

construction of new permanent fencing on the grounds of the United States Capitol complex. Since the insurrectionist attack on the Capitol on January 6, 2021, the Capitol complex has become an untraversable fortress surrounded by frightening fences capped with barbed wire, typical of authoritarian regimes. In recent days, some officials, including the Acting Capitol Police Chief, have suggested that fencing become a permanent security feature of the Capitol complex. Although I agree that more needs to be done to protect the Capitol complex, the failure of Capitol security leaders to plan for the predictable and openly announced attack on the Capitol does not justify closing the complex from the public, to whom it belongs. We can and must maintain our commitment to security without sacrificing public access by using the least restrictive means necessary to address security.

The attack on the Capitol, which had little to do with the lack of permanent fencing, was the greatest intelligence and security failure in the history of our Nation's capital. There were countless security failures on January 6 that we can and must address, including: Taking threats of extremist violence seriously at an earlier stage; blocking off the Capitol during high-profile and high-threat events, as is typically done, but was not done on January 6; manpower; and training. Permanent fencing, which is incredibly imprecise, would not address these very real security lapses. It is more likely to keep out children, joggers and tourists than a coordinated attack on the Capitol. In fact, it is another form of security theater—it would make the Capitol “look” safe but mask the lack of state-of-the-art security measures that could actually prevent attacks in the future. Just in the past few days, security experts have already begun putting forward innovative ways to protect the Capitol while also protecting the values of openness and transparency, which are central to our democracy. We must foster that dialogue and welcome fresh ideas, not default to an archaic security strategy that humans invented over 10,000 years ago.

Permanent fencing would send an un-American message to the Nation and the world, by transforming our democracy from one that is accessible and of the people to one that is exclusive and fearful of its own citizens. It would tell the world that the most powerful nation must rely on crude barriers for safety instead of state-of-the-art intelligence and security protocols. The Capitol has welcomed First Amendment protests and demonstrations for centuries without becoming a fortress. The openness of the Capitol and our democracy is our strength, not a security weakness that needs to be rooted out. Any further consideration of permanent fencing is desperate, distasteful and disrespectful of our history and institutions.

Furthermore, we cannot forget that the Capitol complex does not exist in a vacuum. It is immediately surrounded by residential neighborhoods and local businesses, which form the heart of the District of Columbia. Permanent fencing would cause serious damage to the fabric of these communities. These residents and businesses have been more than understanding as their neighborhoods have turned into militarized zones. They have waited patiently as officers check their identification on their walk home and taken alternative routes when they have found blocked streets.

Permanent fencing would infringe on their ability, as well as the general public's ability, to enjoy the public spaces that define our nation's capital.

Already, the distance between government and the people has grown, with trust in government at historic lows. We should not entrench that distance further by placing intimidating barriers between ourselves as public servants and the people we serve, especially when such barriers are neither effective nor necessary.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ROBUST INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TO PANDEMIC ACT

HON. JESÚS G. “CHUY” GARCÍA

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Robust International Response to Pandemic Act, along with my colleagues JAN SCHAKOWSKY of Illinois and MARK TAKANO of California.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the economic crisis it has generated are global problems and both require global solutions. The United States must show leadership by supporting each country's ability to fight the virus, and the Robust International Response to Pandemic Act will do that by supporting an issuance of Special Drawing Rights from the IMF that will boost the global economy and aid our response to the virus.

“Special Drawing Rights” will help countries avoid depleting their reserves during the turbulent economic times ahead; 2 trillion SDRs will help all of us—and especially emerging markets and developing economies—avoid financial catastrophe.

I urge this body to advance this important legislation.

RECOGNIZING JOHN BONANNI AND ANTHONY J. DENOVA FOR RECEIVING THE FIRST-EVER COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. MIKIE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Morris County Administrator John Bonanni and Passaic County Administrator Anthony J. DeNova for receiving the first-ever County Administrator Lifetime Achievement Award from the New Jersey Association of Counties (NJAC). This award was created to highlight and honor the lifetime of dedication and hard work public officials like Bonanni and DeNova have brought to our communities in North Jersey.

John Bonanni is known for his deep commitment to Morris County, as a lifelong resident from Boonton and over 30 years of service in county administration. John does not like to be in the spotlight, but this award reflects how we all depend on his quiet, behind the scenes leadership. Early on in the coronavirus pan-

demia, he acted fast to protect those at high risk: long-term care residents, seniors, and people with disabilities. He was instrumental in securing funding for Morris County and other counties from the state's allocation of the Corona virus Relief Fund to cover critical expenditures on testing, PPE procurement, and crisis pay for first responders.

Anthony J. DeNova has deep roots in Passaic County and his dedication to and love for the community he has lived in his whole life shines through in the work he does each day. You would be hard-pressed to find anyone who does not consider Tony their friend. Under his leadership, strong county budgeting has barred any tax increases for his constituents, while still funding the county's most important programs. When the pandemic hit, he worked swiftly to set up testing sites and at-home testing for all Passaic residents. With the COVID-19 vaccine distribution underway, he has worked diligently to get vaccination sites up and running and get shots into arms.

County Administrators play a vital role in our counties and communities. John Bonanni and Anthony DeNova dedicated themselves to public service and improving the everyday lives of the residents of Morris and Passaic counties. Their leadership was critical in guiding NJ-11 through the darkest day of the pandemic. It has been a pleasure working with both of them over the past two years and I look forward to the years ahead. This lifetime achievement award is well-deserved.

CONGRATULATING BRITNEE KINARD

HON. EARL L. “BUDDY” CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate SD Gunner Fund's Britnee Kinard for receiving the President's Lifetime Achievement Award because of her outstanding service to fellow Americans. The AmeriCorp's President's Lifetime Achievement Award is the highest honor of the President's Volunteer Service Award, and it recognizes individuals, families, and groups who achieve a remarkable number of service hours.

In receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award, Britnee is being recognized for her over 4,000 hours of service to ensure the continuation of America's unrivaled commitment to improving countless lives. Britnee is the founder and President of SD Gunner Fund, which is an incredible organization that assists veterans, exceptional children, and first responders in receiving vital resources such as service dogs, therapy dogs, emergency assistance, community advocacy and education, and much more.

She was inspired to start the successful SD Gunner Fund when she left her high profile career in business to become a full-time caregiver to her husband after he suffered life-altering injuries while serving our country in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

I want to thank Britnee for her selfless commitment to service through SD Gunner Fund, and I wish her the best. I'm extremely proud to have Britnee here in the First Congressional District of Georgia.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WAYNESBORO AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Waynesboro Area School District students, teachers, and

leaders as they celebrate the successful completion of 100 days of school during the 2020–2021 academic year—a great accomplishment during the COVID–19 pandemic.

This ongoing public health crisis has affected every American community across the country—including our children and schools. Despite the challenges they are facing, the Waynesboro Area School District is open for in-person instruction and has only required virtual instruction for eight days this school year.

Getting children safely back to school is a key piece of our nation's recovery from this pandemic, and I applaud the Waynesboro Area School District leaders, teachers, staff, and parents for their commitment to their students' continuity of quality education.

As they mark their 100th day of school, I congratulate the Waynesboro Area School District community on a successful reopening of in-person instruction and wish them a continued safe and successful school year.