

poverty, strengthening our local community, and improving the quality of thousands of lives.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the National Job Corps Association, and the Flint Genesee Job Corps Center, for their unwavering commitment and service to our great country.

IN RECOGNITION OF LEONARD PEEVY'S 60 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE AMERICAN LEGION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Mr. Leonard Peevy. Mr. Peevy has been a dedicated member of American Legion Post No. 79 for 60 years.

Leonard Peevy is an Alabama Army National Guard Veteran who has served our country through three tours. These tours took him to the Korean War and Berlin. He joined the American Legion after returning for war, and he has served the American Legion in numerous capacities. He has served on local, district and state levels. Mr. Peevy served as the state commander of the American Legion in 1993. He was also awarded a certificate from the national American Legion for his dedication over the past 60 years.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Mr. Leonard Peevy for his tireless dedication to serving our nation's Veterans. His service to our state and country is an inspiration.

CONGRATULATING CINCO RANCH'S ROBOTICS TEAM

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Cinco Ranch High School's Robotics Team CRYptonite 624 and its robot "Sidewinder" for winning the 2014 Texas Robot Roundup Tournament. This is the third year in a row Cinco Ranch has won the highly competitive statewide contest that requires advanced scientific, technical, and engineering skill.

At the fourth annual Texas Robot Roundup in Austin, Team CRYptonite 624 designed and built a robot to throw a fitness ball over trusses and into goals. The strength of the robot's performance reflects their dedication to learning and innovation.

I am proud of the scientific and engineering ingenuity Team CRYptonite 624 demonstrated. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to Cinco Ranch High School's Team CRYptonite 624 for winning its third consecutive Texas Robot Roundup Tournament.

RECOGNIZING REV. DR. ROOSEVELT AUSTIN, SR. FOR HIS EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP AND COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2014

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Austin, Sr., a spiritual pillar in the city of Saginaw, with more than 60 years of dedicated service to his community.

Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Austin served as Pastor of Zion Baptist Church in Saginaw for 44 years. He has also served as Interim Pastor for St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Saginaw, Foss Ave. Baptist Church in Flint and Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Flint.

Rev. Dr. Austin received his primary education in Opelousas, Louisiana. He went on to receive his Bachelor of Theology from McKinley Roosevelt College in Chicago, Illinois; a Master of Theology from Ohio Christian College in Columbus, Ohio; a Doctor of Divinity Degree from American Divinity School in Chicago, Illinois; and a Doctor of Humanities from Saginaw Valley State University.

Rev. Dr. Austin is a vital voice that has embraced our community through the spirit of service. He has served through many entities, some including Saginaw City Council, Opportunity Industrial Center, Pastors Concern for the Poor, Saginaw Public Schools, and as member of the Board of Directors for Citizens Bank.

Rev. Dr. Austin also holds the honor of Past President, Saginaw Valley District Congress of Christian Education; Past President, Michigan Wolverine State Congress of Christian Education; Seminar Leader, National Congress of Christian Education; and Moderator for the Saginaw Valley District Association.

Now retired, Dr. Austin enjoys spending time with his wife, Dr. Nurame Austin, his children, grandchildren, and great grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Austin for his strong leadership and unwavering commitment to our community.

HONORING KIMBERLY EVANS

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2014

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Kimberly Evans, an outstanding community leader, public servant, and tireless advocate for military members, veterans, and their families in Ventura County. Kim Evans demonstrates remarkable service to our community as the Founder and Director of the Ventura County Military Collaborative, which fosters invaluable collaboration among government, non-profit, and community agencies, organizations and individuals to strengthen and promote the military network of care throughout the region.

Kim earned a Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology from Pepperdine University and is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Licensed Professional Clinic Counselor in

Ventura County. Additionally, Kim was trained at the National Center for PTSD and has been an Embedded Therapist for the Army National Guard and Director of Psychological Health, specializing in working with military members and their families.

Kim Evans has devoted over 14 years in service to our military community and is an acknowledged expert on the effects of military deployment on service members and their families. She has tirelessly dedicated her expertise to brief over 8,000 military personnel and family members on mental health issues, and train over 1,200 clinicians throughout the state of California on military culture and working with military members and their families.

