

insight on some of the challenges small minority-owned and women-owned businesses face and what I can do as a Member of Congress to help.

I also hope that by sharing their story, I can inspire other women to realize their dreams of running their own businesses. Let us all continue to work together to ensure that all women enjoy equal opportunity, because when women succeed, America succeeds.

COMMEMORATING THE OCCASION OF MR. HOUSTON WAGGONER'S 93RD BIRTHDAY

(Mr. MCALLISTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCALLISTER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to commemorate Mr. Houston Waggoner on the occasion of his 93rd birthday, which he and his loved ones celebrated, fishing, on March the 17th.

Mr. Waggoner is a proud World War II Navy veteran who has lived the American Dream. As a father of eight children, he worked for 30 years before retiring as a bag plant manager and starting his own small business, Chatham Automotive Parts and Supply, in 1972.

After owning his own business for 18 years, he retired for a second time in 1990. He now resides in Jackson Parish and enjoys hunting, fishing, and involvement with The National World War II Museum in New Orleans, where he is a member.

Mr. Waggoner exemplifies a strong character of leadership and dedication. As his family and friends continue to celebrate and honor him, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Waggoner a very happy 93rd birthday.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY'S ANNIVERSARY MARCH 26, 2014

(Mr. ENYART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding institution of higher education in Illinois. Southern Illinois University School of Law celebrates its 40th anniversary this month.

We spend our time here on the House floor discussing, debating, and voting on laws which impact American citizens while the faculty and staff of SIU Law develop the next generation of great legal minds.

With humble beginnings in 1973, that first year began with 90 students and eight faculty members. SIU Law today is a nationally recognized institution with alumni practicing in 49 States and 11 countries.

The school's 3,800 graduates include military general officers, over 90 State and Federal judges, and at least one United States Congressman.

Please join me in congratulating my alma mater, Southern Illinois University School of Law, for 40 years of serving students.

Go Dawgs.

SUPREME COURT COMMENTS

(Mr. GOHMERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I went over and heard the audio as the argument before the Supreme Court was taking place. It was shocking to hear a Supreme Court Justice ask Paul Clement why his client didn't just pay the tax and then they could have their religious ideas and religious beliefs. Of course, he called it a penalty, as the statute called it.

She said: Well, the legislation called it a tax. She didn't even know that the majority opinion said on page 15 that it is a penalty because Congress called it a penalty. Forty pages later, the majority called it a tax so they could uphold it.

Outrageous. Pay your religion tax, and then you can have your religious beliefs in America. Where is it going to stop if we don't stop it now?

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Ms. LEE of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in calling for a vote on comprehensive immigration reform. We have bipartisan legislation that has the support of the American people and the votes needed to pass the House.

Our system has been broken for far too long. In my own district, there are heart-wrenching stories of families who came here for a chance at the American Dream only to have been torn apart and separated.

Not only is comprehensive immigration reform morally right, it is the right thing to do for our economy. Also, the Congressional Budget Office this week found that passing H.R. 15 would reduce the deficit by \$900 billion over the next two decades. The economic benefits are clear.

Now is the time to pass a fair immigration plan which provides a pathway to citizenship, reunites families, and helps grow our economy. The Senate passed immigration reform last year. Now the House must act. We have the votes. Let's do it now.

OBAMACARE HAS BEEN A FAILURE

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, so here we go again. Yet another change, an-

other modification in ObamaCare, another deadline extended. I don't understand it. If there was such a clamor for socialized medicine, why aren't people standing in droves to sign up for ObamaCare?

I can tell you why. Because it has not decreased their premium, it has not increased their quality, and it has not increased access to health care. ObamaCare has been a failure.

We need to replace it with market-driven, patient-centered health care where the doctor and the patient are in charge of health care. We need to have health care that gives consumers options and health savings accounts so that they have more choices and they can pocket whatever savings they create. We need to allow consumers to buy health care across State lines so that there will be more competition. We need to allow small businesses to band together so that they can get the economies of scale that large businesses get. And we need to push back on frivolous lawsuits so that doctors aren't practicing defensive medicine.

