

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 11, 2021

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I am proud to have worked side-by-side with President Trump to enact historic tax reform, free and fair trade with Mexico and Canada, the repeal of the ObamaCare mandate and taxes, a ban on surprise medical bills, and the first reform of the IRS in two decades. His policy achievements have lifted working families across America.

Distrust in America's election system has been growing for two decades and is only growing worse. That is the true threat to democracy. For that reason, I gave unwavering support for President Trump to pursue all legal avenues and investigations. On December 10, 2020, I joined 125 of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives in signing the Amicus Brief to the Texas petition to the Supreme Court of the United States. The Texas suit presented election irregularities and advocated the Court hold states accountable for following their own election laws. Unfortunately, the Court refused to review the case.

Due to a COVID-19 diagnosis, I am unable to participate in today's proceedings in the U.S. House. If I were, I would remain true to the conservative Constitutional principles of states' rights, limited Congressional power over presidential elections, and the Electoral College by accepting the Electoral College votes as legally certified by each state.

Article II of the Constitution and the 12th Amendment are clear. As angry as we may be about this election, we do even more harm if we weaken the Constitution, allow Congress to seize more power to choose future presidents, and undermine the Electoral College.

If either party in Congress can simply ignore the elected slate of a state for political reasons, aren't we replacing 150 million votes with 535 in Congress? Doesn't that change "We the People" to "We the Congress"? Democrats in the past have blatantly attempted to overturn elections in Congress and seize more of this electoral power for Congress. It was a violation of the Constitution then, and remains so today.

I deeply respect my fellow Republicans who see this issue differently.

I worry that if we help undermine the Electoral College out of frustration and anger, we lend fuel to the liberal national popular vote scheme, inevitably we will one day stand on the sidelines as voters in only the largest cities determine our President.

Our nation's founders rejected this as dangerous to our nation's governance. I do too.

The Electoral College ensures we have a President who is accountable to all the nation, and can be a Republican, a conservative, or a grassroots outsider if America so chooses.

IN HONOR OF SANDRA LEE FEWER

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 11, 2021

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sandra Lee Fewer as she de-

parts the San Francisco Board of Supervisors after serving for four years, and after serving for a total of 12 years in elective office in San Francisco. The city is losing a tremendous advocate for small businesses, working families and struggling residents.

Sandra Fewer and her husband, John, have lived in the Richmond District of San Francisco for over 50 years. They have three children, Sara, Colleen, and Rory and the family has deep roots in the community. Her husband spent 35 years on the police force and retired from the Richmond District station.

Her children attended public schools and Sandra spent those early years as a PTA President for 12 terms. She also participated in school site councils, teacher appreciation days and organized numerous school events. As her participation in the community grew, so too did the recognition that she was a natural leader. She was elected to the Board of Education in 2008 and re-elected in 2012. In 2014, she served as Board President.

There is so much about Sandra that can be summed up in a single word: Heart. For example, from 2001 to 2009 she served as the Executive Director of Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth. This organization advocates for young people across multiple issues impacting them in San Francisco, and before many major policymaking bodies. Homelessness, closing the school achievement gap, and hunger were just a few of the causes she and student advocates took up.

She was elected to the Board of Supervisors in 2016, took office in 2017, and became the first female to represent her district. As a Supervisor, Sandra was described by a local business owner as an outstanding advocate for small businesses. This observation was made before the pandemic.

Now, as she walks through the Richmond, she can see struggling small restaurants and stores that are boarded up. Recently, San Francisco offered these companies loans and grants, which Sandra supported. One Richmond, an organization that she created, encourages residents to shop locally. It also encourages neighbors to help neighbors by volunteering in the community. Its motto is, "Have you done your One Richmond thing today?"

Sandra takes seriously her job of helping those who need the most help. For example, she successfully pushed to obtain a state grant to create a nonprofit affordable housing developer that will someday build needed housing in her district. She supported creation of a public bank by the City of San Francisco in order to provide banking services and economic development to communities ignored by traditional banks.

She supported Proposition E that will facilitate the building of affordable housing and housing for educators throughout San Francisco. 65% of her constituents are renters and she's offered them protections through her votes on the board and through these difficult times of the pandemic. Long after her term in office, her legacy of offering aid to those in need will produce results for those she served.

She indicates that when she leaves office she will garden and renew her friendships, many "on hold" due to her board duties these past three years. Gardening will join meditating as a hobby that she enjoys more frequently with John.

