

basis" as referenced in *Pierce v. Underwood* does not appear in H.R. 3309 as originally introduced, or as amended.

For purposes of understanding the reduced burden effectuated by the Jeffries Amendment, the most relevant part of the *Pierce v. Underwood* decision is the majority opinion's assertion that "our analysis does not convert the statutory term 'substantially justified' into 'reasonably justified.'" In other words, the two terms yield different standards. Logically, then, "reasonably justified" sets forth a lower threshold that must be met by a non-prevailing party.

The concurring opinion of Justice William Brennan further clarifies the practical difference in terms. "Reasonable" has a variety of connotations, but may be defined as 'not absurd' or 'not ridiculous.' Webster's New Third International Dictionary 1892 (1976) . . . While it is true 'reasonable' and 'substantial' overlap somewhat . . . an overlap is not an identity."

Accordingly, since the Supreme Court does not equate "substantially justified" with "reasonably justified," the suggestion that the change made to the fee-shifting provision in H.R. 3309 is practically meaningless lacks merit. In sum, the Jeffries Amendment deliberately lowers the bar from "substantially justified" to "reasonably justified" in a manner that relaxes the fee-shifting standard in the bill.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. JOHN DALTON

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Dalton was appointed to the Livonia Human Relations Commission by Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey and was elected by his fellow commissioners to serve as the Vice Chairman of the city commission. He takes his new position on the commission at the start of 2014. Congratulations to Mr. John Dalton.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO AND THE RWJF CENTER FOR HEALTH POLICY ON THEIR DEDICATION TO HEALTH JUSTICE

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of New Mexico and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy at the University of New Mexico for their dedication to achieving health justice. This September, the University of New Mexico hosted the Congressional Tri-Caucus Health Disparities conference titled "Practices and Policies That Promote Health Justice". The summit brought together local and national experts, leaders, policymakers, and advocates for a comprehensive discussion on the status of health justice.

The Tri-Caucus health summit grew out of the need to move forward the discussion on

health disparities in Washington and around the nation. The 2013 Health Disparities Summit has set a new standard for this discussion. Thanks to the efforts of the conference planning committee, this summit was the first to include Native American speakers and perspectives, a contribution that sets an important precedent for future summits.

Hosted by the University of New Mexico, under the leadership of President Robert G. Frank and Chancellor for Health Sciences Paul B. Roth, and coordinated by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy at UNM, led by Director Gabriel Sanchez, the summit provided my Tri-Caucus colleagues and myself with the most relevant and groundbreaking research on health disparities, including in-depth discussions on the serious reality of racial and ethnic health disparities.

The RWJF Center for Health Policy at the University of New Mexico is a research and training institute whose mission is to increase the diversity of health policy leaders who are trained in the social and behavioral sciences and nursing. One of the ways they accomplish this is through their doctoral fellow program, which nurtures promising researchers who are dedicated to social justice and the elimination of health disparities.

Over the course of the conference, I had the distinct pleasure of meeting with several RWJF doctoral fellows whose dedication and passion for achieving health equity helped me return to Washington reenergized to continue working toward health equity. It is meeting people like the RWJF research faculty and their doctoral fellows that gives me hope that we will continue to gain traction in the movement to eliminate health inequalities and achieve health justice.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have the privilege of representing my alma mater in Congress. As the only Hispanic-Serving Institution in the United States that is classified as a Carnegie Research University with Very High Activity, UNM is at the forefront of education and groundbreaking research, which contributes to a more just and equitable society. The University of New Mexico has taken an active role in working to eliminate health disparities and the RWJF Center for Health Policy is leading this charge. I would like to congratulate the University of New Mexico on their successful conference and for their dedication to achieving health justice.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIES FOR THE BLIND (NIB)

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, the National Industries for the Blind (NIB) is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, and I am honored to be a part of its celebration. Seventy-five years ago, the Wagner-O'Day Act was signed into law, which created the AbilityOne Program as well as the NIB.

NIB strives to enhance economic and personal independence of persons who are blind by creating, sustaining, and improving employment.