Mr. Speaker, these are things we can do that will make health care increase in quality and go down in price.

NATIONAL JAZZ PRESERVATION, EDUCATION AND PROMULGATION ACT OF 2014

(Mr. CONYERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, I am introducing a Jazz Appreciation Month piece of legislation entitled the "National Jazz Preservation, Education and Promulgation Act of 2014."

In 1986, I introduced a bill in which simply sought to make a compelling statement about the importance of Jazz within American culture. Its final clause read:

Now, therefore be it Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), that it is the sense of the Congress that jazz is hereby designated as a rare and valuable national American treasure to which we should devote our attention, support and resources to make certain it is preserved, understood and promulgated.

The jazz community came together in strong support of that legislation, and through many phone calls and letters generated enough cosponsorships to get House Concurrent Resolution 57 passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on September 23, 1987. The fact that the 23rd was John Coltrane's birthday made the accomplishment even more special for me and was able to secure approval of the bill by the U.S. Senate a little more than two months later, on December 4, 1987.

During my work on that bill, which has come to be known as the "Jazz Resolution," I saw it inspire successful jazz-related political activity at the local governmental level in New York City, in Philadelphia and in Washington, DC. While each of these legislative victories were a milestone for the music, with each making profound statements about the importance of jazz in those communities, none of them directed financial resources toward its support.

So, a couple of years later, I began working through the Congressional appropriations process to do just that.

In the Fall of 1990, I secured funding for the creation of the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra. I was able to obtain additional funds for the Smithsonian's Jazz program on three subsequent occasions. The result has been the solidification of a comprehensive Jazz program that involves preservation, education and performance. I chose to focus my efforts on the Smithsonian Institution because it serves as the nation's treasure chest. It is where all things American that are historic and valued are kept. I wanted Jazz to have an appropriate and permanent place at the Smithsonian. It has that now.

I want to express my special thanks to Dr. John Hasse, the Smithsonian's Curator of American Music, for his leadership and strong support for Jazz. I also want to congratulate him on establishing Jazz Appreciation Month (JAM). Today, is the kick-off of the 13th JAM, which has grown to become a global celebration of Jazz as America's classical music. I am pleased that John Coltrane, one of our nation's greatest musicians and composers, was selected to be the focus of the 2014 JAM poster and today's JAM activities. The "Acknowledgement" of his recording "A Love Supreme" 50 years ago in December 1964 is a prelude to honor John Coltrane. The fact that his original score of that iconic composition is a part of the Smithsonian's collections and is on display there today is much appreciated.

Jazz is now well over 100 years old. Scores of many remarkable compositions, artifacts, documents, and photographs are in private hands, at risk of getting damaged, lost, or being sold abroad. In addition, jazz education at the elementary and secondary school level is virtually impossible to find. As such, in order to ensure the continued prominence of Jazz as a part America's cultural heritage, I have just introduced H.R. 4280, the National Jazz Preservation, Education, and Promulgation Act of 2014. This legislation would enable the further implementation of the mandate established in H. Con. Res. 57. It will help our nation preserve its jazz heritage, educate our youth about this national treasure, and encourage the promulgation of jazz by fostering opportunities for jazz artists to create and share their music with the public here and abroad.

H.R. 4280 would authorize funding to establish a National Jazz Preservation Program at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History. The Program would create oral and video histories of leading jazz artists, acquire, preserve and interpret artifacts, and conduct exhibitions and other educational activities that would enable generations of Americans to learn about and enjoy jazz. The Program would also work with local museums, educational institutions and community organizations to establish jazz collections and share artifacts between them.