Soon, this woman of Washington High School, City College, Golden Gate University,

and the fictional but illustrious Richmond District School of Hard Knocks, from which she graduated magna cum laude, will leave the public stage. She departs having earned decades of well wishes built from a lifetime of community service. On her website, she stated that as a Supervisor she would be a caretaker for the residents of the Richmond District. She also noted that she understood that elective office is a trust. She amply demonstrated both during her time on the board.

Madam Speaker, I salute San Francisco Supervisor Sandra Lee Fewer upon her departure. We may someday see her on Clement Street in one of the small shops or restaurants, and we'll wonder what she's doing. Make no mistake. Whatever her more obvious activity is at that moment, Sandra's broader purpose will be as it always has been: To remain a member of her community and a friend to all of goodwill.

IN HONOR OF MR. DAN RIVERA OF LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. LORI TRAHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 11, 2021

Mrs. TRAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the leadership and legacy of a great leader and friend, Mayor Daniel "Dan" Rivera, who will retire as the 59th Mayor of the City of Lawrence, Massachusetts. Mayor Dan Rivera is leaving his second four-year term in office early to become the President and CEO of MassDevelopment; the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' finance and economic development agency.

Mayor Rivera was born in New York City to a single mother who emigrated from the Dominican Republic in search of a better life for her family. His mother moved to Lawrence, Massachusetts to find work as a seamstress in the area's mills, and it was in Lawrence that Mayor Rivera was raised and began his career as a public servant.

After graduating from Lawrence High School, Mayor Rivera enlisted in the United States Army and became a Military Police Officer, serving in Germany, Iraq, and Kuwait. After his multiple tours overseas, Mayor Rivera returned home to attend the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Indeed, he became the first person in his family to graduate from college—something that he and I have in common.

Prior to being elected as the City's mayor, he worked tirelessly to improve the growth and economic development of the Merrimack Valley for its residents. As an economic development director for Congressman Marty Meehan, Mayor Rivera continued to bring critical investments to his hometown and communities across the Merrimack Valley.

Not long after, he was elected to the Lawrence City Council where he served as the Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee. He provided key leadership in adjusting the City's budget in order to restore key services and personnel. Then-Councilor Rivera worked to diversify the Lawrence Police Department by making it a majority-minority department with 53% of the officers making up individuals of color and tripling the number of women on the force, more accurately representing the people of Lawrence.

In 2013, he was elected as the City's mayor. Over the last seven years, he has led Lawrence through two major crises—the 2018 Merrimack Valley natural gas explosions and the COVID-19 pandemic. Time and again, he has demonstrated his leadership and dedication to the residents of the great City of Lawrence.

The Merrimack Valley gas explosions forced thousands of families to flee the area, damaged and destroyed dozens of homes, left many businesses with considerable financial losses, and tragically took a young man's life. Throughout that period, Mayor Rivera led with purpose and empathy in every decision he made to get the City on the path of recovery, while fighting to ensure the community received all necessary support and resources. He has been a close ally as we successfully advanced the Leonel Rondon Pipeline Safety Act. This legislation will ensure no community ever faces a disaster like this one again, becoming law in December of 2020.

Just as the City of Lawrence was recovering from the natural gas explosions, the COVID-19 pandemic struck. Lawrence has been among the hardest hit communities in the Commonwealth by the pandemic, disproportionately impacting its large population of Black and brown residents. With the utmost transparency in communication, Mayor Rivera consistently urged the community to maintain social distance, enacted a city-wide eviction moratorium to protect renters, created two Emergency Small Business Relief Programs designed to help the Lawrence businesses and immigrant entrepreneur communities as they work to get back on their feet, and diligently collaborated with the State and Federal governments to set up testing sites around the city.

Mayor Rivera's leadership and hard work has been recognized by various organizations. He was awarded MassInc.'s Mayor Bill Carpenter Award for Excellence in Gateway City Leadership in 2020, and in 2018 was recognized as one of the 100 Most Influential People of Color in Greater Boston by Get Connected.

Through his many years of service, Mayor Rivera has made the City of Lawrence a better place to call home. Thanks to his efforts, the City's future is bright, and I join Lawrence residents in thanking him for his dedication to this incredible community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INSULAR AREA MEDICAID PARITY ACT

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 11, 2021

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, President-elect Biden has pledged to address the healthcare disparity in minority communities that the coronavirus pandemic has laid bare. One longstanding disparity is that our national Medicaid program does not reach all Americans with full coverage.

The Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands are subject to a hard, statutory limit on federal Medicaid support, unlike the states and the District of Columbia. This cap

means that preventative care and treatment for the poorest Americans in the insular areas will always be less available than for Americans elsewhere.

The final Obama-Biden administration budget proposal, for fiscal year 2017, addressed this systemic inequity by proposing an alignment of insular area Medicaid programs with the rest of the nation, first by removing the cap on Medicaid funding, so that it would no longer operate as a block grant in any insular area.

Congress has also acknowledged this inequity. We acted to provide more Medicaid funding for the insular areas by substantially lifting the cap through P.L. 116-94, Further Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020. Provisions in P.L. 116-127, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act created equity between the states and the insular areas with respect to the increase in the federal-local match for Medicaid. Families First, also, provided additional federal dollars for the insular area Medicaid programs. But our actions were temporary. These funding increases expire at the end of fiscal year 2021.

Now, Congress must act again. And in doing so, we must create an enduring policy that safeguards the health of the poorest Americans in our insular areas.

To achieve that goal, I am introducing the Insular Area Medicaid Parity Act. My bill aligns with President-elect Biden's pledge to address healthcare disparities in minority communities by repealing the arbitrary cap on Medicaid for Americans in the insular areas.

By repealing the cap, we will be doing more than just ensuring there are sufficient resources to face the coronavirus crisis. We will be setting up the healthcare systems in the insular areas to respond to the next public health challenge, whatever it may be. Most important of all, we will ensure that day-after-day and year-by-year those with the smallest incomes and no access to other insurance receive the care that will keep them healthy and help ward off debilitating disease.

We will, also, be providing a level of certainty to healthcare providers—in the public and private sector—that will encourage investment in the health industry in the insular areas, which by any measure lags the rest of the nation. And by doing so we will create a virtuous cycle of rising quality of care powered by rising access that will benefit all at every income level.

The pandemic has brought home this truth: none of us can truly remain well, while some of us are ill. Now it is time for Congress to fully commit to making sure the poorest in the insular areas are treated equitably.

I thank my colleagues who joined me in introducing this legislation—Chairman MCGOVERN, Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ, Chairwoman DELAURO, Chairman NADLER, Mr. CLEAVER II, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Ms. RADEWAGEN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. LEE, Ms. MOORE, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. SIRES, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. GARCÍA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASE, Ms. CLARKE, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MENG, Mr. CASTRO, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. TRONE, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Ms. KELLY, and Ms. CHU.

HONORING ALLEN CHIN

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 11, 2021

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Allen Chin, who passed away on November 18, 2013 at the age of 91. A proud Chinese Immigrant, Allen was a member of the Greatest Generation, and valiantly served our country in WWII to protect our freedom and American values at home and abroad. Allen's life embodied the highest ideals of our nation, and his remarkable courage are forever etched in our nation's history. For his service and sacrifice, Allen was posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for his service during World War II.

At age 15, Allen left his family in Guangdong, China and emigrated to San Francisco, California with a sponsorship from his uncle. When WWII broke out, Allen answered the call of duty and joined the U.S. Army. Allen was sent to serve in the Pacific Theater and became a machinist who helped train Chinese allied troops. His service instilled in him a deeply-held patriotism, which he would later inspire in future generations.

Upon returning home to California, Allen became an American citizen and sponsored his family in China to come to the United States. Allen's first civilian career was owning and operating the Sonoma House grocery store—a place where all in the neighborhood convened and shopped. He met and married his wife Lillian who he called the "Pretty girl from Shanghai" and they began a long life together.

Allen and his wife raised their daughter Arlene and settled down permanently in Arizona to forge a new path filled with adventure. Allen was a devoted father and active member of the Tempe community. He opened and sold a successful Chinese restaurant, worked as a machinist in the semiconductor industry, and pursued perhaps his greatest passion: ballroom dance. A man of dignity and honor, Allen's spirit lives on with his daughter Arlene, who has followed in his footsteps and continued his legacy of service. She has served Tempe proudly becoming its first Asian-American city councilmember.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to Allen for his selfless commitment and sacrifice. I wish to extend my heartfelt appreciation for all he has done to make our community, our state, and our country a better place. In this spirit of gratitude and remembrance, I humbly rise to honor his life and legacy, which will continue to be felt for generations to come.

I thank Allen, and wish him Godspeed.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FARM-TO-MARKET ROAD REPAIR ACT OF 2021

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 11, 2021

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Farm-to-Market Road Repair Act of 2021, legislation that will expand eligibility for the Surface Transportation Block