

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 2410, THE “GENERATING RENEWAL, OPPORTUNITY, AND WORK WITH ACCELERATED MOBILITY, EFFICIENCY, AND REBUILDING OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT AMERICA ACT” (GROW AMERICA ACT)

HON. PETER A. DEFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, today I, along with many of my colleagues on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, are introducing H.R. 2410, the “Generating Renewal, Opportunity, and Work with Accelerated Mobility, Efficiency, and Rebuilding of Infrastructure and Communities throughout America Act” (GROW AMERICA Act).

This legislation represents the Administration’s six-year surface reauthorization proposal. We introduce this legislation by request, as it is the policy work of the Administration. By introducing it, we are putting our stamp of approval on the vision that this proposal offers—robust funding levels in a long-term bill to provide sustainable solutions to our Nation’s infrastructure crisis.

Today, the House voted on a two-month short-term extension of highway, transit, and highway safety programs. Congress has had 10 months since the enactment of the last extension in July 2014 to produce a long-term bill, or at least to make significant progress in identifying sustainable revenues to shore up the Highway Trust Fund. The Republican Leadership has produced neither. The Committee on Ways and Means could not so much as hold a hearing on this topic in the past 10 months.

It is no surprise, therefore, that this House cannot come to agreement on \$11 billion in offsets to keep surface transportation programs afloat through the end of this year, which would provide certainty to the construction industry and its workers during their busiest season. Here we are, in the middle of another construction season, and Congress is unable—or unwilling—to consider more than a short-term patch.

We can’t kick the can down the road anymore. There is no road left. The revenues we collect are insufficient to meet our needs. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the shortfall in the Highway Trust Fund is \$172 billion over the next 10 years just to maintain current funding levels. If Congress passes a six-year bill, the gap is \$92 billion.

This gap only accounts for status quo funding. Finding an additional \$92 billion will not provide enough funds to make substantial improvements to our infrastructure or address the ballooning backlog in highway, bridge, and transit state of good repair. It does not provide new investments in freight.

H.R. 2410 goes beyond the status quo and will move our Nation into the 21st century. The bill provides a total of \$478 billion over six years, a 45 percent increase for highways, bridges, public transportation, highway safety, and rail programs. Over six years, the GROW AMERICA Act makes significant investments in:

Highways—provides \$317 billion for programs under the Federal Highway Administra-

tion (FHWA), an increase of 29 percent over current levels.

Freight—dedicates \$18 billion for a new dedicated multi-modal freight program.

Transit—provides \$115 billion for programs under the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), an increase of 76 percent over current levels, and significantly boosts New Starts funding.

Rail—provides \$28.6 billion for programs under the Federal Rail Administration (FRA).

Safety—provides \$6 billion for vehicle safety programs under the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), \$4.7 billion for truck and bus safety programs under the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), and \$16 billion for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP).

Competitive Grants—provides \$7.5 billion for TIGER grants and \$6 billion for TIFIA that could support \$60 billion in loans.

Research and Innovation—provides \$3.4 billion to leverage research and innovation to move people and goods more safely and efficiently, while minimizing impacts on the environment.

Federal lands—provides \$150 million for a Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects program, to address project needs on Federal lands.

In addition to these critical investments in the Nation’s intermodal surface transportation network, H.R. 2410 also includes a number of important policy provisions that ensure that surface transportation investments create good paying American jobs. These include tightening Buy America loopholes, funding workforce development, allowing local hire, and strengthening wage and hour laws for truck and bus drivers.

There are provisions in this proposal that I do not support, and may give some of my colleagues pause. Specifically, I strongly oppose eliminating the prohibition on tolling of existing free Interstate highways for reconstruction of an existing facility. The proposal also extends the deadline for Positive Train Control implementation. Given last week’s tragic Amtrak crash, Congress should be coming together to find ways to fund expedited PTC implementation, not pushing the compliance date farther into the future. Other provisions, such as Buy America waivers for rail rolling stock, and elimination of statutory hours of service provisions for rail workers, also cause concern.

Nevertheless, the Administration’s bill provides a great starting point—an opportunity for this Congress to come together to significantly increase infrastructure investment over the long term. I look forward to working in a bipartisan manner with Chairman SHUSTER and our colleagues on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure as we develop new surface transportation legislation.

