

## FRANK R. LAUTENBERG CHEMICAL SAFETY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

**HON. KEITH ELLISON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2016*

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I support the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act because too many Americans are getting sick from dangerous, unregulated chemicals found in the products we use every day. This bill would protect public health by making long-overdue chemical safety reforms.

Today, industries can release hundreds of chemicals each year into our homes and workplaces without any federal requirement to consider their safety. Research has linked chemicals used in everyday products, such as household cleaners, clothing, and furniture, to serious illnesses like cancer, infertility, diabetes and Parkinson's. But currently, the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)—our broken chemical safety law—gives the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) little power to do anything about these dangers. Under TSCA, only a small fraction of the thousands of chemicals used in our products have ever been reviewed for safety.

The law is so weak that the EPA couldn't even regulate asbestos. In 1989, after 10 years of research and more than 100,000 pages of administrative record supporting action, the EPA issued a rule under TSCA to ban most uses of asbestos. But two years later, the EPA's regulation was overturned by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals; while acknowledging that "asbestos is a potential carcinogen at all levels of exposure," the Court ruled that the agency's administrative record failed to demonstrate that the regulation was the "least burdensome alternative," as required under the law. Since the court's ruling, the burden to regulate most toxic substances under TSCA has been insurmountable.

The reforms in the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act would help keep our communities safer by requiring reviews for chemicals in use today, mandating greater scrutiny of new chemicals, and removing barriers that have prevented the EPA from regulating highly toxic substances in the past, such as asbestos.

This reform is an urgently needed next step, but there are still problems with this bill and more work should be done to protect our communities. Provisions in this bill sought by the chemical industry create unprecedented state preemption standards and put limitations on the EPA's ability to monitor chemicals in imported products. Federal policy should be seen as a floor, not a ceiling, when it comes to establishing standards for public health and safety. We must support states, like my home state of Minnesota, that have led the way in creating chemical safety standards that protect their residents. Last year in Minnesota, we took an important step toward protecting children and firefighters' health when the legislature passed a law to prohibit four toxic flame retardants (Deca, HBCD, TCEP and TDCPP) from children's products and upholstered furniture.

Policies that preempt state action or restrict EPA's ability to monitor imported products

threaten public health and safety. We need to fight back against these bad policies as we continue our efforts to reform TSCA. For my part, I will continue to be an advocate for reform that protects public health, not the chemical industry.

## IN RECOGNITION OF LOUDOUN COUNTY'S SCHOOLS TO WATCH IN 2016

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2016*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge several schools in Loudoun County that have been named Schools to Watch in 2016 by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. Eagle Ridge, Farmwell Station, J. Lupton Simpson, River Bend, and Sterling Middle Schools have been recognized as five of only 145 schools around the country to receive this honor.

This honor requires schools to excel in the following criteria: academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, and social equality. Each of these schools has challenged their students to achieve academic excellence over the course of the school year. They have also shown a unique ability to identify and work with early adolescent developmental challenges, all while providing every student with the highest quality of teachers, resources, and support, regardless of socioeconomic status.

Coming from a family of educators, I understand how important a strong education is to the future of our nation. It is schools like these that will continue to help shape the United States' role in the evolving global economy, while at the same time producing many of our nation's future leaders. Eagle Ridge, Farmwell Station, J. Lupton Simpson, River Bend, and Sterling Middle Schools have clearly shown a dedication to developing and educating our children. The outstanding qualities they have all exemplified are not to be understated; what they have achieved is something of which to be truly proud.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating these 2016 Schools to Watch for their incredible achievements. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. AUSTIN SCOTT**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2016*

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 231 on ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 743, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5055) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes, I am not recorded because I was detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 232 on agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 743, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5055) making appropriations for energy and water develop-

ment and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes, I am not recorded because I was detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 233 on ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 742, Providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2576) to modernize the Toxic Substances Control Act, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 897) Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act, and for other purposes, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 234 on agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 742, Providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2576) to modernize the Toxic Substances Control Act, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 897) Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act, and for other purposes, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 235 on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended H.R. 5077, Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 236 on motion to recommit with instructions to H.R. 897, Zika Vector Control Act, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 237 on passage of H.R. 897, Zika Vector Control Act, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 238 on concurring in the Senate Amendment with an Amendment to H.R. 2576, Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

## IN RECOGNITION OF THE COALITION TO SALUTE AMERICA'S HEROES

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2016*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great American organization, the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes, that recently celebrated 12 years of service this past May.

