

The application deadline for this fiscal year is April 8. Please reach out to your community, community leaders, law enforcement, and local school districts.

We have advanced safety technology in banks, office buildings, and retail locations. There is no reason we shouldn't have this technology at all of our schools to protect all of our children.

RECOGNIZING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of International Women's Day on March 8 to call attention to women around the world who have risked their personal safety and freedom to speak out for the rights of all women.

I am particularly inspired by the example of three brave Saudi women who have spent nearly 2 years imprisoned or under house arrest because of their fearless advocacy.

These three women, Loujain Al-Hathloul, Nouf Abdulaziz, and Eman Al-Nafjan, are outstanding examples of the many Saudi activists who bravely fought to stop Saudi Arabia's male guardianship, fought to end its prohibition on women driving, and fought to open up female participation in elections and public office.

And although the government ostensibly granted such freedoms in 2018, these three women continue to face different injustices, including torture or threats of murder and sexual violence and limited access to family or legal representation.

Loujain has been particularly targeted for her courageous leadership within this women's movement. Her selfless commitment has paved the way for crucial social reforms, but unfortunately, the Saudi Government has attempted to undermine her contributions with politically-motivated criminal charges, a lengthy imprisonment, and inhumane abuse.

This incredible woman deserves to be honored, not jailed, which is why I recently led several colleagues in nominating Loujain for the Nobel Peace Prize and will continue to advocate for her through the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission's Defending Freedoms Project.

This Congress, we have already adopted a bipartisan resolution in the House to urge for the release of these women and other activists. Today, we call on Saudi Arabia once again to free these women and to lift the threat of their continued persecution.

To maintain our international leadership, the United States has a moral obligation to uphold democratic principles. The President, the Secretary of State, and the entire Trump administration must increase its diplomatic pressure to demand the release of these

women and hold the Saudi Government accountable for its appalling disregard of human rights.

As we recognize this International Women's Day, we are reminded to look beyond our borders; to continue to bring attention to the urgent and ongoing human rights violations that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is committing.

I ask that all women and their allies throughout the United States and around the world and all men join me in standing with these amazing Saudi feminists in demanding that they be freed.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize March as National Nutrition Month.

A well-balanced, nutritious diet is important for all Americans, and access to fresh, quality ingredients and food shouldn't be a luxury.

Last Congress, I had the honor of serving as the chairman of the Agriculture Subcommittee on Nutrition, Oversight, and Department Operations. During my time as chairman, and through all of my years on the House Agriculture Committee, I have met with many advocates, stakeholders, and other individuals who understand the role that nutrition plays in the lives of all Americans at every stage of life.

Nutrition plays a particularly important role in the lives of our Nation's children, however. During critical development years, children are particularly dependent on foods that are packed with nutrients. In some unfortunate cases, the meals that students receive at school may be the only time they eat during the day.

It is important that we do what we can to ensure schools have the resources that they need to provide students with delicious and nutritious options.

In January, the USDA announced two new proposals to expand nutritional options for our Nation's school children. The new rules allow schools to offer a greater variety of vegetables, options to customize school breakfasts, and the ability to purchase items a la carte.

This added flexibility will not only bolster the consumption of nutritious food in our schools, it will also help reduce food waste.

At the end of the day, it doesn't matter how nutritious school lunches are, if students aren't eating them, they are not nutritious. I am hopeful that this recent change will encourage more of our Nation's young people to make increasingly healthy, well-rounded food choices.

In addition to a greater variety of fruits and vegetables, we can help re-

store nutritious dairy options in schools. My bill, the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act, would allow both flavored and nonflavored milk back into our Nation's school cafeterias. Additionally, the School Milk Nutrition Act would further expand milk options for students and help reverse the decline of milk consumption in schools.

While we can all be advocates for healthy diets and good nutrition, I would like to specifically recognize the registered dietitian nutritionists who are one of our most valuable resources in the pursuit of reliable food and nutrition information.

Next week, on March 11, we celebrate Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Day and thank these individuals for their role in building strong, healthy families and communities.

PARTICIPATION IN THE 2020 CENSUS IS IMPORTANT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Ms. KENDRA S. HORN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the importance of participation in the upcoming 2020 Census, and specifically the critical importance of getting a full count of Tribal Nation citizens.

Census results affect our communities every day. As the official count of how many people live in our communities, the Census determines everything from plans for highways, to funding for special education, and support for our firefighters.

The results of the 2020 Census will help determine how hundreds of billions of dollars in Federal funding flow into communities every year for the next decade.

Think of our local schools: Census counts help determine how money is allocated for Head Start early education programs and for grants that support college access and education programs for children with disabilities.

But that is not all. The Census determines Federal funding for SoonerCare, foster care programs, housing assistance, infrastructure investments, and so much more. We have to make sure that every Oklahoman is counted so that our communities receive the support they need.

This past week, I was proud to introduce bipartisan legislation encouraging Federal, State, local governments, and Tribal Nations to work together as partners to encourage participation in the 2020 Census among American Indians and Alaskan natives.

Today, Oklahoma is home to 39 Tribes. The Census ensures we make a strong investment in Oklahoma and provide resources to Tribal Nations that fulfill the Federal-Indian trust responsibility. Funding for critical healthcare programs, housing initiatives, and education is at stake.

For too long, Tribal Nations have been shortchanged in Federal funding

due to a Census that has historically undercounted Native American populations.

