

could be dedicated to maintain the Williams Prayer Chapel. The small Gothic-style chapel in the center of campus opened in August 2001, and is designed to provide a place of solitude for students to experience a moment of peace with the Lord amidst their busy schedules. Dr. Williams' wife, Ardelia Williams, who taught for many years within the Indiana Wesleyan Art Department, crafted all of the stained glass windows in the small sanctuary.

In addition to Dr. Williams' time as a faculty member at Indiana Wesleyan, he has been active on Indian archaeological digs throughout the United States. He has been even more active on excavations in Israel and North Africa. He dug for over 40 years in such cities as Arad, Aphek, Jerusalem, Carthage, Lachish, Megiddo, Jezreel and Hazor. In September of 2005, at the Indiana-Israel Dinner of State, Israel Bonds bestowed upon Dr. Williams the honor of "Friend of Israel". Governor Mitch Daniels, who was honorary co-chair of the dinner, also presented Williams a "Distinguished Hoosier" award. Altogether Dr. Williams has been to the Bible lands 156 times, nearly all of which have been to Israel. The Israeli Ministry of Tourism honored Dr. Williams for his many trips to the Holy Land, by presenting him with a sterling silver copy of a 1585 world map depicting Jerusalem as the center of the world.

Dr. Williams is an accomplished author who has published many articles and three books: one of poetry titled, "From Sand to Glass"; one on the Ten Commandments titled "How To Find Your Maximum Happiness," and the other a Commentary on the book of Genesis. He is currently writing "God's Grand Design and Satan's Counter Plan".

On behalf of all Hoosiers, I wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to Dr. Williams for his many years in education, for his contributions to our Hoosier community, our nation, and the resilient nation of Israel. I want to congratulate Dr. Williams on his remarkable career and I wish the very best to Dr. Williams, to his wife Ardelia, and to their children and their families, in his well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRIS COLLINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 20, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes March 15 and March 16, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 159, YEA on Roll Call No. 160, YEA on Roll Call No. 161, YEA on Roll Call No. 162, YEA on Roll Call No. 163, YEA on Roll Call No. 164, NAY on Roll Call No. 165, NAY on Roll Call No. 166, NAY on Roll Call No. 167, YEA on Roll Call No. 168, YEA on Roll Call No. 169.

TESTIMONY OF MARGARET ADAIR QUINN ON THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 20, 2017

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I enter the powerful words of my

constituent, Maggie Quinn, who supports the Affordable Care Act and the protections it provides our most vulnerable citizens.

"On December 7, 1991 I fell and broke my back in two places. Fortunately I have regained most of my mobility but at the time it ended my career in the professional theatre. I pulled myself together and with my husband started small business which has kept us afloat. I was doubly fortunate during those years to be able to retain vested beyond COBRA medical insurance for both of us through my union, Actor's Equity Association.

Then, in 2000, my husband was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis—so we both then had "pre-existing conditions."

The ACA insurance covered his treatment and drugs, we kept our business going, and were proud that we were at no time a burden on our state or society as a whole, but by 2013, the last year of my AEA coverage, our combined premiums and co-pays neared 40% of our net income.

After the Affordable Care Act was passed and Connecticut opened its insurance exchange, my union terminated my insurance eligibility and, because I had an ACA option available in Connecticut, and because my premiums were less than the union's costs to cover us. At the time, our premiums alone were over 18,000 a year, a severe financial hardship for two self-employed 58 year olds, and I knew even then that we would not be able to sustain them for much longer.

Because of the ACA and the Connecticut exchange, we were able to enroll in a terrific plan, with a reasonable deductible and, with the tax credit figured in, with premiums less than half of what we had been paying. Every year since 2014, our premiums have decreased (they are about 6,000\$ a year now) and our deductibles have not risen commensurately. We have been well cared for, my husband's drug costs, which at retail would be approximately 5,000 a month, have not crippled us, and we have continued to work at our small business, to pay our federal, state, local and corporate taxes, and contribute to the prosperity of our town, our state, and the economy of our nation. We have been able to put money away for our eventual retirement.

Now, with the impending repeal of the ACA, that is all in jeopardy.

My husband's Great Grandmother also had Rheumatoid arthritis, and her obituary in the Waterbury Republican/American says she spent the last ten years of her life in bed.

Ms. DeLauro, I am, quite frankly, terrified that this is the prospect that awaits my husband without the safeties of the ACA. It will mean the end of our business, and the end of our livelihood, the end of our ability to pay taxes and support our customers, our community, and our state.

