

Mr. Gray accepted a scholarship to play at Franklin and Marshall College. After receiving his bachelor's degree, he went on to receive master's degrees from Drew Theological Seminary and Princeton Theological Seminary as well as spending time abroad studying at Oxford University in England. Education was held in a high regard to Mr. Gray. During the prime of his political career, Mr. Gray resigned from Congress to assume a "higher calling" as president of the United Negro College Fund. While many politicians abruptly resign in light of scandal, Mr. Gray resigned in order to "open the door to higher education for a million more black men and women." During his time as president, Mr. Gray successfully raised over \$2 billion for the UNCF.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus and on behalf of Congressmen, past and present that were influenced by Mr. Gray's leadership, I would like to express my gratitude for his service to minorities, Congress, and to the United States of America. Thank you.

KAILEY CHAPMAN SPOKANE HIGH SCHOOL TRACK AND FIELD STATE CHAMPION

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Spokane High School's Kailey Chapman for winning the 300 meter hurdles at the 2013 Missouri Class 2 State Track and Field Championships.

Through her hard work and dedication, Kailey placed first in the 300 meter hurdles with a time of 44.62 seconds. Throughout the season, Kailey worked to perfect her technique and was able to reset four school records from her previous season and was All State in all four of her events. She credits her family, coaches, teammates, Spokane community, and our Heavenly Father for the support that enabled her to complete an outstanding season.

Kailey hopes to come back her senior year to repeat as the 300 meter hurdles champion and become Missouri's 100 meter hurdles champion, as well. Kailey plans to compete in the Junior Olympic Regionals and at the college level, as well as completing a degree in nursing.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Kailey Chapman, winner of the 300 meter hurdles at the Missouri Class 2 State Track and Field Championships.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN PERCIN, JR.

HON. KURT SCHRADER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of John Percin, Jr. one of the 19 Granite Mountain Hotshot firefighters killed June 30th while fighting a wildfire near the town of Yarnell, Arizona. A funeral mass to honor his life will take place, July 12th, for

family, friends, and parishioners at Our Lady of the Lake Church in Lake Oswego, Oregon.

John Percin Jr. grew up in West Linn, Oregon among a community that witnessed a young man active in his school, excelling at numerous sports, and demonstrating a strong compassion for others. After graduating from West Linn High School, Mr. Percin pursued a career with the Granite Mountain Hotshots, an elite firefighting force based in Prescott, Arizona. Hotshots demand only the most physically fit candidates to face the most strenuous firefighting tasks. Through rigorous physical and mental training each Hotshot gains the skills and attributes necessary for this demanding and dangerous work. A Hotshot needs to be a problem solver, able to make difficult decisions in stressful situations, and work as part of a team; I think we witnessed these attributes on display June 30th from Mr. Percin and each of the courageous crewmembers who put their lives on the line to protect others.

John Percin Jr. demonstrated a level of courage and bravery that belies his young age. At only 24 years of age Mr. Percin had the drive and passion to perform the critical work of fighting fires and I am humbled by his commitment to our country. We in Congress express our gratitude to Mr. Percin and convey our deepest respect and sympathy to his family; their son's sacrifice for others will not be forgotten.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT H. AMDT. 227 TO H.R. 1947, THE "FEDERAL AGRICULTURE REFORM AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2013"

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 20, 2013, I inadvertently voted against the Pitts-Davis amendment to H.R. 1947, the "Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013" which was designed to reform the United States' national sugar policy. However, I rise today to clarify my position concerning this amendment and to state that I fully support the Pitts-Davis amendment and will continue to support and cosponsor H.R. 693, the "Sugar Reform Act of 2013."

It is unfortunate that the failed FARRM Bill proposed reforms for every commodity program except the sugar program, the most intrusive and outdated of them all. Our focus in Congress should be geared toward balancing the needs of all Americans. Instead, our current sugar policy's one-sided approach favors sugar processors and growers over American consumers and businesses. Under current law, the sugar industry is able to reap record profits when domestic sugar supplies are tight because of government restrictions. Yet, the cost of the sugar program is then passed on to taxpayers when surplus sugar burdens the market. As a result, American families have to spend additional money on their grocery bills and American companies are placed at a competitive disadvantage. We must limit these government restrictions and allow for a competitive marketplace that will balance the needs of all Americans.

COMMEMORATING NEOSHO NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Neosho National Fish Hatchery.

Established in 1888, the Neosho National Fish Hatchery is truly one of a kind. It is the oldest operating federal fish hatchery in the United States and has raised over 130 different species of fish since its creation. With a mission to conserve and protect our nation's fishery resources, the Neosho National Fish Hatchery continues to produce high quality fish year after year.

