

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District, I would like to congratulate the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department on the celebration of its 50th Anniversary. I am proud that our Hoosier state is home to an exemplary department such as this one. I wish the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department all the best as it embarks on its next 50 years of excellence in Indiana.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN A. OBEET
FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED LEGAL
CAREER ON THE DAY OF HIS RE-
TIREMENT

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John A. Obee, an attorney who has effectively served the State of Michigan for nearly 40 years, on the day of his retirement. Mr. Obee has had a distinguished career utilizing his legal expertise on behalf of his clients and during his time in public service with the State of Michigan.

After graduating from Wayne State University Law School in 1978, Mr. Obee began his legal career as a judicial law clerk with Justice Blair Moody, Jr. of the Michigan Supreme Court. He then served as an Assistant United States Attorney with the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District until 1982, after which he entered private practice. Mr. Obee's work has focused primarily on real estate litigation, including serving as an arbitrator for construction and labor matters. In addition, Mr. Obee has worked extensively on fair housing issues in Michigan and has served as a Hearing Referee for the Michigan Department on Civil Rights. He also has utilized his legal experience as an Adjunct Law Professor at Michigan State University and the University of Detroit Law School, where he taught classes on housing discrimination law.

Mr. Obee has had an outstanding career as a lawyer and advocate for fair housing. He has received numerous accolades for his tireless advocacy on behalf of his clients, including the Fair Housing Center of Metropolitan Detroit's Fair Housing Leadership Award for his work on fair housing litigation. Additionally, Mr. Obee has served on numerous labor panels, including the Federal Mediation on Conciliation Service and the Michigan Employment Relations Commission. Mr. Obee's membership on these panels, as well as his extensive contributions to trade publications and scholarly journals, underscore his legal expertise as well as his dedication to his clients.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring John A. Obee for his exceptional career as an attorney. Mr. Obee has had an outstanding legal career in public service and working in private practice.

WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY
ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 1180, the Working Families Flexibility Act of 2017. This misguided legislation would undermine nearly 80 years of federal employment law guaranteeing overtime pay to employees who work more than 40 hours in a week at a given job.

Income inequality in America has increased dramatically over the last four decades while the middle class continues to shrink. The average income for the top 0.01 percent of households grew 322 percent between 1980 and 2015, compared to a 0.03 percent increase for the remaining 90 percent of households over the same period of time. Rising household expenses like childcare, healthcare, housing, and education have made it even more difficult for families to climb the rungs of the economic ladder, while approximately 47 million Americans continue to live below the federal poverty line, including over 15 million children.

Congress should focus on policies and legislation that help middle- and low-income households achieve economic mobility. Instead, H.R. 1180 would short-change hourly workers by allowing private sector employers to offer compensatory time off in place of overtime pay. By weakening existing requirements for overtime pay, employers can choose to offer overtime hours to employees who agree to receive compensatory time, while nothing in the bill guarantees that employees will be able to use their compensatory time when they wish to. Although employers are required to pay employees for any unused compensatory time, they have up to thirteen months to do so, and there are no protections for workers if the employer declares bankruptcy or permanently closes its doors.

At a time when the American Dream has become more difficult to attain, it is more critical than ever for Congress to take action that will make it easier for working parents to meet their responsibilities both at home and at work. These policies include increasing the federal minimum wage; providing households with paid sick and family leave; and ensuring workers are guaranteed stable and predictable work schedules.

I urge my colleagues to vote 'No' on H.R. 1180, the Working Families Flexibility Act of 2017.

HIGH SCHOOL HEROES RESCUE
MAN FROM SUBMERGED CAR

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge two brave and honorable Carlyle High School seniors from my district, Tyler Guthrie and Tucker Johnson. The two students showed compassion and great character when they saved a man's life after his car flipped over into water on Saturday, April 22, 2017.

The victim was pulling off of Old US 50 into the Hatchery Park, trying to adjust his Bluetooth set when he received a phone call. Suddenly the man lost control of his Lexus, which flipped over onto its roof in the water. Luckily, driving behind the gentleman's car were Tyler and Tucker, and they immediately sprang into action.

