

Thomas “Tom” Pinnell III, who will be promoted to the rank of Major this weekend. Capt. Pinnell was commissioned into the Marine Corps in 2010. A college baseball athlete, Capt. Pinnell has earned the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar’s “Athlete of the Year” award not once, but twice. He may not reach the status of a future Hall of Famer like Yadier Molina of his cherished St. Louis Cardinals, but Capt. Pinnell’s athleticism set him up to represent Team USA in the CISM Military World Cup.

Capt. Pinnell has also given back to the Marine Corps as a top recruiter, selecting the best and brightest to lead the next generation of Marines. His expertise won him the title of “Recruiter of the Year” of the Midwestern Region.

In the coming months, Capt. Pinnell will transition from active duty to the reserves in order to begin a promising career in the practice of law. Capt. Pinnell and his wonderful wife, Lisa, just welcomed into the world their third child, Weston, little brother to Theo and Davis.

Capt. Pinnell is a loving father who has given many years of service to this great nation. Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Capt. Pinnell for his promotion and in wishing him all the best on his endeavors.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021

SPEECH OF

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 30, 2020*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Soto Amendment, Soto number 77 to Division B, the Department of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2021, specified that at least \$40,000,000 from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s Planetary Science budget to be applied to the general budget and applied to the Near Earth Object Surveillance Mission (NEOSM).

Space may be vast, but it’s not empty. Earth is bombarded by tiny space rocks called meteoroids every day, most of which burn up in our atmosphere. Larger meteors, like the one that exploded over Chelyabinsk, Russia in 2013, can damage buildings and cause minor injuries. And on rare occasions, asteroids and comets strike Earth and cause global devastation—the dinosaurs perished when this happened 66 million years ago.

NEOSM is a 50-centimeter-wide telescope. Its camera sees things in infrared wavelengths—a type of light not visible to human eyes. Infrared light reveals heat signatures, which is perfect for asteroids because they are very dark and hard to see against the blackness of space. In infrared light, they glow because they heat up in the Sun and re-radiate that heat back into space.

This is the impetus behind NEOSM, NASA’s Near-Earth Object Surveillance Mission. NEOSM would launch as soon as 2025 and within 10 years meet Congress’s goal of finding 90 percent of near-Earth objects 140 meters and wider. Finding and studying these objects will not only help us figure out if any are on course to hit Earth, but will also help lay the groundwork for survey and deflection missions if one is found.

I support ensuring funding for the Near Earth Surveillance Mission efforts to identify potentially hazard near Earth objects and thank my colleagues for their support of my amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEVE KING**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 31, 2020*

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on July 27, 2020 due to not being in DC. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: YES on Roll Call No. 167.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021

SPEECH OF

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 30, 2020*

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7617, the Defense, Commerce, Justice, Science, Energy and Water Development, Financial Services and General Government, Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Appropriations Act, for fiscal year 2021, which has included multiple of my priorities critical to the communities I represent. These provisions fund our nation’s most critical programs that support individuals, families, and communities throughout their lifespan, from Early Head Start to Social Security. We are dedicated to investing in programs that provide opportunities so that every person has a better chance at a better life—with a good education, a good job, and access to affordable healthcare.

This bill provides modest increases for the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. The National Science Foundation is the only agency to fund research across all fields of science and engineering, and the most important agency in terms of ensuring a diverse pipeline of STEM talent across our nation. The National Institute of Standards and Technology is the global leader in measurement science and standards, and as such plays a central role in U.S. competitiveness across all sectors of our economy. However, it is one of most underfunded agencies in our government for what it is asked to do and what it is capable of doing for our nation. In addition, our nation’s progress in industries of the future such as artificial intelligence, quantum science, and 5G will simply not be possible without increased investments in these two agencies. I truly understand the difficult and sometimes delicate trade-offs that my Appropriations colleagues had to make in crafting this legislation. However, I urge my colleagues across Congress to find a way to invest in our nation’s future by investing more in our nation’s STEM talent.