The Neosho National Fish Hatchery is responsible for a long list of various operations to enhance the fish industry. The hatchery is responsible for producing high quality rainbow trout to stock Lake Taneycomo for recreational fishing, helping the local economy. The hatchery also continues to support and protect the conservation of the endangered Ozark Cavefish, and raises Freshwater Drum Fish to serve as host fish for rearing Neosho Mucket Mussels. All of this is done while over 45,000 annual visitors travel to Neosho to tour and learn about America's longest running national fish hatchery.

I am honored to recognize the Neosho National Fish Hatchery for their excellent work over the past 125 years. By working to conserve, protect, and enhance our fishing industry, the Neosho National Fish Hatchery continues to serve for the benefit all Americans.

MINNESOTA LISTENING SESSION ON THE CUTS TO FOOD ASSISTANCE IN HOUSE GOP FARM BILL

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, on June 10, 2013, Congressman ELLISON and I hosted a listening session at the Minnesota State Capitol. We heard from Minnesotans affected by the House Farm Bill's proposed cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Below is testimony delivered by Dale Simonson and Patricia Lull.

TESTIMONY FROM DALE SIMONSON, MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Here is a brief overview of the demographics of the SNAP recipients statewide. There are about 554,000 adults and children on SNAP in approximately 259,700 cases. Children make up almost 48% of the SNAP population.

There are 77,417 SNAP family cases.

66% of the family cases reported income from work

Average age of adults with children is 35 years

There are 39,671 senior cases on SNAP.

Average age is 70 years

61% had income from Retirement, Survivors Disabilities Insurance (RSDI)

There are 88,942 disabled cases on SNAP.

There are 62,477 cases that are categorized as "other" adults.

Within this category are able bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs)

These people are disconnected from employment compared to other SNAP participants as 56% have no other reported income sources than SNAP.

The average benefit per recipient is \$118 and per case is \$245.

Race/ethnicity demographics of SNAP cases are 59% white, 24% black, 7% Asian, 4% Hispanic, 4% American Indian with multiple races comprising the rest.

That is a very brief overview of the SNAP population in MN. The data being used today comes from the Characteristics of People and Cases on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in December 2012 as well as the Family Self-Sufficiency Report. Both of these reports are available on the DHS public website.

The biggest impact on SNAP recipients in MN would come from the proposed restriction in the House bill on the state ability to use categorical eligibility.

Broad based categorical eligibility is a policy that makes most households categorically eligible for SNAP because they qualify for a non-cash TANF funded benefit. This allows states to raise the income limit up to a maximum of 200% Federal Poverty Guideline (FPG) and raise or eliminate the asset limit.

The MN legislature passed a bill effective Nov., 2010 allowing expansion of broad based categorical eligibility to all SNAP cases by increasing the income standard from 130% to 165% of FPG and eliminating the asset limit.

Sec. 4005 of the House bill would remove this state option.

DHS estimates that 6.4% of the caseload or 16,700 cases with over 32,000 people would be made ineligible because their income is above 130% FPG yet below 165% FPG. Of these cases, over 8,000 are family cases that will be ineligible due to over income. The children on these cases would no longer be automatically eligible for free or reduced school lunch.

DHS no longer collects asset information for SNAP. Therefore, we do not have data on the number of cases that would be ineligible due to being over the asset limit.

The House bill provides a permanent reduction in funding for SNAP-Ed. This proposed cut comes on the heels of the program's fiscal year 2013 budget cut of 28 percent that was included in the fiscal cliff agreement, resulting in decreased program activity.

Minnesota's share of SNAP-Ed has been approximately 2.5% of the federal allocation.

Minnesota's current allocation for SNAP-Ed is about \$7,000,000 (cut included).

Further cuts will impact the reach and impact that SNAP-Ed has on Minnesota's population in poverty.

SNAP-Ed is delivered by community nutrition educators from the University of Minnesota Extension Service and Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. They use evidence-based, behaviorally-focused curriculum to help Minnesotans with limited financial resources stretch food dollars and make healthy choices.

In FY 2012, the U of M Extension offered SNAP-Ed programming in 84 of 87 counties directly serving approximately 65,000 persons (unduplicated).

In FY 2012, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe offered SNAP-Ed programming on six reservations (Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, and White Earth) directly serving 6,778 persons (unduplicated).

U of M Extension program evaluation outcomes point to positive SNAP-Ed results. Over half of SNAP-Ed participants engaged in healthy eating and physical activity behaviors by the final course session. In addition, participants indicated an average of

greater than 1/3 cup increased intake of both fruits and vegetables per day over the span of a course.

