

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Ms. Stockton, Principal of the Year Award nominee for Prince William County Public Schools, and in thanking her for her dedication to leadership in our school system. Her continued service will ensure that students of Prince William County are provided with a world class education in a more vibrant learning community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S BELOVED CLARENCE OLIN MARLER

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of Northwest Florida's beloved Clarence Olin Marler. On July 9, 2015, Destin, Florida—the "World's Luckiest Fishing Village"—and the recreational boating community suffered a great loss with his passing.

Olin Marler was born in Destin on October 10, 1934, to the late Clarence L. Marler and Gladys Marler. A proud Northwest Floridian, he also pursued his higher education in the area, graduating from the University of West Florida with a Bachelor of Science in Management. It was during his time working as a defense contractor with Vitro Services, now known as BAE Systems, that Olin began his career as a Charter Boat Captain, purchasing his first charter boat in 1965. As a result of his dedication and hard work, what began as a small weekend business, Olin Marler Charters would flourish into one of the oldest and most successful charter boat operations in the State of Florida, and over the years, Olin helped thousands of locals and tourists experience the God-given natural beauty of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico.

To some, Olin Marler will be remembered as a legendary boat captain; to others, he will be remembered for his great stories and his love of fishing. To his friends and family, however, he will forever be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. While fishing and the smiles on his customers' faces brought Olin great happiness, his greatest blessing and love was his family.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize the life of Clarence Olin Marler. Without question, his contributions to the Northwest Florida economy will be felt for years to come; however, more important was the joy Olin brought to his customers, friends, and family, and the legacy he leaves behind. My wife Vicki and I extend our heartfelt prayers and condolences to his wife, Donna; sons, Greg and Andrew; daughter, Hannah; grandchildren, Caden Lee Olin Marler, Mallisa Marler Scott and Jacob Marler; great-grandchildren; and the entire Marler family.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, July 10 is a special day to me. It marks the day of my first floor speech as a member of the United States House of Representatives, and I rise to recognize and celebrate two great men who have been influential in my life. They are John Forrest Kelly, my oldest son, who was born on this date in 1995, and my father, John M. Kelly, who was born on July 9, 1941.

I rise in recognition and honor of my son, John Forrest Kelly. John Forrest, or JFK as we commonly refer to him, was born in Tupelo, Mississippi to Sheila Stephens Kelly and me. John Forrest was the first grandchild for both his paternal and maternal lines. JFK is an extremely smart and articulate man. He graduated from Saltillo High School in 2013. During his high school career, he achieved high academic success. He was a well-liked and well-rounded student-athlete. He played one year of football and started for the Saltillo High School Tigers Baseball Team as an outfielder. After high school, he received academic scholarships and is currently a business major at the University of Mississippi; he is a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity. John Forrest is an extremely bright young man, and I am confident of a bright future in whatever career path he chooses. I am extremely proud of him and his two siblings Morgan Grace (age 16) and Jackson Trent (age 9).

I rise in remembrance and honor of my father, John M. Kelly. John, commonly referred to as Big John, Papa John, Top, 1SG Kelly, or Papaw, was born on July 9, 1941 in Newton County, Mississippi to Madison Houston Kelly and Ludie Irene Robinson Kelly. The youngest child, his parents were small farmers in Newton County, Mississippi. John excelled in sports, playing basketball, baseball, and football for both Union and Decatur High Schools. He graduated in 1959 from Decatur High School. On June 3, 1961, he married Barbara Carolyn Mott Kelly. Married for 44 years, Big John and Barbara had three children: Lisa Renee Kelly Carley, and two sons, JOHN TRENT KELLY and James Kevin Kelly. With Barbara and his daughter Lisa by his side, Big John passed away from lung cancer on February 7, 2005, while both of his sons were deployed to Iraq as members of the 150th Engineer Battalion, 155th Brigade Combat Team.

Big John was a loving and caring father and a great provider for his family. John started out on the line in the furniture industry. Through hard work and intelligence, he worked his way up to managing furniture plants. He was a foreman, supervisor, superintendent and held many other leadership positions throughout his life. John always made time for family and community, coaching his sons, daughter and others in Union, Mississippi little league baseball until they went to high school.

