

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RIVIERA THEATRE

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2017

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Riviera Theatre, a historical landmark in North Tonawanda, New York. This past December, the Riviera celebrated 90 years of bringing a multitude of performing arts, including live concerts, theatre, dance shows, and movies to Western New York.

Originally known as the Twin Cities Rivera, the theatre was built during the year 1926, by the Yellen Family. The architects Leon H. Lempart and Son drew the plans, which were patterned after the Italian Renaissance. The theatre changed multiple times over the years but is currently owned and run by Riviera Theatre and Organ Preservation Society.

Opening night was December 30, 1926, a gala event, which featured the movies "Upstage" starring Norma Shearer, "The Mona Lisa", in Technicolor, a short comedy, and the newsreel. Organist Fred Meyer accompanied the films and soloed at the Mighty Wurlitzer organ.

Perhaps the Riviera is best known for housing a Wurlitzer Theatre organ, made nearby at the Rudolph Wurlitzer Company of North Tonawanda. In 2008, the organ was re-voiced and restored to nearly original condition, providing a new symphonic sound for concerts and events. The Riviera's Mighty Wurlitzer has provided more entertainment consistently in its original setting than most other theatre organs, nationwide. Many of the top name artists in the country have performed here in hundreds of concerts over the past 35 years.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Riviera Theatre is currently in the planning stages of an Expansion and Development Project (Set The Stage) that will add 23,000 square feet of new space including a black box theatre, a new lobby and new modern amenities for their patrons and performers. It is estimated when completed an additional 50,000 visitors will attend annually.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments today to recognize the heritage of the Riviera Theatre and to celebrate its 90th Anniversary. I wish them well in their continuing expansion as the Buffalo community is fortunate to have a building with such a historical background and which promotes performing arts.

#### TRANS TOWN HALL

#### HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2017

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, recently, I sat down with a number of activists in Minnesota

to talk about how LGBTQ folks, and especially trans people, are fighting for basic economic rights in a world that belittles, excludes, and dehumanizes them.

The transgender community is more visible than ever. Leaders like Laverne Cox, Caitlyn Jenner, and Janet Mock have become icons for the future of the LGBTQ movement. And in my hometown of Minneapolis, my dear friend Andrea Jenkins just received the democratic endorsement for City Council. She will be the first out trans person to hold office in Minnesota.

But this increased visibility hasn't improved the lives of all transgender people.

Compared to other states, Minnesota's transgender community is a lot safer and healthier. But that's not saying much. Nationwide, violence against trans people—and trans women in particular—is at an all-time high. Even in deeply progressive Minneapolis, my constituent CeCe McDonald was attacked outside a bar and imprisoned in a men's prison for 19 months for defending herself.

This sort of violence has far-reaching repercussions—high unemployment, difficulty accessing lifesaving healthcare, housing instability, and educational barriers. And we need to stop thinking of these injustices as separate from our economic lives.

To get a better understanding about how trans folks are living in the 21st century, I attended Minnesota's LGBTQ Lobby Day in April and hosted a town hall forum. I'll tell you—it's not easy. It takes a lot of courage to hold space for your truth. My friend Kye kicked off the testimony with a story about how important simply accepting people's identities are:

For many young trans people, growing up and going through elementary school, junior high, high school, and even college can be extremely difficult. And these folks don't always have the support system they need. Many talked about the deep opposition they faced from their families.

But it doesn't end there. There's difficulty finding work too. And even when trans people do find work, they can be subjected to cruel behavior from customers and even their own colleagues.

Now most American get their health insurance through their employers. But there are no protections to ensure that trans people can have the medically necessary care covered. This extends to our service members too. But there are also issues of racism and people being excluded because of their disabilities.

Listening to these very real struggles, I get upset thinking about how much time we have to spend convincing others to treat trans people as equals. It's clear we still have a lot of work to do, including in places that are seen as more tolerant to the LGBTQ community. I don't always know the right words, and I don't always get everything right when talking about this issue. And that's okay—I'm not trans. I do not have that experience. What's important is that I listen, that I hear and accept what my trans friends and colleagues are telling me.

And that I do the work they ask me to do. That is how you build a movement of generosity and inclusion.

Thanks to OutFront Minnesota and the Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition for their help coordinating this town hall. But more importantly, thank you to those who shared their stories.