As Director of the Ventura County Military Collaborative, her outstanding leadership has culminated in three annual Military and Veteran Expos, providing community, fellowship, food, and entertainment, along with free employment, legal, and benefits assistance, which serves to reduce unemployment and homelessness among veterans in our community. Furthermore, Kim has organized numerous community events serving military and veteran families, including Operation Snow Flake, an annual event bringing together Ventura County Military Collaborative members and local volunteers to provide a holiday celebration filled with presents, food, and special guests for military and veteran families in need.

Currently, Kim also works with the Ventura County Superior Court as the Veterans Court Liaison, training California police departments on how to work with veterans and how to create successful reintegration for returning law enforcement officers who have been mobilized for combat. Kim's committed involvement in Veterans Court has led directly to a program expansion of over 30% and now includes the Mentor Program, building relationships between veterans. Kim also developed a Veterans Legal Clinic to provide free legal information and advice.

For these reasons, it is my distinct honor to recognize and express my sincere appreciation to Kimberly Evans for her remarkable accomplishments and unwavering support and service to the military and veteran population of Ventura County. She is an exemplary citizen, and her tireless advocacy for current and former members of the United States Armed Forces has made an immeasurable impact upon our community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN TRANSPARENCY ACT

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to empower governors and local elected officials to control whether or not the federal government can place unaccompanied minors, who have illegally entered the country, into their communities.

For the last several months, the United States' southern border with Mexico has been flooded by illegal immigrants, many of them whom are unaccompanied minors.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have been a leading voice in arguing for securing

our borders. I have also opposed amnesty for illegal immigrants who are already here. And I have fought for a biometric exit system to make sure that we know exactly who has entered the United States on a visa, and who has not returned home as they were supposed to.

More than 60 thousand so-called “unaccompanied minors” have arrived at our southern border, mostly from the Central American countries of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. This is a 10-fold increase in unaccompanied minors crossing the border since 2011. We have heard a lot of excuses for why they have come here in violation of our immigration laws. We have been told that they are fleeing violence in their home countries, but there has not been any substantial increase in violence there. So it must be something else.

What has changed is that the Obama administration implemented its DACA policy—Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals—in 2012. This policy tells people that, so long as they make it to this country safely, they won’t be asked to leave. The president has put out the welcome mat for residents of other countries, and told them that our immigration laws will not be enforced.

I went down to the border, near McAllen, Texas, and saw the situation with my own eyes. Some of the individual cases I heard were heartbreaking.

But when I talked to the Border Patrol agents, they told me a different story. Many of the “unaccompanied minors” are in fact arriving with members of their families, or they are seeking to meet up with members of their families who are already here illegally. In addition, over three fourths of them are males, between the ages of 14 and 17. And many of them are affiliated with violent, criminal gangs, or are being recruited for gang membership right there at the border.

And many of them carry communicable diseases.

And, the administration has begun to transport thousands of these illegal immigrants to communities all across the country.

That’s where the problems in our own backyard begin.

Just a couple of months ago, I learned from city officials in Hazleton, my hometown, that they had been contacted by a non-profit group, the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, about housing some of the minors at a location right across the street from my district office.

That’s how I found out—because the organization had called the city. The federal government didn’t tell anyone about the plan: not the Governor, not the Department of Public Welfare, not Luzerne County.

When I made the information public, residents of Hazleton rightly expressed their concerns, and the plan was dropped.

But we learned an important lesson in that episode: the federal government is working with organizations across the country to place unaccompanied minors in various communities . . . without telling anyone in the state or locality that they are doing so.

As of July 31st, we know that at least 456 unaccompanied minor illegal immigrants have been released to sponsors in Pennsylvania. The shelters and facilities—according to the best information available right now—are in Mechanicsburg, Womelsdorf, Bethlehem, Montgomery County, and Philadelphia.

There could be others, and there could be plans—right now—being made to house more . . . all without telling state or local governments.

This must stop.

So today I am introducing legislation that will give state and local governments a heads-up when such plans are in the works.

My “Unaccompanied Alien Children Transparency Act” is very straightforward.

