

for students and families across the country by expanding Pell grants, incentivizing free community colleges, and driving States to substantially reinvest in their public institutions.

The bill invests in teachers by fixing a broken Public Service Loan Forgiveness program and TEACH Grant system, and permanently funding historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions, all proven incubators of diverse educators.

The bill raises the quality of higher education by holding accreditors and schools accountable and weeding out bad actors. The bill also improves the completion rate for underserved communities through more robust and flexible student support.

This bill tackles the growing student default crisis by making student loans cheaper to take out, simpler to understand, and easier to pay off.

With the passage of the College Affordability Act, for-profit colleges will no longer be able to look at students as mere profit centers to swindle out of their Pell or GI dollars.

The bill closes loopholes to prevent veterans and low-income students from predatory for-profit institutions and creates more guardrails to ensure that every student can have the peace of mind that the degree they are investing in has value upon graduation.

That is all Americans want—the opportunity to get an education that opens the doors to a life of achievement, fulfillment, and economic power, and to be self-sufficient.

The College Affordability Act is a downpayment on the success and financial stability of students in my district and across the country. I am proud to have contributed to it and I support it here today.

HONORING RONALD K. GREENLEAF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Village of Hannibal Mayor Ronald K. Greenleaf who was recently named Veteran of the Year by the Oswego County Veterans Service Agency.

Ron Greenleaf has spent the vast majority of his life in public service, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to his country and community.

In 1967, he entered the United States Navy, serving in Vietnam on the USS *Harnett County*. An electrician by trade, Mr. Greenleaf assisted with maintenance, while contributing to the ship's overall mission of providing tactical assistance to American and Vietnamese forces. In recognition of his service, Mr. Greenleaf was recommended to receive the Combat Action Ribbon.

Following his deployment, Mr. Greenleaf returned to central New York to pursue a career as an electrician, to raise a family, and to continue his service in the Navy Reserves.

Ron Greenleaf has been married to his wife, Dawn, for 47 years, and together, they have two daughters. He is known for his commitment to his family, attending countless practices, games, dance recitals, and plays of his grandchildren.

Following his retirement, Mr. Greenleaf ran for the Hannibal Village board, a position he was elected to in 1994, and served in for 10 years. He then ran for the position of town supervisor where he served seven terms. Leaving this position in 2017, Mr. Greenleaf went on to be elected as the mayor of Hannibal, a role he still holds today.

Of his many accomplishments as an elected official, Mr. Greenleaf has most notably worked to improve infrastructure and promote recreation in Hannibal. He has been praised as a driving force behind the popular Hannibal ramp park, a multiuse park for bikes, skateboards, and rollerblades.

Aside from his work in public service, Mr. Greenleaf has found many other ways to serve his community. As a member of the VFW, Hannibal American Legion, and chairman of the 2013 Wounded Warrior Benefit, he has worked to assist and support his fellow veterans through adversity and hardship. A deeply patriotic man, Mr. Greenleaf has given several speeches at Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies in and around Hannibal.

On several occasions, Mr. Greenleaf donated his skills as an electrician to assist with repairs for in-need neighbors. Devoted to his faith, for many years Mr. Greenleaf has been an active participant in the Hannibal United Methodist Church, serving as a trustee and youth group leader.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring Ronald K. Greenleaf. Serving in the military, contributing as an elected official, and volunteering in central New York, Mr. Greenleaf has spent the majority of his life serving others.

Our Nation and community need more people like Mr. Greenleaf, and we are inspired by and thankful for his commitment to public service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ELIJAH CUMMINGS

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and passing of my friend, ELIJAH CUMMINGS.

When I first came to Congress a few terms ago, I teamed up with Mr. CUMMINGS to introduce a bill honoring the life and legacy of Harriet Tubman.

When I approached Mr. CUMMINGS about this bill, he didn't ask me what party I was in. He didn't ask me what my political philosophies were. He didn't care about partisanship. What he cared about is the fact that we had a common interest; that being, Harriet Tubman.

