

RECOGNIZING 2023 BEST COMMUNITY FOR MUSIC EDUCATION RECIPIENT TRINITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. GUY RESCENTIALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. RESCENTIALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Trinity Area School District for being recognized by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation as one of the best communities for music education in 2023.

The NAMM Foundation celebrates schools and school districts by recognizing their ability to train and educate the next generation of musicians. 830 school districts, including Trinity Area School District, were recognized for the outstanding efforts of their teachers, administrators, parents, and students.

According to NAMM, over 3 million children did not have access to proper music education in 2019. Every student deserves a chance to learn and develop their artistic capabilities, and Trinity Area School District's continuous efforts undoubtedly help our children in Southwest Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I congratulate Trinity Area School District on this momentous occasion.

HONORING MARK TRESNOWSKI ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor and congratulate Mark Tresnowski on his retirement following an exceptional legal career.

An accomplished and highly respected attorney, Mark served as a founding member of the American Investment Council. Upon his retirement from Madison Dearborn and his term of leadership of the Council, I recognize Mark for his service to the Council, his professional contributions, and his support to his community.

Mark has dedicated much of his career to helping people achieve their personal and professional dreams. Throughout his distinguished career, he has served as a mentor to countless attorneys who have valued his wisdom, work ethic, and experienced perspective. He also serves as a faculty member in the Practicing Law Institute seminars and has published articles in *Venture Capital Journal*, *Buyouts*, and the *M&A Lawyer*.

Mark is also very involved in his local community and is a leader in supporting children and their families as a trustee of Children's Home & Aid in Chicago, Illinois. Mark exemplifies the values of dedication and leadership.

I want to express the utmost gratitude to Mark. I am certain that my fellow Illinoisans feel the same pride and respect towards him that I do. Congratulations Mark, and best wishes for a happy and relaxing retirement.

HONORING EVANGELIST BARBARA GREEN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Evangelist Barbara Green, a devoted Crossing Guard in Clinton, Mississippi.

Barbara Green is a native of Bolton, Mississippi, and now resides in the city of Raymond. She is a mother of 2 children, a grandmother of 3 and a great grandmother of 2. Barbara Green started her first job right out of high school at Blackstone restaurant on Historic Farish Street in Jackson, Mississippi. She then went on to work at Hunter Engineering for 17 years.

After her retirement, a friend of Barbara Green's informed her of an open position at Sumner Hill for a crossing guard. She then went to try it out and fell in love with the job.

She has been a crossing guard for 14 years in the Clinton community. Some of Barbara Green's most genuine moments are seeing the kids and parents every day as she directs them safely through traffic with a smile on her face.

Outside of her inspirational job as a crossing guard, she is a devoted community servant. Mrs. Green is a choir member and Evangelist at Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church and Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church.

When asked what words she lives by, Evangelist Green expressed her favorite Bible Scripture which is "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." *Philippians 4:13*

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Evangelist Barbara Green for her hard work and dedication to her community.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 5894, the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. The bill before us today is unprecedented in many unfortunate ways. This bill makes devastating cuts across some of our most vital government agencies; it decimates education spending, abandons low-income workers and college students, stifles medical innovation, and harms women's health.

This bill was pulled from consideration on the House Floor because Republicans do not have the support within their own Conference to pass this legislation. It is another example in a long line of Appropriations failures by House Republican leadership, where there has been no effort to find middle ground and find a bipartisan path forward.

Let me begin with House Republicans' unilateral decision to skip the full committee

markup for this bill and for the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Act. House Democrats were denied the opportunity to debate, amend, and mark up H.R. 5894 in committee. This bill is so deeply unpopular that Republican appropriators did not want to go on the record in committee in support of its deep cuts to our nation's education, workforce development, and public health funding.

Not only have House Republicans deviated from the longstanding committee process, but they have taken the unheard-of step of adding partisan riders to the bill and report in advance of consideration on the House Floor. Democratic appropriators had no say in their inclusion—in fact, we only saw these changes once they had been made public. The report is not amendable on the House Floor, so there was no recourse in challenging any of these new alterations beyond demanding they be removed in the conference process with the Senate.

Now let's talk about some of the policy decisions within H.R. 5894, starting with the astounding 28 percent cut to the Department of Education. This bill decimates support for children in K–12 elementary schools and early childhood education; including an 80 percent cut to Title I that is meant to help the most vulnerable students and school districts in our country.

I have heard from my constituents—teachers, principals, paraprofessionals, parents, and students—that we are facing a crisis in our classrooms. This bill does not address the teacher shortage or the extensive learning loss occurring in our schools post-COVID; and this bill does not help make college more affordable.

Instead, this bill makes devastating cuts to the bedrock of American education, leaves our teachers out in the cold without sufficient resources, and eliminates opportunities for students to access need-based financial aid for their postsecondary education. This bill also eliminates all funding to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, including their educational programming for young children, Ready To Learn.

