



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 163

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2017

No. 149

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of all creation, thank You for giving us another day.

At the end of a very busy week, we ask Your blessing upon the Members of this people's House. As they prepare to return to their districts, may they be prepared to listen to the interests of their constituents.

We ask Your blessing as well upon all the American people. May they be inclined to be active participants in the governing of our Nation and responsibly engaged with our democratic processes.

May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RECOGNIZING KINGWOOD, NEW JERSEY, RESCUE SQUAD

(Mr. LANCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank the members of the Kingwood, New Jersey, Rescue Squad for helping a community in need recover from Hurricane Harvey.

After Harvey, many in the Houston area were without cell phone service, stranded by the rising waters, and lacking necessary means of communications to call authorities for help. One family in Kingwood, Texas, without cell reception but with a wireless internet connection made the savvy decision to see if they could contact rescue services by email. They used an internet search to locate the necessary authorities to coordinate their rescue.

Their internet search yielded the name Kingwood Rescue Squad—not their Kingwood, but Kingwood in Hunterdon County, New Jersey. Fortunately, the members of the New Jersey Kingwood Rescue Squad acted quickly to contact their partners in Texas to ensure that rescue services would be able to find and rescue the Texas family. They are now safe due to the coordinated efforts between the Kingwood, New Jersey, Rescue Squad and their respective partners in Texas.

I wish to thank the members of the squad for their service and express my gratitude that there are such fine and capable first responders located in the district I serve.

CONTINUE FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

(Ms. TSONGAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, for more than 50 years, community health centers across the United States have

delivered affordable, accessible, and quality primary healthcare to patients regardless of their ability to pay. They care for the whole person, bringing together medical and behavioral health with pharmacy services.

In my district, I have seen the important work that goes on at community health centers in Massachusetts, in Lowell, Lawrence, Gardner, and Fitchburg. In 2016, these facilities and their staff cared for more than 100,000 people.

Unfortunately, community health centers are facing a funding cliff if the Community Health Center program is not reauthorized by the end of this year. A lack of funding means too many of my constituents would immediately lose access to care, putting the health of our communities at risk.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to work together and make sure this vital program is funded.

HONORING ALBERTO "BETO" GONZALES DURING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

(Mr. BACON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to commemorate Hispanic Heritage Month by honoring a dedicated community leader from our district, Alberto "Beto" Gonzales, whose work with the youth of our Hispanic community serves as a shining example for current and future generations.

Mr. Gonzales grew up in the Hispanic neighborhoods of South Omaha but, unfortunately, fell into drugs and alcohol and was part of a street gang by the age of 11. At the age of 23, Alberto met Sister Joyce Englert, who helped him learn about Christ and get off drugs permanently. As a result, Beto committed his life to helping youth.

Beto runs youth drug and alcohol treatment groups, outreach with schools, and served as a Boys Town crisis hotline counselor. Today, he serves

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H7385

as an Omaha Police Department gang prevention and intervention specialist and a youth counselor for the South Omaha Boys and Girls Club. Through these efforts, Alberto Gonzales has touched and changed the lives of hundreds, if not thousands, of youths in the Hispanic community.

Alberto gives credit to God; his mother, who always prayed for him; Sister Joyce; and the many educators and professionals who encouraged him along the way.

REPEALING DACA IS WRONG AND UN-AMERICAN

(Mr. SCHNEIDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the 800,000 DREAMers and in strong opposition to the administration's decision to end DACA.

The President's decision neither reflects the values nor protects the interests of our Nation. Rather, termination of the DACA program will needlessly disrupt lives, separate families, harm communities, and hurt employers.

These fine people came to this country as children with their families from around the world, from Mexico, South America, South Korea, and India. They grew up in our neighborhoods, attended our schools, and, with their friends, drafted extraordinary dreams and aspirations for their future. This is the only country they know. Their faces are the face of America. Their dreams are the American Dream.

President Trump's decision to repeal DACA is wrong and un-American.

Mr. Speaker, these young men and women want nothing more than to make a positive contribution to our Nation's future, and they trusted our government to do right by them. It is now up to Congress to do just that.