The following are excerpts from various LGBTQ activists I recently invited to a town hall forum:

Kye Allums: I was a sophomore in High School. I was unaware of all things transgender and had no words to describe who I was. Constantly fighting with my mom to prove I liked who I liked, and that I would rather wear basketball shorts instead of a dress. I was invisible; never validated or affirmed. My mom let it be known that she was the one who defined me. I was her daughter; I was her girl. Until one day I went with her to meet a friend. We walked up to his office and he asked my mom, "Is this your son? He's a lot taller than I remember." In my mind I was like, "Yes!" Before my mom could say anything, I quickly replied, "Yup that's me. I'm her son." That moment, I was seen; I was seen by somebody, and that somebody was Congressman Keith Ellison.

Aaron Dotta: I am a co-president of the GSA at St. Paul Academy, which is a private school in St Paul. Something I want to point out is, because our parents have resources to send us to a private school, we are able to be educated in a community that supports us, and we are able to be GSA presidents and we are able to push for things such as gender neutral bathrooms, which we now have in our school. What we wanted to say is, this privilege of being able to push for equality and have our identities be recognized, should not be limited to private schools. Students at all schools, including public schools, should be able have their own GSAs and their identities recognized by their administration, teachers and peers. Also as gender queer youth, we do face a lot of hardship when it comes to choosing colleges, when it comes to trying to finding summer jobs. We have to think about what names we put on our applications, and resumes. Looking at schools where we will hopefully be able to spend four years and get a college degree, we have to carefully think about what places in the country and what schools will be friendly to our identities, so that we can focus on getting an education without having to worry about our indent threatening our safety and our mental health.

Leo Bukovsan: Most of my college decision making was based on where I wouldn't get kicked out of school. As a female to male transgender person, figuring out where I could be housed, where I could be safe, basically, and that really was tough, making those decisions. Because I'm in a privileged situation where I can choose where I go to college pretty well, based on all those kinds of things, I still have to make sure that I'm going to be safe.

Zaylore Stout: I live in St Louis Park. I'm a board member for RECLAIM!, which provides mental health services to transgender and gender non-conforming youth. Locally, I'm a member of the Allies of St Louis Park, which is an advocacy group that started right after the election, in regards to working towards progressive issues. Today I'm

• 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.

here representing as well the St Louis Park GSA group. The focus here is a student-led initiative to try to get the St Louis Park school board to pass a gender inclusion policy. Now the school board has been working on this. They came up with a draft policy that's been enhanced since October of last year, but they stalled. They stalled because of the Gavin Grimm case in front of the Supreme Court. They also stalled because of the Virginia-Minnesota case, as well. Part of the issue was that they're currently in the midst of looking for a new super intendant, but students need protection. There's current no policy on the books in regards to whether the transgender and gender non-conforming students can use whatever restroom facilities it is they need. There is no protection for them in regards to faculty members or staff outing them to other students, to staff members or to the parents. There are great model policies that are out there, but the schools locally need to be able to pass these policies on their own. It's my understanding that the Minnesota Department of Education, as well the district attorney has advised the school boards to hold off, in regards to passing these policies because of the Virginia-Minnesota case. But the plaintiffs have pulled back in regards to that action, so there's not holding the local school boards in regards to passing these types of initiatives.

Jannifer Halpaus: My child is transgender. He's a sophomore. He came out 2 years ago, so it's been a learning experience. And in this experience, I have encountered multiple phone calls from the school district because my child is trans. Because he wants to use a certain bathroom, because he wants to use a certain locker room and he won't use the one they tell him to. On a state level, leadership should pass gender inclusion policies or gender affirming policies for all the schools in Minnesota, so we can end the problems we are having. My child is being pulled out of classes. He's being sat down with principals, and district employees, such as Title IX coordinators, upper level employees, the superintendent. As a child, I did not know my principals; I did not know my superintendents, personally. I think my child should have that experience if he chooses. He should be able to attend schools as a boy, and be one of the guys. My child has recently been hospitalized three separate times in a psych ward. Since things were brought to the school board's attention, he successfully joined the boy's swim team. The staff supported him. With three swim meets left in the season, the school board contacted the principal, who contacted me to say, "Your son cannot change in that locker room anymore." Three hours later they rescinded that, but then instead of being allowed to take phy-ed like his peers, he was told, "We will give you a phy-ed credit for having participated in the swim team, in lieu of you not being in these locker rooms." My child is female to male transgender, and many times when groups speak, they are not speaking about my child. They are speaking about male to female transgender. My child has problems with self-harm, suicide ideation, high level of anxiety, and addiction. And I can't believe that none of these has been part of why.