In 1959, he joined the Mississippi Army National Guard until his retirement in 2001 at the mandatory retirement age of 60. He served with both his sons during his tenure in the National Guard, including mobilizing in 1990 for Desert Shield/Storm in the 134th Combat En-

gineer Company, 155th Armored Brigade. During Desert Storm, John was a Staff Sergeant and Engineer Squad Leader, I was an Engineer Second Lieutenant and Platoon Leader, and Kevin was a Specialist 4 and Engineer Soldier. John was First Sergeant for three of the four companies of the 150th Combat Engineer Battalion and retired as a Master Sergeant and Operations Sergeant in the 150th Engineer Battalion, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team.

Big John was always a caring and giving individual and was loved by most people who knew him. He was never too busy to help anyone in need. I have often said during my life if I am half the man my father was I will be a great man. He was a great husband to my wonderful mother, Barbara. He was a great inspiration and role model for me and my siblings and the best father and grandfather a man could ever ask to have.

Happy Birthday to my son, John Forrest Kelly, and to my father, John "Big John" "Daddy" Kelly. I thank and honor them both for being such a great influence in my life. I love them both with all my heart and soul. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to acknowledge and honor two very important men in my life, one with a great past, the other with a promising future.

STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5) to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5, the "Student Success Act," which would harm the education of our nation's youth.

I thank Chairman KLINE, Ranking Member SCOTT, and all the members of the Committee on Education and the Workforce for their work to improve education for our nation's children.

Unfortunately, the bill before the House for consideration, should it become law, would harm our most vulnerable children, including those who attend urban and rural schools, and special needs children who need equal access to an excellent education.

In my 18th District of Texas, over 30% of students in the Houston Independent School district (HISD) live below the poverty line.

H.R. 5 threatens to cut over \$17 million from HISD, one of the largest reductions in Title I funding in the state of Texas.

I cannot stand by and support legislation that takes funds and resources away from children who are already struggling to meet their own basic needs.

This bill allows Title I "portability" which would allow states to redirect funds away from high concentrations of poverty and siphon monies to low-poverty schools.

This proposal, if enacted, would allow states to redirect funds away from districts with the highest concentrations of poverty, and into

more affluent districts with less need for such support.

The vast majority of the children affected by "portability," are black or Hispanic.

As legislators, as Americans, we have a generational responsibility to enhance the lives of those who will follow us, especially the most vulnerable.

H.R. 5 guts education funding, while diverting funds away from high-poverty schools by freezing funding at FY 2015 levels for six years, which represents over \$800 million in cuts to these programs compared to pre-sequester funding.

Mr. Chair, what does it say about our commitment to our youth that we are willing to cut funding for the future leaders of America?

For decades, we threw money at education without making sure our schools were actually improving, or whether we were giving teachers the tools they need, or whether our taxpayer dollars were being used effectively.

And our students too often paid the price.

The bill as it exists now allows for the establishment of separate, lower standards for students with developmental disabilities.

As a result of these standards, opportunities available for students with disabilities later in life would suffer considerably.

H.R. 5 converts much of the funding currently directed at English learners, migrant students, or at-risk students into block-grants, which would enable those funds to be spent outside the target populations.

Support for these students would also be eroded by suspending requirements that school districts improve the English-speaking ability of such students.

It is my concern as H.R. 5 is currently drafted abdicates the historic Federal role in elementary and secondary education of ensuring the educational progress of all of America's students, including students from low-income families, students with disabilities, English learners, and students of color.

'No Child Left Behind' needs to be fixed, but Republicans are pushing a bill that would gut education funding, eliminate and weaken protections for disadvantaged students, does not provide a well-rounded education for all students, and does not support educators.

The Statement of Administration Policy from the Obama administration agrees on the need for high-quality statewide annual testing as required in H.R. 5, so parents and teachers know how children and schools are doing from year to year and to allow for consistent measurement of school and student performance across the State.

However the administration has stated that this bill should do more to reduce redundant and unnecessary testing, such as asking States to limit the amount of time spent on standardized testing and requiring parental notification when testing is consuming too much classroom learning time.

