

HEALTH AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY OMNIBUS EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 15, 2020

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the tribal provisions included in H.R. 6800, the HEROS Act. I profusely disagree with this partisan legislation that was crafted by the majority behind closed doors, and with no input from the minority, however this legislation provides critical relief to Indian Country that must be noted. In the previous, bipartisan, and negotiated relief package, the CARES Act, Congress provided tribal governments with record breaking appropriations. The HEROS Act continues to build on what already has been funded with even more critical dollars and flexibility. Specifically, this bill appropriates \$20 billion to the tribal government stabilization fund—money dedicated to tribal governments to offset the dramatic losses they are facing at this time. This funding would be used to help them continue to do the right thing and keep their employees on the job—paid, and supported—as our nation responds to, and recovers from the pandemic.

I would like to commend the Trump Administration for its active engagement in finding equitable solutions that meet the needs of all tribes. To date, the Administration has focused on ensuring that tribes have maximum flexibility to determine how they can best use the funds to respond to the needs of their citizens in this crisis. I applaud those efforts and urge the Administration to continue to provide tribal governments with the flexibility they need.

While I oppose this bill, I look forward to working with my colleagues on crafting a reasonable and appropriate response to the COVID-19 pandemic and I am encouraged that tribal governments and communities will not be an afterthought, but deliberately included in the final legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE ARMSTEAD FAMILY

HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Armstead Family to commemorate their service and contributions to Michigan and the United States of America.

As residents of Michigan, Peter Armstead, Earl Armstead, and Robert Armstead all answered the call to serve and stood ready to pay the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. Their strength and courage will be marked by their burial in the Great Lakes National Cemetery, resting peacefully side-by-side. Their family has paid a great tribute to this country and they will be commemorated with this esteemed and well-deserved honor.

With a long family history dating back to the 1800s, Peter, Earl and Robert represent three generations of Armstead Family patriotism and dedication to serving on the front lines with the United States Military. Having served in three

significant wars in American history—Peter as a Civil War Veteran, Earl as a World War I Veteran, and Robert Armstead as a World War II Veteran—the Armsteads have displayed enduring selflessness and tremendous sacrifice.

This exemplary service and unprecedented legacy has earned the Armstead family the esteemed honor of having Peter, Earl, and Robert buried with full military honors. On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Michigan, I am honored today to recognize the Armstead Family and extend my highest appreciation for their sacrifice and commitment to Michigan and the United States of America.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KEITH COLE

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the life of Trooper Keith Cole who passed away last week after a courageous battle with cancer. Keith Cole was dedicated to his family, career, and community, and was a proud protector of the people of Lee County. I thank Mr. Cole for his commitment to the people of Mississippi, and for being a symbol of honor and integrity throughout his life.

Keith Cole was an active member of the Tupelo community. Graduating from Mooreville High School before attending Itawamba Community College, Mr. Cole pursued his lifelong dream of a career in law enforcement. He graduated from the Tupelo Police Academy and served as a Mississippi Highway Patrol Officer. Mr. Cole was dedicated to serving the people of Mississippi, but he was an ever-present husband and father to his wife of 17 years, Monica Jenkins Cole and his son Michael. He leaves behind a loving family who will carry on his memory.

Trooper Cole was a valiant officer of the law, a loving husband and father, and a pillar of his community. While we mourn his loss and honor his memory, we recognize that his impact on Lee County has been immeasurable. I wish my sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Trooper Cole.

WUHAN VIRUS CORRECTLY NAMED

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as the grateful son of a World War II Flying Tiger of the U.S. Army Air Corps who served in China, I grew up with appreciation for the people of the people of Xian, Chungdu, and Kunming where he lived served. First Lieutenant Hugh deV. Wilson educated me on the bravery of the Chinese people to resist aggression with an extraordinary cultural heritage. It is because of my devotion to the people of China that I believe the proper identification of the deadly threat to all nations of the world is The Wuhan Virus.

