

(DOJ) with the resources it requested for Second Chance Act programs.

First, I want to thank Congressman DAVIS for offering this amendment. He is the champion of helping offenders reenter the community and our country is a better place because of Mr. DAVIS's efforts.

Second Chance Act programs provide employment assistance and job-skills training, substance abuse treatment, housing assistance, family-based programming, individual and group mentoring and victim support for offenders reentering their communities.

The Republican CJS Appropriations Bill shortchanges Second Chance Act programs by \$10 million but provides \$95 million more than DOJ requested for other programs. There is clearly money available to fully fund Second Chance Act programs.

We should be fully funding Second Chance Act programs because the number of individuals in prison and jails is at an all-time high. Federal and state corrections facilities held one of every 201 U.S. resident in 2010 or 1.6 million individuals.

These individuals will eventually come back into the community and Second Chance Act programs can help them with this transition so they do not end up back in prison.

Studies show that more than four in 10 offenders returned to state prison within three years of their release.

However, Second Chance Act programs have proved to help reduce this rate and we need to keep the momentum going by providing full funding in FY 13.

We need to do everything we can to help these individuals stay out of prison not only because it is the right thing to do but also because the cost of incarcerating people is ballooning. If current trajectories continue, state and federal prisons will grow by 13 percent by 2013, adding an additional 192,000 prisoners at a cost of \$27.5 billion.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support Mr. DAVIS's amendment.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE,
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5326) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I rise to express my great disappointment that H.R. 5326, the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2013, does not preserve funding for vital community gang prevention, which has enjoyed bipartisan support in the past.

This bill eliminates a \$5 million grant program for our state and local law enforcement partners that supported competitive, evidence-based programs to reduce gun crime and gang violence. It also eliminates a \$5 million grant program that supported gang and youth violence education, prevention and intervention in our communities.

These grants are essential for helping our local and state partners contain the growth in gang violence in their communities and educate young people about the perils of joining a gang. In my Northern Virginia district, we used these funds to partner local law enforcement agencies with their state and federal counterparts in a regional gang task force, which is coordinating prevention and enforcement efforts.

A decade ago, gang participation and gang-related crime was on an upswing in our community. Thanks to this federal partnership and other local initiatives—like the expansion of after school programs, which I helped lead at the local level—we were able to stem the growth of gang activity in our community. In fact, we reduced gang participation by 50 percent among our students. It is because of this partnership that Northern Virginia continues to have one of the lowest crime rates in the nation.

I appreciate the Committee acknowledging in the report for this bill the importance of partnering with local and state law enforcement agencies to combat the proliferation of multi-jurisdictional gangs. That is why these two competitive grant programs, which provide critical gang prevention support in our communities, ought to be maintained.

I urge my colleagues to reconsider these unfortunate cuts and revisit this issue when we ultimately go to conference with the Senate to fund the Justice Department for Fiscal Year 2013. We have stood shoulder-to-shoulder with our local and state partners to prevent gang violence, and we cannot step away from that partnership now when gang violence continues to be a significant threat in so many communities, as the Committee itself acknowledges.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE,
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5326) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Chairman, on rollcall Nos. 202 "yes"; 203 "no"; 204 "no"; 205 "yes"; 206 "no"; 207 "no"; 208 "no"; 209 "no"; 210 "no"; 211 "no"; and 212 "no".

Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF ROBERT STEWART

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor of the life of Walnut Hill's be-

loved Robert Stewart. Throughout the area, Mr. Stewart was known for his selfless nature, immense generosity, dedicated service to his local community, and never-ending love for his family. This man was a hero to our Northwest Florida community, and he will be greatly missed.