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In the 2010 Census, the Census Bureau estimates that American Indians and Alaska Natives were undercounted by approximately 4.9 percent, more than double the undercount rate of the next closest population group.

The negative consequences of undercounting cannot be quickly corrected. The Census occurs only once every 10 years, and as a result, undercounting Tribal nations can significantly reduce Federal funding levels for important programs for an entire decade.

Over 300 Federal programs rely on data derived from the Census, and Tribal nations rely on many of them. They include Native American schools and education programs; Native American workforce programs; Tribal health programs; Tribal housing programs; water and sewage projects; and transit, infrastructure, and economic development programs.

We must ensure Native voices are heard and counted. The Census is an opportunity, not a threat.

Responses to the 2020 Census are confidential, protected by law. Personal information is never shared by the Census Bureau with any other government agencies or law enforcement, and responses cannot be used against individuals by government agencies or in court in any way.

All households will receive official Census mail by April 1, and individuals and families can respond online, by mail, by phone, or in person.

It is critically important that all Oklahomans participate in this Census.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues from the Native American Caucus, including co-chairs Congressman TOM COLE from Oklahoma and Congresswoman DEB HAALAND from New Mexico, who have helped to highlight the importance of getting a full Census count among Tribal nations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues and communities to work together as partners with Tribal nations to encourage participation in the 2020 Census and to inform the public that the 2020 Census is safe, easy, and important.

FRACKING BAN WOULD LEAD TO SOCIALISM

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, one of the most absurd and destructive plans being touted by out-of-touch socialists is a ban on fracking, also known as hydraulic fracturing, for natural gas and oil.

At home in Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District, a region that on any given day produces up to 10 percent of our Nation's natural gas, it is easy to see how the energy economy

has benefited everyone. From high-paying jobs to lower energy costs, natural gas has been an economic win for the American people.

Even more, thanks to the natural gas boom, America is now energy independent. That means great things for our national security, as we are no longer beholden to energy-producing nations that hate us.

Unbelievably, these great benefits are under attack by radical socialists who seek to ban fracking and cripple America's energy economy.

According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the plan to end fracking would cost more than 600,000 jobs and \$261 billion in GDP by 2025, and that is just in Pennsylvania.

This is why I invited the socialists in this Congress and those running for President who want to ban fracking to come to Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District to face the families they wish to leave destitute, to face the families who have finally found success, and tell them why they want to take it away.

For these folks, a ban on fracking would lead to more government dependence, lower wages, fewer jobs, and skyrocketing energy prices.

In other words, banning fracking would pave the road for America to become a socialist country. There should be nothing scarier or more sickening than that.

CONGRATULATING BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a little bit of time today to congratulate Bucknell University on achieving a great recognition this week.

According to the United States Peace Corps, Bucknell University, located in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, produces the fourth most Peace Corps volunteers of all small colleges and universities nationwide.

In their 2020 report, the Peace Corps noted Bucknell produced 13 volunteers for the Peace Corps, an amazing feat for an institution whose student body is just over 3,600 students.

According to its mission statement, "Bucknell educates students for a lifetime of critical thinking and strong leadership characterized by continued intellectual exploration, creativity, and imagination."

By forming students in that mission, it is no wonder why so many Bucknell students find themselves seeking greater service to humanity through the Peace Corps.

In noting the type of schools that make up the list of robust Peace Corps volunteers, Peace Corps Director Jody Olsen said: "These schools are institutions that emphasize . . . service-minded students."

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District, I congratulate Bucknell University and President Bravman on this great recognition and on creating service-minded students.

'Ray Bucknell.

CALLING FOR BIPARTISAN RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS

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

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address three issues of critical importance to my constituents.

The first is the urgent need to prepare for the coronavirus.

Mr. Speaker, public health officials are now reporting the first presumed positive test in my home State of New Hampshire.

As Members of Congress, our foremost responsibility is to keep our communities safe. That is why, yesterday, I joined Governor Sununu and my colleagues in the New Hampshire congressional delegation to receive an update from public health officials on our State's ongoing efforts to combat this epidemic.

The State of New Hampshire is currently ramping up testing capabilities, investigating potential cases, communicating with Federal partners, and working with individual communities on containment and mitigation.

Here in Washington, we must ensure that the emergency coronavirus spending package is responsive to the urgent needs of State and local public health officials who are on the front lines of this situation.

We can only succeed in containing the virus if States like New Hampshire can depend on the full support of the Federal Government for costs associated with the response effort.

Mr. Speaker, if there were ever a moment for a renewed spirit of bipartisanship in Congress, this is it, as our country focuses on the deadly virus outbreak.

We must communicate health information clearly. We must develop effective and affordable vaccines that are made available to all who need them. And we must ensure that State and local governments, as well as medical facilities, can sustain the arduous task of containing this outbreak in the weeks and months ahead.

The American people are looking to us for levelheaded leadership that rises above politics, and we can't let them down.

Let's pass a robust coronavirus package as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to encourage all of my constituents to follow the CDC safety guidelines and to visit the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services website for updated health information.

PROGRESS NEEDED ON CARE FOR VETERANS

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today in support of veterans who are seeking services in the community and the providers who care for them.

For too long, hospitals and providers in New Hampshire have been owed millions of dollars in unpaid claims for the care they provide to veterans.

The community care providers impacted include large hospital networks,