I always appreciated that and in the years that have passed since then, we continued to cosponsor that bill and continued to push it.

I am sad to hear of his passing, and I offer my prayers to his wife and family, and I pray that he is united with God

right now. And I think going forward, we can all be happy and proud of the legacy he set for us here in Congress.

SECOND CHANCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss second chances.

Across our Nation, one in three adults have an arrest or conviction that makes it difficult to find a job.

Take Kevin Miller, for example, who was incarcerated for 8 months in 1992 after a minor altercation with police officers.

Kevin was only 19 at the time, but more than a quarter century later, Kevin hasn't been able to get a steady job because he must disclose his arrest on every job application.

Michael Mirsky faced similar hardships. He lost his job as a Verizon technician in 2012 after he pled guilty to resisting arrest during a disagreement over child support payments. In the years following the incident, he faced foreclosure of his home, and even as the economy improved and more and more jobs became available, Mr. Mirsky was unable to find a permanent job and start rebuilding his life.

Mr. Speaker, stories like Kevin's and Michael's are all too common. In fact, more than 70 million Americans have minor criminal records that they must disclose on job applications. As a result, millions of Americans have been turned down from countless jobs for mistakes made decades ago.

The reluctance of employers to hire people with criminal records, combined with job applications that contain check-the-box measures, has detrimental effects on the economy and prevents millions of Americans from becoming productive members of society.

In addition, excluding people with minor criminal records from the workforce, often results in their return to crime and to drugs.

That is why I am proud to cosponsor the Fair Chance Act, which prohibits the Federal Government and Federal contractors from asking about a job applicant's prior criminal record before a conditional offer of employment. This process humanizes applicants and gives them a chance to meet employers face to face and explain their past before employers make a sweeping judgment based on one checked box.

Mr. Speaker, America is a land of second chances. Barriers to employment should not follow a person long after they have served time, paid their debt to society, and started a new life. People deserve the freedom to redeem themselves.

As my colleagues go to conference over the NDAA, I urge them to include this legislation as part of any final deal.

HONORING SENATOR RICHARD LUGAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate legislation the House passed this week to name the post office in Indianapolis after the late Senator Richard Lugar.

Senator Lugar was a true statesman who served his country and the State of Indiana with pride. He will be remembered as one of America's greatest Senators, leaving his mark on domestic and global affairs throughout his six terms.

Senator Lugar was an essential part of American diplomacy and strived for peace throughout the globe. In 2013, Lugar's lasting contributions and decades of service to this great country earned him the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Our Nation is stronger and safer because of Senator Lugar, and I thank my colleagues for supporting legislation to honor his legacy.

POSITIVE IMPACT OF U.S.-JAPAN TRADE DEAL

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight the positive impact the new U.S.-Japan trade deal will have on our Nation and on the Hoosier State.

Japan is an important ally of the United States and a critical trading partner that benefits the Hoosier economy. Japan is heavily invested in the Hoosier State and in Indiana's Sixth Congressional District.

Of the 19 counties in the Sixth District, Japan is currently invested in 14 of them. This trade deal will help increase those investments in our local communities, creating opportunities and jobs for many Hoosiers. In Congress, we must build upon this successful trade agreement President Trump has struck with the American people.

We can and we must pass the USMCA, which will increase opportunities for workers and farmers across this country. I urge my colleagues to continue to support these trade deals.

CONGRATULATING THE WINCHESTER NEWS-GAZETTE ON SERVING HOOSIERS FOR 175 YEARS

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Winchester News-Gazette on celebrating their 175th year as a newspaper.

Previously called the Winchester Patriot, Hoosiers in Randolph County have relied on the News-Gazette for local news since 1844.

Local press is essential to a thriving community and is a prime example of the First Amendment in action.

Congratulations to the Winchester News-Gazette on serving Hoosiers for 175 years.

