

INTRODUCTION OF THE JAMES ZADROGA 9/11 HEALTH AND COMPENSATION ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, last week we marked the 13th anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attack. It is a day to remember and mourn those we lost, to comfort those who suffer still, and to honor those who responded on that day with courage and determination.

Whenever we talk about 9/11, we have to acknowledge the heroes and heroines of 9/11, both those who lost their lives that day and those who are still sick and dying from the injuries and illnesses related to 9/11. As a Congress, we stood together on the steps of the U.S. Capitol and vowed to never forget.

That vow of never forget comes with an obligation on the part of Congress to ensure that we as a country remember, honor, and care for those who risked their lives to save others that day and those who were caught in the devastation that occurred at Ground Zero, at the U.S. Pentagon, and at Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

A major piece of that promise to never forget was the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act that became law in 2011. This legislation established the World Trade Center Health Program to provide medical monitoring and treatment for 9/11-related illnesses as well as a national health program to serve those who were at the Pentagon, in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, and those who came from around the country to aid in our country's recovery. It also reopened the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund to provide for economic losses and harm incurred from the aftermath of the attacks.

Today, there are more than 60,000 responders or survivors who got sick from exposure to the deadly toxins at 9/11, mixes of fuel, glass, asbestos, and all kinds of chemicals that were in the air that day. These thousands are now receiving treatment and monitoring from the Health Program. This also includes over 2,900 people in the World Trade Center Health Program who have been diagnosed with cancer.

Since 9/11 more than 800 New York Fire Department members and more than 550 New York Police Department personnel are struggling with serious 9/11-related illnesses.

We have already lost over 70 firefighters and 60 New York Police Department officers who have died from their 9/11-related illnesses over the past 13 years. These are people who got sick while working on rescue and recovery, and they have died because of their exposure.

These individuals with 9/11-related illnesses need continued specialized medical monitoring and care. It is unfair to cut them out of medical care and economic compensation simply because they did not get sick soon enough.

As it stands, the Zadroga Act is set to expire in October 2015, yet the medical and economic crises of sick 9/11 responders and suffering survivors will not end in 2 years. They will only get worse over time. Research shows significantly higher rates of cancer among the 9/11 population, a disease with a long latency period.

That is why I have introduced, along with PETER KING and JERRY NADLER, the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Re-authorization Act. This legislation would reauthorize the programs for 25 years and fulfill that promise to never forget.

We are joined in support by a bipartisan group of 37 Members from all over the country. First responders and volunteers came from every corner of America to help and aid in the recovery. Others who were present on 9/11 have since moved to other areas of the country. The World Trade Center Health Program includes participants from 429 of the 435 congressional districts. This means that in almost every Member's district, there are constituents who are being monitored or who are being treated under the World Trade Center Health Program.

We must continue these Zadroga Act programs that are vital to the sick and dying, those whom we said we will never forget.

SUPPORTING AFFORDABLE, QUALITY, FLEXIBLE CHILD CARE

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the expansion of resources for the Child Care Development Block Grant program.

As a mother of a 5-year old, I understand the need for affordable, quality, and accessible child care. The Child Care Development Block Grant of 2014 extends the program's original intent of supporting low-income working families by ensuring that children are in a setting that will keep them safe and encourage healthy development.

This reauthorization is a solid step to help families meet the expense of child care as it includes ambitious new changes that are important for a high quality child care system. However, the sweeping new requirements called for under this Act are not adequately funded. As states implement the new requirements envisioned in this legislation without additional resources, I fear the result will be that eligible children and families may lose access to child care assistance.

To successfully implement the much-needed improvements included in this legislation, we must re-double our efforts to increase mandatory and discretionary funding in order to meet the new standards set out under this program. As the federal government continues to increase expectations for child care providers and programs without new funding, I am concerned that already high turnover may be exacerbated and poverty wages for child care providers will remain the norm.

Families in poverty are spending 30% or more of their income on child care. Child care costs are simply unaffordable for many workers in low-wage jobs. With stagnant wages, this leaves many low-income working families struggling to find a safe place to care for their children. The average annual cost of full-time care for one child can be nearly \$4,000 to over \$16,000, especially in areas with high costs of living, like Los Angeles County.

A new National Women's Law Center analysis of state and national data shows that

more than half of mothers who have very young children and work in low-wage jobs are raising children on their own; half are working full time; and over one-third are poor. They are disproportionately African-American or Hispanic.

