

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COAL RESIDUALS REUSE AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2218) to amend subtitle D of the Solid Waste Disposal Act to encourage recovery and beneficial use of coal combustion residuals and establish requirements for the proper management and disposal of coal combustion residuals that are protective of human health and the environment, with Mr. Bishop of Utah in the chair.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, I oppose H.R. 2218, the so-called Coal Residuals Reuse and Management Act. There are many problems with this legislation. It ignores the significant public health concerns around coal ash, which includes potent toxins such as mercury, lead, and sulfur. It does nothing to ensure the safe disposal of coal ash, and in fact allows a state-by-state race to the bottom. Finally, it preempts citizens from taking legal action to protect themselves in situations where public health is endangered.

I am particularly troubled by the fact that this legislation significantly restructures environmental regulatory authority by stripping the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, of its ability to enforce any regulations around coal ash disposal. Protecting public health is part of what the EPA was created to do and we must give them the tools to be able fulfill their mission. I strongly oppose this legislation.

HONORING DETECTIVE SCOTT A. GALESKI

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2013

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Detective Scott A. Galeski of Wyandotte, Michigan, who was awarded the 2013 Presidential Volunteer Service Award for more than 4,000 hours of volunteer service over his lifetime.

Detective Galeski has tirelessly and selflessly dedicated himself to teaching, training, and mentoring the community's youth, as well as exhibiting a great love for his public service as a member of the police force.

Detective Galeski's biggest impact has been through his direct efforts guiding and shaping several generations of youth throughout the downriver communities. He has been a steadfast and selfless advocate of shaping and mentoring youth into what he calls "just good, solid kids" on occasions and hours too countless to measure accurately.

Detective Galeski elevated and added to his efforts with youth by founding the Downriver/

Detroit Police Cadet Program in 2008 while at the same time coaching high school athletics. The Cadet Program was established for youth interested in careers in law enforcement, and thanks to Detective Galeski's efforts, it became the largest program in the state, boasting a roster of over 73 cadets and having the highest ranking cadet (Major) in the nation. To date the program has produced seven sworn law enforcement officers in various agencies.

Detective Galeski, aside from his countless hours of service to his community and youth, also is known for counseling youth with difficult life circumstances and problems. Detective Galeski is a tremendous asset to the community, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Detective Galeski on receiving the Presidential Volunteer Service Award, and for all of his efforts to make his community a better place.

OPPOSING H.R. 5, THE LETTING OUR STUDENTS DOWN ACT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2013

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I stridently oppose H.R. 5, the Letting our Students Down Act. This partisan proposal to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act dismantles critical civil rights protections for our most vulnerable learners, dramatically undermines federal investment in education, directs taxpayer funds away from public schools to private entities, and restricts monies from the students who need it the most.

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 is a landmark civil rights bill given its purpose to ensure each and every child a quality education by closing achievement gaps due to poverty and inequity. Since 1965, we have learned that to fulfill this mission, we must ensure that schools and states have the resources available to meet their academic needs. We also have learned that there remains an important role for the federal government to encourage thoughtful accountability systems to help identify schools and districts needing assistance in educating all students. Accountability systems with clear performance targets serve as an essential tool for ensuring that all students, regardless of race, ethnicity, language status, national origin, income, ZIP code or disability are taught at high levels. Unfortunately, the 2002 reauthorization also included overly prescriptive penalties and interventions that decreased standards, overburdened schools, and pushed classroom instruction to "teaching to the test." Thus, the challenge facing policymakers during reauthorization is balancing federal oversight and decision making at the state level without abdicating federal responsibility for safeguarding equal educational opportunity regardless of race, ethnicity, language, country of origin, income or ability.

H.R. 5 undermines critical federal investment in education and eschews the federal responsibility to encourage states to improve the education of all children under the guise of state flexibility. Rather than investing in education, the Republican plan exacerbates school funding shortfalls by locking in draconian spending cuts, removing over a billion dollars from our classrooms and students. To further ensure the dismantling of the federal investment in education, H.R. 5 prohibits Congress from appropriating any money above the excessively-low spending levels set and even bans increasing federal investment with inflation. In addition to enacting harsh reductions in spending at the federal level, H.R. 5 eviscerates education investment by removing the federal maintenance of effort provisions, thereby licensing states to reduce state education funding and redirect these funds to non-education activities.