Regarding funding for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), I am pleased that the bill rejects the proposed cuts to high-priority science projects, including those that will provide important climate

change measurements, and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs. We simply cannot afford to cut-off our future—the building of our next generation’s skills and the development of a 21st century workforce. Overall, the bill sustains NASA’s multi-mission portfolio at the Fiscal Year 2020 enacted level of \$22.629 billion, providing level or near-level funding for NASA’s science, exploration, and space technology accounts, and provides \$35 million increase for aeronautics, which contributes important research and development for our nation’s civil aviation and air transportation system. The bill also sustains funding for critical exploration capabilities, including the Space Launch System and Orion crew vehicle. Toward that end, I’m pleased that the bill continues to fund the development of an exploration upper stage-enabled Space Launch System, which will provide greater lift capacity to support our deep space exploration activities. In addition, the bill provides important flexibility to the agency in selecting a launch vehicle for the high-priority Europa Clipper science mission; that flexibility could help reduce overall mission cost while also seeking to expedite science results. It is also worth noting that the bill allows for up to \$1 million from the Safety, Security, and Mission Services account to be available to meet mandated payments to the Challenger Center as NASA explores alternative means to ensure the ongoing payments.

With respect to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the bill supports the Office of Commercial Space Transportation (AST)’s important functions of licensing and monitoring the safety of commercial space launches and reentries, as well as spaceports, at \$27.555 million, an increase of \$1.515 million (6 percent) from the FY 2020 enacted appropriation. I am also pleased that the bill sustains \$192.665 million for the FAA’s research, engineering, and development programs, which contribute R&D to improve the safety and efficiency of the national airspace system and reduce the environmental impact.

I am supportive of the \$5.45 billion provided for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in this bill, which is \$828 million above the Administration’s short-sighted budget request. This includes robust investments in intramural and extramural research at NOAA and restoration of funding to proposed cuts to, or eliminations of, coastal resilience grants, National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, the National Sea Grant Program, Tsunami Warning System, the Air Resources Laboratory, and the NOAA Office of Education. At a time when Americans face compound threats of the COVID-19 pandemic on top of climate change-fueled intense heat, hurricanes, and other extreme weather events, it is imperative that we have accurate and timely climate and weather predictions, preparedness, and response. I am pleased to see enhanced support for weather research, modeling, and forecasting, as well as National Weather Service forecaster staffing levels. As our planet continues to warm, sea levels rise, ice sheets melt, and other changes occur due to anthropogenic climate change, authoritative climate research and information remains more important than ever to help our communities address these resulting impacts. I am

also pleased to see restored funding for authoritative reports such as the National Climate Assessments and the Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments program to help provide regions with decision making support services and tools.

This bill makes much needed investments at the Department of Energy, which supports the world-class facilities and expertise of our national laboratories as well as many important activities at our universities and in the private sector. DOE also serves as one of our most valuable tools in the fight against climate change. Alone, the \$12.5 billion dedicated to DOE's non-defense research, development, and demonstration activities in this bill would amount to a slight cut of 0.2 percent compared to FY20 enacted levels. However, the bill also includes \$12.4 billion in additional, critical research infrastructure investments. Thus DOE's Office of Science, ARPA-E, and other applied energy programs would all receive significant funding increases under this bill, which would significantly enhance the development of new clean energy technologies and provide valuable support to the U.S. research enterprise when such support is desperately needed.

I also want to speak on important provisions within the Health and Human Services funding division. In consideration of our current public health crisis, this appropriations bill rebuilds our nation's aging public health infrastructure by providing \$24.425 billion in emergency spending to support state and local public health departments, public health laboratories, and global health activities. This investment is essential to developing national resilience amid the current pandemic caused by the novel coronavirus and from future public health threats. We also have included operational and contingency funding to assist states with the unanticipated unemployment insurance workloads, as millions of individuals have come to rely on such benefits to survive the current economic turmoil.

Among the multiple laudable improvements made in this bill, I am specifically encouraged by the inclusion of my report language on telehealth training and education for Medicaid beneficiaries. Our nation has recognized the potential for telehealth, remote monitoring, and digital health technologies to help meet the needs of patients and families, especially during this public health emergency. As healthcare providers expanding their delivery of virtual care, we must have a comprehensive understanding of the training and education needs of beneficiaries and caregivers on how to successfully utilize such telehealth services and technologies. My language directs the Administration of Community Living to work with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and other stakeholders to develop such resources that account for age-related differences in our interactions with technology.

With all that is happening across our nation, we must make sure that our communities have the mental health services and support their need to withstand and recover from these months of turmoil. That is why I am proud of the \$21 million allocated for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, which is \$2 million more than last year. Additionally, this bill includes \$758 million for the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant, which will provide our states and territories the mental health resources that are so needed during these times.

This bill also includes critical funding for lupus programs, which I supported as co-chair of the Congressional Lupus Caucus. The National Lupus Patient Registry at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is to receive \$8.5 million, and the Office of Minority Health and their National Lupus Training, Outreach, and Clinical Trial Program is to receive \$2 million.