At nearly 62, with the medical problems we both have, we are not realistically employable by any company large enough to provide medical insurance. If the ACA tax credits and the mandate that preexisting conditions cannot factor in insurance coverage are done away with, we are likely to end up in a high risk pool at best, and what would those self-pay premiums be now, given inflation? \$25,000 a year? \$30,000? We simply cannot afford it. And without the ACA mandated removal of lifetime caps, my husband will surely cap out given his high drug costs. I cannot really express the depths of my fear that we risk becoming burdens on our state and its already stretched social safety net. The ACA has given us the promise of whole, useful working lives without the fear of penury. Please, Ms. DeLauro, help us keep the ACA."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 20, 2017

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on March 9, 2017, I missed roll call vote No. 139 on the floor of the House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted nay.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 20, 2017

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, on March 17, 2017 I was absent for recorded vote No. 170 and No. 171, as I was delayed while leading a critical discussion with Secretary of Homeland Security John Kelly in my capacity as Chair of the Democratic Caucus.

I would like to reflect how I would have voted if I were here: On Roll Call No. 170 I would have voted yes. On Roll Call No. 171 I would have voted yes.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT OF CHIEF JUSTICE CAROLYN WRIGHT

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 20, 2017

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I wish to recognize the significant career of Chief Justice Carolyn Wright, as well as celebrate her recent reception of the 2017 Texas Women Lawyers Pathfinder Award—an honor given to an individual who has championed the advancement of women in the law, and has shown creativity and leadership within that field. Chief Justice Wright has been a trailblazer for women of color working in the legal field; and therefore, I could not think of anyone more deserving of such an honor.

Along with other positions that were historical firsts for women and minorities in Texas, Chief Justice Wright is the first African-American to be appointed to an intermediate court, as well as the first woman to win a multi-county election for any state elected office. Prior to these esteemed positions, Wright has been a judge with more than 30 years experience in civil, family, criminal, and mediation law. Additionally, she has served as a practicing attorney, Dallas County associate judge, state district judge, as well as a Justice on the Court of Appeals, after being appointed by then-Governor George W. Bush in 1995.

Although her resume is quite significant, none of it is as impressive as she is as a community member. For the entire time that I have known her, Carolyn Wright has been an upstanding citizen and proud Dallasite. Those who know her both in and out of the courtroom can attest to her dedication to her work, but at the same time to her thoughtfulness as a leader and a friend. Mr. Speaker, may the

record show that this woman deserves recognition for the incredible career she has made for herself, and the way her life has touched others.

TESTIMONY OF ALEXIS DECECCHI
ON THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF
THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 20, 2017

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I enter the powerful words of my constituent, Alexis Dececchi, who supports the Affordable Care Act and the protections it provides our most vulnerable citizens.

"Hi, my name is Alexis Dececchi. I want to thank Congresswoman DeLauro for taking the time out of her busy schedule to gather us here so we can tell our stories about the ACA. I would not be standing here today if it weren't for the ACA. I think everyone who has developed a major health problem remembers "that day"—the day everything changed. For me, that day was December 28th, 2012. I refer to this as my second birthday.

During the night of the 28th, my body mounted an inflammatory autoimmune attack against my nervous system, causing me to suffer brain damage. When I awoke, portions of my memory, processing, and visual system had been compromised. Months of fearful confusion followed until the cause was discovered: I had a cellular immunodeficiency affecting my natural killer cells. This caused me to be more susceptible to viral and fungal infections. This susceptibility also caused autoimmune inflammation in my nervous system and brain.

Without the protection of the ACA, I would be defined as having a pre-existing condition, and be subject to expensive, high-risk insurance pools, or potentially be uninsured. Without insurance, I would be unable to afford the experimental antivirals and the bi-weekly infusions of immunoglobulin that I need, which currently cost over \$8000 every month. A reinstatement of lifetime policy caps would also endanger my access to this treatment.

Since receiving my infusions, I have seen improvements in my condition. I have fewer seizures and cognitive issues, and I've regained some of my physical strength. This year, I was finally able to return to the workforce and hold down a part-time job. None of this would be possible for me without the ACA. Though I have improved, there is no cure for my condition, and I will require these treatments indefinitely. Without them, I would start to backslide physically and develop dementia-like symptoms.