The NIB works with 91 agencies spread out among 35 states at over 250 locations and the

agencies provide products and services for the government.

In my home state, Outlook Nebraska is the NIB provider and is an economic engine that brings valuable business to the Omaha area.

Founded in 2000, Outlook Nebraska, much like its sister NIB agencies, seeks to enhance the quality of life for the blind and visually impaired.

It is Nebraska's largest employer for those with vision disabilities. Outlook Nebraska's work is especially important because, unfortunately, 70 percent of working-age Americans who are blind are unemployed.

The AbilityOne program makes Outlook Nebraska possible. As the official AbilityOne manufacturer of quality tissue and towel products for the government, Outlook Nebraska supplies a full line of 100 percent recycled fiber content tissue and towel products, including bath tissue, pull towels, and all compatible dispensers to the United States government.

Besides the manufacturing of products, the agency provides complete product servicing from its office and tissue-converting site in Omaha.

The agency has also developed additional services for blind and visually impaired employees, such as education and training to provide them with the technological skills that allow them to excel in their professional and personal lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DIANE BLACK

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 630 for final passage of H.R. 3521, and rollcall No. 631 for final passage of H.R. 1402, which took place Tuesday, December 10, 2013, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on both bills.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIFICATION OF THE ISLAND OF CRETE WITH THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the unification of the Island of Crete with the Hellenic Republic. On December 1, 1913, the flag of Greece was raised proudly on the Island, recognizing the will of the people of Crete who declared their unification with Greece, breaking ties with the oppressive Ottoman Empire which had occupied the island since 1669.

Sitting at the crossroads of Africa, Europe and the Middle East, Crete, one of the largest islands in the Mediterranean, is matched by its oversized influence throughout world history. Crete was home to the Minoan civilization, a major center for the Roman, Byzantine, Venetian and Ottoman empires, and birthplace to some of the world's most renowned artists—like Nobel laureate Odysseus Elytis and composer, Mikis Theodorakis.

During their struggle for independence from the Ottoman Empire, the people of Crete endured political oppression and unspeakable atrocities, but they never stopped living their lives under the creed "Elefteria I Thanatos" "Freedom or Death." Since rejoining with Greece, Crete has remained a pillar of the fight against tyranny and oppressive regimes. Nowhere was this exhibited more than during the Battle of Crete, when Cretans stood alongside Allied troops and fought off German paratroopers. And—like Crete itself—the Battle had an oversized influence on the outcome of World War II. The damage the Cretans and their Western allies inflicted on the German air force and paratrooper corps prevented Nazi Germany from carrying out another airborne invasion for the remainder of World War II.

For over 267 years, the people of Crete fought a brave battle to rejoin their Greek motherland and I stand here today to recognize their sacrifices and honor their memories.

THE IMPORTANCE OF NIH FUNDING

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for full funding of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The largest source of funding for medical research in the world, the NIH has supported more than 130 Nobel Prize winners.

Medical breakthroughs funded through the NIH include new treatments for cancer and chronic conditions. Clinical trials hosted at the NIH award patients newfound hope that they will be able to overcome debilitating diseases or conditions.

While the significance of NIH funding can be measured through patients reached and treatments developed, it can also be gauged through economic impact. For every dollar of NIH funding spent in New York State, more than twice as much is generated in economic output. In 2011, NIH grants and contracts created and supported more than 33,193 jobs in the state alone and more than 500,000 jobs nationwide.

Due to budget cuts, the NIH funded approximately 700 fewer research grants in 2013 than 2012 and admitted 750 fewer patients to the NIH Clinical Center. Almost immediately, these cuts affected patients hoping to be admitted to clinical trials and research jobs at universities nationwide. In the long term, these cuts will almost certainly delay progress in medical breakthroughs.

We must not allow the significant legacy of the National Institutes of Health be diminished by the harmful effects of funding cuts.

