science agencies, universities, and scientific societies to transparently examine the workplace climate, and to go beyond a culture of compliance by taking proactive steps to foster a safe and welcoming research environment.

The Combating Sexual Harassment in Science Act addresses key recommendations in the Academies report. This legislation directs the Office of Science and Technology Policy to issue uniform guidance to all Federal science agencies to implement reporting requirements for all grantees. I commend the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for their leadership in establishing such reporting requirements ahead of any mandate to do so. The bill also supports research to inform updated policies in the future, it seeks to incentivize culture change at universities, provide training for researchers, and it makes clear that sexual harassment should be considered as important as research misconduct, as recommended by the National Academies.

I want to thank Ranking Member LUCAS for his partnership in developing and introducing H.R. 2695. I also want to thank the 24 organizations that endorsed the legislation and the universities that provided input. I recognize that many universities continue to have concerns with some of the details even as they support the overall goals. I believe we arrived at a good compromise that protects the most vulnerable. I also believe some of the concerns are based on a misreading of the legislation. H.R. 2695 does not interfere with due process. It simply requires transparency while protecting privacy.

While sexual harassment in science is not a problem that can be solved with legislation alone, H.R. 2695 helps ensure that the Federal science agencies are doing their part. No researcher should be forced to choose between her passion for science and her right to feel safe. I look forward to working with my colleagues in both bodies to send this legislation to the President's desk.

## HONORING FIREFIGHTER MARK FARRIS

### HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2021*

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Firefighter Mark Farris for his 11 years of service with the Meyersdale Volunteer Fire Department in Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

Firefighters' commitment and service to our community are invaluable. Volunteer firefighters often are called on to respond to emergencies of all types. From battling structure fires to conducting search and rescue operations, volunteer firefighters respond immediately whenever disaster strikes. These heroes often go above and beyond—they teach first aid, educate students about fire and other dangerous hazards, and even install car safety seats for children. Through their diverse and often-difficult work, volunteer firefighters provide lifesaving services and are a staple of our local community.

Firefighter Farris has worked throughout his career to serve the people of Somerset County. On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I thank him for his work to protect life and property in our community and wish him continued health, safety, and success.

## IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 2981 SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2021

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2021*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2981, the ''Suicide Prevention Lifeline Improvement Act of 2021,'' which bolsters aid for local suicide crisis centers.

This bipartisan legislation fully funds overburdened crisis centers, so that they can meet rising call volumes, and takes steps to alleviate call wait times and make support resources available to friends and family of those in crisis.

Specifically, the Suicide Prevention Lifeline Improvement Act:

Significantly increases authorized funding for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline;

Requires HHS to develop and implement a plan to increase quality assurance, eliminate call wait times, implement evidence-based practices like follow-up, ensure resources are available to friends and family of those in crisis, and create guidelines to carry out periodic testing of the Lifeline;

Requires increased coordination and data sharing between the Suicide Prevention Lifeline and the CDC;

Creates a pilot program to research and employ innovative technologies for suicide prevention;

Requires a study and report to Congress from both HHS and GAO on the plan implemented by HHS to reform the Lifeline as well as other recommendations for improvement to the Lifeline's operations.

America and Texas face a suicide crisis, and we must come together to fight this tragic epidemic.

In Texas, crisis centers handle the majority of local calls to the Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

But in recent years, rising rates of suicide and limited funding for call centers have made it nearly impossible to consistently provide quality and timely support for Texans in need.

Making matters worse, the COVID–19 pandemic has added constraints and elevated rates of mental illness.

Each day in Texas there are more than 6 suicide deaths and nearly 30 hospitalizations for attempted suicide.

Suicide is the 11th leading cause of death for Texans and the third leading cause of death among youth ages 15 to 24.

60 percent of Texas suicide deaths occur among people 25 to 64 years of age.

Rates of suicide among Whites increased 12 percent since 2000, particularly among females; rates among Blacks and Hispanics have remained stable during the same time.

Estimated medical costs of Texas hospitalizations for suicide attempts average $8,849 per patient, or more than $95.6 million annually.