It truly will empower states—governors of states—and local governments by providing them with all of the information they need to make an informed decision about relocation plans, and giving them an opportunity to either approve or reject those plans.

First, it will require the Secretary of Health and Human Services, also known as HHS, to provide detailed information regarding the pending relocation of unaccompanied minors. The Secretary will have to inform state and local elected officials of the locations and durations of any housing contracts awarded, and also provide an assessment of the costs associated with and potential impact on education, health, and public safety. The Secretary must also certify to state and local officials that the unaccompanied minors have undergone health screenings, including vaccinations, and that they pose no public health threat. Additionally, the Secretary must certify that the unaccompanied minors and the individuals who will take custody of them have undergone background checks and pose no public safety threat.

Not only should states and localities know about these relocation plans, they ought to know what impact the unaccompanied minors will have on the community. Who exactly are they, and what kind of background screenings have been done? If they will be educated locally in public schools, how much is that going to cost? These are important questions that any community would ask.

The legislation will also require HHS to provide a 30-day notice and comment period for states and localities to review any proposed contract and accompanying certifications of health and public safety background checks. At the conclusion of the 30-day comment period, HHS will have to hold a public hearing within 10 days and provide a representative to address community concerns or questions.

At the end of the initial comment period, the governor of the state in question must decide whether to affirm the contract within seven days. If the governor does not affirm the contract, it is effectively vetoed. If the governor does affirm the contract, then the county commissioners for that jurisdiction will have seven additional days in which to object to the contract. If a majority of the county commissioners do not affirm the contract, then it is again effectively vetoed.

The people in my home city of Hazleton found out about the plans to bring unaccompanied minors into our community, and they made their voices heard. It’s only fair that Americans everywhere have the same opportunity, through their elected officials at the local and state level.

Last week I held a press conference in Hazleton to announce my intention to introduce this legislation, and I was joined by our Chief of Police, Frank DeAndrea, and the Superintendent of Hazleton Area Public Schools, Dr. Frank Antonelli.

Dr. Antonelli told me that this school year, four teenagers—part of the wave of the so-

called “unaccompanied minors”—came forward to enroll in the Hazleton school system. They are all males, ranging in age from 14 to 17. Two of them have had no formal education at all in their entire lives. Dr. Antonelli is still trying to find out the educational background for the other two.

Take one for an example. He is 17-years-old, has no education whatsoever, and speaks not a word of English. How, Mr. Speaker, is a local school division expected to deal with this new student? What grade does he go into?

And since we know that there are as many as 14 distinct dialects of Spanish spoken in some Central American countries, how exactly are the schools expected to communicate with him?

This is a problem that the federal government has dropped on the doorsteps of localities around the country.

This bill is especially important right now, because we have seen the federal government act in secrecy.

The administration has denied “right to know” requests from various organizations, and refuses to disclose exactly where the children are being transported.

This is from a president who promised to be transparent.

Unfortunately, this legislation is necessary to make sure that our states and localities know exactly what the federal government is doing right in their own backyards.

Now, I’m a father and grandfather, and I have seen the conditions of some of the people who have come to the southern border. I have compassion for their situations.

But I also believe that the responsibility for them should rest largely on the countries that they came from.

This should not be America’s problem alone.

And it certainly shouldn’t be the problem of states and localities, which are right now being kept in the dark about the movements of illegal immigrants.

Mr. Speaker, the failure of the federal government to do its job in enforcing immigration laws should not become a growing burden on the folks back home.

RECOGNIZING MARY CATHERINE ABBOTT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2014

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, with the new school year upon us, we are reminded of the great role education has played in our personal and professional growth. And we can’t help but smile as we remember the educators, the teachers, school administrators and staff who, through the years, so enriched our lives. One individual who devoted her career and most of her adult life to education certainly comes to mind, Ms. Mary Abbott.

Ms. Abbott passed away late last year. And yet, Mr. Speaker, Mary Abbott’s influence lives on. In fact, as has been said, a teacher affects eternity; they never know where their influence ends. Mary Abbott taught sound lessons throughout her productive life; even long after her formal role in education had come to an end, her selfless service continued for her community.