Further, H.R. 5 undercuts federal accountability and taxpayer investment by eliminating requirements that schools or districts take action when failing to improve academic achievement or graduation rates. Specifically, the 2002 law required states and districts to examine and address the performance of vulnerable students, including at-risk, migrant, racial/ethnic minority, English Language Learner, and low-income students as well as students with disabilities. H.R. 5 removes the requirement for intervention, relinquishing the federal responsibility to ensure that states provide equal educational opportunity for our youngest citizens. The bill removes other safeguards for vulnerable students as well. For example, it removes the one percent cap on the use of alternative assessment scores for accountability purposes for students with significant cognitive disabilities, permitting schools to provide less rigorous curricula and assessments to an unlimited number of students with disabilities. This change is unnecessary, promotes lesser standards and assessments for students with disabilities, and incentivizes the over-identification of students with disabilities. Another illustration of weakened protections for vulnerable students is the lessening of funding and protections for homeless students. H.R. 5 reduces the McKinney-Vento authorization despite a 57 percent increase in homeless children since 2009. It strikes provisions improving access to educational services for homeless students championed by former Illinois Congresswoman Judy Biggert and included in prior Republican versions of this bill. H.R. 5 also eliminates critical supports for afterschool programs, STEM enrichment, physical education, the arts, music, as well as social and emotional programs that support positive behaviors.

Teachers, the dedicated stewards of our education system, are harmed by eliminating requirements for quality professional development, a critical component of advancing teacher content and pedagogical knowledge. Under this bill, proposed teacher evaluation systems are punitive, used to hire and fire rather than to encourage professional growth and improvement. H.R. 5 removes protections for

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

collective bargaining and shamefully shifts funding away for teacher supports from the highest need schools and students.

One of the most important responsibilities of a nation is the education of her public. Federal oversight to ensure that each student is college and career ready upon high school graduation is a commonsense policy to strengthen the well-being of our citizens and the competitiveness of our country in a global economy. It is our moral imperative to ensure that each child has equal protections under the law. The Republicans bill reflects a disconnect with the realities facing our nation's schools and students, a disconnect underscored by the numerous organizations from all sectors of society that have publicly opposed the bill. In uncommon agreement, diverse groups such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Business Round Table, the National Center for Learning Disabilities, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, Easter Seals, and the American Federation of Teachers expressed concerns that underfunding schools without accountability fosters systemic inequities that have devastating economic consequences for all students and our country.

H.R. 5, the Letting Students Down Act is a false promise to reauthorize this critical law enacted to fight the "war on poverty" by ensuring equal access to a free and public education. We cannot let our students down; we must lift them up. The Democratic substitute offered by Representative MILLER empowers states and school districts to set realistic achievement targets for improving student growth, achievement, and graduation rates while granting flexibility in determining appropriate interventions. I join with dozens of stakeholders in supporting the Miller Substitute and opposing H.R. 5.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF REV.
LANCE CHANEY OF ST. JOHN
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and memory of Rev. Lance Chaney, who led St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Boynton Beach, Florida, as its pastor for many years. Words cannot express how deeply sorry I am to hear of his untimely passing at the age of 56, following a long battle with prostate cancer. As a pastor, civic leader, and anti-violence activist, Rev. Chaney leaves behind a legacy of service that reflects his true dedication to the church and community.

Before moving his family to Boynton Beach in 2002, Rev. Chaney served as the pastor of the Greater Antioch Baptist Church of Rock Island in Illinois. There, he helped establish a health clinic and a bookstore, which attracted hundreds of new worshippers. Rev. Chaney also served on the school board and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) board of directors.

After a nationwide search, Rev. Chaney became the seventh pastor of St. John Missionary Baptist Church on the occasion of its 94th anniversary. He was an active pastor who will be remembered not only for his pas-

sionate sermons from the pulpit, but for working to expand the 104-year-old church's services and outreach. Under his leadership, a teen Bible study and church newsletter were established. In addition, Rev. Chaney was also a mentor to other clergy in the area, helping them grow their congregations.