We need to start talking about suicide, and we need to keep talking.

Suicide prevention starts with recognizing the warning signs of suicide and taking them seriously, and talking openly about suicidal thoughts and feelings can save lives.

Although suicide has long been a serious public health problem, the recent and sudden isolation, unemployment and precipitous change ushered in by COVID–19 threatens to increase the incidence of people for whom suicide seems the only viable solution.

By looking out for one another, matching people with the help they need, and helping those who are hurting feel more connected, people who are contemplating suicide have an opportunity to recover and live lives of meaning and purpose.

For this reason, I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote in support of H.R. 2981.

## REMEMBERING THE HONORABLE OTTO BEATTY, JR.

### HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2021*

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the Honorable Otto Beatty, Jr., of Columbus, Ohio, who passed away May 14, 2021 at the age of 81.

Mr. Beatty, the husband to our distinguished colleague, Congresswoman JOYCE BEATTY, was an attorney and former state lawmaker, a leading figure in the fight for racial equality in Ohio. The couple married in 1992.

As a lawyer, Otto was able to successfully use his Columbus law firm to fight discrimination and fight for a more even playing field for Black and minority-owned businesses.

A true public servant, Mr. Beatty was first elected to the Ohio House in 1979, spending the next 18 years advocating for the disadvantaged, as well as for health care access and tort reform, He also served as special counsel to the Ohio attorney general, counsel to what would become the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus, and chair of the Ohio Commission on Minority Health.

Mr. Beatty was born in Columbus and received bachelor's and master's degrees from Howard University and a law degree from the Ohio State University. His grandmother, Mayme Moore, was a civil-rights activist who stood alongside the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and helped found the Columbus NAACP.

Otto and his family have been trailblazers and strong advocates in many ways—true inspirations to us all. Besides his wife and my friend, Congresswoman JOYCE BEATTY, Otto is survived by two children: daughter Laurel Beatty Blunt, a judge on the 10th District Court of Appeals, and son Otto III, a Columbus attorney.

There is no doubt that Mr. Beatty was an absolute giant, a man deep with integrity and great business and political skills. I will remember him for his wonderful sense of humor and how much he adored JOYCE. I was very sad to hear of his passing and my prayers go out to the gentlelady, Mrs. BEATTY, and to all of Otto's family and friends. He has left behind a tremendous legacy in Central Ohio and for the entire state.

## HONORING FIREFIGHTER MARK OHLER, SR.

### HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2021*

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Firefighter Mark Ohler, Sr. for his 21 years of service with the Meyersdale Volunteer Fire Department in Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

Firefighters' commitment and service to our community are invaluable. Volunteer firefighters often are called on to respond to emergencies of all types. From battling structure fires to conducting search and rescue operations, volunteer firefighters respond immediately whenever disaster strikes. These heroes often go above and beyond—they teach first aid, educate students about fire and other dangerous hazards, and even install car safety seats for children. Through their diverse and often-difficult work, volunteer firefighters provide lifesaving services and are a staple of our local community.

Firefighter Ohler has worked throughout his career to serve the people of Somerset County. On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I thank him for his work to protect life and property in our community and wish him continued health, safety, and success.

## SUPPORTING EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHERS ACT

SPEECH OF

### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 17, 2021*

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the COVID–19 pandemic has created enormous disruptions to the scientific enterprise. The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology held two hearings to explore the challenges and learn what is needed to help the scientific community recover. Researchers and their students were kept away from the lab, significantly slowing progress on the research and limiting opportunities for mentoring. Research facilities were shuttered and conferences cancelled. Travel restrictions resulted in missed field campaigns and kept international students from joining their research groups on campus. These setbacks affected researchers and students across all scientific disciplines. Women and historically underrepresented groups were particularly affected. While the full cost of the pandemic in terms of lost research is not yet known, the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) estimates that NIH alone lost $16 billion of research and the Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) put the figure at $3 billion for NSF-funded research.

