

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2019

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Madam Speaker, on Friday, September 27, 2019, I was unable to attend roll call votes due to my attendance at a funeral for a close family friend. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on Roll Call vote 553, "aye" on Roll Call vote 554, and "aye" on Roll Call vote 555.

IN RECOGNITION OF DEBBIE JONES

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2019

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Ms. Debbie Jones as she ends her thirty-four-year term of having served as a Financial Counselor with the House Chief Administrative office. She began her career in the House in May 1985, and over the years has done a remarkable job of ensuring the integrity of House payment transactions. She proved herself to be a strong and thoughtful leader for the Chief Administrative office.

Debbie graduated from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 1979 and retires as a Financial Counselor, where she was responsible for reconciling and processing often complex equipment and supply payments for House offices. Debbie had a fine record of public service as she previously served House Clerk Benjamin Guthrie then transitioned to be a Lead Vendor Management Counselor and later Assistant Manager.

I would like to recognize Debbie for being an invaluable asset to the CAO organization, providing excellent customer service to House offices. Her good work ethic, eye for detail, and sense of humor have endeared her to many colleagues and friends.

Once again, Madam Speaker, I am proud of Debbie Jones and all she has accomplished for Massachusetts and beyond. I wish her well in all her future endeavors, following her successful career with the Chief Administrative Office.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MARK MORRIS

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2019

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of long-time justice advocate and community leader, Mark Morris, PhD.

After receiving his bachelor's degree from Oberlin College in 1964, Mark went on to receive his master's and doctorate degrees from

the University of California, Berkeley in 1965 and 1972, respectively. Dr. Morris focused much of his research and studies on the U.S. justice system and social welfare.

In 1986, Mark founded Mark Morris Associates (MMA) with the goal of developing and reforming the justice system. MMA created projects and programs throughout California, including projects here in the Bay Area and Contra Costa County. These programs typically include analyses of offender populations, corrections interventions, and justice/behavioral health interactions.

Under Mark's leadership, MMA has supported many people within Contra Costa County. His efforts have brought probation officers into schools with system-involved youth, built a volunteer mentorship network, and established a treatment program based on a partnership of various county agencies such as Probation, Mental Health, and Education.

Dr. Morris was a dedicated advocate for social change and justice reform. Please join me in honoring Dr. Mark Morris for a life of service and his contributions to the Bay Area.

RETIREMENT OF JUDGE BURNS ELKINS, II

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2019

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the retirement of Augustus Burns Elkins, II, an Administrative law Judge, who retired on September 30, 2019, from the Office of Administrative Hearings after 35 years of service to the State of North Carolina.

Judge Elkins received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa Society, and his Juris Doctorate from Wake Forest University School of Law.

He is a certified Judge Advocate from the Air Force Management and Leadership School and served as an Assistant Staff Judge Advocate in the United States Air Force from 1979 to 1984. From 1984 to 2001, he served as a Staff Judge Advocate with the United States Air Force Reserves, having achieved the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. The last 11 years of his Air Force service was spent with the 916 Air Refueling Wing at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, North Carolina.

For the State of North Carolina, he has held the positions of Deputy Director of the North Carolina Department of Administration—Motor Fleet Management from 1984 to 1990, and General Counsel and Senior Managing Attorney for North Carolina Governor's Council for Persons with Disabilities (GACPD) from 1990 to 2001. At GACPD, he was recognized as one of the State's leading experts on the Americans with disabilities Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

In 2001, he was appointed as an Administrative Law Judge for the State of North Carolina and had served in this capacity until his retirement on September 30, 2019. He is a member of the North Carolina Bar Association and has served as Chairman of the Administrative Law Section. Judge Elkins was honored

with the 2018 Distinguished Service Award by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Exceptional Children Division.

I offer my sincere appreciation for Judge Elkins' service to the United States of America and the great state of North Carolina. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Judge Elkins on his retirement and wish him many years of enjoyment with his family.

HONORING CALFIRE FIREFIGHTER ANDREW MALONEY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor CalFire Firefighter Andrew Maloney. Mr. Maloney served the State of California during his distinguished career with CalFire until he was tragically killed by an intoxicated driver on June 12, 2016. In remembrance of his service, a section of State Route 165 in Los Banos is being dedicated to him.