The two young men could hear the man's cries for help as they inspected the scene. Johnson quickly called 911, while Guthrie smashed in the rear window with a rock he had picked up. Johnson then assisted the man out of his overturned sinking car shortly before an ambulance arrived on the scene.

I ask that we all join in honoring these two good Samaritans and use their selfless act as a reminder that we are all here to help one another.

I stand today to salute Tyler Guthrie and Tucker Johnson for their contributions to this great society and to wish them the very best in all of their future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS.
KORPELA'S 3RD GRADE CLASS

HON. DAVID A. TROTT

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Mr. TROTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bright young artists in Ms. Korpela's 3rd grade class at Nijo-Iro Japanese Immersion Elementary in Livonia, Michigan.

I know that artists get their start long before high school and college, learning to expand their imagination and foster their creativity in classrooms just like Ms. Korpela's.

In an effort to highlight young artists from across Michigan's 11th Congressional District, this year, I announced the 1st Annual "Color my Capitol" Program.

Brimming with talent, Ms. Korpela's students were eager to showcase their amazing artistic skills and take part in this one-of-a-kind program.

Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, Ms. Korpela's 3rd graders did not disappoint. Their creations are unique, innovative, and imaginative. Their colorful artwork embodies our country's bright and promising future with these sharp young minds leading the way.

It is my utmost honor to have their artwork displayed in my Congressional district office in Troy, Michigan for everyone who visits to enjoy. Each and every time I walk into my office, I am reminded of their talent.

Congratulations to Ms. Korpela and the young artists she has the pleasure of teaching.

JERUSALEM DAY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on May 14, 1948, the democratic State of Israel was founded.

This week, 69 years later, we celebrate a vibrant, Jewish state located in the biblical homeland

In tribute to Israel's 69th birthday, I rise today to honor the Jewish people and their long-standing struggle to build and expand their country.

Many of the Jews who lived in Israel in 1948 were survivors of the Second World War and the Holocaust, which pushed international opinion for the need for a homeland for the Jewish people where they could be free from persecution and free to build a better life.

Since that fateful day in Tel Aviv, Israel and its people have worked tirelessly to build a thriving democracy that is economically prosperous and at peace with neighboring nations.

Today, 69 years later, after many difficulties and hardships, a strong, resolute Israel has a population over 8 million.

The first nation to recognize Israel's independence, I am proud to say, was the United States, when Democratic President Harry Truman welcomed Israel into the community of nations just hours after its declaration.

The bonds between our two great nations, bound together by common interests and shared values, have only grown with time.

Through Democratic and Republican Administrations, we have continued to stand by our ally in the Middle East.

As most people know, I have been a long-time supporter of Israel and continue to advocate on their behalf.

Mr. Speaker, I hope on this joyous celebration that we reflect on the need to redouble our efforts to bring peace to the region and continue to tangibly support our friend and ally in its request for peace.

HONORING PATSY CLINE

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, there are those whose lives shine so brightly and give us hope regardless of life circumstances and tragedies we may endure. Patsy Cline, who was also known as the First Lady of Country Music, was one of those inspiring and uplifting souls. She moved us all by her incredible voice and meaningful lyrics such as *Crazy* and *Walking after Midnight* that would continue to be cherished by generations to follow.

Patsy was a true treasure whose memory will forever be remembered by her fans and Tennesseans alike. Patsy Cline was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame, and was the first female soloist chosen for the honor. Her short yet remarkable music and television career paved a way for women to pursue their passion in the entertainment industry. The true strength she exemplified came from the genuine love in her heart to serve and entertain her family, friends, and fans. She lived a life worth living.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EMERGENCY FINANCIAL MANAGER REFORM ACT OF 2017

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, the Emergency Financial Manager Reform Act of 2017

is intended to ensure that state-appointed emergency financial managers for municipalities in fiscal distress do not violate Constitutional protections, ensure public health and safety, and are accountable stewards of taxpayer funds. The bill responds to problems presented when unaccountable emergency financial managers usurp local elected officials and unilaterally make decisions that jeopardize public health and safety.