IN HONOR OF ISSAC ROBINSON, JR. ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE WEST PALM BEACH CITY COMMISSION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today to recognize my good friend, Mr.

Issac “Ike” Robinson, Jr., on the occasion of his retirement from the West Palm Beach City Commission for District 2. Ike served with distinction as City Commissioner since 1999. He additionally served as President of the Commission from 2001–2002 and from 2006–2007. During his tenure on the Commission, he was on several key committees including the Small Business Advisory Committee and the Education Advisory Committee. His work led him to represent the City as a member and President of the Palm Beach County League of Cities. Ike eventually served as a member of the Florida League of Cities, meanwhile serving on the Governor’s Taskforce for the Eradication of Methamphetamine Drug Labs. On a national level, Ike served on the National League of Cities and the National Black Caucus of elected officials.

A U.S. Army Veteran, husband to his wife Ernestine, and proud father and grandfather, Ike has dedicated his life to serving the West Palm Beach community with excellence. He also served and retired after 30 years in the Palm Beach County School District, and served 6 years with the West Palm Beach Police department as a Case Manager and a Crisis Counselor.

His dedication to the City of West Palm Beach is undeniable when looking and recognizing his contributions as an elected official and upstanding citizen. His service on the Commission for 16 years has earned him a record position as the longest serving commissioner in the history of West Palm Beach, and no doubt a legacy to be proud of. I am grateful for his honorable work, and wish Ike the best of luck and good health in the next journey in his life.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I am honored to congratulate Mr. Issac “Ike” Robinson on his retirement and for his years of service to the West Palm Beach community.

CONGRATULATING ANTHONY BRUTTO

HON. DAVID B. MCKINLEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Mr. Anthony Brutto, a 94-year-old West Virginia University Class of 2015 graduate. A passionate designer and craftsman from a young age, Mr. Brutto began his collegiate career in 1939 seeking an engineering degree.

In 1942, his studies came to an abrupt halt when he was drafted into the Army Air Corps, where he served for three and a half years. He was primarily stationed in Venice, Florida and worked on the P39 and P49 bombers. After the war, family demands and changing careers kept him from completing his degree.

Mr. Brutto never lost his passion for education, however, and he received his bachelor’s degree this past weekend during WVU’s Commencement.

At a time when more young people are questioning the value of a college degree, it is encouraging to witness his perseverance in attaining a degree. Young West Virginians should follow in his footsteps and equip themselves for a lifetime of prosperity, no matter what setbacks come their way. As Mr. Brutto

eloquently said, "The great thing about education is they can't take it away from you."

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I have reintroduced a resolution to honor the memory of the Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders we have lost to AIDS, and to recognize those whom are still living with HIV/AIDS in the United States. The resolution supports the goals and ideals of National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and its observance, and it draws attention to the stigma and disparities that hinder proper treatment and prevention within these communities.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders comprise more than 50 different ethnic subgroups, speaking more than 100 languages and dialects. This resolution recognizes the importance of providing access to culturally- and linguistically-competent services, especially HIV testing. According to an analysis of data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders were the only racial/ethnic groups with a statistically significant increase in new HIV diagnoses. The CDC estimates that 36 percent of the HIV diagnoses among these communities progress to AIDS in less than 12 months. Additionally, the CDC estimates among people living with HIV/AIDS, 22 percent of Asian Americans and 27 percent of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders are unaware they are infected with HIV.

Yet, with increasing rates of infection, they continue to have the lowest rates of access to HIV-testing services. Although there are a number of factors that contribute to increasing rates of infections, stigma and discrimination associated with an HIV/AIDS has proved to be a leading factor in low testing rates and increased risk-taking behaviors.