WHY CORRECTLY IDENTIFYING WUHAN VIRUS

Actual location of origination

Underscores American sympathy for initial Chinese victims

Highlights “wet market” or the Wuhan Institute of Virology

Recognizes Whistleblower Dr. Li Wenliang

Praises the bravery of Whistle-provider Dr. Ai Fen

Honors Chinese doctors

Questions disappearance of Chinese doctors

Raises issues of untrue denial of person-to-person transmission

Causes WHO to clarify misinformation

Confirms a global catastrophe not Trump’s fault

Puts on notice biased American mainstream media it must tell truth

Alerts hate-filled that illness of Trump Derangement Syndrome will be exposed

Verifies local and national talk radio hosts are today’s Paul Revere’s of truth

Underscores President Trump’s early decisions to block travel from China

Clarifies people of Italy not responsible

Debunks fake news of U.S. military conspiracy

Refutes ignorant smears of untrue European Virus

Promotes that Taiwan should have WHO admission

Reveals WHO complicit with Chinese Communist Party

American Enterprise Institution correct, Communist Party and U.S. media gullible

Senator Tom Cotton is fully vindicated on China as a pariah state

China Project of Congresswoman Liz Cheney documents deception and fraud

Eighteen states Attorneys General led by Alan Wilson demand the truth on the Wuhan Virus

Turning Point USA’s video is accurate “China Lied People Died”

Ann Coulter unmasks liberals’ mandatory fascist stuff

For so many substantive reasons, it is important to correctly name The Wuhan Virus. It is not to condemn the innocent people of China, but to serve as a message to authoritarians not to conceal their incompetence as billions of citizens are at risk in over 200 countries with illness, death, and economic destruction of jobs.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL WARRICK

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate my friend—Michael Warrick, who was recently named the 2020 Arkansas Living Treasure by the Arkansas Arts Council.

The Arkansas Arts Council Living Treasure award was created in 2002 and recognizes an Arkansas artist who excels in the creation of a traditional craft and who actively preserves and advances their craft through community outreach and educating others.

That certainly describes Michael, who has taught sculpture at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock for three decades.

He grew up in a small town outside of Chicago and his interest in sculpting and the arts was evident from a young age. He earned his undergraduate degree in ceramics and master’s degree in fine arts.

He is known to have a profound impact on many of his students, several becoming successful artists in their own right.

I join all Arkansans in congratulating Michael on this achievement and look forward to seeing more of his work throughout Little Rock in the years to come.

HONORING THE NURSES OF PARKLAND HEALTH & HOSPITAL SYSTEM IN DALLAS, TEXAS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the nurses of Parkland Health & Hospital System in Dallas, Texas, for their commitment to serving their patients and our community during this novel coronavirus pandemic.

Madam Speaker, the sacrifices that the nurses fighting COVID-19 have been immense. At Parkland Memorial Hospital, over 300 medical staffers are caring for coronavirus patients in the Tactical Care Unit. One of these nurses has moved into an RV and has not seen her 7-month-old daughter in more than five weeks. Another has only had contact with her 2-year-old when she wore an N95 mask and gloves for a birthday hug. A third, who lives alone, has volunteered for every shift she can get to nurse the most critically ill COVID-19 victims.

As the first registered nurse elected to Congress, I am deeply aware of the sacrifices and expertise that medical professionals bring to their work, and I honor their selfless, dedicated service during this public health crisis. What our society is asking of them, the support staff, and all their families is immense, and we must endeavor to provide absolutely every possible resource for their work. This means that the current nationwide struggles to acquire personal protective equipment and testing materials are unacceptable, and I am committed to pushing for all our essential medical professionals to be properly equipped to provide the care our communities need and depend on at this time.

Madam Speaker, the contributions of the medical professionals serving in the city of Dallas, state of Texas, these United States, and across the globe are truly immeasurable. Therefore, on behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and Texas' 30th Congressional District, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing and honoring the sacrifices and commitment of these essential medical staffers during this unprecedented novel coronavirus pandemic."

HEALTH AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY OMNIBUS EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 15, 2020

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6800, the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act. Our nation is experiencing unprecedented job loss as our communities deal

with a global health pandemic that is responsible for the deaths of more than 85,000 individuals in our country in just the past few months. We cannot wait another day, another week, or another month to take action. Our communities need help now and they are looking to Congress to lead. I'm grateful for the leadership of the House of Representatives, Speaker PELOSI, and our committee chairs and staff for working with us to put together an ambitious bill that will send needed help to individuals and families in the form of an additional direct stimulus payment; to our state and local governments, which are experiencing extreme budget shortfalls; and to our small businesses that are the backbone of our local economies and the heart of our communities. Although I am disappointed that the bill does not include several provisions including ongoing payments for individuals and families, additional funding to support child care, and a strong investment in our workforce systems, among other things, I will support this step forward.

