

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REGULATORY INTEGRITY ACT OF
2016

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5226) to amend chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, to require the publication of information relating to pending agency regulatory actions, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to HR 5226, the Regulatory Integrity Act of 2016.

The Regulatory Integrity Act seeks to bar a federal agency from promoting or soliciting public support for its actions, such as proposed regulatory rules. Under current law, agencies are already prohibited from spending funds on publicity or propaganda lobbying, but in some cases agencies may communicate with the public regarding the benefits of a rule. If this bill becomes law, any such action could be interpreted as illegal. Further troubling, the bill requires an agency to report each of its communications with the public on the rules about which the Agency has been most vocal. Such an effort will dramatically increase the cost of Federal rulemaking to the public.

In my opposition to this bill, I associate myself with the remarks of Ranking Member ELIJAH CUMMINGS who said, "Agencies already are barred from engaging in 'substantial grassroots lobbying campaigns' when those campaigns are aimed at encouraging members of the public to pressure Members of Congress to support the Administration or department legislative or appropriation proposals. The bill would require agencies to report to Congress every communication to the public—including every oral communication from an agency official—about the five regulatory actions the agency issued the most communications on in the previous year. This would be unnecessarily burdensome and likely would not be workable for agencies."

The Administration also opposes the bill, threatening a veto on the grounds that the measure is "duplicative, vague, costly and puts unnecessary procedure requirements on agencies that would prevent them from efficiently performing their statutory responsibilities and potentially lead to a less informed public."

The public has a right to know how a proposed regulation will affect them personally and the agency issuing that regulation is uniquely qualified to offer the data necessary to make that determination. In the absence of such information, the public will be at the mercy of any well-funded special interest or high priced lobbyist who might want to defeat regulations that protect the public interest, but not their profits.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL E.
KUNZ

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Michael E. Kunz to our federal court system. Mr. Kunz retired this past July after more than forty years of service in the Eastern Judicial District of Pennsylvania, including more than 37 years as its chief clerk.

Mr. Kunz was respected and beloved by all who had business before the court—judges, prosecutors, attorneys and others—and he left an indelible mark in the halls of the courthouse in Philadelphia.

During Mr. Kunz's tenure as chief clerk—the longest of any clerk in the history of the Eastern District—he oversaw unprecedented growth, expansion and modernization of the court. On the day of Michael's appointment in 1979, there were just 24 judges and some 50 employees within the Clerk's Office. Today, there are nearly twice as many judges and more than 200 employees facilitating the day-to-day operation of the judicial system.

I had the privilege of serving with Michael during my own tenure as U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District. I was always impressed by his tireless commitment, his ability and his loyalty to the court he served. I'm proud to call him my friend. I wish him the best in his retirement and I commend him for his decades of service.

HONORING BODEGA MARINE
LABORATORY

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, Representatives JOHN GARAMENDI and MIKE THOMPSON, to recognize the University of California, Davis' Bodega Marine Laboratory upon its 50th anniversary. Seated on the 362-acre Bodega Marine Reserve within the University's Natural Reserve System, which supports the highest number of research projects of any reserve in the state and arguably in the nation, the Bodega Marine Laboratory is the primary open-coast research facility along the California coast.

Since its founding in 1966 by the University of California, Berkeley, this instrumental coastal and marine sciences laboratory has educated thousands of students, coordinated hundreds of projects with local and state agencies and has conducted outreach education initiatives in local communities. The Bodega Marine Laboratory's history of research, education,

and outreach has contributed substantially to the strength of California's habitats.

The Bodega Marine Laboratory's interdisciplinary, collaborative approach to addressing California's unique environmental challenges has established California as a prime example of what we can accomplish through coordinated efforts to protect our natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, it is therefore fitting that we congratulate the Bodega Marine Laboratory upon its 50th anniversary, and thank its leadership and staff for their invaluable contributions to our environment and community.

GROWTH AWARENESS WEEK

HON. DENNY HECK

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize this week, September 19–23, as Growth Awareness Week in order to realize the reality of growth disorders and their impact on our children's health.

Monitoring growth is a major sign of a child's overall health and physical development. When a child's growth is delayed, it is an early indicator of potential underlying medical disorders. According to the Pictures of Standard Syndromes and Undiagnosed Malformations (POSSUM) database, more than 600 serious diseases and health conditions cause growth failure. These diseases range from nutritional disturbances and hormone imbalances to serious conditions such as unidentified kidney problems and even brain tumors that can all exhibit early signs by changing how much that child grows. Too many children with serious growth disorders are not receiving the medical attention they need because their condition is not caught at an early age. In fact, 48 percent of children in the U.S. who were evaluated with the two most common causes of growth failure went undiagnosed.

The longer a child with growth failure goes undiagnosed, the greater the potential for damage and higher costs of care. Early detection and diagnosis are crucial in ensuring a healthy future for a child with growth failure. Therefore, raising public awareness of, and educating the public about growth failure is a vital public service.

Growth Awareness Week is a key tool in educating families on their children's health, and I would like to thank the tremendous efforts of the MAGIC Foundation for their incredible work in furthering public awareness and understanding of growth failure. I look forward to working with my colleagues to improve the lives and health of children.

• 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.

CELEBRATING DOUBLE TEN DAY

HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, Monday, October 10 is Taiwan's National Day—also known as Double Ten Day. Since this body will not be in session that day, I would like to offer my early best wishes to the people of Taiwan.

Taiwan is a close trade partner and ally of the US in the Asia-Pacific region. A fine example of the trade relationship between Taiwan and the U.S. is Formosa Plastics Corporation, a Taiwanese company heavily invested in the district I represent. They are a major employer in the region and are actively involved in the community.