The observance of National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day was established by the Banyan Tree Project, and began as a national campaign to raise awareness of the impact of the HIV/AIDS-related stigma and how it contributes to lower testing rates and greater risk-taking behaviors. Additionally, the work continues with the Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum who have worked nationally for more than 20 years, including in my home district of Guam, in helping to strengthen community-based organizations and programs responding to HIV/AIDS among Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in addressing this need and advancing the larger cause of reducing HIV/AIDS-related stigmas and disparities in access to HIV prevention, testing and treatment. I thank my colleagues, Representatives JUDY CHU, RAÚL GRIJALVA, MIKE HONDA, BARBARA LEE, TED LIEU, ALAN LOWENTHAL, JIM McDERMOTT, PEDRO PIERLUISI, AMATA RADEWAGEN, CHARLES RANGEL, ADAM SCHIFF, ADAM SMITH,

and MARK TAKANO for their support as original cosponsors of this resolution.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT RELIEF ACT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Student Loan Debt Relief Act. This legislation relieves a potential tax burden that may be imposed on student loan borrowers that use income-based repayment and income-contingent repayment programs.

This bill eliminates a tax penalty on student loan borrowers. After 20–25 years of payments on the income-based repayment or income-contingent repayment plans, student loan borrowers can have their outstanding debt balance forgiven. However, under current law, the amount forgiven is considered income payable immediately.

Programs such as the income based repayment program have helped in a small way to ensure that students can continue to pursue their dreams and get on with their lives while they responsibly pay off their student debt.

It also makes students the promise that if they hold up their end of the bargain for twenty to twenty-five years they will have their remaining debt forgiven.

Slamming students and families with a massive tax bill after they have played by the rules is just wrong. This bill is yet another step toward leveling the playing field for a generation of students being devastated by the growing student loan crisis in this country.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WEST CALDWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the West Caldwell Public Library, located in the Township of West Caldwell, New Jersey as it celebrates its 100th Anniversary.

The West Caldwell Public Library, founded by the request of Julia H. Potwin, is an important piece of communal life in the Township of West Caldwell. Families, friends, and students gather at the Library to conduct research, enjoy literary works, and socialize. The Library, located on the first floor of the West Caldwell Municipal Building, is at the center of West Caldwell life, and offers a myriad of books, catalogs, and reference materials. The Library holds an important public function in serving the community through literary means, and is enjoyed by many.

Originally known as the Julia H. Potwin Memorial Library, this library was created by the request of Julia Potwin, the daughter of Nathaniel S. Crane. Although Julia never saw the construction of the Library, she requested in her will that a library be built. She issued specific instructions as to how it should look and function, and also left her extensive book collection to the Library. Julia sought to create a

library that served a more integral role in her community. According to the Library's President of the Board of Trustees, her ideas were not common views of what a library should be. Julia wanted her library to be more personal than average libraries, as evident by her request for the Library to include a living room and a place for the caretaker to sleep.

The West Caldwell Public Library currently offers a variety of programs for adults, which include Friday afternoon movies, concerts, dramatic presentations, book discussions, and a Summer Reading program. These activities represent the Library's mission of upholding principles of intellectual freedom and the public's 'right to know.' Included within the Library's collection are 40,000 book titles, 200 magazines and periodicals, and a large selection of DVDs and CDs.

As part of its success in functioning as a communal gathering place for West Caldwell residents, the Library holds a teen advisory group, family story time, sing and dance events, and seminars on Social Security. The Library continues Julia Potwin's idiosyncratic vision of what a library should be by functioning as more than just a place to check out books.

To celebrate 100 successful years of offering the public a center for learning, the West Caldwell Public Library has planned several events, with the incorporation of the slogan "Celebrate the Past, Create the Future." Among these events is a concert titled "100 Years of American Music," featuring the Jane Stuart Ensemble as well as a reading from Julia Potwin's personal diary. Both of these events encompass the Library's constant dedication to acknowledging the past while also cultivating the future.

I commend the members and Board of Trustees of the West Caldwell Public Library, especially Library Manager Karen Kelly, for their dedication to serving the people of West Caldwell. The Library is a special place for all and will continue to function as a public forum for learning.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the West Caldwell Public Library as it celebrates its 100th Anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY RESOLUTION FOR THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution with my friend and colleague MARSHA BLACKBURN to honor the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) on its 40th anniversary in 2015.

Since it was established in 1975, NAWBO has allowed women entrepreneurs to collaborate and grow their businesses through 60 chapters across the country. With over 5,000 members representing a wide range of industries, NAWBO pushes for positive change to our business climate and public policy to help women entrepreneurs succeed in the American economy.