Dave Edwards: I am a board member at Transforming Families Minnesota it's a peer group and community organization that supports families with gender diverse youth. I appreciate you being here today and focusing on future outcomes for trans people, because that's where my daughter will be not that long from now. I love the focus on the future; I think that always has to include our youth's experiences in public schools. We can't expect our landlords to rent to a trans

person when they watch their high school principal tell a trans student where they can and can't use the restroom. We can't expect managers make hiring decisions equitable if they have watched their teachers minimize or diminish the discrimination that their trans classmates faced. I'm glad we brought up the gender inclusion policy; I worked with Minnesota Department of Education create the Model Policy. It has been completed and sitting since October and needs to come out and be available to schools before the 2017-2018 school year.

Danny Roman: A lot of the times people don't realize it but home life isn't very good either, along with school. It's kind of hard for me, I suppose, because I don't get all the support, but I get the support from friends and stuff and the school does supports me.

Dasia Timmerman: Growing up is really hard in this state. I came from the Montevideo, Fairmount, and Morris area, finally the Twin Cities, Bloomington, and Eden Prairie. I didn't get to come out. I tried in 1996; I couldn't find services and I was with a really belittling family, and I eventually disowned my dad because of all his hate. He would get red in the face, and looked like he was going to get violent.

Kaylee Jakubowski: It took me three years to come out to myself because it was terrifying. Once I finally did, soon after coming out to my parents, they told me (their exact words): not in this house. So, I was not allowed to come home. I got abandoned from all the financial stability that they offered. And I was kind of set out to figure it out myself there on out. I was going to university at Winona State at that time, and being very financial responsible, as I thought I was, I took out just enough money so that I can survive from beginning of fall semester to end of spring semester. What I didn't foresee was losing the financial stability for the summer. I had no other option but to take out a credit card in order to feed myself. I maxed out the credit card, fifteen hundred dollars throughout the summer, to survive. I took out even more loans to go back to school. Funny thing about signing up for student loans with your parents as co-signers is that once you have to pay them back, they assume that you're still under your parents' budget. So when they're making \$80,000 a year, I have to pay my loans as if I'm making \$80,000 a year. When in reality, after taxes, I'm making 18 to 19 thousand dollars a year. That is very difficult. Turns out to be six to eight hundred dollars a month, depending on whether or not I want to skip one. Getting through the day, day to day, is an incredible challenge.

Hayes McRoy: One of my groups I go to, a LGBTQ group, is losing some of its funding. It is a free group, but they supply snacks and activities. One time, there's a trans girl there who doesn't have any clothes because her family doesn't support her. And we went out, we got her some clothes so she can feel more comfortable. And a great resource like that is currently losing funding, and along with that there also homeless shelter for LGBT youth, which will take up 20-40 percent of homeless population, is also losing some funding. And that just seems very wrong to me.

Dasia: At first I got some part time jobs. I wasn't paid for three weeks because they had a problem with my preferred name versus my legal name. I've since changed my legal name, all my documents, but I'm starting my own business to escape transphobia. I am house cleaner and I am good at it. It's awesome.

Kaylee: I tried to get a job [after my parents cut me off], but that posed to be another difficult challenge. There's nothing I can do legally about the hiring discrimina-

tion that I faced. Because the evidence is seeing the hiring professional come out with all this little books, looking over the papers as he was going to ask me questions about [my application]. Looking up and seeing who I am, and then losing all that energy and giving me half of an interview because he didn't want to. There's nothing I can prove there, but it's everything that I feel to know that I was not allowed to get a job in that establishment. I went back to school at this time. Tried to get a job on top of school and ended up working at McDonalds because they're very easy to get a job with. I worked there for seven months until it culminated on me that all the bullying I was getting from co-workers and customers was too taxing on my mental health. The entire last week that I worked at McDonalds, I remember just crying in the washroom because there nothing else to do. This is not a way that anyone deserves to make money. To make \$7.25 an hour to try to feed themselves.

Zaylore: As a labor and employment law attorney, I still see discrimination cases and handle discrimination cases from individuals within the LGBTQ community. Whether it's employers not providing reasonable accommodations to individuals who are HIV positive, or terminating employees once they find they are HIV positive, or outing transgender employees at their facilities. And when they report to HR, they end up getting retaliated against in regards to that. So this is still an issue, even though we have laws on book protecting individual. We still need the support from our local officials regards to making this type of things get addressed and taken care of.

Emily Ott: My specific concern is the First Amendment Defense Act and the similar bills that are popping up around the United States, one of which is here in Minnesota. I feel that these bills set a dangerous precedent. These bills will allow blatant and open discrimination against members of our community based solely on individuals saying, "I have a religious objection to who you are," or to how you live your life, or who you love. I cannot think of anything more potentially damaging to the concept of American liberty and freedom and justice for all people than these bills. It sets a dangerous precedent for future minority groups that might also run afoul. For example, what about Wiccan people? Do I throw them out of my business because I don't agree with their philosophies and their religious beliefs, and they're objectionable to me? Do I refuse service as a medical provider to somebody because, "I'm sorry but I can't treat your child you're a lesbian couple and I don't agree with your lifestyle?" These things are happening already, and I fear what this does and what it can do to the United States of America and to its people if these bills are allowed to become law.