It is long past time for this body to pass the DREAM Act and empower these DREAMers to live their lives and achieve their aspirations in confidence.

CONGRATULATING SHAWNEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. BOST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Shawnee Community College, located in Ullin, Illinois, for its 50th anniversary.

For half a century, Shawnee College has provided opportunities for quality higher education, community education, training, and services that are accessible, affordable, and promote lifelong learning. The college is cutting edge and provides training programs that incorporate the most recent technologies to meet the ever-changing needs of students and the local economy.

I visited the community college last month and met with the faculty and

their directors, and their passion is clear.

Congratulations to Shawnee College President Dr. Peggy Bradford, faculty, staff, and students on 50 years of excellence. I know that more than 50 years from now they will still be working and providing for the students of southern Illinois.

WE STAND WITH THE DREAMERS

(Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, since the President's decision last week to end the DACA program, DREAMers across the country have lived each day in fear. I have heard that fear from my constituents in Illinois, which hosts the fourth largest DACA population in the country.

One of my constituents came to this country when he was 3. Now 23 years old, he is a university student, works at the local senior center, and he helps out in his father's small business on the weekends.

In his letter to me, he said: "It is during these trying times that each one of us demonstrates who we are and what we truly stand for." I couldn't agree more. That is why I urge Speaker RYAN and my colleagues on both sides to pass the Dream Act.

Passing the Dream Act will show our country's DREAMers that we stand with them and that we believe in their promise. It will also show who we are and what we truly stand for.

RECOGNIZING BUCKS COUNTY FARMER OF THE YEAR, BRIAN BAHNCK

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bucks County's Farmer of the Year, Brian Bahnck, of the Pennywell Dairy Farm in Ottsville, the winner of this year's Fred Groshens Memorial Conservation Farmer Award for his use of conservation-focused management on his 77-acre property. By using no-till crop rotation, Brian grew crops without disturbing the soil through tillage or plowing, a practice that can reduce soil erosion by 85 to 95 percent.

Brian, along with his two daughters, Anna and Ella, have dedicated long hours and hard work to make his conservation farm a success. I am proud of the efforts of Brian and his family for their commitment to protect the natural resources in Bucks County.

I also want to thank Gretchen Schatschneider and Rachel Onuska at the Bucks County Conservation District and our county commissioners for their longstanding support of our natural resources.

We have a proud tradition in Bucks County, and our farmers have contrib-

uted so much to our community, and they will always remain an indispensable part of Bucks County's future.

ENDING DACA IS CONTRARY TO AMERICAN VALUES

(Mr. BROWN of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, by ending DACA, President Trump made our immigration system less fair and just for our young people.

These DREAMers study in our schools and work on our Main Streets. They are Americans, and the United States is their home. It makes no sense to deport them simply because of the actions of their parents. This decision is so contrary to our American values that even business leaders and faith leaders called on the President not to do it.

My grandmother came to this country from Jamaica as a domestic worker and, for a period of time, was undocumented. She did this so that my father could become the first member of our family to go to college. He repaid his mother and this country by becoming a doctor and working in some of the poorest neighborhoods near where I grew up. My father pursued the American Dream and, in turn, contributed to the greatness that is America.

Kicking these DREAMers out won't create jobs or make our neighborhoods safer. That is why we must pass the Dream Act. It is the right thing to do for our economic competitiveness, military readiness, and public safety.

We have legitimate disagreements on how to fix our immigration system, but let's not hold our DREAMers hostage. It is time for Congress to pass the Dream Act now.

MEDIA BLACKOUT

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, here are recent examples of the liberal national media's ignoring inconvenient news:

The economy grew by 3 percent last quarter, the fastest pace in years, but you might not know this good news because of the media blackout of the story by broadcast networks.

The media blackout extended to a story by The New York Times on a current Senator's corruption trial, which failed to mention he was a Democrat in a 1,200-word story.

The media hyped the claim that climate change was responsible for Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, but the media blacked out the fact that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said that hurricanes are not increasing in intensity or frequency.

This is what the liberal media do: they ignore the facts that contradict