In addition, the legislation promotes jazz education in several ways. It encourages the introduction of jazz to our youth by authorizing funding to establish a Jazz Artists in the Schools Program. This program should be modeled on the successful one previously operated by the National Endowment for the Arts. It also authorizes funding for the development of jazz education curriculum and materials and their dissemination to educators at

all levels. The bill authorizes funding for a Jazz Ambassadors Program. This program should be modeled on the historic one that the U.S. State Department launched back in 1956. That program sent noted American jazz musicians abroad to perform. My bill would enable young jazz musicians and jazz ensembles from secondary schools to be sent abroad on missions of goodwill, education, and cultural exchange.

Finally, HR 4280 promotes the promulgation of jazz by authorizing funding to support a nationwide series of performances by jazz artists. This would be done through the establishment of a Jazz Appreciation Program at the Smithsonian Institution. This program would work through the network of Smithsonian Affiliates to host jazz concerts. The Affiliates network includes more than 180 museums, educational and cultural organizations in more than 40 states, Puerto Rico and Panama.

I encourage all of you to take a look at and consider supporting H.R. 4280. I also encourage you to share a copy of it with others that have an interest in America's jazz music.

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HOMEOWNER FLOOD INSURANCE AFFORDABILITY ACT

(Mr. ROONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, I was happy to see the President sign H.R. 3370, the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act. This bill is an important first step in addressing affordability in the national flood insurance program, but we have a long way to go to put solvency back into the system.

We are working hard not only through the appropriations process, but also with leadership and other Members in coastal districts whose constituents have been victims of the rate increases brought about by Biggert-Waters. H.R. 3370 has some great provisions, including: removal of the dreaded "sales trigger" that would have devastated the housing and real estate markets in Florida and other states. Perhaps most importantly, we were able to reassure FEMA of the importance of the affordability study.

Mr. Speaker, the next step is to find new ways to stabilize NFIP and make flood insurance more affordable for homeowners and small businesses. I will continue working with my colleagues in Florida and across the country to put some stability back in this important system.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS DISCUSSES FRACKING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, and we are here today to talk about the issue of frac-

turing, also known as fracking, and the need to have more regulation on fracking to protect our environment, our groundwater, our air, and the families who live around the over half-million wells that are across the country, and also talk a little bit about global warming.

The Progressive Caucus has been at the forefront of talking about issues that are important to our environment. We have so much to do to stop the effects of global warming that are happening. Climate change is real. It is one of the greatest threats that we have to our country and to our planet. There are increasing CO₂ levels in our atmosphere, and if we continue to leave that unchecked, they carry very dire consequences for the future of the planet.

Rising sea levels, unpredictable and dangerous weather patterns, and drought are all examples of the consequences of failing to take action to address this threat. For generations, those who have come before us have held the ideal that they should leave their descendants with a better life. This is an integral part of our American story.

I joined the Safe Climate Caucus because I believe in leaving a safer environment for future generations of Americans. Stewardship of our environment, of the air we breathe and the water we drink, is essential to this commitment.

That is why I am here today to voice my support for commonsense legislation that will end unnecessary exemptions that protect the oil and gas industry from basic regulations and instead extend protections for our families and communities in all areas that effect global warming. But specifically tonight, we want to talk a little bit about fracturing.

I would like to first yield to a colleague, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE), a great poet. I think we are going to be entertained and informed through that entertainment.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time. This is just a little short ditty because I am very concerned as a person who lives in an inner city environment, I have become intensely aware of how environmental injustice affects the health and safety of our communities.

So I just wanted to talk a little bit about fracking this evening.

As we frack, under intense pressure, we force a fissure through the delicate veins of our unbound Earth and a black hole forms, poisoning the valley and streams of our spirit.

Man, don't you fear it? Wrecking the ecosystem and trekking recklessly over pristine black loam.

Man, don't you hear it? The harsh acid rain as it drains into the vital marsh of our existence.

Oh, but, of course, the coarse priority of wealth strips our Earth's fertility and reservoir of life. Fracked and cracked, lost, perhaps for all eternity.