

Act, as well as Roll Call 80, final passage of H.R. 644.

I was also unable to vote on Roll Call 81, the motion to recommit H.R. 636, America's Small Business Tax Relief Act, as well as Roll Call 82, final Passage of H.R. 636.

Had I been present, I would have voted for both the motions to recommit and voted against H.R. 644 and H.R. 636 on final passage.

HONORING THOMAS H. WARREN,
SR.

HON. BRAD ASHFORD

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, as we close out Black History Month, I want to recognize a leader in my community in Nebraska, Thomas H. Warren, Sr., the President and CEO of the Urban League of Nebraska. Prior to assuming his leadership role at ULN, Mr. Warren served for 24 years with the Omaha Police Department, serving 4 years as the Chief of Police—the first African American to assume this position. Mr. Warren transformed the struggling Urban League of Nebraska into an organization serving the public's interest and advocating for social justice. Today, ULN provides programs in youth development, employment services and violence prevention—services that were not previously offered in our community. Thomas Warren's record of public service is extensive, but it is safe to say that Omaha would not be the same without him. He has been recognized on both the local and national level for his dedication to our community, and it is with great honor that I recognize him here on the House floor. On behalf of our community, I want to say thank you to Mr. Thomas Warren, Sr.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote #95, a recorded vote on the Kennedy of Massachusetts Part B Amendment No. 1 to H.R. 5. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

I was not present for Roll Call vote #96, a recorded vote on the Grothman of Wisconsin Part B Amendment No. 2 to H.R. 5. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

I was not present for Roll Call vote #97, a recorded vote on the Castro of Texas Part B Amendment No. 6 to H.R. 5. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

I was not present for Roll Call vote #98, a recorded vote on the Quigley of Illinois Part B Amendment No. 9 to H.R. 5. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

I was not present for Roll Call vote #99, a recorded vote on the Moore of Wisconsin Part B Amendment No. 13 to H.R. 5. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

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.

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.

One of the most dangerous provisions of this bill is the proposal to allow "portability" of funds under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

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.

This proposal is especially harmful for Houston school districts, where an estimated 31.5% of children live below the poverty line. The vast majority of these children 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.

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 US 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.

Furthermore, the bill eliminates the current requirements 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.

There is no greater testament to the substantial and wide-ranging harm done by this bill than the coalition of organizations that have voiced their opposition, including:

National Education Association

American Federation of Teachers

Committee for Education Funding

Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD)

American Association of People with Disabilities

Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund

League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

National Council of La Raza

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Business Roundtable

I urge all members to join with me in heeding their counsel and opposing H.R. 5.

RECOGNIZING DUBLIN POLICE CHIEF TOM McCARTHY

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dublin Police Chief Tom McCarthy as he leaves his current position for a new role as Executive Director of the East Bay Regional Communications System Authority (EBRCSA).

For 32 years, Tom has worked diligently to keep the East Bay safe. He started with the Alameda County Sheriffs Office as Deputy Sheriff in 1983.

Tom rose through the ranks and in 2009 was named Commander. In that job he worked to improve regional disaster response across the San Francisco Bay Area.

For the last four and a half years, Tom has led the 50-person police department in Dublin. Beyond leading the effort to protect the residents of Dublin, he has been an active member of our community.

Tom has spoken often at schools, community meetings, and other events across the city. He also has led discussions on critical public health and safety issues facing Dublin.

Tom is committed to openness and engagement with residents. He has hosted a popular “Coffee with the Chief” program, which gives the people of Dublin a chance to meet and get to know Tom and other members of the Dublin police force.

Tom is a well-respected leader in Dublin, and the people of Dublin are better off due to his service.

Now Tom will be moving on to lead the EBRCSA, which is responsible for interoperable communications among dozens of agencies in the East Bay. I know he will continue to serve the people of the East Bay well in this new role, and I wish him all the best.

IN RECOGNITION OF PERLA IBARRIENTOS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Perla Ibarrientos, an outstanding volunteer and citizen of San Mateo County, on the occasion of her 80th birthday. Perla currently serves on the Daly City Personnel Board and volunteers her time and energy to a long list of organizations benefiting everyone in our community, in particular our children. I am honored to count Perla as a dear friend and close adviser whom I have known for over three decades.