Dasia: We're facing insurance things in this state that would prevent me from my HRT, which I have been on for seven months. It's good insurance, Minnesota state insurance. She works for MNSCU, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. It's awesome insurance. Apparently it's not going to be soon.

Dave: I am an employee of the University of Minnesota. I work in the Educational Psychology department. I have great health insurance. Last year my daughter was lucky enough, after being on the waiting list for over a year at the Center for Sexual Health, to finally get in. The second they ran my insurance, they wanted to let me know that there was a categorical exclusion for any kind of medical intervention. While that is many years down the road, that's something

we need to fix. If the University of Minnesota can't provide coverage for the services they offer as an institution to their employees, something's wrong. The Center for Sexual Health is leading in the Midwest as the expert location for affirming Trans care; all the service that they either provide or refer to should be covered by our insurance.

Kaylee: I fought very hard to get HRT programs in Winona because, before I petitioned Semcac, which is essentially our Planned Parenthood, about getting hormone procedures in their office, we would either have to go up to Rochester, an hour away, or down to Lacrosse, out of state and forty minutes away. So I tried to get those local and I succeeded. And now, I get to pay about \$80 a month for hormones, which is not doable for me. Right now, I take about half the recommended dosage. I skip days; I skip weeks at a time because I don't have the money to take care of myself because all the things I've had to sacrifice financially have culminated on top of another and stacked. Now, it's difficult. Even getting here was challenging. I've counted every penny that every bus has required of me. \$50 for round trip train ticket to here. \$2.25 for the bus here, but I had to pay \$3 because I didn't have any quarters. Bottled of water cost \$1.25. I'm counting all this in my head; keeping it on track so I don't go negative before my next paycheck. HRT is described as very big challenge I can't do.

Nicole Vanderheiden: I am a queer trans woman. As a direct result of my trans status, I have experienced family rejection, homelessness, hunger, and sexual assault, discrimination in education, employment, and health care. I am going to talk about my experience as a veteran in the U.S. Forces. Like many other trans folk who serve in the military at a proportion twice that of the general population, I served honorably in the U.S. Air force. I get my treatment solely from the Department of Veteran Affairs, which currently operates under blanket exclusion for transgender surgical care. It is unconscionable that in 2017 we have a federal agency that is not only failing to prohibit discrimination, but also operating under policies that prescribe discrimination. I really want to ask you to take action to end those policies, and to prevent our federal agencies from discriminating against trans folks.

Luci Peterson: I am transgender, male-to-female, I am autistic, Jewish, and just recently was hired as a para-educator with a great company. The real reason I want to share and testify, whenever it comes to the LGBT community in conversation, wherever I go, I experience what I consider a gap in the conversation. That gap is around disabilities. The one I can specifically speak about is autism. I volunteer a lot with Autism Society of Minnesota, Awesome.org, and AISM. I just think that it is very dangerous for those people out there, because there is a lot of nonverbal autistic people and then people of all types of disabilities that, depending on where they are living or what their current situation is, they may not have the freedom that able-bodied people do to speak for themselves. We're trying to get a mentorship program going for autistic adults like me to mentor younger autistic people, and I'd like to see more programs like that in the LGBT community, where no matter what your other identities are that LGBT adults could come along LGBT youth. Showing them how they have coped and managed to live a healthy and successful life.

Roxanne Anderson: I want to talk a little bit about where I work and spend time at 3405 Chicago, The Minnesota Transgender Health Organization and Coalition. We're formed by and for transgender folks. We're

the only transgender led by-and-for 501(c)3 nonprofit in Minnesota. We do a lot of work, and we've been doing that work since 2007. We offer services that are inclusive, and serve about 165 Trans and gender non-conforming folk throughout the week. We do six support groups. Our shot clinic serves over 40 people in the six hours that we are open during the week. We spend a lot of time working with Dave [Edwards], and others with the Minnesota Department of Education to be gender-inclusive in schools, and to insure that trans and gender non-conforming can mark their identities on the student survey, something we need to make sure we keep in place in Minnesota. We do harm reduction through syringe exchange; we have food selves, clothe shelves, gender gear. We do shot assistance, and we do that all through the support of volunteers. We do that all under a budget under \$30,000 a year. That sounds awesome, and it is not sustainable. It means that everybody that gives their time, and energy, and effort to MTHC does so without pay. We are located at 3405 Chicago which also houses Café Southside, which employs at about 80-85 percent trans and non-gender conforming folk. I don't know if there is any other place in the whole state that can say that the majority of the people that they employ are trans. It also houses Rare Productions, which is an art and entertainment for LGBT folk of color. The reason I am mentioning this is because like lots of folks have said, we're in jeopardy. We don't have a lot of funding, and we don't get a lot of support from foundations or big business. I think to the point of economics it's really important to know that those organizations that are specially supporting trans folk, and figuring out how to support them.

