

SECTION 218: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE RIDER TO WEAKEN AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT PROTECTIONS

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, ADA, is intended "to provide a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities." The ADA provides nondiscrimination protection to ensure that individuals with disabilities have access to and can participate in all aspects of society.

A component of these protections requires that public accommodations construct facilities to be accessible and that existing facilities become accessible when it is "readily achievable." The "readily achievable" expectation is defined as "easily accomplishable and able to be carried out without much difficulty or expense." There is considerable flexibility to determine what is achievable based on a business' particular circumstances.

The Department of Justice has the authority to carry out the mandate to eliminate discrimination against individuals with disabilities under the ADA. In doing so, the Department of Justice finalized regulations in September 2010 which included regulations regarding accessibility of swimming pools. These regulations are based on accessibility standards established by the Access Board that takes into consideration the needs of individuals with disabilities as well as the needs of business.

To comply with the regulation, businesses would need to make an assessment and take steps to accomplish what is "readily achievable" for swimming pool accessibility for that business. For some businesses that may require fixed or portable lifts, while for other business if may not require doing anything until increasing accessibility is "readily achievable" for that business. H.R. 5326 rolls back protections within the ADA by prohibiting the Department of Justice to use funds to implement the standards for swimming pool accessibility. This bill would establish an extremely dangerous precedent weakening the Department of Justice's authority to enforce the ADA weakening critical civil rights protections.

Regardless of whether a person has a disability or not, that person should have the right to access swimming pools. To enable individuals with disabilities to participate fully in their communities, their communities must be accessible to them. Congress should focus on increasing access to community life rather than establishing dangerous precedents which prevent individuals from accessing their communities.

TITLE II

I am strongly opposed to the funding cuts for Title II of the Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention Act, JJDP. The JJDP is first written in 1974 with the goal of supporting states' actions to prevent youth crime and provide certain core protections for children. The law rightfully recognized that clear biological differences between teenagers and adults meant that youth should not be treated in the same manner as adults. Without question, youth must be held accountable for their actions. But justice should not be driven by fads or politics. The juvenile justice system in this country currently affects thousands of children and youth, and the core protections in JJDP are critical to efforts that help reduce youth crime, keep our communities safe, and ensure our juvenile justice system preserves basic rights for the children it serves. The juvenile justice system can be a place of redemption

and rehabilitation or a place where children are thrown away. The funding cuts to Title II of JJDP threaten the existence of these protections, and if this appropriation were enacted, our nation's children, families, and communities would undoubtedly suffer.

LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL WE THE PEOPLE COMPETITION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, last week an outstanding group of young men and women from Portland, Oregon's Lincoln High School placed first in the national "We the People Competition," a contest sponsored by the Classroom Law Project. It is an extraordinary program that allows young men and women to dive deeply into constitutional theory and the legislative process, and understand what it all means for contemporary America in an all-too-often dysfunctional political arena.

Over the years, it's been my privilege to work with instructors and students on these programs, to have watched them prepare for hours at a time, and watch them celebrate their successes. In the Portland Public School District, we are particularly proud of our high schools Lincoln and Grant, who have competed against each other for the State title for more than 2 dozen years, and consistently are strong contenders at the national level.

Their achievements are testimony not only to the hard work and intelligence of the student competitors, but also to a dedicated core of teachers and citizen volunteers, often prominent judges and lawyers, and alumni of the program who continue their involvement long after they cease to be students. A special shout-out this year and every year should go to Lincoln instructor Tim Swinehart, local attorney Steve Griffith and his volunteer team, and the extraordinarily supportive principal, Peyton Chapman.

As I met with the Lincoln team earlier this spring in preparation for the national championships, it was clear to me that this was a stellar team even by the standards of this terrific program. That they won this year with a team largely composed of sophomores makes it all the more an extraordinary accomplishment. I would willingly grant them voting privileges here in Congress.

In addition to the dedicated coaches and volunteers, I want to recognize this year's winning student team. They are: Avery Ballato, Catherine Barton, Marty Berger, Hallie Blashfield, Ryan Bloom, Danny Brillhart, John Carey, Julian Dann, Julia Eckelmann, Michael Field, Natina Gilbert, Nikhil Goyal, Kendra Hong, Robin Jayaswal, Katie Kelly, Sierra Kilian, John Kim, Emma Lane, Duncan MacEachern, William Mao, Olnita Martini, Evan Neuhausen, Sara Newman, Vicki Niu, Sammy Purnell, Justin Richter, Beckett Rueda, Emma Simmons, Sage Smiley, Nita Sridharan, Eri Stern, Mara Strauss, Molly Walls, Carolyn Wheatley, Ajeya Woods and Cole Zollinger.