The bill accomplishes these objectives by authorizing the U.S. Attorney General to withhold ten percent of the funds that would otherwise be allocated to a state under the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program (Byrne-JAG), which provides funding to states for law enforcement purposes, if the U.S. Attorney General determines that the state appointed an emergency financial manager who fails to meet any of the criteria as specified in the bill. These criteria, for example, include a requirement that the appropriate state official submit a certification to the U.S. Attorney General stating that the appointment of an emergency financial manager has neither the purpose nor the effect of denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race or color. Another condition specifies that the emergency financial manager receive prior approval from the governor of the state and the appropriate local elected officials before making decisions affecting public health or safety. A further condition protects the rights of employees under collective bargaining agreements from being impaired in violation of the U.S. Constitution.

SECTION-BY-SECTION EXPLANATION OF THE BILL

Section 1. Short Title. Section 1 sets forth the short title of the bill as the Emergency Financial Manager Reform Act of 2017.

Section 2. Findings. Section 2 of the bill sets forth a series of congressional findings explaining why this legislation is necessary.

Section 3. Safeguards Regarding State Appointment of an Emergency Financial Manager. Subsection (a) of section 3 authorizes the U.S. Attorney General to withhold ten percent of funds that would otherwise be allocated to a state under the Byrne-JAG grant program for the following fiscal year if the state has appointed an emergency financial manager and any of the following criteria are not met:

(1) The emergency financial manager is appointed and the chief legal officer or other appropriate state official has not prior thereto submitted a certification to the U.S. Attorney General that such appointment has neither the purpose nor the effect of denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race or color and the U.S. Attorney General has not interposed an objection within 60 days following the submission of such certification.

(2) The emergency financial manager is authorized to make decisions affecting public health or safety of the residents of a local government unit without receiving prior approval from the governor of the state and the appropriate local elected officials.

(3) The emergency financial manager fails to have adequate oversight to ensure against conflicts of interest, mismanagement, and abuse of discretion by the emergency financial manager. The bill, in section 4, defines adequate oversight to mean that a monthly, publicly-available report accounting for all financial activities of the emergency financial manager, including possible conflicts of interest, mismanagement, and abuses of discretion. This report must be reviewed and approved by the governor. In addition, adequate oversight means that there must be an

independent, state-approved, and publically-available annual audit of the emergency financial manager's duty-related activities.

(4) The emergency financial manager is authorized to reject, modify, or terminate an existing collective bargaining agreement without mutual consent of all parties to such agreement.

(5) The emergency financial manager is authorized to reject, modify, or terminate an existing contract without mutual consent of all parties to such contract or such rejection, modification, or termination is approved by an federal bankruptcy court.

Subsection (b) provides that the amount of funding not allocated under subsection (a) is to be reallocated to other states that are not subject to any reduction under subsection (a).

Section 4. Definitions. Section 4 defines various terms used in the bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. SPENCER'S 3RD GRADE CLASS

HON. DAVID A. TROTT

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Mr. TROTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bright young artists in Ms. Spencer's 3rd grade class at Auburn Elementary in Auburn Hills, Michigan.

I know that artists get their start long before high school and college, learning to expand their imagination and foster their creativity in classrooms just like Ms. Spencer's.

In an effort to highlight young artists from across Michigan's 11th Congressional District, this year, I announced the 1st Annual "Color my Capitol" Program.

Brimming with talent, Ms. Spencer's students were eager to showcase their amazing artistic skills and take part in this one-of-a-kind program.

Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, Ms. Spencer's 3rd graders did not disappoint. Their creations are unique, innovative, and imaginative. Their colorful artwork embodies our country's bright and promising future with these sharp young minds leading the way.

It is my utmost honor to have their artwork displayed in my Congressional district office in Troy, Michigan for everyone who visits to enjoy. Each and every time I walk into my office, I am reminded of their talent.

Congratulations to Ms. Spencer and the young artists she has the pleasure of teaching.

IN TRIBUTE TO SHEILA DIANNE COCHRAN

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sheila Dianne Cochran, Milwaukee Area Labor Council, AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer and Chief Operating Officer. She began service at the Council in March of 2009 and officially retired on March 31, 2017.

Ms. Cochran ran the largest Central Labor Council in Wisconsin. The Milwaukee Area Labor Council has about 110 affiliate Labor