The chronic illness and disability community is one of the country's biggest minority groups, but one of the most overlooked. Because of the nature of our disabilities, it has been hard for us to organize, especially if each day is a fight for survival. We should have the equal rights and protections of other minority groups in this country. Right now, our current administration is fighting over policies and ideals, but what we are fighting for is survival. That is a very different type of struggle and one that we cannot afford to lose. The ACA was a step in the right direction for millions of Americans. We can't take a step back. I want to continue to move forward in my life, and I want to do the same for other chronically ill individuals. We need to stand together, and stand

with, our representatives who understand that healthcare is a right, not a privilege."

THE COLUMBIA RIVER IN-LIEU
AND TREATY FISHING ACCESS
SITES IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 20, 2017

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am reintroducing the Columbia River In-Lieu and Treaty Fishing Access Sites Improvement Act. For decades now, the federal government has forgone its obligations to the four Columbia River Treaty Tribes, after flooding tribal communities, houses, and traditional hunting and fishing sites with the construction of the Bonneville, The Dalles, and John Day dams.

This bill is just part of the work we are pursuing to improve the living conditions at these sites along the Columbia River. This issue deserves significant attention and investment from the federal government. The history of the 31 Columbia River In-Lieu and Treaty Fishing Access Sites dates back decades. Development that began in the 1930s displaced many members of the four Columbia River treaty tribes: the Warm Springs, Umatilla, Nez Perce, and Yakama Nation. Those tribes have a treaty-protected right to fish along the river at their usual and accustomed places that needs to be respected.

The tribes were also promised housing to replace what was inundated after the dams became operational and that promise has largely not been kept. I'm working with my colleagues and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, and the effected tribes to address these unmet needs through the appropriations process and other legislation.

To address fishing access that was wiped out by the dams, the Corps constructed 31 small sites along the Columbia, designed primarily for daily, in-season fishing access and temporary camping. However, largely due to the lack of promised permanent housing and out of a desire to be closer to the Columbia River, their cultural heritage, and traditional fishing areas, many tribal members live in makeshift housing or shelters at these sites. Because they were not designed for longer-term or permanent use, the conditions at these sites are deeply distressing and unsafe, without proper electricity, sewers, or water. I have seen these conditions firsthand on multiple visits, and they have garnered attention from local and national media. The sites are in dire need of urgent upgrades to electrical, sewer, and other infrastructure, beyond their daily operations and maintenance needs.

This legislation calls for BIA to conduct a much-needed assessment of current conditions at the In-Lieu and Treaty Fishing Access sites under BIA ownership on both sides of the Columbia, in coordination with the tribes. It authorizes the BIA to improve existing federal structures and infrastructure, improve sanitation and safety conditions, and improve access to electricity, sewer, and water infrastructure. BIA may contract with tribes and tribal organizations to conduct this important work that will lay a critical foundation for the construction of permanent tribal housing.

This is a significant and meaningful step in improving the living conditions at these sites and should be passed by the House and Senate. Our efforts will not stop here. I will continue working with federal partners and tribal nations to see that the need for more permanent housing is fulfilled and tribal member's treaty rights are respected.

TRIBUTE TO THE BROOKLYN
CHINESE-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 20, 2017

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Brooklyn Chinese-American Association (BCA) as they celebrate the twelfth anniversary of their Sixth Avenue Senior Center.

The Sixth Avenue Center is one of nine locations throughout Brooklyn dedicated to the wellbeing and livelihood of seniors and the people who care about them.

After securing funding from The Aging in New York Fund (DFTA) in 2012, the Center now serves over 200 seniors every day. Whether providing hearty meals, medical screenings, or recreational events like birthday parties and field trips, the Center is an invaluable part of the greater community of Sixth Avenue in Brooklyn.

In the face of uncertain times and proposed budget cuts, creating and maintaining a warm and welcoming space for seniors is a testament to the hard work of the BCA staff. Their presence in the community helps some of our most vulnerable neighbors and makes Brooklyn and all of New York a better place to live.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the staff and all those involved with the Sixth Avenue Senior Center for their dedication to the seniors of Brooklyn. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on 12 years of service.

TESTIMONY OF DOMINIQUE
THORNTON ON THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF THE AFFORDABLE
CARE ACT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 20, 2017

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I enter the powerful words of my constituent, Dominique Thornton, who supports the Affordable Care Act and the protections it provides our most vulnerable citizens.

"Thank you Congresswoman DeLauro for giving us this opportunity to tell you how essential the Affordable Care Act is in our lives and what a difference it has made for us not to be denied insurance coverage because of preexisting conditions. First of all I want to remind everyone that the full name of the law is the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. One of the most important protections it affords us is the protection not to be denied health insurance coverage due to preexisting conditions. Why would Members of Congress who represent the people of their districts ever seek to repeal patient protections?