I urge the Administration, in its implementation of this Act, to balance the requirements placed on states, child care providers, and an already under-resourced and stressed child care system with a realistic assessment of the new resources made available for implementation.

Expanding access to affordable quality child care is about the safety, economic development, and services that working families everywhere in the U.S. deserve.

RECOGNIZING THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend and congratulate my friends and colleagues at the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) on the occasion of the Commission's 50th anniversary. When it was first created, the Commission's primary task was to develop and manage a transportation system for Northern Virginia, but over the years, it has evolved and accomplished so much more than that.

NVTC has become a champion for commuters across the region, an advocate for sustainable transit funding, and a leading voice on transportation policy throughout the Commonwealth. One shudders to think what Northern Virginia might look like if not for the persistent efforts of the Commission to bring local, state, and federal leaders together to promote transit solutions that have made commuting more convenient and removed cars from our roads. Just as important, NVTC has become a training ground for staff and elected leaders, helping to inform policy makers and the public about the value of and urgent need for investing in transit choices. For example, the ranks of the Commission's past chairmen include our colleague, Representative JIM MORAN, who served on NVTC during his tenure as the Mayor of Alexandria, my predecessor, Tom Davis, who served as chair during his tenure on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and, yes, me. I was pleased to serve on the Commission throughout my tenure on the Fairfax Board of Supervisors.

Let me take just a few moments to recount some of the major milestones that have shaped the success of the NVTC and the growth of our region. Two major actions in 1964 laid the groundwork for NVTC to flourish. First, Congress and President Lyndon Johnson passed the Urban Mass Transit Act, which pumped \$375 million over three years into public transit projects across the nation. The Virginia General Assembly followed by creating the Northern Virginia Transportation District to plan and construct a transportation network that promoted safety, convenience, and economic growth.

The Commission did not waste time, starting work on a rapid transit system that first year.

Two years later, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (or Metro) compact, a partnership among the regional jurisdictions, was created, and planning began for bus and future rail routes. Momentum increased during the 1970s. NVTC received a federal grant to build the nation's first transit way, the Shirley Highway Bus Project. Metro broke ground with Blue, Orange and Yellow Line service to Virginia starting in the late '70s. NVTC launched a new program known then as Computeride, which later became Commuter Connections, to help commuters plan their trips to work and establish carpools.

NVTC secured a major victory in the early 1980s when it worked with the Virginia General Assembly to pass a 2 percent regional gas tax to support Metro bus and rail service. Planning also began for a new commuter rail service extending to Prince William and Stafford counties. Transit service continued to expand during the 1990s with the new Virginia Railway Express (VRE). In 1996, NVTC was awarded the American Public Transportation Association's Outstanding Government Agency Award. During the past decade, NVTC has been actively planning the next generation transportation network to meet the challenges of Northern Virginia's growth and working with elected leaders at all levels to provide the dedicated funding that will be necessary to deliver those improvements.

It is fitting that NVTC marks its 50th anniversary with one of the largest expansions of the Metro system with the opening of the new Silver Line with service to Tysons and Reston earlier this year. There are now 156 million transit trips in Northern Virginia. Metro, with 91 stations across the region, including 25 in Virginia with six more under construction with phase 2 of the Silver Line, serves more than 750,000 rider trips a day. Metro bus now has 335 routes and 15,000 bus stops throughout the region. VRE, which now operates 30 trains from 18 stations, carries 20,000 passengers daily. Of course, all of that is supplemented by the cities and counties with their own transit services. Demonstrating the tremendous reach and success of NVTC's collective efforts, transit and ridesharing now carry nearly 50 percent of the region's peak travelers.

Mr. Speaker, the success of NVTC has fueled the success of not only Northern Virginia, but also the National Capital Region. The tradition of collaboration and shared investment that has characterized NVTC will serve our communities for generations to come. NVTC's collaborative success gives witness to the fact that our politics can work to serve our constituents. I was proud to be a part of it for 14 years, and I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the staff and leadership, both past and present, of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission for their commitment to providing a world-class transportation system and improving the quality of life for those who live and work in the National Capital Region.

**A TRIBUTE TO BISHOP-ELECT
PASTOR WALTER F. HARVEY**

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on October 31–November 2, 2014, Parklawn Assembly of

God Church will celebrate the Installation of Pastor Walter F. Harvey to the Episcopal Assignment of Bishop. Also, during this special and historic weekend when Pastor Harvey will be installed, Parklawn Assembly of God Church will celebrate its 105th Anniversary.

