

and this number can vary throughout the year. In the State of New York, we are faced with more than 90,000 New Yorkers without a home. Furthermore, nationwide, only 37 affordable and available homes exist for every 100 extremely low-income renter households. In my own Sixth Congressional District of New York, these numbers are even worse; only 18 housing units are available for every 100 extremely low-income households.

Madam Speaker, these are not just data points; these are heartbreaking numbers—especially when one considers the families, the children in these households. We know that children living in stable, affordable homes are more likely to thrive in school and have greater opportunities to learn inside and outside the classroom.

And yet, low-income families continue to face the unjust and heartbreaking decision of choosing between paying rent or paying for necessary expenses such as groceries, childcare, or prescription drugs.

Madam Speaker, this is a cruel and impossible decision.

In September 2019, the Trump Administration took aim at individuals experiencing homelessness in the U.S. by releasing a report that targeted a handful of states and cities by offering policy responses that adopted an “out of sight, out of mind” approach, such as rounding up and increasing the policing of vulnerable communities. Slashing HUD programs, tripling the rents for the lowest-income subsidized residents, allowing homeless shelters to discriminate against the LGBTQ community, and evicting thousands of people will only exacerbate the homelessness crisis in America.

In addition, the Administration has repeatedly taken steps to increase the number of families and individuals living in unstable housing situations and those at risk of homelessness. While Congress has continued to push back against the Administration’s every attempt to gut and dismantle our federal homelessness and affordable housing programs, Congress must—and can—do more.

That is why I am introducing the Pathway to Stable and Affordable Housing for All Act. We need bold and robust solutions to address these housing challenges that every single congressional district faces. That is why, today, I am introducing the Pathway to Stable and Affordable Housing for All Act—a bill sets forth a 10-year investment plan based on estimates from frontline service providers and experts that focus on meeting the challenges our states and communities face every day.

Specifically, this bill consists of four provisions: two of which would help states and organizations on the ground assist individuals experiencing homelessness into homeless shelters quickly and efficiently, and two focused on getting those in the shelter system into safe, affordable housing:

\$10 billion per year in additional funding for Emergency Solutions Grants;

\$10 billion per year in additional funding for Continuum of Care grants so organizations can move those experiencing homelessness into the shelter system and provide needed supports;

\$40 billion per year direct appropriation to the Housing Trust Fund—on top of the existing funding provided by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac—to begin to chip away at the deficit of units in our nation’s affordable housing stock; and

Fully funding tenant-based rental assistance to allow all eligible households to get into permanent, safe, affordable housing.

The National Low Income Housing Coalition estimates, if enacted, this bill would effectively end homelessness and housing poverty.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this critical bill—the Pathway to Stable and Affordable Housing for All Act—to ensure housing justice for all Americans.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE MATTHEW W. McFARLAND’S NOMINATION TO THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Mr. WENSTRUP. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Judge Matthew McFarland on his confirmation to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio.

Raised just outside of Portsmouth, Ohio, Judge McFarland has extensive personal and professional history practicing law across Scioto County and Southern Ohio for the last 20 years. His dedication to public service is admirable.

As an appellate judge, Judge McFarland authored over 1,000 opinions and made over 2,900 panel votes and served as the Presiding and Administrative Judge for multiple years. He has served as a visiting Judge on the Supreme Court of Ohio on four separate occasions allowing him to sit on each level of the Ohio Judiciary including the trial, appellate, and supreme court bench.

Judge McFarland is now only the second federal judge to serve the Southern District of Ohio from Scioto County.

I’m proud to recognize Judge McFarland for his outstanding public service and for his recent confirmation. I am confident he will continue to serve the people of Ohio well and I wish him the best of luck as he begins his tenure on the federal bench.

CLARIFICATION OF CHANGES TO THE ALTERNATIVE FUEL MIXTURE CREDIT CONTAINED IN H.R. 1865

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, in December Congress addressed a number of expired or expiring tax provisions, commonly known as “tax extenders,” by passing H.R. 1865 as part of year-end, FY’20 spending measure.

For the most part, these tax provisions were simply extended seamlessly through 2020, which I viewed as a wasted opportunity to create real certainty around these provisions for taxpayers.

Additionally, one provision extending a fuel excise tax credit known as the Alternative Fuel Mixture Credit (AFMC) contained modifications prohibiting the blending of certain categories of fuels in order to claim the credit. These fuel

categories had been part of the AFMC and the related Alternative Fuel Credit since both were created in a Surface Transportation bill in 2005, and they had also been extended multiple times since then in past tax extenders bills. The intended purpose of these provisions was to reduce the United States’ dependence on foreign oil and to encourage cheaper, cleaner burning fuels (whether for transportation or other uses).

One of the longstanding fuel categories eliminated in H.R. 1865 was liquefied petroleum gas. Since enacted, the AFMC had provided a credit to taxpayers for mixtures of liquefied petroleum gas, including propane, and taxable fuel. The modification in H.R. 1865 eliminates the credit for any mixture that includes any type of liquefied petroleum gas.

Madam Speaker, I have long been an opponent of retroactive tax increases, and there are currently several taxpayers in disputes with the Internal Revenue Service over whether they can properly claim the AFMC on past tax returns.

I will note that the subsection of H.R. 1865 that eliminated the longstanding classes of fuels from the AFMC also contained “no inference” language stating:

“Nothing contained in this subsection or the amendments made by this subsection shall be construed to create any inference as to a change in law or guidance in effect prior to enactment of this subsection” (enactment occurred when H.R. 1865 was signed into law on December 20, 2019).

The Congressional intent of this “no inference” language is unambiguous—this provision should ensure a fair day in court for taxpayers in legitimate disputes with the IRS over the AFMC.

HONORING SPECTOR FURNITURE AS THEY MARK THEIR 130TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DELAUR

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Ms. DELAUR. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the many family, friends, and community leaders who have gathered today and extend my very best wishes to Howard and Ken Kreiger as they mark the 130th Anniversary of their iconic Main Street store, Spector Furniture. Family owned and operated since its doors opened in 1890, Spector Furniture is a cornerstone of the community of Ansonia, Connecticut.

One hundred-thirty years of Spector Furniture is an impressive achievement. As old as the City of Ansonia itself, it is the oldest furniture store in Connecticut and a testament to the honored traditions of Yankee craftsmanship as well as entrepreneurial spirit. Simon Spector opened the business and it has been passed down generation to generation—from Simon to George Spector, then Lawrence Winer, followed by David Kreiger, and now Howie and Ken—with each facing their own challenges to survival. Spector Furniture has weathered World War I, Prohibition, the Great Depression, the devastating Flood of 1955, de-industrialization, stagflation, NAFTA, and the rise of Made in China. Through it all, and all of the changes that have taken place in the

American economy, the Connecticut economy, and the economy of the Valley, Spector Furniture has stood tall.

I have often said that small businesses are the backbone of our nation's economy. For one hundred-thirty years, Spector Furniture has been a fixture in Ansonia and throughout its history, has been a testament to the impact small businesses can have on a community.

Even as the store has grown and expanded over the years, their vision and commitment to innovation and quality service has never wavered. It is small businesses like Spector Furniture, that forge the strongest bonds of our communities.

I am honored to take this moment and stand to recognize the innovative and entrepreneurial spirit of Simon Spector and the gen-

erations of his family who have not only made Spector Furniture a success, but, more importantly, have ensured that its success has bolstered the Ansonia community as a whole. To Howard, Ken and the entire family—my heartfelt congratulations on this incredible milestone. I have no doubt that Spector Furniture will continue in its success for many years to come. One hundred (Cent' Anni).