

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HIRE MORE HEROES ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 22) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act:

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member DEFAZIO for working with me on both of my amendments.

The amendment I offer would require the Department of Transportation to submit a report to the House Transportation Committee and the Senate Commerce Committee on research managed by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to develop a system to measure vertical track deflection caused by a moving railroad car.

Such a system should be able to identify a combination of factors that, individually, may not be able to cause a train derailment but that, together, could endanger safe train operations, such as deteriorated cross ties, fouled ballast, and other deficiencies in the structures that support rail tracks.

The amendment authorizes the Department of Transportation to develop a plan for using quantitative inspection criteria to identify poor track support systems if such an approach is supported by the FRA's research.

The amendment also authorizes the Department to develop a plan to install instruments to measure track deflection on its Automated Track Inspection Program geometry cars within 3 years of the date of enactment of this bill, if this approach is supported by the FRA's research.

I developed this amendment in very close consultation with the families of Rose Louese Mayr and Elizabeth Conway Nass, who were tragically killed in a coal train derailment that occurred in Ellicott City, Maryland, in my district, in 2012.

These families have worked tirelessly to understand the technical circumstances that led to the 2012 train derailment and to identify specific steps that can be taken to prevent future tragedies. I am deeply honored to have worked with them on this amendment.

According to the National Transportation Safety Board's (NTSB) report on the Ellicott City accident, "the point of derailment was a rail fracture several hundred feet" before a bridge. After extensive laboratory analysis, the NTSB concluded that the broken rail segment, "showed evidence of rolling contact fatigue, a gradual breakdown of the rail-head surface."

The Ellicott City accident is one of several recent accidents that have involved rail-head

wear and drawn attention to the ways in which the presence of multiple individual defects can eventually lead to a rail break.

While track conditions are addressed in current Federal Track Safety Standards, there are no quantitative inspection criteria. Consequently, these conditions are rarely cited as defects to be remediated.

I hope that we can build on the research foundation that my amendment requires and eventually develop rules that will address specific track conditions.

HIRE MORE HEROES ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 22) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, it is a sad commentary on the state of this House that the highway bill we are considering is being called a victory, and that the mere act of bringing a bill to the floor is a major step forward.

As a nation with a D+ grade on infrastructure from the American Society for Civil Engineers, we need an ambitious plan to rebuild and modernize. We need to invest in transit, fix structurally-deficient bridges, connect people to jobs, and move goods across the country. We need to put people to work in every community bringing our transportation system into the 21st century. That's why I introduced a version of the President's GROW America Act that would have invested more in our infrastructure.

Instead, we are considering a very modest proposal. It's a six year bill at current funding levels adjusted for inflation, with only three years of funding. The pay-fors include bad and inefficient policies like hiring private debt collectors to harass taxpayers. It dramatically cuts the TIFIA loan program and fails to provide adequate funding for transit. And it needlessly erodes environmental and community review of projects.

This bill does have some positive provisions providing resources for major projects, continuing funding for bike-ped and Safe Routes to School, and strengthening Buy American requirements. I appreciate that my amendment to allow communities to protect consumers from predatory towing has been included in the bill. And I strongly support reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank to open up international markets for American goods.

But I am disappointed that this bill does not go farther to improve and transform our trans-

portation networks. As we begin conference negotiations with the Senate, we must significantly boost investments, eliminate problematic offsets, and restore meaningful project review.

ROTARY CLUB OF WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Rotary Club of Wichita Falls, Texas, on its milestone of providing 100 years of service inside and outside of our community.

The Rotary Club of Wichita Falls consists of 90 dedicated men and women who make a difference on the local, national, and international level. The Club's motto is "Service Above Self," and this organization certainly abides by this statement with its many service projects and support for numerous organizations throughout the Wichita Falls area and beyond.

The wide variety of organizations supported by the Club includes the Boy Scouts, YMCA, Youth Leadership, and the Boys and Girls Club. In fact, the Boys and Girls Club has maintained a connection to the Rotary Club for an impressive 86 years and continues to flourish with its support. These programs provide needed growth and leadership opportunities for developing future leaders. The Club also plays a key role in a variety of adult programs, which includes the Adult Literacy Council, The Food Bank, American Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity, and the Salvation Army, just to name a few.

Additionally, the Wichita Falls Rotary Club provides many services and support for Sheppard Air Force Base (AFB), a base that plays a key role in training and equipping U.S. Air Force personnel. A highly notable program is the Squadron Adoption Program with the goal to establish and maintain exemplary relations between the permanent party military stationed at Sheppard AFB and the proactive leadership of the communities throughout Wichita County. Units from both the 82nd Training Wing and the 80th Flying Training Wing participate in this program. Groups like the Rotary Club play an important role in ensuring our military receives the support and gratitude they deserve. The Rotary Club also helps remind us that our country remains strong because of the sacrifice made by our men and women in the military.

Another important program the Rotary Club has adopted is the flag project, which consists of Rotary members placing American flags around the City of Wichita Falls. With this project alone, the Club has managed to raise and donate approximately \$700,000 to local and worldwide Rotary projects. These services

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

are proof that the dedicated men and women of the Wichita Falls Rotary Club can make a difference.

Serving others is one of the highest callings for any of us. For 100 years the Rotary Club of Wichita Falls has been serving and contributing in important ways. They deserve our congratulations and our appreciation as they move to their next 100 years of service.