Bishop-Elect Walter F. Harvey has been the Senior Pastor of Parklawn Assembly of God Church since 1993. He is the devoted husband of Judy Martin Harvey, the father of Nicholas J. Harvey and grandfather of Autumn Marie Harvey. Since assuming the role of Senior Pastor, he has not only led the worship facility in the renovation of the building but also instituted a new church constitution and bylaws which has brought a spirit of renewal to the church and the community. Bishop-Elect Harvey is an author, mentor, and life coach. He is the President of Walter Harvey Ministries, Inc., an international media communications and consulting firm and can be heard daily on the "Light for the World" and "Light for Today" radio broadcasts. Further, he founded the Parklawn Christian Leadership Academy in 1998.

Bishop-Elect Harvey is in great demand as a speaker around his community, city, nationally and internationally. He serves the Assemblies of God statewide and at the national level as a General Presbyter and vice president of the National Black Fellowship of the Assemblies of God, as an Executive Presbyter of the Wisconsin/Northern Michigan Ministry Network and as an Ethnic/Language Presbyter. He also serves pastors as an overseer of the Outpouring Ministry Network Group; a group of seven Milwaukee area pastors/ministries. Bishop-Elect Harvey serves on the boards of various social, economic, educational and philanthropic organizations. He is a man of God who not only serves the members of his congregation, but reaches out to make community a better place.

Mister Speaker, this is why I rise to praise Bishop-Elect Walter F. Harvey, a man I am proud to call a friend. I honor Bishop-Elect Walter F. Harvey's many accomplishments and life time commitment to the entire Milwaukee Community and 4th Congressional District.

**HONORING LIBERTY COMMON HIGH
SCHOOL**

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention to Liberty Common High School's (LCHS) outstanding performance on the ACT college readiness assessment. Liberty Common High School is a relatively new public high school located in Fort Collins, Colorado, and its students performed exceptionally on this year's exam. Liberty's achievement not only shows the intellectual strength of the Class of 2015, but also demonstrates the overall success of the charter school's educational program.

The ACT is a college readiness assessment that all Colorado high school students are required to take in their junior year. In both 2012 and 2013, Liberty Common High School achieved the highest composite ACT score in the state of Colorado. This year, Liberty Com-

mon High School's composite score of 28.63 was not only the highest of all the high schools in Colorado, but was also the highest in the history of our great state. LCHS also now holds the record for every subject category on the ACT. These feats are particularly impressive given the fact that LCHS only opened in 2010 and is such a young school. It has obtained the highest ACT score in the state in every year that its students have taken the test.

Academic achievement at this level not only shows the success of a charter school built on parental involvement, but also the strength of the curriculum taught at Liberty Common High School. The principal of Liberty Common High School, former Congressman Bob Schaffer said, "These scores are a reflection of a solid classical, college-preparatory curriculum we've built atop the powerful Core Knowledge curriculum we use in grades K through eight." This Core Knowledge curriculum, along with the character education in both elementary and high school, is structured in a way so that students' knowledge builds upon what they learned in the previous year. The foundational skills learned in the elementary grades allow students to reach a higher level of education in high school.

While in high school, LCHS students are not only challenged by their classes and teachers, but also by their peers. Members of Liberty Common High School's Class of 2015, who have just recently set the ACT composite score record for the state of Colorado, attribute their success, in part, to the class which preceded them. The Class of 2014 not only set the bar high for the class below them, but held sessions that helped juniors prepare for the ACT early. They challenged the Class of 2015 to beat their score while helping them to do so. A student community like the one at Liberty allows students to invite others to try their best while offering help to one another in the process.

This score is outstanding, but what is more outstanding is what this score symbolizes—a school run by parents, chosen by parents, and supported by parents preparing their children to achieve in college and in life. Successes like these should not go unnoticed, but instead should be highlighted as an example for what a great public education can achieve.

**RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBU-
TIONS OF MELBA LUCIANO**

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Melba Luciano. Mrs. Luciano earned her bachelor's degree in Health Education from Hunter College in New York and a master's degree in Educational Leadership from Nova University.

A dedicated educator, she has over 30 years of experience in education, through a variety of positions including Classroom Assistant, Teacher, Elementary Resource Specialist, Assistant Principal, Principal, and Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. She began her career with the Osceola School District in 1986, and was