

Coventry Wineberry Estates, expanding Shaw's Bridge in East Bradford Township, and enhancing Pottstown Borough Memorial Park with a new dog park, pavilions, restrooms, ball fields, and walking trails.

Mr. Speaker, one thing that was apparent this past weekend was just how integral our public lands and outdoor recreation areas are to our heritage, civic identity, and local community.

I believe the Land and Water Conservation Fund is one of our most important conservation programs and an excellent example of a bipartisan commitment to safeguarding natural resources, promoting our cultural heritage, and expanding recreational opportunities not just for a moment in time, but for future generations as well.

I also believe it is a program that allows our local communities to dream big about how to best go about enhancing their communities for their residents.

As an original cosponsor of H.R. 1814, which would permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund, I am looking forward to working with my colleagues in an effort to help communities across this country create lasting legacies of public access to the cultural and recreational opportunities identified by officials in their local communities as being worthy of funding for future projects.

STUDENT SUCCESS ACT FAILS STUDENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express my strong opposition to H.R. 5, the so-called Student Success Act. I am deeply disappointed in the majority for bringing such an economically careless and socially egregious bill to the floor today.

If passed, H.R. 5 would take more than \$7 million from the highest need schools in my home State of Alabama. It is really an abomination that this body would do this to our constituents and do this to our students.

H.R. 5 abandons the Federal Government's historic role in elementary and secondary education. Furthermore, this bill neglects our sacred responsibility to ensure that all children, irrespective of race, class, disability, or socioeconomic class, are given the opportunity to attain a high quality education.

Each of us in this body has the opportunity to send our own children to the finest K-12 institutions in this country, but our privilege isn't universal, and we shouldn't legislate as if it is.

In the Seventh Congressional District of Alabama, that privilege, the ability to send our children to the private schools or public schools of choice, is nearly nonexistent.

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More than 70 percent of the public school students in my district receive

free or reduced lunch, and they live in families that live below the poverty line. And of the 26 school districts that serve my constituents, only two of them have a poverty rate that is less than 56 percent.

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act was first written in recognition of the impact that concentrated poverty has on a school system's ability to adequately support the educational programs needed to serve vulnerable communities.

But H.R. 5 would strip the ESEA of the protections for these students by diverting title I funds. This approach is backwards, and our children deserve better. If I were grading this bill, I would definitely give it an F.

As a proud product of Selma High School, this is deeply personal to me. Today more than 90 percent of the Selma High School students in my district, from my old high school, receive free and reduced lunch. Under H.R. 5, this school would lose nearly 20 percent of its Federal funding.

The greatest opportunity that we can give any child is a quality education. This is why I cannot support this bill, which diverts title I funds from 92 percent of the schools in my district. This would further tilt the playing field against poor kids.

These children belong to all of us. Unfortunately, this bill is proof that somewhere along the line we have abandoned the most sacred American principle, that all children—I mean all children—are our children.

We cannot deny that a rising tide lifts all boats. The economic and social costs of refusing to accept these facts are steep.

When President Johnson signed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in 1964, he stated, "As President of the United States, I believe deeply no law I have signed or will ever sign means more to the future of America than this bill." President Johnson was right then, and he is right now.

To promote our educational progress, we must replace No Child Left Behind with a strong bipartisan bill, one that advances what works and improves upon what does not. Unfortunately, this bill does neither.

I urge this body to oppose this reckless bill, H.R. 5. Our children deserve better. Our constituents deserve better. This Nation deserves better.

KELO V. NEW LONDON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED) for 5 minutes.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to highlight an issue that I believe we must pay closer attention to in this Chamber and in this Congress. You see, on June 23, Mr. Speaker, we marked the tenth anniversary of an important Supreme Court case. That case was *Kelo v. New London*.

Now, the title of the case really means nothing. But I point to Susette

Kelo, who I have here depicted in this picture. She was the plaintiff in that case. And what happened in that case was this, Mr. Speaker, a real tragedy:

She was told by her government that they were going to take her home and give it to another private owner for development. You heard me right, Mr. Speaker. She was told that her home was going to be taken by our government because they were picking the winners and losers because they felt they knew best how to utilize her property and give it to another private owner to develop it the way that private owner wanted to do.

Well, Mr. Speaker, Susette Kelo stood up. She fought this fight. She was told by her friends, she was told by her real estate agents, she was told by her lawyers: Just roll over. The government always wins, and they are going to win this battle.

But she fought it all the way to the Supreme Court. And what happened, however, is that that advice from her friends and from her real estate agent and her lawyers came true. The government won.

But that day we all lost, as American citizens. Because here is what happened after that case. She lost her home. And this is a picture of her property—well, no longer her property—but that property, as it exists today. They demolished her home. They took her property. She lost her piece of the American Dream. And the result of it is a vacant lot that sits in New London.

Mr. Speaker, I highlight this case today because it reminds us of an issue that we must fight for, and that is a fundamental freedom that we all enjoy as American citizens, to own and to use our property.

It is something that is fundamental to our U.S. Constitution. It is something fundamental to us as American citizens. And it is time for us to unite, as Republicans and Democrats, and say enough is enough. We must push back on Big Government. We must stand with individuals.

This land belongs to them, not our government. And that is something that I am afraid that started 10 years ago and continues to this day with actions of Big Government day in and day out, where government regulations, government overreach—local, Federal, State level—act in a way that takes away these fundamental property rights that so many have fought for.

So in Congress I have led the fight. I formed the Private Property Rights Caucus, with Members from Maine to Alabama to California. I have sponsored and authored the Defense of Property Rights Act to say enough is enough. We are going to stand with individuals, and we are going to fight this Big Government overreach.