I am deeply concerned that these disruptions will have long-lasting consequences for the research ecosystem. One of the most urgent challenges we face is the potentially irreversible loss of research talent. The financial pressures of the pandemic forced many universities to institute hiring freezes for faculty positions. The STEM faculty job market contracted as much as 70 percent in 2020. Early career researchers are the most vulnerable to this contraction, even if it is not permanent. Too many are currently in limbo. After years of hard work and an enormous investment of resources to train these scholars, we simply cannot afford to let them slip through the cracks. If we are to keep ahead of our global competitors and ensure our security and prosperity, we must act now to mitigate a loss of human capital that would take decades to recoup.

The Supporting Early-Career Researchers Act provides a bridge to help recent Ph.D. graduates stay on their chosen career path as they weather this turbulent period. The legislation establishes a two-year, $250 million agency-wide early career fellowship pilot program at NSF. This will enable two cohorts of 1,600 fellows working in all STEM disciplines to carry out their research at the U.S. institutions of their choosing.

More than 30 organizations have endorsed H.R. 144. I want to thank Ranking Member LUCAS for joining me in introducing this bill and bringing it to the House Floor. I look forward to working with my colleagues in both bodies to see it enacted and funded quickly.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. GLENN THOMPSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2021*

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, due to a death in the family, I was unable to cast my vote on May 14, 2021.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 143.

## PUPPIES ASSISTING WOUNDED SERVICEMEMBERS FOR VETERANS THERAPY ACT

SPEECH OF

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 12, 2021*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1448, the ''PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act,'' which is bipartisan legislation that directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on dog training therapy, and to amend title 38 of the United States Code to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide service dogs to veterans with mental illnesses who do not have mobility impairments.

This legislation will reduce veteran suicide connected to mental health conditions by partnering veterans experiencing symptoms of PTSD and other post-deployment issues with service dogs through a Department of Veterans Affairs pilot program.

Dog therapy programs have a track record of reducing symptoms associated with PTSD, and through this pilot program, veterans are expected to experience an improved quality of life and ability to reenter society as well as increased chances of survival.

Many veterans have had their lives changed—in some cases, saved—by service dogs, and this bill would expand this treatment by launching a pilot program to make veterans with mental health issues such as depression eligible to receive service dogs.

According to a report from the Department of Veteran Affairs:

the number of veterans with mental health conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and substance use disorders increased from 27 percent in 2001 to more than 40 percent in 2014, and an average of 20 veterans per day died by suicide in 2014;

11 to 20 out of every 100 veterans (or between 11 and 20 percent) who served in operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom have PTSD in a given year;

12 out of every 100 Gulf War Veterans (or 12 percent) have PTSD in a given year; and

An average of 20 veterans a day die by suicide.

PTSD symptoms can include crippling anxiety, emotional control issues, fear of public spaces, drug abuse, and most tragically, suicide.

A recent study led by the Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine, found that veterans with service dogs produce more cortisol, a biomarker used as a metric of the effects of chronic and acute stress, than military veterans without a service dog in the home.

Moreover, veterans with service dogs reported having lower levels of anxiety, anger, sleep disturbances, and less alcohol abuse compared to veterans without service dogs.

We must do everything possible to combat veteran suicide, including innovative treatments like service dog therapy that address post-deployment mental health conditions.

Our veterans deserve every tool in the toolbox when it comes to their mental health, which is why I'm proud that this legislation encourages dog training therapy for veterans.

Congress can, and must, give veterans the opportunity to utilize the treatments that work best for them.

## HONORING FIREFIGHTER CHARLIE TEETS II

### HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2021*

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Firefighter Charlie Teets II for his 21 years of service with the Meyersdale Volunteer Fire Department in Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

Firefighters' commitment and service to our community are invaluable. Volunteer firefighters often are called on to respond to emergencies of all types. From battling structure fires to conducting search and rescue operations, volunteer firefighters respond immediately whenever disaster strikes. These heroes often go above and beyond—they teach first aid, educate students about fire and other dangerous hazards, and even install car safety seats for children. Through their diverse and often-difficult work, volunteer firefighters provide lifesaving services and are a staple of our local community.

Firefighter Teets has worked throughout his career to serve the people of Somerset County. On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I thank him for his work to protect life and property in our community and