#### COMMENDING THE NORTHWEST INDIANA BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2017

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2017

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I rise to commend numerous exceptional leaders from Indiana who were honored as the Northwest Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame Class of 2017. While there were many nominees, this year's inductees include Joseph Mansueto, Raymundo Garcia, Karen Maravilla, Craig Dwight, Robert Johnson, Fair Oaks Farms, and Don Babcock. For their many contributions to the community of Northwest Indiana and beyond, these honorees were recognized at the 10th Annual Induction Ceremony on Tuesday, May 16, 2017, at the Avalon Manor in Merrillville, Indiana. Mitch Daniels, President of Purdue University and former Governor of Indiana, was the keynote speaker for the event.

Joe Mansueto is the founder and Executive Chairman of Morningstar Incorporated. Morningstar was initially created to educate individual investors, but it quickly became an asset to financial advisors and institutions. Under Joe's leadership, the company has become a global organization, managing 1.2 million retirement assets and advising up to 10.9 million individual investors, 300,000 plan sponsors, 250,000 investment advisors and more than 1,300 institutions. Morningstar secures \$800 million in annual revenue, does business

with 27 companies globally, and employs more than 4,500 people worldwide.

Raymundo Garcia and Karen Maravilla are the owners and operators of El Taco Real restaurant in Hammond, Indiana. In addition, Karen owns and operates Its Just Serendipity, a vintage shop in downtown Hammond. Throughout their twenty-one years together, Karen and Raymundo have shared a passion for entrepreneurship as well as a philanthropic spirit. The community of Hammond is very important to them, and they have worked hard to help revitalize parts of the city over the years. Their next project includes the purchase of three large properties in downtown Hammond that they will renovate and repurpose.

Craig Dwight is the Horizon Bancorp Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. Under Craig's leadership, Horizon's total assets increased from \$360 million to \$3.1 billion in 2016. In addition, Horizon currently includes 59 branches and is one of the top largest banks in the state of Indiana, while ranking as the 342nd largest bank in the United States. Mr. Dwight's charitable efforts are to be admired and commended. Craig continues to give back to the community and has chaired numerous fundraising campaigns for many organizations, including the United Way of LaPorte County, the Martin Luther King Center, the Michigan City Education Fund, and the YMCA, to name a few.

Robert Johnson is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Cimcor, which is based in Merrillville, Indiana. Cimcor is a global cybersecurity company that acts to keep information and servers protected and secure. Due to his hard work, strong leadership, and innovative mind, Robert Johnson has made Cimcor immensely successful. Customers include NASA, the United States Air Force, and the Chicago Stock Exchange, to name a few. In addition, Mr. Johnson enjoys giving back to the community of Northwest Indiana and serves on the advisory boards for Valparaiso University's Cyber Operations/IT Programs, Purdue University Northwest's Computer Technology Department, and Indiana University Northwest's Computer Information Sciences Program. Robert also serves as chairman of the board of directors of the Legacy Foundation, and he is a member of the board of directors for Methodist Hospitals.

The recipient of the Enterprise of the Year Award is Fair Oaks Farms. Fair Oaks Farms, located at the border of Jasper and Newton counties, is an incredibly successful working farm that is also an agricultural tourist destination. The farm brings in more than 600,000 visitors each year and is a popular field trip site for area schools. Fair Oaks continues to grow and expand its many attractions, including the pig adventure, pork education center, the farm-to-table Farmhouse Restaurant, the dairy adventure, and more. Fair Oaks is planning to add many new and innovative attractions that will appeal to a wide audience and give guests a reason to keep coming back, such as a beef cattle adventure and a poultry attraction that will demonstrate how 500,000 to 700,000 chickens are raised.

The recipient of the Partners in Progress Award is Don Babcock. Don is the Economic Development Director for NIPSCO and has been very successful in creating partnerships that bring in new industries, such as Alcoa Howmet, Hoist Lifteruck, and Pratt Industries. Don also works tirelessly to build support for