

RECOGNIZING KINGSTON
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2018

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kingston Elementary School of Cadet, Missouri for being recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School in 2018, a distinction bestowed upon only 349 public and private schools across the country.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. This award affirms Kingston Elementary School's hard work in creating an atmosphere for educational attainment that is recognized as a symbol of exemplary teaching and learning.

Built upon the core values of encouraging learning, inspiring pride, dreaming boldly, and supporting others, Kingston Elementary created a community of learners who strive for success and work together to proudly achieve their goals. This school fosters an environment that prioritizes education and safety in the school community, one achieved through collaboration between students, educators, and parents. Led by Principal Jenny Boyster and Assistant Principal Marlene King, Kingston Elementary is an inspiration and a model for schools still striving for excellence.

On behalf of the Eighth Congressional District of Missouri, it is my great privilege to congratulate the entire Kingston Elementary School community for this remarkable achievement.

RECOGNIZING THE 136TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE HOTEL ROANOKE
& CONFERENCE CENTER

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2018

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to recognize a National Historic Landmark located in my hometown of Roanoke, Virginia in the Sixth Congressional District. The Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center stands at the heart of Roanoke's downtown, on a hill in the Gainsboro neighborhood where it has been located for 136 years.

Roanoke was founded as the confluence of two railroads. The Norfolk and Western Railway established the city as its hub. The N&W—now Norfolk Southern—constructed the Hotel Roanoke and opened it on Christmas Day 1882. Since then, it has welcomed men, women, and children from all walks of life to enjoy the hotel's lodging, its amenities—including its Southern cuisine, like its famous peanut soup—and just the chance to spend time in one of the city's cultural centers.

Regrettably, due to declining interest in maintaining the historic structure, the Hotel Roanoke closed on November 30, 1989. The contents of the hotel were even sold to interested buyers. Fortunately, thanks to an agreement with Virginia Tech and the desire of

community leaders to redevelop the dilapidated structure, more than 2,800 people and businesses pledged the funds needed to help the Renew Roanoke effort, which raised \$8 million to save the hotel from demolition.

In a partnership that included the Virginia Tech Real Estate Foundation and the City of Roanoke, the completely renovated Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center opened in April 1995. The city built a pedestrian bridge to connect the facility to the central business district, a vital connection that has contributed heavily to the rebirth of Roanoke's downtown. It's estimated in the 23 years since its reopening, the hotel and conference center has had a \$558 million economic impact and has led to hundreds of millions of dollars in additional investments by a wide variety of housing interests, businesses, restaurants, and cultural amenities.

Affiliated as a Doubletree hotel from its reopening, the Hotel Roanoke & Conference recently converted to Hilton's Curio Collection. It's the latest update to take the structure known for its Tudor-style construction into a new role in Roanoke's growth. I've been blessed to enjoy countless happy occasions with family members and friends at "the Grand Old Lady on the Hill." The Hotel Roanoke's 136th anniversary is just a week away. It's a fine time to celebrate not only the Christmas holidays but the contributions made by the Hotel Roanoke to the region's history and its very promising future.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUAL TO
NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION
ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2018

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to section 1051 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (P.L. 115-232), I withdraw the appointment of November 13, 2018, and I appoint the following individual to the National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence:

Mr. Andrew R. Jassy, Seattle, Washington.

HONORING CLINTON LORENZ

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of the entire 6th Congressional District of Indiana, to recognize Clinton Lorenz for being named to the IFCA Class 3A junior All-State team.

Clinton started as a lineman for my alma mater, the Greensburg High School Pirates, as a junior. On defense, he had 37 total tackles and was a consistent force on the line of scrimmage on both sides of the ball.

I want to congratulate him on an outstanding season and for representing himself with class throughout the season. I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to join me in congratulating Clinton for his dedication, execution, and excellence this season.

PASSAGE OF H.R. 6964, THE JUVENILE
JUSTICE REFORM ACT OF
2018

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2018

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today is a great day for our nation's youth and their communities. I would like to take a moment and reflect on the passage of H.R. 6964 as amended by the Senate, the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018, a comprehensive reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (JJDP), which is now headed to the President's desk for his signature.