We heard loud and clear from our state and local governments—they need more support to keep our communities safe. This bill includes \$915 billion in emergency funding to state and local governments, funding that can be used to help prevent teacher job loss and funding cuts to education and, importantly, the bill expands the use of funds to cover lost, delayed, or decreased revenue from the public health emergency. The HEROES Act also includes \$90 billion for the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund that can be used to provide emergency support to students—including Dreamers, who were previously excluded from receiving emergency grants—schools, and institutions of higher education. These funds are critical to supporting public colleges and universities, addressing student mental health needs, and purchasing technology and mobile hotspots to support distance learning. Under this proposal, my home state of Oregon would receive approximately \$980 million.

During this public health crisis, no one should have to choose between affording basic needs or making payments on their student loans. The CARES Act suspended involuntary collection like wage garnishment or reduction of Social Security payments for delinquent federally-owned student loans. The HEROES Act follows my recommendation to extend these protections to all borrowers, including those who have privately held student loans.

Building on my earlier efforts to make sure K12 students can access school meals during school closures, this legislation funds school meal and child and adult care food programs with emergency relief that will help schools continue to meet the needs of children and their families. This bill will further help families access nutritious meals by increasing the SNAP benefit level by 15 percent.

I am grateful that this bill provides \$7 billion for child care, but this is far from the investment that is needed to support families, providers, and the child care workforce at this critical time. I will continue to fight for significant, additional funding in future relief packages. If child care is not available and affordable, families will not be able to return to work. Additionally, I will continue to fight for additional funding for the Community Services Block Grant program to support the vital anti-poverty work of the more than 1,000 Community Action agencies across this country.

We cannot overcome this virus until we drastically increase our public health efforts. The HEROES Act provides crucial funding to conduct national testing, implement a contact tracing and surveillance strategy, and allow all Americans to seek treatment for COVID-19 without worrying about the cost. The bill also increases support for our frontline health care providers, invests in public health infrastructure, and expands access to health coverage whether employer-provided, publicly supported, or on the open market. The HEROES Act also provides key resources to older adults and people with disabilities. The bill provides an additional \$85 million in funding for Older Americans Act (OAA) programs that were reauthorized earlier this year by legislation I was proud to lead. This means more resources for supportive services, nutrition programs, assistive technology, and elder rights protection activities.

The direct payments to individuals in the CARES Act was an important first step, but I know that too many people in Northwest Oregon and across the country need more support during this health and economic crisis. Although this bill does not provide at least \$2,000 per month for individuals through the duration of the pandemic, which I advocated for, it does provide a second stimulus payment of \$1200 to most individuals and, importantly, it retroactively fixes a problem in CARES and will now extend direct payments to individuals filing with Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers.

More than 396,000 Oregonians have filed for unemployment insurance in the last two months. I know how important this support is during the pandemic, and I'm working in Congress to strengthen and expedite access to these benefits. The HEROES Act expands the additional \$600 in federal benefits added to every weekly unemployment compensation check through January 2021, and it extends eligibility for self-employed individuals, gig economy workers, and independent contractors. This vital economic support must continue until workers can safely get back on the job. Also it is truly unfortunate that, despite the merits of a more comprehensive approach, the HEROES Act does not include the Paycheck Guarantee Act, legislation spearheaded by Congresswoman PRAMILA JAYAPAL. The Paycheck Guarantee Act would allow most individuals to stay on payroll during this national emergency and keep their benefits, and it would also significantly reduce the number of people filing for Unemployment Insurance. I will continue to advocate for creative approaches like the Paycheck Guarantee Act that maximize the benefits to workers and the economy while also reducing bureaucracy.

We need to do more to protect workers from hazardous conditions on the job, and I will keep fighting for workplace protections and personal protective equipment for all workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. I am an original cosponsor of the COVID-19 Every Worker Protection Act, and I'm pleased that it is included in the HEROES Act with additional funding for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Protecting essential workers during the pandemic is one of my top priorities. I have also advocated for premium pay for essential workers to recognize their role in sustaining our communities and the sacrifices they are making during the pandemic. The HEROES Act will provide frontline