I urge my colleagues to become acquainted with their local high school constitution competition. I hope the day will come when Con-

gress again gives the financial support to the Classroom Law Project for the civic education that is so important and so critical to preparing students to participate as citizens. With a stronger investment in the Classroom Law Project and programs like We the People, I believe we would all feel better about the future of the Republic.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR FLIGHT OF OREGON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 28 World War II veterans from Oregon who will be visiting their memorial this Saturday in Washington, DC through Honor Flight of Oregon. On behalf of a grateful state and country, we welcome these heroes to the nation's capital.

The veterans on this flight from Oregon are: Melvin Dagsland, U.S. Army; Kenneth Graves, U.S. Army; Frank Hernandez, U.S. Army; Jesse Pollard, U.S. Army; Harold Hayes, U.S. Army; Milton Anderson, U.S. Army Air Forces; James Holbrook, U.S. Army Air Forces; Clarence Mahan, U.S. Army Air Forces; Paul Nielsen, U.S. Army Air Forces; Carl Orndoff, U.S. Army Air Forces; Jack Owens, U.S. Army Air Forces; Donicio Padilla, U.S. Army Air Forces; James Stone, U.S. Army Air Forces; James Hanley, U.S. Army Air Forces; Melvin Pearigen, U.S. Coast Guard; Floyd Burt, U.S. Marine Corps; Delbert Littrell, U.S. Marine Corps; Edward Montagne, U.S. Marine Corps; Eldon Branson, U.S. Navy; Calvin Gorte, U.S. Navy; GL Hamblin, U.S. Navy; Lester Herring, U.S. Navy; Richard Laubert, U.S. Navy; Donald Lister, U.S. Navy; Vincent Monzel, U.S. Navy; Otis Pierce, U.S. Navy; Forest Scott, U.S. Navy; Raymond Woods, U.S. Navy.

These 28 heroes join more than 81,000 veterans from across the country who, since 2005, have journeyed from their home states to Washington, DC to reflect at the memorials built in honor of our nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, each of us is humbled by the courage of these soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines who put themselves in harm's way for our country and way of life. As a nation, we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude owed to them for their honor, commitment, and sacrifice in defense of the freedoms we have today.

My colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Oregon for their exemplary dedication and service to this great country. I especially want to recognize and thank Gail Yakopatz for her tireless work as president of Honor Flight of Oregon.

RECOGNIZING THE RESILIENCE OF JOPLIN, MISSOURI

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the resilience of the Joplin, Missouri community.

One year ago the Joplin community was devastated by an EF-5 tornado but showed the Nation and the world what it means to help your neighbors in their greatest time of need.

The tornado that wreaked havoc on our friends and neighbors was a ½ mile to ¾ mile wide and traveled approximately 13 miles, forever changing the landscape of the community and lives of those who call Joplin home. This destructive force of nature claimed 161 lives, damaged an estimated 7,500 residential dwellings, damaged nine schools, and damaged 545 businesses.

I saw the immediate aftermath of this disaster with my own eyes, and I know it is vital to get the right resources to the right people as quickly as possible, because lives depend on it. As Joplin's representative in Congress it was my job to make sure the Federal Government worked with local and state officials to provide disaster relief. As a neighbor it was my job to help in any way I could, from setting up cots in aid stations with other volunteers to helping with search and rescue. Missouri is called the Show-Me State, and Missourians and Americans from across our great country showed the Nation and the world the compassion and generosity of the American spirit. Over 120,000 volunteers poured into the Joplin area to offer their help and support, and some are still assisting with rebuilding efforts.

Before the life-changing event of May 22, 2011, Joplin was just a town in Missouri, but now its sense of community is known throughout the Nation. While the Joplin community is still picking up the pieces from that fateful day, I know they have a bright future ahead. Though lives were lost and homes and businesses destroyed the one thing the tornado did not take is the sense of community that makes Joplin a welcoming place to live, work and visit. Joplin is stronger despite this unfortunate disaster.

As we commemorate the one-year anniversary which changed the lives of all families impacted by this horrific disaster we treasure the good times in the past and look forward to a promising future for Joplin and all who call this wonderful place home.

Even though we can't explain why tragedy strikes, we can use what happened here to remind us of the good inside us all and to remind us that even though we lost a lot, we did not lose everything. Joplin has faced challenges that most communities will not ever experience, but the outpouring of support is also something any community would be fortunate enough to receive.

If anyone thinks that there are not good, generous and compassionate people in this world, then they need to come down to Joplin to see firsthand how this community came together during their time of need.

MISSING CHILDREN'S AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN PROGRAMS

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, child abuse is an unacceptable behavior in our society that must be condemned and prevented. Our children deserve to grow up in safe and loving environ-

ments. As a parent and teacher, I am always in search of ways to eliminate this problem in homes, schools and child care centers. I would like to commend the committee for its support of the Missing Children's and Exploited Children programs. This funding is essential to combating child abuse, which is a national problem.