In its current state the Obama administration recommends a veto of H.R. 5.

It is sobering to me, as the founder and co-chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus and someone who has long advocated on behalf of young people from all backgrounds, to see a bill that would have such a negative impact on the very children who need our help the most.

In addition to these sad truths, the bill currently under consideration would strike a devastating blow to our schools' ability to provide

the variety of programs that our children deserve.

It repeals dedicated funding for programs such as student safety, after and summer school programming, STEM education, education technology, arts education, literacy and block-grants support, forcing high-need districts to choose between funding vital services.

It should not be overlooked that one of these programs that is considered expendable is STEM-focused education, an area of importance both nationally and to my constituents in Houston.

The Houston region is one of the most important industrial bases in the world and was recently ranked the No. 1 U.S. manufacturing city by Manufacturers' News Inc.

Houston is also home to the largest medical complex in the world—the Texas Medical Center—and provides clinical health care, research and education at its 54 institutions.

These jobs, and truly the middle class of this decade as a whole, are dependent on workers who get the right STEM education and job training today.

Brookings' Metropolitan Policy Program's report "The Hidden STEM Economy" reported that in 2011, 26 million jobs or 20 percent of all occupations required knowledge in 1 or more STEM areas.

The same report stressed that fully half of all STEM jobs are available to workers without a 4 year degree and these jobs pay on average \$53,000 a year, which is 10 percent higher than jobs with similar education requirements.

To eliminate federal funding aimed at enhancing STEM education is to cripple an entire generation of America's youth, leaving them without skills that may be essential in securing their own future and the economic prosperity of our nation.

Finally, it must be addressed that the defining characteristic of our primary and secondary education system has been to prepare our students for college.

H.R. 5 does not contain any provisions that states consult with institutes of higher education in order to ensure that their academic standards are consistent with what will be demanded of those students once they graduate.

As a result, many students, even after receiving a high school diploma, will find themselves unprepared to pursue a college degree if they choose to.

We must look at the environments in which we are asking these students to succeed and ensure we have the best protections in place to provide safe educational institutions.

Amendment #93 of this bill, Jackson Lee Amendment, supports accountability-based programs and activities that are designed to enhance school safety, which may include research-based bullying prevention, cyberbullying prevention, disruption of recruitment activity by groups or individuals involved in violent extremism, and gang prevention programs as well as intervention programs regarding bullying.

H.R. 5 eliminates the current requirement that districts take action when their schools are under resourced and unable to meet the needs of all students.

Together with the lack of consideration and support for at-risk and low-income youth, this will result in those students being marginalized and denied educational opportunity rather than given the support and resources they so desperately need.

I urge all my colleagues to join with me and oppose the passage of H.R. 5.

CONGRATULATING ELDON HIGH SCHOOL ON ITS BRONZE MEDAL AWARD

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Eldon High School on its Bronze Medal Award as a top Missouri High School from U.S. News and World Report.

This school's administration, teachers, and students should be commended for all of their hard work throughout the past year and for their commitment to education.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Eldon High School for a job well done.

21ST CENTURY CURES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DEFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6) to accelerate the discovery, development, and delivery of 21st century cures, and for other purposes:

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chair, federal funding for biomedical research has been stagnant over the past several years, another victim of unwise and shortsighted sequestration and budget cuts that put deficit reduction before investments that can save lives.

With no increase to counter the effects of inflation and increased cost of research, NIH has lost 22 percent of its purchasing power over the last decade. NIH has been forced to cut or deny funding for thousands of promising studies that could hold the key to incredible breakthroughs.

We should do everything we can to bring cures to patients as quickly as possible. Far too many people suffer from rare, serious and deadly diseases, and its outrageous cures could be found except for the lack of funding. It's also important we make sure drugs are safe and actually do what they are intended to do. I have concerns with some of the proposed changes to FDA's approval process designed to speed drugs and devices to market. We need to be certain that the proposed changes will not subject patients to a high level of risk. I expect the Senate will review and fix those provisions when they take up the bill.

HR. 6 does what Congress has been unable to do because the Republican majority refuses to understand a simple fact: Funding biomedical research, just like investing in our roads and bridges, is an investment, not wasteful spending.