Now, let me turn my attention to the Education funding division. As we continue to address the needs of Americans during this pandemic, I am happy to see that this bill includes critical funding necessary to ensure our young people have access to quality education, whether it be at home, in school, or a hybrid model. I am particularly pleased to see the subcommittee recommend \$28.5 million in funding for the Innovative Approaches to Literacy program. This is an increase of \$1.5 million over the Fiscal year 2020 funding level. The increased funding for this program will ensure that schools, libraries, and non-profits can continue providing books and other literary materials to families in high need communities. As we try to address the stark differences in educational opportunity during this pandemic, programs like IAL are needed more than ever to ensure underserved students do not fall further behind in the areas of literacy and writing.

This bill also increases funding for Title I schools, Head Start, and special education programs, ensuring that the most vulnerable and needy get the services they need in the classroom.

Regarding Higher Education, this bill increases funding to various HBCU programs and raises the maximum Pell Grant amount by \$150 to \$6,495. This funding increase will help students keep up with the rising cost of higher education.

Regarding the funding provisions for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, I am pleased at the increased investments made to affordable housing and homelessness programs. We have dedicated \$9.1 billion for the Office of Community Planning and Development, an increase of \$1.1 billion above the 2020 enacted level. There is also \$3.5 billion for Community Development Block Grants, a critical program that the President's budget request proposed to eliminate. As co-chair of the Congressional Homelessness Caucus, I am very supportive of the \$3.4 billion for Homeless Assistance Grants, which is \$638 million more than what was dedicated in fiscal year 2020. Multiple other programs have also received funding increases, including \$103 million for the Education for Homeless Children and Youth program, \$140 million for Runaway and Homeless Youth program, and \$57.5 million for the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program. With the economic upheaval caused by this coronavirus, we must be completely dedicated to preventing and alleviating homelessness, as that is the only way to lessen the difficulties currently experienced by our communities.

As representatives of Americans from all corners of our country, we have a responsibility to protect the livelihood and well-being of our families and communities, especially during this public health emergency. On behalf of the constituents of the 30th District of Texas, I urge my colleagues to support this funding bill for fiscal year 2021.

## RECOGNIZING UTAH TEACHERS AND EDUCATORS

**HON. BEN McADAMS**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 31, 2020*

Mr. McADAMS. Madam Speaker, all of us have fond memories of a favorite teacher—someone who became a mentor that inspired us to reach for our dreams. In ordinary times, classrooms are where we discover—with help from our teachers—the doors an education will open for us as we pursue our passions.

These are far from ordinary times. Just a few short months ago, kids left school on a Friday and then started the following Monday in an entirely new learning environment. They learned lessons from teachers talking to them on a computer screen, as teachers quickly shifted their lesson plans to online learning. Parents got a crash course in what it's like to keep children engaged with assignments and learning over a seven-hour day.

We have always asked a lot of our teachers and school principals in Utah. They juggle resources that are stretched thin. They must be prepared to teach children with a range of learning styles and abilities. They wear many hats beside that of teachers—counselor, referee, nurse, bookkeeper, fundraiser and organizational expert. This fall, they are being tested by a dramatically more difficult circumstance—preparing to go back to school in the face of a highly-contagious virus, about which not much is known, except that sometimes it can be lethal.

I'm a father of four school-age children and the son of a teacher. I like to think that I value and appreciate the teaching profession and unique ability teachers have, to connect a curious child's mind with knowledge, aspiration, and discipline.

As this unprecedented fall 2020 school year approaches, as we all struggle to make sense of what classrooms this fall will look like, I would like to salute all Utah teachers and staff and thank them for their extraordinary dedication to their work and to our children.

## SARAH KEYS EVANS PLAZA RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

**HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 31, 2020*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the profound contributions of North Carolina's own, Sarah Keys Evans, a civil rights pioneer in the fight against racial segregation, and to celebrate the unveiling of the Sarah Keys Evans Plaza in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina. The unveiling Ceremony for the plaza will take place on Saturday, August 1, 2020; at the M.L. King Community Park.

Before the 1955 arrest of Rosa Parks and the Montgomery bus boycott that followed, there was Sarah Keys Evans. Her refusal to give up her seat on an interstate charter bus prompted the landmark court case, *Sarah Keys v. Carolina Coach Company*, in which the Interstate Commerce Commission outlawed the segregation of Black passengers in buses traveling across state lines.