

detention systems have a broad menu of alternatives to detention to facilitate release—we have a duty to use them. Second, for those who remain in custody, these facilities must do the essential work to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in close consultation with public health officials.

I am proud of House Democrats who fought very hard to include many of these protections and issues in our House bill. It is unfortunate that Republicans fought us on so much. However, at the end of the day, this is still a bold, bipartisan, and urgently necessary bill to deliver critically timed relief to individuals, families, businesses, and communities across the country who are suffering and I am proud to cast my vote for its passage. This is a crisis of epic proportions and we must continue to do everything we can to respond with the scale sufficient to address the suffering of people across our country. I am also proud to represent a district and a state that has responded with so much compassion, caring, and commitment, and I will continue to fight for all my constituents as we weather this together.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, it is not lost on me how consequential the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act is for our nation.

Along with many of my colleagues, I wish I could be there in person to voice my support for this historically massive and wide-reaching legislation. The absence of Members from our chamber doesn't make the House of Representatives any less united in our support of this significant relief package for the American people, who are greatly suffering by no fault of their own due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The natural disaster caused by COVID-19 is unlike any other our nation has encountered in modern history. Its impact is severely felt across the whole of society—causing an unprecedented strain on our public health defenders and medical providers as well as sharp economic losses and unexpected disruptions for Americans of all stripes.

Hardworking Americans, families, communities, small businesses and numerous industries have been hit hard and fast in a matter of days and weeks. Given the enormous scope of this disaster, its consequences and the damage already done, it is critically important to get help to those Americans facing difficult times. I am encouraged that the CARES Act extends a much needed helping hand.

To help individuals and families weather this storm, the CARES Act provides financial assistance in the form of direct cash payments and unemployment support. The legislation provides unprecedented help to sustain small businesses and their workers, after many businesses on Main Street have been forced to close their doors to comply with the guidance and orders from federal, state, local and tribal officials.

For our health workers fighting on the front lines across the nation, this relief package re-

plenishes vital medical supplies like masks, respirators and other equipment. Moreover, it provides reinforcement supplies and resources for state and local response efforts.

Finally, I worked very hard to ensure tribal nations are equipped to face and fight the unknown challenges ahead with this coronavirus like other state and local authorities. Oklahoma is home to 39 sovereign tribes, and each one plays an invaluable role in the lives and health of their members and surrounding communities. I am proud that this relief package dedicates generous resources specifically for tribal nations to respond.

Therefore, had I been present, I would vote "yea" if there was a recorded vote.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID P. JOYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, as we prepared to appropriate supplemental funding for Indian Country through the Bureau of Indian Affairs budget, my colleagues and I became keenly aware of the need to mitigate the hardships that this pandemic has caused for Tribal governments who have to rely on business revenues—rather than taxes—to fund essential services for their Tribal members. In addition, Tribal governments are often the largest employers on reservations, where unemployment rates are already significantly higher than the rest of the country.

For these reasons, this bill directs that not less than \$400 million—nearly 90 percent of the Bureau of Indian Affairs supplemental appropriation—shall be made available to meet the direct needs of Tribes. For these same reasons, this bill directs that not less than \$450 million of the Indian Health Service supplemental appropriation be distributed to directly operated programs and to Tribes and Tribal organizations by utilizing existing contracts, compacts, and other agreements to speed up the process.

In addition, I was pleased to see and support an additional \$8 billion for payments to Tribal governments through the Coronavirus Relief Fund in this bill. Because of the Federal Government's unique government-to-government relationship with Indian Tribes, providing these funds to Tribes directly—rather than through the States—is the right approach. It is critical that the Secretaries of the Treasury and the Interior consult with Tribal leaders immediately to determine the most expeditious, transparent, and fair method of allocating these funds.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID KUSTOFF

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of The CARES Act.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has greatly affected the health and livelihoods of people around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is not perfect but it is a solid step forward to providing the stimulus needed to revive our economy.

