

After retiring from Broward County Public Schools in the mid 1980s, she taught at Phyllis Wheatley Elementary in the Dade County School System. Building on her teaching career, she received her Master's Degree in Education from Florida Atlantic University (FAU) in Boca Raton, Florida, as well as a Doctorate in Social Psychology and Physiology from Eastern Pennsylvania University.

Gwen made many significant contributions to her community through her passion for education. As a pioneer change agent, she was "the first" many times over in the political realm. Gwen was the first African American appointed to the Judicial Selection Board by Governor Lawton Chiles, the first African American appointed to the Personnel Advisory Board by Commissioner John Hart, the first African American female to run for office in the City of Lauderdale Lakes, the first female swimming coach for Dillard High School, and the first principal of Dillard High Community School.

When Gwen retired, she continued to be a staunch educational advocate. She was one of the founding members and one of the original incorporators of the Sistrunk Historical Festival and the Lalee Terrace Rebuild Foundation. Furthermore, Gwen founded the Broward Branch of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

She initiated the Elders Council of the African American Research Library and Cultural Center to gather stories about African American pioneers of Broward County for her book entitled, *Across the Tracks*. Additionally, Gwen was a board member for the Literacy Coalition of Broward County, chairperson of the Lauderdale Lakes School Advisory Board, Vice President of the Northwest Democratic Executive Board, Treasurer of the Pride of Fort Lauderdale Elks Lodge, Temple #395, a member of the Order of Eastern Stars, an advisor to the Dillard High School Alumni & Friends Association, Inc., and a member of the Planning and Zoning Board for Broward County.

Gwen was the recipient of numerous awards and honors. In 2011, she received the Rosa Parks Award and the Mildred Hastings Tenacity Award, which was named in honor of my late mother.

A long-time member and officer of Mount Hermon AME Church, Gwen had the very first wedding there on June 11, 1954. She was happily married to Tommie Lee for almost 60 years. She is survived by her husband; four adult children, Charles Holiday, Sr., Kenneth Hankerson, Sr., Evangelist Allison Hankerson-Harris, and Attorney Terri Lynn Hankerson; 11 grandchildren; and 12 great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, the Hankerson family and friends, our nation, Florida, and Broward County have lost a remarkable person who made life better for humankind.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3865, STOP TARGETING OF POLITICAL BELIEFS BY THE IRS ACT OF 2014; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2804, ALL ECONOMIC REGULATIONS ARE TRANSPARENT ACT OF 2014; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on the rule governing debate for H.R. 2804, the "All Economic Regulations Are Transparent Act of 2014," the so-called "ALERRT Act."

H.R. 2804 makes numerous changes to the federal rule-making process, including: (1) requiring agencies to consider numerous new criteria when issuing rules, such as alternatives to rules proposals; (2) requiring agencies to review the "indirect" costs of proposed and existing rules; (3) giving the Small Business Administration expanded authority to intervene in the rule-making of other agencies; and (4) requiring federal agencies to file monthly reports on the status of their rule-making activities.

I cannot support this legislation in its present form for two reasons, one procedural and one substantive.

Procedurally, I oppose the bill because in its present form it was never considered by the Judiciary Committee. This bill was reported by the Oversight and Government Reform Committee on a party line 19–15 vote but was not acted on by Judiciary Committee.

As reported, the bill contained only provisions relating to monthly reporting requirements regarding agency rule-making.

But the bill being brought to the floor now includes three additional and very controversial Judiciary bills (H.R. 2122, Regulatory Accountability Act; H.R. 1493, Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act; and H.R. 2542, Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act).

This is not the way to legislate on matters that have such serious consequences for the public health and safety.

Substantively, I oppose the underlying bill this rule makes in order because it imposes uneeded and costly analytical and procedural requirements on agencies that would prevent them from performing their statutory responsibilities to protect the public health and safety.

I oppose the bill also because it creates unnecessary regulatory and legal uncertainty, increases costs for businesses and State, local and tribal governments, and impedes common-sense protections for the American public.

Mr. Speaker, the bill is unnecessary and invites frivolous litigation. When a federal agency promulgates a regulation, it already must adhere to the requirements of the statute that it is implementing.

Agencies already must adhere to the robust and well-understood procedural requirements of federal law, including the Administrative Procedure Act, the Regulatory Flexibility Act

(RFA), the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA), the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), and the Congressional Review Act.

Regulatory agencies already are required to promulgate regulations only upon a reasoned determination that the benefits of the regulations justify the costs and to consider regulatory alternatives. Final regulations are subject to review by the federal courts which, among other things, examine whether agencies have satisfied the substantive and procedural requirements of all applicable statutes.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2804 in its current form does not include an exemption for rules promulgated by the Department of Homeland Security to protect the safety of the American people and the security of our country.

For this reason, I offered an amendment that provides this important exception and I thank the Rules Committee for making it in order.

The security of the homeland is one of the most preeminent concerns of the federal government. The increased need for national security following the attacks of September 11th makes it important that the Department of Homeland Security not be unduly impeded in the promulgation of rules that may preempt attacks against our nation.

Unnecessary delays to rules set forth by the Department of Homeland Security can waste scarce resources that keep our nation safe as well as impede the regular operations of the agency.

I urge all Members to support the Jackson Lee Amendment to H.R. 2804.