In order to end child abuse, it is essential we support programs that train child protection professionals to better recognize, react and respond to abuse. Each and every day, child protection professionals work directly with maltreated children across the country. They fight tirelessly to reduce cases of child abuse and to respond effectively to child maltreatment. Unfortunately, the vast majority of these professionals leave college inadequately trained to handle cases of child maltreatment. And, once in the workforce, it is often far too difficult for them to access the quality training they need to do their jobs more effectively.

In my district, I am proud to have the National Child Protection Center located in my district at Winona State University. The National Child Protection Center works to end child abuse, neglect and other forms of child maltreatment through education, training, awareness, prevention, advocacy and the pursuit of justice. The Center trains future and front-line child protection professionals around the nation so that they will be prepared to recognize and report the abuse of a child. This work should be applauded and supported.

I would like to commend the Senate Commerce Justice and Science committee for including language in their Committee report that would support efforts to train current child protection professionals, continue prevention programs and to develop undergraduate and graduate curricula on the maltreatment and exploitation of children. As we continue through the appropriations process, I would like to encourage my colleagues in the House to support this language and to include it in the final report.

BAHRAIN

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, tonight I wish to call the attention of my colleagues to the situation in Bahrain. Since gained independence from the British in the 1970's, Bahrain has forged close links with the United States, and become one of our most important allies in the strategically important Persian Gulf region. In fact, Bahrain is home to the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet.

Since last year, however, the country has been disrupted by a series of anti-government demonstrations. Understanding how important our relationship with Bahrain is, especially to our efforts to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons, I recently traveled to Bahrain to assess the situation first-hand. And I would like to thank Dr. Al Khalafalla and the Bahrain American Council for helping to make my visit a success.

I think it's important that we get the proper perspective on what's going on over there. There is no question there have been problems in the past. There has been overreaction

by the police in certain instances in the past year, year and a half. As a result, there were people who were hurt severely when they were demonstrating in the streets of Bahrain. But the King and the Crown Prince have worked very hard to solve this problem. As a matter of fact, the King appointed an outside commission, and the commission's report and reform recommendations are strongly supported by both sides of the dispute. Yet, the parties involved seem to be having difficulty approaching the conference table. Why?

One of the problems they have over there is the Iranian Government is working to try to undermine many of the countries in the Persian Gulf, and Bahrain is one of them. Some have suggested that the demonstrations have been infiltrated by outside radical elements—supported by Iran—dedicated to destabilizing and undermining the Bahrain Government. The evidence is inconclusive but the possibility of Iran doing just that is plausible. Whatever the reasons, for the demonstrators, this conflict is not going to be resolved in Bahrain, it must be resolved through negotiation.

I am submitting an article from the May 1, 2012 edition of the New York Times for the RECORD which I believe lays out the case for the United States to actively encourage both sides to take a step back, take a deep breath, and commit to resolving their differences around the conference table. I strongly urge my colleagues to read these articles.

[From the New York Times, May 1, 2012]

THE PRINCE AND THE AYATOLLAH

(By Ed Husain)

When I was invited to visit Bahrain by members of the royal family, I hesitated. They had crushed peaceful protesters last year, and their police had used tear gas against human rights activists. Like everybody else, including some of the Bahraini policemen I later spoke with, I was appalled at the violence and thought the monarchy had blood on its hands. But I felt that declining the offer was irresponsible. I wanted to know the monarchy's side of the story. So I accepted the invitation—on the condition that I was free to meet Bahrain's opposition.

Bahrain is a tiny island nation of 600,000 citizens, with a Parliament of only 40 members, and it cannot be understood if looked at in isolation. For one thing, it stands at the forefront of a regional cold war. Saudi Arabia lies to the west, connected by a 25-kilometer causeway built jointly by the Saudis and Bahrainis. To the east, across the waters of the Gulf, lies Iran. Both Tehran and Riyadh have major stakes in Bahrain.

En route to Bahrain, I stopped by in Riyadh and had many conversations with top government officials, journalists and academics. Their views were clear: Saudi Arabia would not stand by and see Bahrain's ruling al-Khalifa family fall from power. The Saudis sent in soldiers to help the al-Khalifas regain control of Bahrain in March 2011 and are prepared to do so again.

If King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa abdicates, they asked, then who would be next among Arab kings? What consequences would the ensuing chaos have on global energy supplies? If power falls into the hands of the main Shiite opposition group, Bahrain could join Hamas, Hezbollah, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon under the Iranian sphere of influence in the Middle East.

In Bahrain, I was a guest of the king's son, Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa, who, in the context of the country's current political climate, is a liberal's liberal. Educated in Washington and Cambridge, England, the 42-year-old prince spoke