Robert Stewart served as a volunteer fireman for over thirty years and as Chief of the Walnut Hill Fire Department for the latter fifteen of those years. During his time in service, he saved the lives of countless Walnut Hill citizens. According to Mr. Stewart, one of his most memorable emergency calls was near the end of his career on March 9, 2001. Two teenage girls were trapped in a car that had lost a battle with a tree leaving their tiny sports car split entirely in half—two pieces of car left on the side of Highway 99. Mr. Stewart, along with his team, diligently worked to extract the teenage girls from the car. Due to Mr. Stewart and his team's heroic efforts, both girls survived. What made this call different from any other was the girls came back to the Walnut Hill Volunteer Fire Department to thank the team for saving their lives. Mr. Stewart was never one to ask or demand the appreciation, but when it occurred, he was always grateful.

Robert Stewart has been labeled a hero on many other occasions. Another such incident was a wreck that occurred on State Line Road that left a family's car upside down in a ditch filled with water. Mr. Stewart was the first to respond to the scene, and he safely removed three children from the car. The mother of the children called him a hero, but true to his modest and humble character, he responded with "I am just doing my job."

Mr. Stewart is survived by his wife, Diann; children, Sam and Kelly; and grandchildren, Tanner and Andrew. Those fortunate enough to have met Mr. Stewart would agree that they were truly blessed by his warm heart and generosity. His impact on the Walnut Hill Community will never be forgotten. To some, Mr. Stewart will be remembered as an invaluable leader of the Walnut Hill Volunteer Fire Department, but to the friends and family he leaves behind, Mr. Stewart will most fondly be remembered as a loving and committed family man.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I rise to honor the life of Robert Stewart and his living legacy. Our community has truly suffered a great loss with his passing. My wife Vicki joins me in sending our most heartfelt condolences to the entire Stewart family.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. BILL A.
KEFFLER

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Bill A. Keffler, the City Manager for the City of Richardson, Texas. After thirty-five years of dedicated service, he is retiring on May 31, 2012.

Mr. Keffler began his public service with the City of Richardson in 1977. He has served the city in numerous capacities, including as Deputy City Manager, Assistant City Manager, Assistant to the City Manager, and as an Administrative Assistant. In 1995, he became the

City Manager, the position he has served in with distinction to this day.

As the Member of Congress who represents the City of Richardson, I have had the pleasure of working closely with Mr. Keffler and seen firsthand the impact of his devotion and commitment to the citizens of Richardson. He possesses a keen understanding of the city's needs and issues as well as the importance of actively engaging the community in developing policy solutions and strategic planning. Mr. Keffler undertook bold initiatives in economic development, fiscal responsibility, and community revitalization. As a result of Mr. Keffler's actions in positioning the City of Richardson for growth and stability, the city and the North Texas region stand stronger than ever before.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Keffler on thirty-five years of dedicated service to the city of Richardson. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors. May God bless him and his family.

RECOGNIZING SUPERINTENDENT
RONALD BLOCKER FOR 12 YEARS
OF SERVICE TO ORANGE COUNTY

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Orange County Public School Superintendent Ronald Blocker and congratulate him on 12 years at the helm of Central Florida's largest public school system. We are grateful for his service to our students, our teachers and our community.

Assuming the charge of Superintendent for Orange County in July 2000, Mr. Blocker's committed leadership has led to the highest graduation rate and the lowest dropout rate in the history of the county's education system. Mr. Blocker has shepherded an education system that prepares high school students for their transition into undergraduate programs through dual enrollment or for their vocational development through technical programs that

partner with local companies. He has worked to provide each student with many opportunities to succeed, from Honors and Advanced Placement classes to magnet and technical programs with customized curriculum. The vision cast by Mr. Blocker is one of purpose and opportunity.

During his service as OCPS Superintendent, Mr. Blocker has been recognized many times for his outstanding leadership. Among his awards and recognitions, Mr. Blocker was selected as Florida's Superintendent of the Year in 2011, named 2010 Reading Leader of the Year by Just Read, Florida!, received the Chairman's Award in 2009 from the Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission, and recognized by the Florida Art Education Association as Superintendent of the Year in 2008.

I am grateful to Mr. Blocker for his leadership and guidance as Superintendent and wish him and his family the best as he continues to serve his state and his community. I am confident that he will continue to inspire others to give back to their community and to serve one another.