Mr. Maloney began his career in 2000 as a paid call firefighter in Los Banos for the Merced County Fire Department and in the summer of 2001, worked as a firefighter for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In 2003, he started his career with CalFire, where he worked with the Los Banos, Santa Nella, and Hornitos Stations.

Throughout his life and career, Mr. Maloney always sought to serve others and make people smile. He participated in multiple efforts to train and educate the public about fire safety programs throughout Merced and Mariposa Counties and worked tirelessly to serve whichever community he was assigned to. His colleagues noted that even when working in 115-degree heat, he would always find a way to make others smile.

In both his personal and professional life, Mr. Maloney was a lover of the outdoors. He hiked both the Pacific Crest and Appalachian trails, loved animals, and was an avid scuba diver. Mr. Maloney's adventurous spirit is remembered by all who had the pleasure of knowing and working with him.

On June 9, 2016, Mr. Maloney was riding his motorcycle on State Route 165 when he got into a collision with a driver who was distracted and under the influence. Three days later, he lost his life due to the injuries he sustained.

The loss of this longtime Los Banos resident and local hero hit close to home with the Merced County fire community. In honor of Mr. Maloney's lifetime of selfless service, the California legislature has chosen to dedicate State Route 165 between Berkeley Drive and Pioneer Road as the CalFire Firefighter Andrew Maloney Memorial Highway. This will ensure that his memory and lifetime of selfless service will be remembered for future generations.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of CalFire Firefighter Andrew Maloney. It is both fitting and appropriate that we honor him as the CalFire Firefighter Andrew Maloney Memorial Highway is dedicated. I wish his family, friends, and all Merced County first responders the best as this section of State Route 165 is dedicated in his honor.

DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL
TERRORISM DOCUMENTATION
AND ANALYSIS OF THREATS IN
AMERICA ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter endorsing H.R. 3106 from the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights.

THE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
ON CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS,
Washington, DC, September 26, 2019.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition of more than 200 national organizations committed to promoting and protecting the civil and human rights of all persons in the United States, we urge you to support the Domestic and International Terrorism Act (DATA Act) (H.R.3106).

Congress should use its oversight and appropriations power to demand that federal agencies make public how it is using its resources to fight white supremacist violence. Congress must pass pertinent legislation like the DATA Act to strengthen laws related to hate violence in this country. The DATA Act will provide Congress information about the federal government's approach to counterterrorism, including data on investigations and prosecutions.

We support the DATA Act because it promotes increased oversight of federal counterterrorism activities without creating enhanced authorities or resources like new offices.

The most recent data from FBI documented that hate crimes against African Americans, Latinos, the LGBTQ community, Native Americans, Jews, and Muslims all increased in 2017. Through the DATA Act, Congress has devised ways to improve federal and state responses to hate violence, including how to address FBI Hate Crime Statistics Act underreporting. The DATA Act comes at a crucial time, when too many people in this country feel unwelcome, unsafe, and marginalized due to acts of terror. There is little question that violence committed against individuals because of their race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, gender, gender identity, disability, or sexual orientation remains a serious problem in America. The DATA Act will study these current trends with the intention of combatting hate.

The Leadership Conference applauds Chairman Thompson for placing this key legislation on the suspension calendar for a House vote. The DATA Act will assist Congress in its efforts to elevate the fight against white supremacy and end a climate in which individual perpetrators feel emboldened to act.

Sincerely,

VANITA GUPTA,
President & CEO.

SECURE AND FAIR ENFORCEMENT
BANKING ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letters of

endorsement for H.R. 1595, the SAFE Banking Act.

September 24, 2019.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PERLMUTTER: We, the undersigned U.S. trade associations, write to express support for the passage of H.R. 1595, the SAFE Banking Act of 2019, as amended, on the House Floor. Collectively, we represent a majority of the companies, agents, and brokers offering property-casualty, title, and reinsurance (collectively, "insurers") in the U.S. We appreciate your leadership in seeking needed clarity for insurance transactions related to cannabis that are otherwise permissible under state law.