Last authorized in 2002, JJDP sets the federal guardrails that protect children in the custody of our state juvenile justice systems. JJDP contains four core protections for youth in state juvenile justice systems:

Jail Removal: Children in the system cannot be housed in the same facility as adult offenders, except under limited circumstances.

Sight and Sound Separation: In the limited circumstances that children are housed in the same facility as adult offenders, they must have sight and sound separation.

Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO): Children who have committed status offenses—infractions based solely on their age (e.g., underage drinking, truancy)—cannot be placed in secure detention, except under limited circumstances.

Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC): State systems must determine if their system has disproportionate contact with minority offenders.

These protections were created and refined over time through Congressional reauthorizations that built upon the evidence-based best practices of states. I'm proud to say that H.R. 6964 makes strides to improve each of the four core protections. The bill improves the 'Jail Removal' and 'Sight and Sound Separation' core protections by simplifying the definition of contact and phasing in sight and sound separation for youth under the age of 18 being held pretrial in adult criminal court.

It strengthens the DSO core protection by increasing the oversight required when a state uses one of the limited circumstances available in the law—the valid court order (VCO)—to detain a status offender. And the bill refines the DMC core protection to ensure that states must collect and report data on decision points in the juvenile justice system to identify where disparities occur. This is a contravention of harmful proposals offered by the current Administrator of the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).

While enactment of H.R. 6964 is a good first step, I join my House Republican colleagues who championed this bill in expressing regret that the legislation in its final form does not go far enough to improve the core protections. Specifically, I am disappointed that H.R. 6964 does not eliminate the VCO exception to DSO.

The VCO exception was added to JJDP in the 1980's after a push by juvenile court judges. It is used by judges to detain repeat status offenders and juveniles who fail to appear in court. But the research suggests that the VCO exception has not been effective as a means of reducing juvenile delinquency and

has been responsible, in part, for the explosive growth of young girls in the juvenile justice system. The use of the VCO exception has been phased out in about half of the states, and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, who once advocated for its inclusion, have strongly lobbied for its removal.

Both bipartisan versions of this legislation previously passed by the full House would have required states to phase-out use of the VCO by September 30, 2020, with an allowance for states to apply for a hardship extension through OJJDP. Due to the objection of just one Senator, this provision could not receive unanimous consent in the Senate. Rather than stopping the other improvements in the bill from becoming law, this VCO phase-out was removed H.R. 6964. H.R. 6964, however, will provide additional safeguards for status offenders in locked facilities, including limits on how long status offenders may be detained. I urge Congress to eliminate the VCO exception once and for all in subsequent legislation.

JJDP is more than just a floor of federal protection—it also requires states to develop coordinated plans to serve juvenile offenders and prevent children from ever becoming involved in delinquent activity. H.R. 6964 requires, for the first time, state juvenile justice plans to consider the latest scientific research on adolescent development and behavior, recognizing the importance of prevention and early intervention in juvenile crime policy. Congress should not have to mandate consideration of evidence and research, but slogans and soundbites have unfortunately dictated our nation's approach to crime policy—even juvenile crime. These slogans and soundbites often do nothing to decrease crime. In fact, when studied, many have been shown to actually increase crime.

H.R. 6964 also encourages states to consider promising practices: Programming to ensure youth access to public defenders with juvenile court experience; the use of 'problem-solving courts' as an alternative to probation and confinement; efforts to inform and aid juveniles in the process of sealing and expunging their juvenile record; and programming to address the needs of girls in or at risk of entering the system when developing state plans.

And finally, the bill retools and retitles Title V of JJDP, the Local Delinquency Prevention Grant program, as the Youth Promise Incentive Grants for Local Delinquency Prevention Program. Title V will now support communities in the planning and implementation of evidence-based prevention and intervention programs specifically designed to reduce juvenile and delinquency and gang involvement. Grant recipients would be required to analyze the unmet delinquency prevention needs of youth in the community, then develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to address those unmet needs with an emphasis on program coordination.

Research shows that a community-wide, coordinated approach to delinquency prevention that utilizes a continuum of services can actually save the community money and improve efficiencies. I'd like to especially thank my colleagues for working with me on the Title V provisions, which are modeled after a bill I've been working on for nearly ten years—The Youth P.R.O.M.I.S.E. Act. I am confident that,

if implemented correctly, this incentive grant program will vastly improve the lives of—and long-term economic opportunity for—at-risk youth across the country. I look forward to working with OJJDP as it implements this new title.