These are the two major provisions that will have the greatest impact on low income Minnesotans on SNAP if these cuts are adopted.

Thank you for your time.

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED BY PATRICIA LULL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SAINT PAUL AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Thank you for this opportunity to address the difference that SNAP benefits make in our community.

I serve as Executive Director of the Saint Paul Area Council of Churches, a non-profit representing 125 local communities of faith. We come from Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Unitarian, and Quaker backgrounds but every one of our faith traditions agrees with this conviction—No more hungry neighbors!

I am here to say that as a person of faith and a citizen. No more hungry neighbors! In recent years we have made great strides in addressing domestic hunger and SNAP has been an important part of what we have done well as a country. It serves our most vulnerable neighbors—children, seniors, and working families. It serves them in a way that supports local economies (grocery stores and farmers markets) and energizes our children to succeed in school and in life.

While it is important to balance our federal budget, cutting SNAP benefits to our most vulnerable neighbors should be the last option we exercise. The proposed cuts will negatively impact all of us who work with families in poverty. Let me illustrate that.

The Saint Paul Area Council of Churches hosts an emergency food shelf for the American Indian community in Ramsey County. We provide food to 500 individuals a month—enough for 6,000 meals. Use of our food shelf has increased by 30% since last August. More families. More need. More demand on us to do what all of us as citizens are asked to do—provide for those who are most at risk.

Some of our food shelf participants are also volunteers. A couple of months ago, Larry and I worked side-by-side unloading a delivery from Second Harvest, our food bank. Larry is a father and grand-father. He is also a hard worker, carrying in three times as many boxes as I did. When the truck was unloaded and all the food was put away, I thanked him for all he had done. Larry looked me squarely in the eye, pointed to his heart, and said—I do this for the community.

Those who receive SNAP benefits—and those who will be excluded from benefits if cuts are made—they are our community, too. On behalf of them I say, No more hungry neighbors!

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AURORA COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. KURT SCHRADER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Aurora Colony Historical Society on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. The Aurora Colony Historical Society, through its wonderful Old Aurora Colony Museum, has dedicated itself to preserving the memory, architecture, and treasures of Oregon's unique Aurora Colony since 1963.

The Aurora Colony's unique history pre-dates Oregon's statehood. This communal Christian society was established in 1856 by a

group of German and Swiss followers of Dr. Wilhelm Keil. Dr. Keil's vision of a utopian society produced this bustling community that became well known for its craftsman built furniture, fine textiles, and Old World traditions.

54 families and nearly 600 people would eventually live and work communally to support the Aurora Colony. The agricultural skills and manufacturing prowess of the colonists allowed the colony to flourish for nearly 30 years on the banks of Oregon's Pudding River. The community of Aurora still bears the name of Dr. Keil's oldest daughter today.

Descendants of the Aurora Colonists organized a celebration in 1956 to mark the Colony's centennial and to celebrate the community's uncommon history. From this celebration came a desire to preserve the history of the Colony and its remaining artifacts and architecture. The Aurora Colony Historical Society was founded in 1963 and set out on a mission of preservation that survives today—50 years later.

Today the Aurora Colony Historical Society's Old Aurora Colony Museum welcomes tourists, students, researchers, and others to explore its extensive grounds and exhibits. The complex of five preserved buildings offers revolving exhibits, Colony artifacts, and a historical archive of residents' letters and other written documents. The Old Aurora Colony Museum has become an invaluable resource in preserving an important period in Oregon's history. Indeed, Oregon's history books and today's Aurora would both be incomplete were it not for the essential work of the Aurora Colony Historical Society.

With a strong sense of its history and an eye toward the future, I am confident that the Aurora Colony Historical society will continue to thrive for at least another 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be the representative of the fine community of Aurora, Oregon. I congratulate the Aurora Colony Historical Society on its 50th anniversary, and I look forward to sharing in the celebration.

HONORING THOMAS DOUGLAS,
MISSOURI SMALL BUSINESS
PERSON OF 2013

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Thomas H. Douglas, the Missouri Small Business Person of 2013.

Thomas is the current President and CEO of JMARK Business Solutions, Inc. JMARK has made its name by providing outstanding technology consulting services for small to medium sized businesses looking to streamline IT operations to enhance employee performance and increase customer satisfaction.

Founded in 1988, JMARK started as a small computer company in Cabool, and is now headquartered in Springfield, Missouri. In 1997, Thomas joined the company after serving in the US Navy. The leadership skills he developed in the Navy ensured a quick rise as the company's level one engineer to president and majority owner in 1999.

Under Thomas' guidance, JMARK has seen tremendous growth combining an incredible customer-friendly business philosophy with a