The insurance industry is potentially exposed to liability arising from the differences of the legal treatment of cannabis and cannabis products under federal and state law and regulation at the state level. However, with the addition of key language from H.R. 4074, Clarifying Law Around Insurance Marijuana Act, sponsored by Representative Nydia Velázquez and Representative Steve Stivers, H.R. 1595's safe harbor provisions would prevent federal criminal prosecution of and civil liability for agents, brokers, and insurers, their officers, directors or employees when engaging in the business of insurance in states that have legalized cannabis in some form.

By resolving the legal uncertainty presented by the dueling state and federal treatment of cannabis, the insurance industry can serve both cannabis-related legitimate businesses (CRLBs) and other commercial and personal lines consumers who may have a direct or indirect relationship to state-legalized cannabis, and still be in compliance with the law. Insurers must also continue to satisfy all applicable state statutory or regulatory requirements, such as those pertaining to consumer protections and claims payments.

While the industry still needs additional clarifications to fully resolve the challenges presented by conflicting state and federal cannabis laws, H.R. 1595 is a significant and important step toward legal certainty for our industry.

Again, we greatly appreciate your leadership, and we look forward to continuing to work with you and Congress to ensure our industry is not caught between additional conflicting obligations under federal and state law.

Sincerely,
American Land Title Association (ALTA), American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA), Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America (IIABA), National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies (NAMIC), National Association of Professional Insurance Agents (PIA), Reinsurance Association of America (RAA), Wholesale & Specialty Insurance Association (WSIA).

THE COUNCIL OF INSURANCE
AGENTS & BROKERS,

September 23, 2019.

Re Support for the SAFE Banking Act.

Hon. ED PERLMUTTER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PERLMUTTER: On behalf of The Council of Insurance Agents and Brokers ("The Council"), I write to express our strong support for the SAFE Banking Act. This bipartisan legislation, we believe, addresses long-standing obstacles to insurer and broker participation in the cannabis market. We urge Congress to pass this important legislation as soon as possible.

By way of background, The Council represents the largest and most successful em-

ployee benefits and property/casualty agencies and brokerage firms. Council member firms annually place more than \$300 billion in commercial insurance business in the United States and abroad. Council members conduct business in some 30,000 locations and employ upwards of 350,000 people worldwide. In addition, Council members specialize in a wide range of insurance products and risk management services for business, industry, government, and the public.

The need for legal cannabis insurance (spanning many lines of insurance and the entire cannabis supply chain) is only growing and many insurance businesses, including brokers, are anxious to enter the market. The primary obstacle to their entry has been and continues to be the threat of felonious liability under federal law. The Council therefore appreciates your efforts to address federal-law barriers.

The SAFE Banking Act will protect persons engaged in the business of insurance who offer insurance products and services to state-legalized cannabis businesses from liability under federal law. The bill, as amended to include insurance businesses, recognizes that insurance is as essential as banking—if not more so—to security, safety and transparency in the cannabis industry. Lack of insurance for the industry adds layers of unnecessary risk and exposure for businesses, their employees, and their customers.

Again, we very much appreciate your leadership on the SAFE Banking Act. We strongly support the bill and look forward to its passage as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

KEN A. CRERAR,
President/CEO.

RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA

Sacramento, CA, February 14, 2019.

Re Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking Act of 2019—SUPPORT.

Hon. ED PERLMUTTER,
Member, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE PERLMUTTER: On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I write to express our support for your "Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking Act of 2019," (Safe Banking Act) which would liberalize our federal banking laws to allow cannabis-related businesses access to financial services. RCRC is an association of California's rural counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from our thirty-six member counties.

California has enacted laws allowing for both medical-use and adult-use of cannabis. In light of the actions of California and other states, it has become apparent there is a need to align federal and state laws when it comes to accessing the banking system. Unfortunately, there is a significant barrier to financial institutions who provide banking services to state- and locally-licensed cannabis businesses as they are subject to criminal prosecution for "aiding and abetting" a federal crime as well as money laundering.

Because current law restricts cannabis businesses from accessing banking services, businesses must operate in an "all cash" scheme, which poses a serious public safety risk. In addition to the Controlled Substances Act, there are a variety of federal banking laws (i.e. the Bank Secrecy Act) which impact the ability of banks to accept monies derived from activities involving cannabis. In February 2014, the Obama Administration issued guidance to financial institutions and the cannabis industry on how the Department of Justice would enforce banking laws related to cannabis. Despite