There is no that doubt that as a nation we have endured tough times in our history, but we have always come back stronger and more resilient.

I am proud to be here today, representing West Tennessee during this trying time.

There may be more challenges coming in the days ahead, but we know that the American people will meet them head on and we will prevail—just like we always do.

As a body, we need to demonstrate our support for all of the brave men and women working to protect us, for our fellow citizens and for the President—and pass the CARES Act.

CONGRATULATING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2020 H.E.B. ISD AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 2020

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate thirty-three outstanding students from the Hurst Euless Bedford Independent School District who have been selected to receive the District's Awards of Excellence for the 2019–2020 school year.

These accomplished students possess unique talents that have enabled them to succeed in their respective disciplines. This year's recipients have been recognized for their achievements in a diverse field of subjects which include visual and performing arts, business and industry, science, mathematics, and communications to name but a few. Through their hard work and dedication, the following young men and women have built a strong foundation upon which they will continue to enhance their education.

Asim Adhikari, Kierra Ashford, Lexie Barthelemess, Khaezer Xann Bellen, Indya Bobb, Erin Brewer, Melanie Butcher, Tanvi Dalal, Kameron Dancy, Antoni Davila, Marcos De La Liana, Zachary Deande, Giandré Dejesús, Maliabo Diamba, Sofia Dominguez, Lyra Ehninger, Anna Maria Glowacki, Myra Gordon, Mason Hunter-Gray, Kya Jordan, Charlotte Lewis, Alec Liu, Savannah Lo, James Mahon VI, Hayley Otteson, Elizabeth Perry, Alana Rada Pico, Nicolas Sears, Devashree Shah, Grant Trusty, Mahanga Uhilamoelangi, Yulisa Villeda, Allyrica Williams.

In addition to recognizing the above, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the instructors who have worked tirelessly to ensure the needs of their students are met. It is with great praise that I recognize the following teachers from Hurst Hills Elementary, Central Junior High, L.D. Bell, Buinger CTE Academy, KEYS, and Trinity High School for their invaluable role as educators:

Lauren Allen, Jo Ann Antinone, Shawn Bemis, Andy Bloodworth, Pamela Bracken, Tammy Brown, Mario Casanova, Monica Chavez, Jennifer Choate, Amanda Collins, Ken Davis, Michael Dean, Bianca Diaz, John Fetters, Kenda Fries, Mark Gustafson, Candace

Harris, Tara Hernandez, Susan Kaufman, Cathy Kazzaka, Courtney Koder, Amelia Langi, Stormee Massey, Allen Matthews, Laurel McClanahan, Karen McCurdy, Joseph Mendenhall, Thomas Montelongo, Alyssa Nabors, Amanda Stevens, Kent Wooley.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize these outstanding students and teachers and congratulate them on their admirable achievements. I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2020 HEB ISD Awards of Excellence.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is the intent of this chamber that States, Tribal governments, and local units of governments use the funds in the Coronavirus Relief Fund to recover any necessary monies that they would have otherwise collected or generated in order to pay their employees and cover costs but for the COVID-19 pandemic. As the legislation indicates, these funds are specifically targeted towards expenditures incurred between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020. I agree that it is important to try to keep American workers employed and paid during this time. And, I agree with the assessment that these governments rely on the collection of taxes and generation of revenues to pay the wages of these employees, and those costs were an anticipated expenditure to be allowable under the Coronavirus Relief Fund.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, the House considered the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. I would vote YEA on this important measure.

As the coronavirus spreads throughout our country, the devastating impact of this pandemic becomes clearer each day. The bipartisan CARES Act makes an important down payment on needed economic relief for Americans and their families, especially in California. It provides critical cash assistance to people who need it. It grants crucial resources to small businesses, helps prevent layoffs, and delivers urgently needed funds to hospitals, schools, and local governments.

This bill is huge, by any measure. It will provide critical assistance. I am proud of the tireless efforts by House Democrats to secure the best possible deal for working families, and proud that we can reach a bipartisan agreement.

