

ADDRESSING THE SITUATION IN
KAZAKHSTAN CONCERNING
BERGEI RYSKALIYEV

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my concern with what appears to be a politically motivated prosecution of the former governor of Kazakhstan's western Atyrau region, Bergei Ryskaliyev, as well as 22 other people, including Ryskaliyev's family members and colleagues from the western oil-producing region of the country. This sham trial appears to be the next step in the Kazakh regime's efforts to silence legitimate calls of local citizens demanding oil revenue transparency, safe working conditions, and fair pay. Just not long ago, in the country's western oil-producing city of Zhanaozen, a peaceful demonstration was crushed by Kazakh police, who opened fire on the protestors, resulting in at least 16 people killed.

The fact that Kazakhstan has a long history of discrediting and even criminally prosecuting members of the ruling elite when they are perceived to be gaining too much power and prominence, which was the case with Mr. Ryskaliyev during his time in office, points to the possibility of political motivation behind the prosecution. Additionally, independent NGOs and western legal experts who observed the trial point out that there has not been sufficient evidence to justify the prejudicial findings regarding Mr. Ryskaliyev, essentially denying him a fundamental human right to a fair trial. The U.S. State Department Human Rights Reports for 2018 corroborates that there is no such thing as judicial independence in Kazakhstan and corruption is evident at every stage of the judicial process.

As Kazakhstan is aspiring to be a strategic partner of the United States, I call on my colleagues to join me in urging the State Department to review the case of Mr. Ryskaliyev and assure that it will be included in our Government's discussions on promoting democracy in this important part of the world.

In light of the resignation of President Nursultan Nazarbayev, the issue of peaceful transition of power with participation of opposition politicians and people previously convicted on politically motivated charges is extremely important.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIR PAY
ACT OF 2019

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today is Equal Pay Day, which marks the number of additional days a woman must work to earn what a man earned the prior year. The 1963 Equal Pay Act (EPA), the first of the great civil rights statutes of the 1960s, has grown creaky with age and needs updating to reflect the new workforce, in which women work almost as much as men.

The best case for a stronger and updated EPA occurred here in the Congress in 2003,

when female custodians in the House and Senate won an EPA case after showing that female workers were paid a dollar less per hour for doing the same or similar work as males. Had these women not been represented by their union, they would have had an almost impossible task in using the rules for bringing and sustaining an EPA class action lawsuit.

Based on my own experience as the first woman to chair the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, I again introduce the Fair Pay Act (FPA) on behalf of the average female worker, who is often first steered to, and then locked into, jobs with wages that are deeply influenced by the gender of individuals who have traditionally held such jobs. Much of the wage inequality women experience today is because of employer-steering and deeply rooted wage stereotypes, which result in wages paid according to gender and not according to the skill necessary to do the job. I introduce the FPA because the pay disparity most women face today stems mainly from the segregation of women and men in different jobs and paying women in female-dominated jobs systematically less. Two-thirds of white women and three quarters of African-American women work in just three areas: sales/clerical, service and factories. We need more aggressive strategies to break through the societal barriers present throughout history the world over, as well as employer-steering based on gender, which is as old as paid employment itself.

The FPA requires that if men and women are doing comparable work, they are to be paid comparable wages. If a woman, for example, is an emergency services operator, a female-dominated profession, she should not be paid less than a fire dispatcher, a male-dominated profession, simply because each of these jobs has been dominated by one sex. If a woman is a social worker, a traditionally female occupation, she should not earn less than a probation officer, a traditionally male job, simply because of the gender associated with each of these jobs.

The FPA, like the EPA, will not tamper with the legal burden. Under the FPA, as under the EPA, the burden will be on the plaintiff to prove discrimination. The plaintiff must show that the reason for the disparate treatment is gender discrimination, not legitimate market factors.

Remedies to achieve comparable pay for men and women are not radical or unprecedented. State governments, in red and blue states alike, have shown that it is possible to eliminate the part of the pay gap that is due to discrimination. Twenty state governments have adjusted wages for female-dominated professions, raising pay for teachers, nurses, clerical workers, librarians, and other female-dominated jobs that paid less than comparable male-dominated jobs. Minnesota, for example, implemented a pay equity plan when it found that traditionally female jobs paid 20 percent less than comparable traditionally male jobs. There may well be some portion of a gender wage gap that is traceable to market factors, but 20 states have shown that you can tackle the gender discrimination-based wage gap without interfering in the market system. States generally have closed the wage gap over a period of four to five years at a one-time cost of no more than three to four percent of payroll.

In addition, many female workers routinely achieve pay equity through collective bargaining, and countless employers provide it on their own as they see women shifting out of vital female-dominated occupations as a result of the shortage of skilled workers, as well as because of the unfairness to women. Unequal pay has been built into the way women have been treated since Adam and Eve. To dislodge such deep-seated and pervasive treatment, we must go to the source, the traditionally female occupations, where pay is linked with gender and always has been.

CELEBRATING KATHLEEN M.
WILSON'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. AYANNA PRESSLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Kathleen M. Wilson and wish her a happy 100th birthday. Mrs. Wilson, a longtime resident of Boston and Massachusetts's 7th District, is known for her youthful spirit, her volunteerism, her sense of humor, uncontrollable laugh and her love of dance.

Mrs. Wilson has spent over four decades as a public servant and a strong member of our community. She stood as the pinnacle of equality, working tirelessly with several women from Roxbury to fight segregation in the Boston Public Schools and demand a quality education for children in Boston's black community. Kay, the nickname given to her by her late husband and love of her life, regularly boarded helicopters and small service planes to deliver pay and supplies to workers in devastated areas after joining the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in her retirement.