THE 25TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF REVEREND ANTHONY L. TRUFANT

HON. HAKEEM S. JEFFRIES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 25th pastoral anniversary of Reverend Anthony L. Trufant, senior pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church. During his tenure, Pastor Trufant has overseen the church's exponential growth, community engagement, and raised its profile as one of the most innovative churches in the country. In recognition of his pastoral anniversary and invaluable service to our community Reverend Trufant was honored on November 13, 2015 at the Liberty Warehouse in Brooklyn, NY.

Rev. Trufant became the Pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Brooklyn's Clinton Hill neighborhood in 1990. Under his leadership the ministry stretches from New York to New Orleans, from Haiti's shantytowns to the townships of South Africa. Rev. Trufant has not only worked to improve the quality of life for our communities in Brooklyn but has partnered with Global Faith Works in Johannesburg, Pretoria and Cape Town. Emmanuel Baptist Church hosts their annual Mission of Thanks to South Africa where they support women entrepreneurs and Thaba Primary, a school for the local youth. These programs have helped countless individuals over the past 25 years and continue to aid people today.

Reverend Trufant was raised in Chicago, Illinois and earned a Bachelor of Arts from Morehouse and a Master of Divinity from Colgate Rochester. Rev. Trufant was licensed to preach in July 1981 and ordained in May 1988 by the Third Baptist Church in San Francisco, California. Rev. Trufant has also received a diploma in pastoral counseling from the Post Graduate Center for Mental Health and has completed coursework towards a Doctor of Ministry at Hebrew Union College.

Pastor Trufant is married to Muriel Lynette Goode Trufant, Esq. and is the father of two wonderful daughters, Sharise Emmanuel and Toni Niara.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in celebrating Reverend Anthony L. Trufant on his 25th Pastoral Anniversary. For his commitment to the people of Brooklyn and his service to the least of those among us, he is worthy of the highest praise.

RECOGNIZING NDI NEW MEXICO FOR ITS WORK EDUCATING NEW MEXICO'S CHILDREN

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize NDI New Mexico as a leader in excellent educational programming in the performing arts for New Mexico's children.

NDI New Mexico was founded in 1994 in Santa Fe. Over the last twenty years, NDI New Mexico has grown from serving 100 children in one school to reaching almost 10,000 children through in-school, after-school, summer, and advanced training classes in communities across the state. NDI New Mexico's mission is to provide inspirational programming in the arts that have a unique power to engage and motivate children. These programs have lasting effects on developing positive self-esteem and motivating students to learn inside and outside of the classroom. A recent long-term analysis of NDI's programming shows that students have on average a 1.0 higher GPA and higher standardized test score results than their non-participating peers. These results show the incredible impact that NDI has on its students' educational successes.

After-school and outreach programs are an important part of kids' educational opportunities. NDI's program gives students lessons in artistic expression, self-esteem, a strong work ethic, and a commitment to health and fitness. With over 90 programs in 34 communities across New Mexico, NDI works to improve educational outcomes and bridge opportunity gaps for New Mexico's students through the performing arts.

The strengths and impacts of NDI on New Mexico's children has been recognized throughout our communities, as it has been awarded Albuquerque Business First's Non Profit of the Year award in the Arts, Culture and Humanities category and Russell Baker, its Executive Director, was named Top CEO in the Non-Profit category. These awards celebrate NDI's outstanding, distinctive programs that aim to help children develop discipline, a standard of excellence, and a belief in themselves that will carry over into all aspects of their lives.

Once again, I congratulate NDI New Mexico for its quality educational programming, and thank the entire team for its exceptional work for New Mexico's children.

RECOGNIZING NORTHWEST INDIANA'S NEWLY NATURALIZED CITIZENS

HON. PETER J. VISCOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. VISCOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate thirty individuals who took their oath of citizenship on Friday, November 13, 2015. This memorable occasion, presided over by Magistrate Judge Paul R. Cherry, was held at the United States Courthouse and Federal Building in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the world to the United States in search of better lives for their families. Oath ceremonies are a shining example of what is so great about the United States of America—that people from all over the world can come together and unite as members of a free, democratic nation. These individuals realize that nowhere else in the world offers a better opportunity for success than here in America.

On November 13, 2015, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, took their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Lenka Krstevska, Bertha Esthela Corral, David Tugba Tom, Raul Alonso Moreno Gonzalez, David Alarcon Hernandez, Yulia Yurevna Abair, Serena Taisir Ibrahim, Donna Ruth Ajayi, Hayet Adjerid, Celestino Olivares Manzo, Mijoong Lee, Thuy Thi Hong Le, Ezekiel Attah, Catherine Marjorie Charles, Francisco Alonso, Astrid Mariela Arnold, Chao Jung Chou, Maria Rosario Franco, Nancy Fuentes, Mayra Nancy Martinez, Jeff Nguefack Mbeleke, Maria Clemencia Mireles, Duncan Kanyi Nganga, Agnes Hop Nguyen, Veronica Giovana Perez, Mario Renteria, Oscar Martinez Ruiz, Yareli Sandoval, Perla Villanueva, and Dilicia Victoria Young.

Although each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country ". . . of the people, by the people, and for the people." They realize that the United States is truly a free nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision that they want to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals who became citizens of the United States of America on November 13, 2015. They, too, are American citizens, and they, too, are guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate them and welcome them.

CONGRATULATING THE DALLAS TEXANS U-14

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Dallas Texans U-14 on their success in World Youth Cup of 2015.

The United States sent 43 teams to compete at this year's Gothia Cup, the world's largest and most international youth football tournament. The Gothia Cup prides itself on its participants' diversity and understands football as a global, unifying force. The Dallas Texans U-14 team, one of 215 teams competing in the U-14 boy's age group, was the only winner from the United States this year. In the final play off, the Dallas Texans won 3-