We simply cannot afford to declare victory, though. More will be needed. We're just beginning to understand the full scope of the impacts.

This is the third relief bill Congress will pass related to the coronavirus outbreak, and while they have each been critical in helping us in this fight, we know they are just first steps. Many families, workers, small businesses, first responders, and health care professionals will need more assistance, and we are already working on additional help to address this unprecedented public health threat.

The American people need and deserve a coordinated, fully-funded, whole-of-government response to keep them and their loved ones safe from the coronavirus epidemic, and to protect our economy. I will continue to work relentlessly to put families, workers, and small businesses first.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. MARKWAYNE MULLIN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the CARES Act. We are in the middle of an unprecedented public health crisis and the American people need help.

Over the past two weeks, I have had countless calls with constituents, and they have all said the same thing: they're hurting. Our small businesses, our farmers and ranchers, our teachers, our Tribal governments, our health care workers, and first responders on the front lines—we are all hurting right now.

While this bill won't fix all their problems, it brings them some much-needed relief and confidence that the federal government is taking action to combat this crisis.

In Oklahoma, we call it the Oklahoma Standard. Neighbors helping neighbors through hard times. Together, as a country, we will help our neighbors and get through this together.

I support this bill and look forward to continuing to work with the Administration.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I care deeply about the health of our citizens and our economy. We are in the midst of a National Emergency that has taken lives, disrupted the economy, and threatened the health and economic security of our nation. Americans have called on Congress to pass legislation that provides relief, and we cannot let another day go by without answering that call. While this bill is not perfect, and I disagree with a number of specific provisions within, unprecedented crises demand unprecedented solutions, and I am confident the CARES Act as a whole will assist Missourians and Americans around the country in our time of need.

COVID-19 has prevented too many Americans from working to support their families, and could overwhelm our heroic health care

workers and other first responders. I have worked day and night with my colleagues in Congress and our state and local officials to find a way to get people back on their feet. Just days ago partisanship threatened to destroy all of that work, abandoning the people who need this assistance most. But I am grateful that Leader MCCONNELL was able to get a historic and unanimous vote in support through the Senate, and that Speaker PELOSI and Senator SCHUMER finally realized they needed to put politics aside and join us in placing our countrymen and women above petty political fights.

Americans are resilient and, although these are difficult times, I have faith we will emerge stronger as a nation, a people, and an economy. The CARES Act will help Missourians get back to work, keep businesses open, and allow our economy to rebound. This legislation gives financial support directly to families and workers who need it most and provides assistance to struggling small businesses so they can keep their doors open and pay their employees. If you have lost your job, unemployment insurance has been expanded so you can feed your family and keep a roof over your heads during this uncertain time, and this was done in a temporary fashion so we do not disincentivize people from working. Our health care workers and first responders who have worked long hours on the front lines of this crisis will receive vital personal protective equipment and other resources to keep up the fight. This is an extraordinary piece of legislation, but the work doesn't stop here. Congress will keep working to improve upon this legislation, mitigate the effects of this pandemic, and ensure the safety of the American people.

I am disappointed that Democrats insisted on adding many extraneous provisions that are not relevant to the crisis at hand. Millions of dollars for forest research and other items do not belong in urgent coronavirus relief legislation. I am also extremely concerned they insisted on including over \$1 billion for Amtrak and \$10 billion for the Postal Service. We can have a reasoned debate on these items, but in another forum. The issue at hand is relieving our distressed families and small businesses, not trying to tack on political pet projects when so many people across America need our help. We are in a National Emergency and it is shameful Democrats tried to force through partisan issues, including aggressive union mandates and taxpayer funded abortion. I fought these provisions and am grateful they were ultimately left out of the final bill.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in recent weeks, this crisis has devastated our families, our communities, and our entire way of life. Americans are suffering, our health care workers are exhausted, and businesses are struggling. Americans need relief, and they need it now.