CONGRATULATING MUNCIE-DELAWARE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON 125 YEARS

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Muncie-Delaware Chamber of Commerce for celebrating their 125th anniversary.

The chamber has been an integral part of the greater Muncie community

since 1894. Their strategy for engaging large, medium, and small businesses has been the driving factor behind the thriving economy in the city of Muncie and Delaware County.

Congratulations to the Muncie-Delaware County Chamber of Commerce.

RECOGNIZING ROLLS-ROYCE

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Rolls-Royce for the tremendous work they are doing in my Hoosier State. I recently visited both the Rolls-Royce Indianapolis headquarters and the Rolls-Royce LibertyWorks plant, which produces more Rolls-Royce products than anywhere else in the world.

Rolls-Royce employs 4,000 Hoosiers, and in recent years, invested hundreds of millions of dollars to create world-class engines and products that are on the cutting edge of our national defense.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Rolls-Royce for the great work they are doing for Indiana and the United States.

□ 1030

MOURNING THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE ELIJAH CUMMINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, there are many things that we come to this floor to do. In the midst of our duties, we stand in this well as armor and advocates for democracy. There are moments of joy, and there are moments of high debate, but I come this morning partly for a moment of sadness.

I am looking at my iPhone at a picture of myself and the late Congressman ELIJAH CUMMINGS so many years ago. It tells the story of the breadth and depth of his life, when he invited Members of Congress to come to his district to challenge the scourge of HIV and to stand against the proliferation of addiction.

He was always standing in the gap for his constituents, his beloved Baltimore, and his beloved family. He always considered himself as someone who would find a cure for the ailments of society.

That is why, this morning, we have heard some of his words: "Come on, people, we are better than this."

The wonderment of his words that really came from his strong spiritual connection—I want everybody to know that he was able to say all of this and remain that steady figure in the eye of the storm because he was a man of faith who had no shame in his love of God and the teachings of his parents, who he reminded us all the time, as they rest in peace themselves, that they were sharecroppers.

Look at him now. He ascended to greatness. As chairman of the Oversight and Reform Committee, his focus was not only on this recent impeach-

ment inquiry. He looked at all aspects of wrongness that afflicted the American people, certainly one being the overuse of prescription drugs causing people to either lose their lives or not be able to take care of themselves.

He was also a man of justice who wanted criminal justice reform and wanted to work to ensure that our police persons and law enforcement could have the kind of training and understanding of culturally diverse communities.

He served us in many ways. He certainly was an icon amongst the Congressional Black Caucus, but he was not ours alone. He belonged to this Congress—Republicans and Democrats—and he belonged to the Nation.

But, Baltimore, I cannot leave you out. He belonged to his beloved Baltimore and also the heritage of his parents.

I stand here today to give comfort to those who are mourning, to try to ease the pain that I am experiencing, and to be able to call upon a Nation that has the beauty of allowing us to pray to any God that we worship in any faith that we may have, that we call upon that faith today to be reminded of a giant like ELIJAH CUMMINGS.

I conclude with just a moment to say that I pray for the families in Syria, the fleeing Kurds. I pray that this unmistakable disaster that has occurred, that we can put it right-side up with the Congress working to secure a no-fly zone and to have a cease-fire in northern Syria to be able to stop the blood-letting of women and children and the fleeing that is going on.

As my good friend would want, we want to fix government. In fixing government, we want to protect the American people. This threat to national security that has now been unleashed with the escaping of ISIS supporters and family members along with ISIS persons, we must come together to find a way to bring about peace.

In his name, I am grateful to have this opportunity to honor him and to also speak to peace. That is what I believe his life legacy will be, that he always wanted the best for America. He would always say to all of us, no matter what walk of life we were in, what background we came from, and what diverse part of America we represented, he would always say, "We are better than this."

His faith in a higher power was without question, and that will be the strength that I have today, faith in a higher power.

May God bless him. May he rest and have a soul that is rested. May God bless his family, may God bless all those who loved him and his constituents, and may God bless the United States of America.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.