ends the Medicare guarantee and would force seniors to choose to either pay thousands more dollars for their existing Medicare plan, or to buy plans with meager benefits that will ultimately put their health at risk.

Independent analyses show that infrastructure investment is one of the best ways to put people to work and to strengthen the econ-

omy, while giving families transportation options and making our communities more livable. The Republican budget would cut transportation funding by a staggering 46 percent, including for projects that have already begun, putting thousands of people out of work and stifling the fragile economic recovery. This budget is another missed opportunity to put people to work, to strengthen the economy, and to rebuild and rebuild America.

In contrast, the budgets offered by Democrats, the Progressive Caucus, and the Black Caucus take a responsible and balanced approach to putting America's finances back on a sustainable path. These budgets address the infrastructure deficit and expand access to education and job training to build a stronger America and to prepare the next generation to be the innovators that will lead us through the 21st century. These budgets restore tax fairness by asking the most well off to pay a little more. Recognizing the need to bring our troops home, eliminate wasteful weapons programs, and right-size our military, these budgets will help reduce the defense budget in a responsible way that maintains the world's strongest military and supports our troops without threatening our economic security.

I am saddened that Republicans produced a political document that continues their belief that massive tax cuts for those who need them the least will move America forward, even while they slash funding for transportation and infrastructure investment, nutrition assistance, Pell grants, and health care. The American people have rejected this unbalanced and unfair approach and so do I.

EMISSARIES OF MEMPHIS MUSIC

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 30, 2012*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, the Tennessee 7th Congressional District is full of great land, great people, and great music. From the annual Fiddler's Convention in Clarksville to the Horseshoe Riverbend Festival in Clifton, this area of the country is known for its "noted" legacy. I rise today in celebration of another great tribute to our distinct sound, the Emissaries of Memphis Music.

In its fourth year, the Emissaries of Memphis Music honors those who grow the creative and musical culture of Memphis. From Estelle Axton at Stax Records, to the women being honored this year by the Memphis and Shelby County Music Commission, the function that women play in our musical legacy cannot be overlooked. Through writing, producing, recording, performing, or leading, women have long dedicated their time, talents, and treasures to expanding excellence in the music industry.

Their accomplishments differ from woman to woman, but their influence on and dedication to their craft remains steady. I rise to congratulate Ann Peebles, Wendy Moten, Anita Ward, Alexis Grace, Bethany Paige, Bev Johnson, Anita Makris, and Anne Pitts on their being named the 2012 Emissaries of Memphis Music. I ask my colleagues to join with me in celebration of the unique contributions each of these women offers to the great musical heritage of Tennessee.

HONORING KIRK ROHLE

**HON. ROBERT HURT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 30, 2012*

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kirk Rohle, a student at Hampden-Sydney College who displayed extraordinary courage on January 25, 2012 when he re-entered his burning house to rescue his childhood friend, Ben Rogers.

Kirk and Ben grew up across the street from one another in Mechanicsville, Virginia, played Little League together, graduated from Hanover High School, and are currently both hard-working student-athletes at Hampden-Sydney.

While Kirk has achieved much in the classroom and on the football field at Hampden-Sydney, today I rise to commend him for his bravery and loyalty as he attempted to save his best friend's life.

Kirk's actions that day represent the kind of selflessness and loyalty that we all aspire to have, and the courage found in true heroes.

As Kirk rejoins Ben and the rest of his classmates at Hampden-Sydney, and continues to recover from serious injuries sustained on that day, I ask my colleagues to join with me today in honoring Kirk Rohle for his display of selflessness, loyalty, and true heroism, and in wishing him a speedy recovery.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION  
EXTENSION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2012*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4281. This three-month transportation authorization extension does nothing to address the long-term needs of America's crumbling infrastructure.

The National Governors Association is arguing against this unnecessary, shortsighted approach, saying: "a string of short-term extensions will only increase uncertainty for state and local governments and the private sector." Likewise, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce said earlier this week: "Frankly, there is no length of extension adequate for the construction industry, its workers, and the business community in general."

Earlier this month, the Senate passed a two-year transportation authorization with an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 74–22. This Senate bill will save or create over two million jobs, including 28,100 jobs in Minnesota according to the U.S. Department of Transportation. If the Republican House leadership brought this legislation to the floor today it would pass with bipartisan support and reach the President's desk for signature prior to the expiration of the current authorization on Saturday.

However, the Republican majority is rejecting this bipartisan opportunity, which is guaranteed to authorize federal transportation programs at current levels for two years. Republican leaders refuse to even bring the Senate bill to the floor for a vote. Instead, they continue wasting time in negotiations with extreme Tea Party Members in their own caucus in an