Rev. Chaney was a well-known and very popular figure in the Boynton Beach community. He helped thousands of families by opening and serving as the chairman of the Day Star Academy of Excellence, a K-5 public charter school, and Pathways to Prosperity, a non-profit rehabilitation center. He also hosted several back-to-school drives, parenting seminars, and health care screenings, and was known for giving out free bus passes and scholarships.

Furthermore, Rev. Chaney worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life in Boynton Beach, as well as make it safer and more inclusive. He was an influential member of Boynton United, a community organization that works to prevent violent crime, and served on the Correction Task Force for the Criminal Justice Commission of Palm Beach County and Boynton Beach's Community Redevelopment Agency board until 2007. Additionally, Rev. Chaney was a speaker and panelist for countless other causes, including the Roots Cultural Festival, Martin Luther King Community Celebration, Save Darfur Coalition, and Haiti relief efforts.

While battling cancer over the past five years, Rev. Chaney, who graduated from the University of Arkansas with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, continued to pursue a master's degree from Howard University's School of Divinity. And, during his chemotherapy treatment, he constantly urged men to get screened for prostate cancer.

Rev. Chaney is survived by his wife, Marilane, and his children, Lance Alexander, Ashley, and Allison. My thoughts and prayers go out to them, friends of the family, members of St. John Missionary Baptist Church, and the entire Boynton Beach community at this most difficult time.

In Lance Chaney, God Almighty gave us a man of vision, courage, wisdom, and understanding. Each of us knew him in a different way, but he knew each of us in the same way, with great compassion and love.

Mr. Speaker, Rev. Lance Chaney dedicated his life to serving his fellow man, and will be remembered for his tremendous ability to bring people together. It has been my great privilege to know his friendship. I now join all those whose lives he has touched in saying that he will be dearly missed.

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY FEATURED IN THE US AIRWAYS MAGAZINE

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2013

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to extend my personal congratulations to North Carolina Central University for being recognized in the August 2013 edition of the US Airways Magazine.

As a graduate of NCCU and its law school, I am excited to see NCCU featured in a maga-

zine seen by thousands of travelers every day. It provides a great opportunity to feature the exciting things happening at our nation's historically minority serving institutions.

Founded by visionaries, our nation's HBCUs have given generations of students a sense of their heritage, history, and their valuable place in the American narrative. They have produced many of our nation's leaders in business, government, academia, and the military.

In this piece, US Airways recognized the legacy of learning that has contributed great minds to our country like Booker T. Washington, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Dr. George Washington Carver, and the Honorable Thurgood Marshall.

From the founding day in 1910, NCCU has helped lead the way in higher education for African Americans in the United States. NCCU has produced educators and professionals who went into rural communities across North Carolina and trained my generation. NCCU is now recognized for its increasing presence in STEM-related research and recently introduced their new PhD program in integrated biosciences.

Again, I applaud US Airways in recognizing our HBCUs. My Alma Mater, NCCU, is an institution that is a crucible of learning, where Julius Chambers discovered his sense of purpose that drove him to lead the NAACP Legal Defense Fund; where Eva Clayton was called to public service and became the first African American woman in Congress from North Carolina since reconstruction; and where a talented painter and professional athlete, Ernie Barnes, Jr., was empowered to inspire the nation with his art.

Today and every day, I am proud to call myself an Eagle.

RECOGNIZING MR. JOHN ODOM

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2013

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary courage and resilience of Mr. John Odom, a victim of the Boston Marathon bombings who has spent the last 100 days recovering from his life-threatening injuries.

Mr. Odom traveled from Redondo Beach, California to Boston to watch his daughter Nicole run her first marathon and he was standing near the finish line when the first explosion went off. Shrapnel from the explosion severed two of Mr. Odom's arteries and his sciatic nerve. His son-in-law, Matt Reis, was able to staunch the blood loss using his belt as a tourniquet and Mr. Odom's wife Karen applied pressure to the wound until help arrived.

Mr. Odom spent 5½ weeks at Boston Medical Center and underwent eleven surgeries. Afterwards, he was transferred to Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital where he spent another 5½ weeks receiving therapy. He is currently undergoing outpatient therapy at Spaulding and is making great progress with the incredible support of his family. He hopes to return home to Southern California in September.

We have all heard about the extraordinary acts of bravery and heroism of the victims of the Boston bombings. Mr. Odom has had a long hard struggle since April 15, but he has