RECOGNIZING THE WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGE SOCCER TEAM

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the William Smith College soccer team,

which recently won the 2013 NCAA Division III National Championship. On December 7, 2013, the Herons concluded their record-breaking season with a 2–0 victory over Trinity University, successfully capturing their second national championship title in program history.

Setting new standards for the William Smith soccer program, the Herons completed their season with a record of 23–1–0. Their impressive winning streak of twenty-three games broke the previous school record. Remarkably, twenty-one of those games were complete shutouts, including all six victories in the NCAA tournament. The Herons have now competed in the Final Four ten times in the past twenty-five years and have won the Liberty League title in seven consecutive seasons.

Following the championship game, five players from this incredibly talented squad were named to the NCAA Women's All-Tournament Team. Forward Kara Shue, midfielder Zoe Eth, and goalkeeper Chelsea Dunay were among those who were recognized. In addition, forward Krista Longo and defender Olivia Zitoli were respectively named Most Outstanding Offensive and Defensive Players of the Year.

This gifted team was led by their accomplished and experienced coach, Aliceann Wilber. As the only head coach that the William Smith Herons have ever known, Coach Wilber's 34th season proved to be her most successful yet. The national championship marked Wilber's 480th career win, making her the winningest coach in Division III women's soccer history. She also became the first female collegiate soccer coach to earn more than 400 career wins.

The 2013 William Smith College soccer team demonstrated that hard work and dedication truly pay off. I have no doubt that under the leadership of Coach Wilber, the Herons will continue their extraordinary level of success in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 10, I was unavoidably detained due to inclement weather and missed two rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both rollcall 630, the Department of Veterans Affairs Major Medical Facility Lease Authorization Act, and rollcall 631, the VA Expanding Authorities Extension Act.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN NORTH KOREA

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the human rights situation in North Korea. We all remain hopeful that the transition to the leadership of Kim Jong-Un has created new possibilities but we are well aware that there remain fundamental human rights violations in North Korea and hu-

manitarian conditions in North Korea remain deplorable. I believe it is fair to say that the findings in the 2004 North Korean Human Rights Act and 2008 and 2012 Reauthorizations remain substantially accurate today. That is not just my opinion, it was the bi-partisan consensus of this Congress when it reauthorized the North Korean Human Rights Act until 2017.

Mr. Speaker, we know that democracy, economic growth and human development are intimately linked and perhaps nowhere is that more evident than the comparison of North and South Korea. South Korea has taken the path toward more democracy, more human rights, more education, higher living standards and economic self-sufficiency. North Korea has shunned that road . . . and the results of those policies are now glaringly evident. Perhaps even more relevant in today's world is the link of democracy and economic growth to peace. South Korea is not only a major trading partner but an ally in the region while North Korea remains a major source of regional and global instability and insecurity.

Mr. Speaker, the United States has one of the largest Korean populations outside of the Korean Peninsula with millions who have family ties to North Korea and the Seventh Congressional District has its share of the Korean diaspora. Like so many of my constituents, I believe the U.S. must continue its commitment to aid North Korean refugees and advocate for the human rights of the North Korean people. We share the pain of those who have been deprived of these most basic rights and the suffering of those who live in miserable conditions and look forward to the day when the Korean leadership will provide transparency in the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and guarantee the rights of those who seek refuge abroad.

I want to thank my constituent Mr. David Chang, a consistent advocate of human rights, for helping to maintain a focus on this critical issue.

HONORING EARL P. WILLIAMS

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Earl P. Williams on his retirement and celebrate his over 20 years of service to the cotton industry and the Central Valley's agriculture industry as a whole.

A native of Arkansas, Earl moved to Buttonwillow, California in 1958. He received a Bachelor of Science in Crop Production from California Polytechnic State University in 1965 and began his agricultural career in California.

Earl was one of fifteen charter members of the California Cotton Ginners Association's Board of Directors and served on the board from 1972 to 1980. He joined the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations as the Executive Vice President in 1993, and was later named President and Chief Executive Officer.

Earl is also the past President of the Buttonwillow Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture. He is a past member and chairman of the Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo Crop Science Department's Advisory Council. In 1963 he