Last year, Eva Air, one of the biggest Taiwanese airlines, launched the direct flight route between Houston, Texas and Taipei, Taiwan, and will soon be offering direct flights between Dallas/Ft. Worth and Taipei. These flights shore up the business and cultural ties between Taiwan, Texas and the entire U.S.

I am glad to see closer trade ties between Taiwan and the US. It is my belief Taiwan should be included in the International Civil Aviation Organization (I-C-A-O), which works to secure the civil aviation throughout the world. The ICAO's 39th Triennial Assembly will meet in Montreal on September 27. I hope that Taiwan will be invited to attend the Assembly as it was three years ago.

Again, I wish the people of Taiwan a Happy Double Ten Day, and I look forward to working closely with Taiwanese people to further enhance our bilateral relations.

RECOGNIZING ODESSA COLLEGE'S DESIGN FOR COMPLETION PROGRAM

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Odessa College for being named a Finalist in Excelencia in Education. This honor was bestowed on Odessa College for their work in raising retention rates through their Design for Completion program.

Starting in 2011, Odessa College created a framework to provide meaningful connections and engagements between their students and faculty. Design for Completion is focused on the student and their success in the classroom and beyond. This initiative places students on a distinct and coherent pathway that provides the necessary support and resources vital to their collegiate careers.

Since implementing Design for Completion, retention and student success rates have dramatically increased across campus, especially among Hispanic students. Through this program, Odessa College has instilled confidence in their students by showing them that they can accomplish any goal that they set out to conquer. Odessa College hopes that this program serves as a model that other higher education institutions can use to help other students succeed in their academic studies.

A strong education system contributes greatly to the success and growth of our country, and is the key to not only our individual achievement, but also to our competitiveness as a nation. Programs like Design for Completion helps our nation achieve these goals and reach our fullest potential. I am honored to have the opportunity to represent Odessa College and wish them continued success.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BELLEVUE COLLEGE

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Bellevue College and its great work toward educating students in my home state of Washington.

Bellevue College was founded in 1966 as a small community college with fewer than 500 students. Fifty years later, it has grown into two campuses with an enrollment of nearly 33,000 students each year, becoming Washington's largest community college.

Throughout its tremendous growth, Bellevue College has remained committed to providing all students with access to affordable, quality higher education.

Today, the institution's students are able to take advantage of nearly 100 different professional and technical programs or pursue one of the 10 bachelor degrees offered by the college.

I would like to thank all of the school's faculty, staff and administrators for their hard work and commitment to helping their students and the college succeed.

Bellevue College has done a remarkable job preparing its students for the future, and I look forward to seeing what the next 50 years hold. Happy anniversary to the entire Bellevue College community.

ERITREA: A NEGLECTED REGIONAL THREAT

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, in 1993, the citizens of Eritrea, then a province of Ethiopia, voted to become an independent nation. Ethiopia had annexed Eritrea in 1962, and its citizens no doubt believed they were well on their way to controlling their destiny. Unfortunately, their hopes would soon be dashed. Elections have been repeatedly postponed, and opposition political parties are no longer able to organize.

Those same initial hopes for democracy and good government in Eritrea also were held by the international community. In a March 1997 report on the U.S. Agency for International Development program in Eritrea, the American aid agency had high praise for its collaboration with the Eritrean government: "Over the past year, the young state of Eritrea continued its exciting and pace-setting experiment in nation-

building, and, similarly, USAID/Eritrea established itself as Eritrea's leading development partner."

Within a few years, the Government of Eritrea ended its relationship with USAID, but this decision was originally taken as a sign that Eritrea was ready to become an example to the rest of the developing world by managing its own humanitarian needs. Yet Eritrea's government instead merely became less open, and when an East African drought occurred in 2011, we knew very little about how Eritreans were faring. Today, we know that two-thirds of Eritreans live on subsistence agriculture, which has had poor yields due to recurring droughts and low productivity.

What we also know is that Eritrea's citizens are living under a regime that does not honor their human rights. In June of this year, the UN Human Rights Council released a report that accused the Government of Eritrea with a variety of violations, including extrajudicial executions, torture, indefinitely prolonged national service and forced labor, and sexual harassment, rape and sexual servitude by state officials.

In its Trafficking in Persons Report from June 2016, the State Department listed Eritrea as "Tier 3" and stated, "Eritrea is a source country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor . . . the government did not investigate, prosecute, or convict trafficking offenders during the reporting year . . . the government demonstrated negligible efforts to identify and protect trafficking victims . . . the government maintained minimal efforts to prevent trafficking."

In their most recent International Religious Freedom Report, the State Department listed Eritrea as a Country of Particular Concern. Moreover, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom lists Eritrea as a Tier 1 Country of Particular Concern for its egregious religious freedom violations. Eritrea's government interferes with the internal affairs of registered religious groups and represses the religious liberty of those faith groups it refuses to register, such as Evangelical and Pentecostal Christians, Jehovah's Witnesses and Muslims who do not follow the government-appointed head of the Islamic community. Furthermore, the government has a record of arbitrary arrests of believers and their leaders and reportedly tortures those in prolonged detention.

As a result of the authoritarian government's actions, Eritrea is considered one of the world's fastest emptying nations, with about half a million of the country's citizens having left their homes for often dangerous paths to freedom. An estimated 5,000 Eritreans leave their country each month.

In a July 9, 2015, hearing by our subcommittee on African refugees, John Stauffer, President of the America Team for Displaced Eritreans, told us that Eritrean Government officials operated freely in eastern Sudan, arresting and bringing back to Eritrea those they considered high-value targets among refugees, such as government officials or church leaders. He also testified that refugees moving east may be kidnapped and extorted locally for a few thousand dollars, or taken off to Egypt or Libya where they are abused. That abuse often included organ harvesting.

In the past year, the world has witnessed a flood of Eritrean refugees risking their lives on