THE REDUCE EXPENDITURES IN NUCLEAR INVESTMENTS NOW (REIN-IN) ACT OF 2014

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduced the Reduce Expenditures in Nuclear Investments Now (REIN-IN) Act of 2014. The bill would save \$100 billion over the next 10 years by reducing or eliminating unnecessary nuclear weapons programs. Senator EDWARD J. MARKEY (D-MA) has introduced companion legislation in the Senate, the SANE Act.

We must significantly reduce U.S. spending on nuclear weapons, delivery systems, and related programs. Today, the United States spends more in this arena than it did at the height of the Cold War. A recent report from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that between 2014 and 2023, the costs of the Administration's plans for nuclear forces will total \$470 billion. Other estimates come close to \$700 billion, which is more than the federal government will spend on education over the next five years. Worse, there are plans in the works to spend billions of dollars modernizing our nuclear stockpile of missiles, submarines, and bombers, committing us to decades more of waste.

We need to change direction.

My legislation will make the nation safer. The large number of high-alert weapons we have now leaves dangerous room for human error. For example, in August 2007, a B–52

flew cross-country while unknowingly carrying six nuclear-armed, air-launched missiles. Just last month, the Air Force had to suspend 92 launch officers—or missileers—at Malmstrom Air Force Base, MT, where a drug investigation also uncovered that missileers may have been cheating on proficiency exams. The REIN-IN Act, which is supported by over two dozen organizations, will increase Americans' safety by cutting the number of intercontinental ballistic missiles currently on 24-hour high alert from 450 to 150.

We don't need an expensive stockpile of nuclear weapons that will never use to create a prosperous and secure society. As costs for our nation grow, there are areas where we can cut spending. The first place we should start is with our unnecessary and expensive spending on nuclear weapons that are more suited for the Cold War than the strategic challenges we face today.

I look forward to working with the President and Congress to pass the REIN-IN Act, which will not only reduce overall spending, but reprioritize investments that will actually make the United States safer, more livable, and economically secure.

HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY
OF MR. AL H. CHESSE

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2014

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of Al H. Chesser, President Emeritus of the United Transportation Union, a lifetime advocate for his brothers and sisters in labor, and my dear and wonderful friend.

I've had the blessing of working with Al for decades as he advocated and fought for the rights of countless workers throughout his career. His knowledge of the needs of our nation's workers and our labor laws, as well as his experience in the often delicate workings of Congress and our legislative process, made

Al one of the most respected and relied-on leaders of the labor movement.

He began his work life in 1935, becoming a clerk at a Kroger grocery store in Kansas. He then went on to represent the Trainmen and then UTU, and served as a Vice President of the AFL-CIO's executive council, as well as Chairman of their Constitution Committee. Hard work and long hours have followed Al since that first grocery store clerk job, and—through his dedication—our workplaces are safer and work quality has improved. He has spent his life making the rights and best interests of others his own, and to this day the lasting mark he's left on each and every worker and legislator he has encountered remains. I am proud to consider Al to be one of the most honorable and fine men I have had the blessing to work with, whether we were taking time just to speak as friends or working together to solve a rail strike.

I'm proud to recognize my dear friend Al Chesser as he is joined by friends and family in celebrating his 100 years of life on March 1, 2014, and I look forward to many more years of friendship.

RECOGNITION OF THE 26TH ANNIVERSARY OF POGROMS AGAINST ARMENIANS IN SUMGAIT

HON. TONY CÁRDENAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2014

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the twenty-sixth anniversary of pogroms against people of Armenian descent in Sumgait, Azerbaijan, and call for long-overdue justice.

On February 27th 1988, Sumgait was the scene for organized anti-Armenian violence, leading to the death of more than thirty Armenians, with hundreds more gravely injured. Armenians were attacked and maimed for three days. Despite Baku's 30-minute proximity to Sumgait, police failed to react, allowing the brutality to continue.

This brutality took many forms and was well-documented. On May 22nd 1988, The New York Times reported Armenians being "hunted" down and gave an account of a pregnant Armenian woman who had been disembowelled so that the unborn baby could be mutilated. Two months earlier, The Washington Post gave accounts of an Armenian skinned alive and a woman being raped and murdered after her breasts were cut off. These atrocities were highlighted by the Members of Congress at the time, who condemned this state-sponsored massacre against Armenian civilians.

The failure to act by the Azerbaijani authorities and our failure to compel action has resulted in a tidal wave of animosity towards the Armenians, which manifests itself in several ways. Azerbaijani forces east of Karabagh continue to disregard the ceasefire established after the Karabagh war in 1994. Ramil Safarov, who decapitated an Armenian Lieutenant while he slept during a NATO-sponsored training program in 2004, returned home as a hero and was held up as "an example of patriotism for the Azerbaijani youth" by the Commissioner for Human Rights of Azerbaijan, Elmira Suleymanova. All the while, Ilham Aliyev continues his brazen rhetoric; consistently declaring Armenians as the national enemy in an effort to unite the Azeri public.

The hatred towards the Armenians is unrelenting, even at the expense of the freedom of their own people. When 75 year old Alcam Ayslisi—one of Azerbaijan's most celebrated writers—had the temerity to consider the conflict from an unbiased perspective, he was subjected to a witch hunt that would not have looked out of place in medieval Europe. His books were burnt. He was stripped of his national literary awards, and, most worryingly, a high ranking politician had promised \$13,000 to anyone who could cut off his ear.

I call upon all of my colleagues and fellow Americans to join me in condemning the continued violence and injustice, and continue efforts to ensure that these atrocities never repeat themselves.