H.R. 6964 also includes a two-year reauthorization of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA). RHYA was originally passed as part of JJDP because this Congress recognized the importance of alternatives to detention for youth who were not delinquent but had run away from home or foster care.

While originally passed as a part of JJDP in 1974, RHYA and JJDP have always been administered separately, and they have been reauthorized separately since 1988. Like JJDP, RHYA is long overdue for reauthorization, as it was last reauthorized in 2008. This temporary reauthorization of RHYA demonstrates our commitment to its programs, particularly considering last year's groundbreaking research showing that homelessness was experienced by at least 700,000 unaccompanied minors age 14 to 17 and 3.2 million young adults age 18 to 24 in any given year.

I want to note that this two-year reauthorization does not serve as a substitute for a full examination of evidence-based best practices for service-delivery impacting runaway and homeless youth. We still need to pass a comprehensive RHYA reauthorization that makes needed programmatic updates and ensures authorization for appropriate funding levels.

I look forward to working with the Gentlewoman from North Carolina, Dr. Foxx and my colleagues in this chamber who have long advocated for a full reauthorization of RHYA, as well as advocates for runaway and homeless youth providers, to move a full reauthorization of RHYA in the next Congress.

Prevention efforts, especially those targeted at our nation's youth, are our most effective way of reducing crime over time. We can choose to be as strict or as lenient as we want on adult criminal offenders, but if we are not focusing our efforts on changing the trajectory of delinquent youth, we have little chance of reducing crime in the future. It is my sincere hope that H.R. 6964 will help to change the trajectory of many young people and get them on the track to succeeding in school and life, which will strengthen communities across the country.

In closing, I'd like to thank Chairwoman Foxx and Representative Lewis of Minnesota and their staffs for their steadfast work over multiple Congresses to successfully advance JJDP reauthorization through both chambers and to the President's desk. I'd also like to thank my hardworking committee and personal office staff past and present, specifically Christian Haines, Bobby Vassar, Erin Davies, Rashage Green, Carol Chodroff, Evan Chapman, David Dailey, Veronique Pluviose, Ilana Bruner, and Jacque Chevalier Mosely for their tireless work on both the Youth P.R.O.M.I.S.E. Act and comprehensive JJDP reauthorization.

HONORING MS. PATRICIA W. McDOWELL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Patricia W. McDowell on the occasion of her retirement from USDA Rural Development following 30 years of exemplary service to the State of Mississippi and to the Nation.

Raised in Jackson, Mississippi, Patricia graduated from Wingfield High School in 1974 and then attended Jackson State University. She began her career with the Farmer's Home Administration in 1988, following employment with the American Red Cross in service to military families. Patricia's initial duties with USDA began in the Single Family Housing Program as a Loan Clerk. She was then promoted to the position of Community & Business Programs Technician, and later she was promoted to the position of Loan Specialist within the Community Programs Division. In February 2017, Patricia was promoted to Community Programs Director where she has ably led the Division and will retire on December 31, 2018.

In her role as Community Programs Director for USDA Rural Development in the State of Mississippi Patricia has provided communities throughout the state with access to the services they need to grow and thrive. She has ensured that Mississippi's rural citizens have access to basic necessities such as: safe water, electrical utilities, and healthcare services. She has worked diligently to utilize the resources under her authority to promote educational opportunities, support law enforcement and emergency responders, and promote access to childcare and other critical community facilities. In every aspect of her work, she has performed professionally and with great enthusiasm, and she is a shining example for those who will follow in her footsteps.

Mr. Speaker, too often we overlook the many contributions made by the career civil servants of the U.S. Government who work so diligently and professionally in service to their country and community. Patricia has made a career of serving others, and her work has had a direct and positive influence on the lives of literally tens of thousands of Mississippians. It is my honor to represent Ms. Patricia W. McDowell in Congress, and a privilege to offer her the genuine gratitude of this chamber in support of three exemplary decades of civil service. I congratulate Patricia for her years of service and the innumerable contributions she has made to improve the quality of life of rural Mississippians. I know her service to others is not over, and I wish her the best as she moves on to the next chapter of her life.

HONORING ALEX STIRN AND TYLER WALTERMAN

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2018

Mr. MESSER, Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of the entire 6th Congressional District