The Coalition, headquartered in my district, is a 501(c)(3), nonprofit, non-partisan organization established in 2004 to provide severely wounded veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan with immediate, invaluable lifelines. The Coalition is distinguished from other veteran-focused groups by its direct financial assistance to America's wounded warriors.

Its Emergency Financial Aid program has stopped foreclosure proceedings on veterans' homes, kept their vehicles from being repossessed, put food on their tables, provided diapers for their babies, and even helped steer

many men and women away from suicide. Its innovative Heroes Thanking Heroes program provides transitional, part-time, flexible employment to more than 40 combat-wounded veterans or their primary caregivers, enabling them to make phone calls from their homes, usually to personally thank donors for their contributions to the Coalition. Other aspects include an emergency financial aid program, a holiday gift program, and road to recovery conferences.

The Coalition has done tremendous work in Virginia and across the country such as donating more than \$45 million in direct aid to veterans. The Coalition has provided tens of thousands of dollars through grants to other notable veterans' organizations in Virginia and elsewhere. Under the leadership of a constituent of mine, President & CEO David Walker, the Coalition has further expanded its support of our wounded warriors and become one of the most respected veterans-support groups in the nation. In fact, over two-thirds of the Coalition's staff are combat-wounded or their spouse or caregiver.

Recently, the Coalition made a substantial grant of direct financial aid to HeroHomes, another worthy organization, to assist five wounded veterans and their families with new homes that meet their different physical needs. The Coalition has also supported the Boulder Crest Retreat for Military and Veteran Wellness in Bluemont, yet another organization in my district that is doing tremendous work for veterans who need mental and physical recovery from the suffering of war.

I look forward to watching the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of so many American heroes. The debt of gratitude owed to the men, women, and their families who have served as part of our nation's armed forces is impossible to repay. I have been honored to recognize their sacrifice and support efforts to empower members of the military as they adjust back to civilian life. To that end, I supported the Hire More Heroes Act, a common-sense bipartisan piece of legislation that will help create jobs for veterans transitioning to civilian careers.

I am proud that the Coalition to Support America's Heroes is based in my district in Leesburg and know they will continue to help brave men and women all across our country. The work they do cannot be overstated and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the important work the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes continues to do each day to help veterans.

#### HONORING FOUR SPECIAL WOMEN

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2016*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring four special women in the District of Columbia who attend the Zion Baptist Church and will reach the significant milestone of turning 100 years old this summer. All four women are native Washingtonians, have known each other since early childhood and have remained lifelong friends. The Zion Baptist Church will officially recognize Ruth Eliza-

beth Chatman Hammett (June 14, 1916), Gladys Ware Butler (July 4, 1916), Bernice Grimes Underwood (July 23, 1916) and Leona Costello Barnes (July 18, 1916) on June 18, 2016.

As little girls, the four grew up together in Southwest D.C. and could not have predicted, as they reflected on the many years and changes that followed their lives, that they would one day celebrate their 100th birthdays together. As they grew up, got married and had children, they witnessed the shaping of a remarkable century. They had relatives who fought in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. They felt hope listening to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the despair of the riots that wracked their beloved city after his assassination. As they settled into middle age, they saw their family members join in the civil rights struggle for equality as they lived out their days in the neighborhood, and they never imagined that their friendship would outlast the stoops and storefronts.