Perla turned her life into the American Dream. Born in the Philippines, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree and worked in her family's pharmacy. Her husband Mig, an engineer, worked for the electric company. During the 60s and 70s they lived under the repressive regime of President Ferdinand Marcos

and dreamed of a better life for their family. In the early 70s, Mig, Perla and their three children, Glenn, Joy Ann and Gladys, left their home in the Philippines to create a brand new one in the United States. They settled in Broadmoor, California, and Perla immediately started to get involved in her new community. She volunteered as a teacher's aide at Garden Village Elementary and as an elder in the Presbyterian Church.

A few years later, the family moved to Daly City where they still live today. Perla served on the PTA Board and Parents Advisory Board at Westmoor High School. She recruited qualified Filipino teachers to address a significant shortage of diversity and to better reflect the population. Daly City, which is located in my 14th Congressional District, has one of the largest Filipino communities in the world.

Perla is a tireless advocate for equality and access to education. Inside and outside of the classroom, she has instilled in children a passion for learning and set them on a path to become engaged and contributing citizens. Her own children are shining examples of her values. Glenn serves as the Director of Nursing for San Mateo County and is a retired Major in the U.S. Air Force Reserve. Joy Ann serves as Vice President of John Wells Production at Warner Brothers. Gladys is Assistant CEO of the San Mateo County Employees Retirement Association.

In the 1980s, Perla became a U.S. citizen, one of the proudest moments in her life. She never tires of civic engagement and seeking ways to help others. She serves a long list of organizations, including as the Chair of the Filipino Bayanihan Center in Daly City, Vice-President of the North Peninsula Food Pantry and Dining Center and Director of the American Baptist Homes of the West/Hillcrest Senior Housing.

Perla is a true trailblazer. She became the first Filipina to serve on the Daly City Library Board of Trustees from 1990 to 1995 and the Daly City Personnel Board since 2007. Her humility and resolve make her an effective leader, an inspirational role model and a wonderful person to be around. Her warmth, beautiful smile and embracing personality have earned her the love and respect of everyone in the community.

She has been recognized by numerous distinguished organizations. In 2013 and 1997, she was awarded the State of California Legislative Woman of the Year for the 19th Assembly District. In 2007, she was named one of the 100 Most Influential Filipino Women in the U.S.A. by the Filipino Women's Network and Outstanding Filipino American Women by the FilAm Coalition. In 2005, she was named Daly City Citizen of the Year and in 1999, she received the Presbyterian Women Honorary Life Membership Award. These awards reflect the great contributions Perla has made to the lives of Daly City residents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House of Representatives join to me in saying happy birthday to my friend Perla Ibarrientos and to recognize her for her decades of outstanding service to the community she loves. Her work and commitment have made Daly City a better place for all residents.

ANOTHER STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ricky Regas, Cinco Ranch High School senior, for winning his fourth consecutive wrestling state championship. Ricky also ended his high school career with an undefeated season.

Despite being injured at regionals, Ricky was able to battle through to defeat his opponents. His parents and coaches also deserve credit for helping to play an important role in providing you with the tools to achieve success. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Ricky Regas for winning a fourth consecutive state championship. We wish him luck in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for roll call votes 91–99 due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted no on #91, no on #92, no on #93, no on #94, yes on #95, no on #96, yes on #97, yes on #98, and yes on #99.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 94 I was detained due to an unavoidable conflict. Had I been present, I would have voted aye.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VICTIMS OF SUMGAIT POGROMS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Sumgait pogroms—violent riots that resulted in the murder of hundreds of Armenians. This was perhaps one of the most gruesome atrocities in a series of hostile acts against the Armenian people.

In 1988, Armenians living in the town of Sumgait in Azerbaijan were burned alive, thrown from windows and senselessly murdered by Azerbaijanis. Hundreds of people were killed, raped, and maimed simply because they were Armenians.

The police forces turned a blind eye towards the situation and allowed the crimes to continue for three days without intervention. Since then, Azerbaijan has sought to cover up these crimes and rewrite history.