Mr. Speaker, these hard-fought rights have come at the expense of so many, the blood of those who fought to preserve our freedoms, the blood of our Founding Fathers and the vision they

set forth in our Constitution. And this Kelo case was a moment in time at a drop of a gavel when those fundamental rights were threatened and lost.

So I stand today and ask my colleagues and all of the people across America to stand with us, to stand with me, to make sure we coordinate our efforts to make sure that our fundamental property rights are protected and individuals like Susette Kelo are rewarded for her bravery in taking the fight.

Though she may have lost that battle, I stand with her to win this war to protect our fundamental property rights that so many have fought for over the years.

STUDENT SUCCESS ACT FALLS SHORT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in opposition to H.R. 5.

Education is a civil right. And when the Elementary and Secondary Education Act was passed in 1965, its purpose was to ensure access to a quality education for our neediest students that are often low income and minority.

We can all agree that ESEA reauthorization is long overdue. However, the proposal put forth by Republicans falls short and makes a bad situation worse.

Each day that No Child Left Behind is law is one more day that we are, in fact, leaving children behind.

H.R. 5 is not the answer. Voting for this bill means voting against our students, our teachers, and our schools. A vote for H.R. 5 is a vote to take money from our poorest and most at-risk students. It is a vote to erase the educational gains we have made over the past 50 years. It is a vote to deny many of our students a chance at real success.

It is time to wake up. It is time to vote “no” on H.R. 5.

Congress passed ESEA 50 years ago with the intent of protecting our students by providing quality and equal education. Today, instead of putting forth a bipartisan bill that moves us closer to equal and quality education for every child, Republicans have introduced a bill to roll back the hands of time and undo our progress.

H.R. 5 turns its back on some of our most vulnerable student populations. It lacks the accountability measures to ensure student success.

A report from the Southern Education Foundation found that more than 50 percent of our public school students live in poverty. Title I has always been the main source of Federal funding for our country’s poorest students.

H.R. 5 would reverse this long-standing practice and, instead, remove

money from our school districts with the greatest need, diluting their ability to meaningfully fund programs that serve low-income students.

At a time when 40 percent of college students take remedial courses and employers continue to complain of inadequate preparation for high school graduates, we must ensure that all students are college ready and are career ready. H.R. 5 allows States to lower standards that lead to students graduating unprepared.

So how can we expect our students to compete in a global economy when they aren’t prepared? We need to invest in the future of our children, support our teachers and our principals, ensure the success of our neediest students.

And that is why I am proud to support the amendment of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), and I thank him for his leadership in challenging H.R. 5.

This amendment reaffirms the Federal Government’s proper role in education, addressing many of the problems that surround No Child Left Behind.

Students in low-income families already have obvious disadvantages. This amendment prioritizes early education to help our students start out strong. It puts protections in place against bullying, and it supports the physical, mental, and emotional stability of students. It gets rid of AYP and also makes important investments in STEM education.

Education should be an issue that unites us, not divides us. The Scott amendment is exactly what our schools and our students and our teachers need.

I urge my colleagues to vote for the Scott amendment and not for H.R. 5 because H.R. 5 fails on all accounts. It fails our neediest students. It fails to invest in our teachers and principals. And it fails to prepare students for college and careers and to address the core principles of Federal education policies.

H.R. 5 deserves an F. I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing it.

CONGRATULATING THE U.S. WOMEN'S WORLD CUP SOCCER TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday, the day after our Independence Day, the U.S. women’s World Cup team gave us the best fireworks show ever. They lit up the team that beat them 4 years ago in the World Cup, Japan.

We scored in the third minute, the fifth minute, the 14th minute, and the 16th minute. 4-0 in 16 minutes. We had gone over 5½ hours without giving up a goal. Japan was done.

Our women won every game because they left their egos in the locker room. When they jogged onto that field, they were a team full of love, love of soccer,

love of America, and love of each other, their teammates.

The best example of that love was a small blue arm band. It is worn by our team captain. If you missed this band’s journey through our victory on Sunday, I will recount it for you.

It was on Christie Rampone’s left arm as her gold medal was placed around her neck. It was her second gold medal in a World Cup match. She is closer to my age than all of her teammates. Sunday was her last World Cup game.

She got that blue band from Abby Wambach, the greatest woman soccer player in American history. That is her picture beside me. Abby has scored 23 goals in World Cup matches, but she had only had a silver medal from World Cup matches, never a gold. She knew that was changing when she jogged onto that field in the 79th minute of play.

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She also knew that, like Christie, this was her last World Cup match. A teammate stopped Abby before she entered the game. Team Captain Carli Lloyd stopped her idol, Abby, to make sure Abby’s uniform was complete. There was a problem that Carli had to fix up, so she helped Abby by putting that blue armband on her left sleeve as our team captain.

Carli plays pro soccer in my hometown of Houston, Texas, and we Texans believe bigger is always better. While Carli has been a Texan for a few months, she knows how to go big, real big. She scored a hat trick—three goals—in the first 16 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, the 2015 women’s World Cup gold medalists gave us a priceless gift: the joy of being alive, feeling American pride surge through your veins, having that breath—that short breath of excitement—or having that extra heartbeat, knowing that you are alive.

America thanks our gold medal winners, our America’s World Cup champions of 2015.

PUERTO RICO'S POLITICAL STATUS AND ITS ECONOMIC CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico, home to 3.5 million American citizens, stands at a crossroads. The Governor recently announced that Puerto Rico cannot pay all of its debts. The Governor’s comments were not constructive because they lacked precision.

Puerto Rico’s total debt is about \$72 billion, and the structure of this debt is complex. About 17 entities in Puerto Rico have bonds outstanding, from the central government to public corporations. The terms, source of repayment, and the level of legal protection for each bond varies.