Mrs. Wilson is a mother of two, grandmother of three, great-grandmother of three, and beloved by all of them. She remains active with the Goldenaires, The Urban League Guild, AARP of Boston, Seniors on the Move and The Swingers at 12th Baptist Church. No matter who Mrs. Wilson meets, they do not believe that she is 100 years young.

LILA DANIELS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Lila Daniels for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Lila Daniels is a student at Three Creeks K-8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Lila Daniels is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Lila Daniels for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge

Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DONATE FOR DISASTER RELIEF ACT OF 2019

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Donate for Disaster Relief Act.

Last year, there were 53 major disasters declared. The year before that, we had 61 declared major disasters. As we continue to feel the effects of climate change, there are going to be more major disasters and we as a nation are going to have to pay for the response and repair after these events. Now is the time to start thinking about what we can do to be better prepared for when these disasters strike.

That is why I am introducing the Donate for Disaster Relief Act, which creates a completely voluntary check-off on income tax returns that lets taxpayers elect to donate to a disaster relief trust. This bill is an opportunity for us to share our selflessness and generosity and be better prepared to adequately fund our response to an emergency situation.

The harsh reality of disasters is that while we may not be able to predict when or where they will always occur, we certainly can be prepared. The altruism of the American people is on display in their willingness to pitch in and help those in their greatest time of need. This bill creates an easy way for concerned Americans to anticipate the need for disaster relief, wherever and whenever it may be necessary.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this critically important legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHAIRMAN ALLEN E. LAWSON OF THE SAN PASQUAL BAND OF MISSION INDIANS

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition and honor of Chairman Allen E. Lawson of the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians. Chairman Lawson has served for 22 years in a leadership position for the Tribe, headquartered in the Valley Center area of California's 50th Congressional District, and retired from his chairmanship on January 13, 2019. During his tenure, Chairman Lawson was firmly focused on Tribal welfare and increased prosperity for all members of the Tribe.

Under his leadership, San Pasqual's Tribal government grew from three employees to over 100 employees, resulting in significant increases in services to over 400 Tribal families living on the reservation. Chairman Lawson's leadership was instrumental with the establishment of Valley View Casino, a business that continues to thrive, generating revenue for the

entire Tribe and benefitted the reservation by creating new Tribal Fire and Police Departments that were dedicated to ensuring the safety of all Tribal residents. Chairman Lawson also established one of the few fully accredited Native American Fire Academies and, over the last 10 years, the academy has proudly trained over 1,000 first responders that help protect both the reservation and the surrounding community. Chairman Lawson successfully expanded the Tribal Education Center, resulting in increased high school graduation rates, more graduates headed to colleges, and the preservation of the Tribe's history, traditions and culture.

During his tenure, the Tribal Public Works, Water, and Environmental Departments were also established, and, after decades of negotiations with four other Native American tribes, Chairman Lawson was an integral part of the negotiation that finally settled and secured the entitled rights to the San Luis Rey watershed. Chairman Lawson was also instrumental in launching an Inter-Tribal Alliance in which Tribes and Federal agencies would partner collaboratively on construction projects thereby reducing costs, maximizing resources and providing jobs to Native Americans.

It is for these accomplishments and many more that Chairman Lawson should be recognized. The legacy of any leader is the impact and significant contributions they have made to greatly influence the lives of those around them. Chairman Lawson's guiding principle and singular focus has been the past, current, and future generations of the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians and I am confident that his legacy will never be forgotten and always appreciated.

COMMENDING DON GRIMSLEY FOR HIS IMPACT ON HALL COUNTY'S YOUTH COMMUNITY

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Don Grimsley for the incredible impact he has made in Hall County. Over the last decade, Mr. Grimsley has given countless hours to many youth organizations, and last month, he was recognized for his service as the Gainesville Kiwanis Club honored him with the 2019 John W. Jacobs Jr. Youth Service Award.

Mr. Grimsley first experienced his call to service when his son was born with spina bifida. With inspiration from his daughter, they launched Rolling Hearts, a charity for individuals with spina bifida that raises money for the neuroscience department at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, among other things. Mr. Grimsley and his wife also sat on the board of the Spina Bifida Association of Georgia, helping educate the community and working to give children with spina bifida a great and normal life. In addition to helping children with spina bifida, Mr. Grimsley also serves as Eagle Scoutmaster, statistician for North Hall Middle School's basketball team, and the Watch D.O.G.S. program, which increases the presence of male role models in schools.

Mr. Grimsley's service to this community is especially near and dear to my heart as my

daughter, Jordan, was born with spina bifida. I understand firsthand the importance of providing our children with a normal life, and I am incredibly grateful for his service to such a meaningful cause. I also know his passion for mentoring youth and stepping in as a 'surrogate dad' has made an immeasurable impact on the lives of many young men in Georgia.

I want to congratulate Don Grimsley on receiving the John W. Jacobs Jr. Youth Service Award, and I want to thank him for his tremendous service to our community. Hall County is a better place because of Don Grimsley.

SARAH DAVIDSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Sarah Davidson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Sarah Davidson is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Sarah Davidson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Sarah Davidson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, my return flight to Washington, D.C. was delayed due to technical difficulties, and I was unable to attend the legislative session on April 1, 2019. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call No. 137; yea on Roll Call No. 138; and nay on Roll Call No. 139.

HONORING LINDSAY RIGHTER

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lindsay Righter. Lindsay has been with my team since I first took office, and left earlier this year after six years of service as an exemplary field representative for my constituents in Humboldt County, Trinity County, and Del Norte County. As a valued member of my staff, Lindsay has been essential to my work in the northern part of my congressional district, and of special note, has