But in the 1950s, the area was marked for urban renewal and razed, decimating the community as their church congregation and neighbors were eventually scattered. But despite this upheaval, the four women's friendship persisted. They saw each other become grandmothers, great-grandmothers, and "great-great-greats". They still share fond memories of places and people that no one else remembers and by the age of 92, the four women thought that they had seen it all. But then something truly amazing happened that they never would have predicted. A black man became the President of the United States. To each of these four women it was the culmination of a lifelong journey as black people in America, and they only wished that some of their relatives could have lived to witness such a historic event.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in recognizing the full lives of Ruth Elizabeth Chatman Hammett, Gladys Ware Butler, Bernice Grimes Underwood, and Leona Costello Barnes, and in celebrating this momentous occasion, which they are sharing together as lifelong friends.

#### LETTERS FROM NORTH SIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON LONG ISLAND SOUND

### HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2016*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share letters written to me by Mrs. Widyn's 4th Grade Class at North Side Elementary School in East Williston about the importance of preserving Long Island Sound. It was a pleasure to visit this class and see how motivated they are to save our environment broadly, and Long Island Sound specifically. I would like to insert letters they wrote to me in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ISRAEL: I am writing to you so you can ask the Congress to set aside some money to keep the Long Island Sound clean. I have many reasons why we need to protect this beautiful body of water. One reason is that it is our greatest natural resource. Also, there are many animal habitats that are getting wrecked because of all

the dirty garbage. Some of the animals are birds, wildlife and marine life. There is also a bird there that is endangered called the Piping Plover. The Piping Plover might become extinct if we keep this up. One last reason is that in a few years there would so much garbage and pollution that it will cost even more money to fix than it already does.

I am 9 years old and I figured out the importance of keeping the Long Island Sound in good shape. I hope the people we elect to represent us gives this problem their consideration and that they understand the importance of this big issue, not just for the people who live on the Long Island Sound, but for the environment that everybody shares.

Sincerely,

BRIANNA JANICEK.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ISRAEL: I am writing to you so you can ask Congress to give money to protect the Long Island Sound from being polluted! It is our greatest natural resource!

A reason why we need money to protect the Long Island Sound is we eat fish, oysters and clams from the Long Island Sound and nobody wants to eat fish, oysters or clams that have been in polluted water!

Another reason is polluted water can cause habitat loss for marine life, and if there are no fish, the birds that eat fish will starve!

Finally, many people like swimming in the Long Island Sound and if the water they're swimming in is polluted, they will not want to swim there anymore!

I am 9 years old, and realize how important the Long Island Sound is. I hope Congress sets aside money to protect the Long Island Sound!

Thank you for reading my letter.

Sincerely,

GRACE WONG.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ISRAEL: I am writing to because I think the Congress should set aside money to keep the Long Island Sound beautiful and clean.

I think we should protect the Long Island Sound because it is our greatest natural resource. It gives us five billion dollars in our economy. If the water is not clean, people will not want to come here anymore and we can kiss five billion dollars bye-bye. People who live near the Long Island Sound will want to move if the water is polluted because dirty and filthy water will be washing against their houses. I would not want to live their either. Finally, wildlife and marine life will continue to decrease in population. The piping plover will eventually become extinct if we continue to pollute the Long Island Sound. Also, the fish that we eat could be dirty and unhealthy for our body.

I know I am only nine years old, but I take this very seriously. Thank you for reading my letter. I hope something is done to protect the Long Island Sound.

Sincerely,

SAHAMA DHAMA.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ISRAEL: I am writing to you so you can ask Congress to set aside money to keep the Long Island Sound clean and beautiful. There are many reasons why we need to protect this body of water. First of all, the Long Island Sound is one of our greatest resources. Also, if it is polluted many animals may die like birds, wildlife, and marine life. We should also have money for the Long Island Sound because it helps our economy. Fishing, tourism, and recreation take place on the Long Island Sound.

I am 9 years old and I realize how important it is to keep the Long Island Sound protected. I hope everyone who loves the Long Island Sound understands its importance for the future of our environment that we all share.