In addition to education spending cuts, House Republicans have also taken aim at workforce development. This bill eliminates funding for the Federal Work Study, Youth Job Training, and Adult Job Training programs, effectively denying job and employment training services to 420,000 Americans who face barriers to finding a good-paying job. House Republicans also cut \$313 million from worker protection agencies like OSHA, putting hard-working Americans at risk at home in Minnesota and across the country.

This bill hurts the National Institutes of Health by cutting \$2.8 billion from their topline budget, which will stymie medical innovation. It makes a \$139 million cut to the National Institute of Mental Health at a time when our country is facing a mental health crisis. The bill also contains major cuts to the National Cancer Institute, hurting our research and treatment capabilities for those with cancer here in America and around the world.

Unsurprisingly, this bill also takes aim at women's health by cutting programs that support maternal and child health, eliminating programs that provide access to health services and contraception, and adding numerous poison pill riders that further strip a women's right to make medical decisions about her own

body with her doctor. H.R. 5894 prohibits funding to Planned Parenthood, eliminates funding for Title X Family Planning, and makes a \$35 million cut to the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant.

Supporting our children and families is the bare minimum of what our government should do for its people. This bill fails at every level to do so. Instead of reevaluating their extreme funding bills and working together with Democrats to create legislation that will improve American lives, House Republicans are distracted by their own chaos and are intent on placating the most extreme in their caucus. For these reasons and more, I must oppose H.R. 5894 and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

RECOGNIZING 2023 BEST COMMUNITY FOR MUSIC EDUCATION RECIPIENT GREATER LATROBE SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. GUY RESCIENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. RESCIENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Greater Latrobe School District for being recognized by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation as one of the best communities for music education in 2023.

The NAMM Foundation celebrates schools and school districts by recognizing their ability to train and educate the next generation of musicians. 830 school districts, including Greater Latrobe School District, were recognized for the outstanding efforts of their teachers, administrators, parents, and students.

According to NAMM, over 3 million children did not have access to proper music education in 2019. Every student deserves a chance to learn and develop their artistic capabilities, and Greater Latrobe School District's continuous efforts undoubtedly help our children in Southwest Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I congratulate Greater Latrobe School District on this momentous occasion.

HONORING TIERRA DEL SOL HOUSING CORPORATION ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GABE VASQUEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Tierra del Sol Housing Corporation and commemorate their 50th anniversary. Tierra del Sol has proudly been serving the needs of low-income families in my district since 1973 and has promoted economic and social empowerment through homeownership programs, employment training, and access to financial resources. Their work has helped ensure financial security for New Mexican families and build stable communities where all can thrive.

Throughout their 50 years of service, Tierra del Sol has instituted various programs to as-

sist rural New Mexicans. From rural farm rental housing to supportive housing for the elderly to major subdivision developments, Tierra del Sol Housing Corporation has tirelessly worked towards their mission.

In recent years, Tierra del Sol has led the construction of single-family housing under their self-help housing program. That recent construction has allowed community members access to affordable housing and energy-efficient living, putting New Mexico well on the road to becoming a leader in clean energy practices. As we look to the future, I am confident that Tierra del Sol will continue to find innovative ways to reach out to New Mexicans, while promoting the health of our State more broadly.

On behalf of the great people of New Mexico's 2nd Congressional District, I thank Tierra del Sol for their service to the people of New Mexico and congratulate them on celebrating 50 years of service. Their work has made our community stronger, safer, and more prosperous, and I am excited to see what they accomplish for generations to come.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF JOHN BRANDON, PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MARION COUNTY COMMISSION ON YOUTH

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of John Brandon, President and Executive Director of the Marion County Commission on Youth (MCCOY), who will enter his retirement at the end of this year.

For 45 years, John has dedicated his life to youth development, leading positive changes in local programs and agencies and at larger city, state, and national systemic levels. As an adjunct professor at the undergraduate and graduate levels, an agency director focused on increased opportunities for young people, and a trainer and facilitator for youth workers' continued education John has nurtured Indianapolis' young people in countless ways.

John's legacy is one of advocacy and empowerment. He has been instrumental in guiding projects and initiatives aimed at the development of our youth, including a city-wide youth employment effort, developing more support and services for unhoused youth, and reforming our child welfare system to be more family-focused. Under John's leadership, MCCOY has been an instrumental partner in my yearly Youth Opportunities Fair, which connects young people to employment, internships, and other programs during the summer months. His passionate belief that young people must be part of the systems that impact them is evidenced through youth participation on MCCOY's board and the agency's facilitation of the Mayor's Youth Council.

Active in his community, John has served on numerous community-based nonprofit boards, including the Martin Luther King Jr. Multiservice Center, the Indiana Afterschool Network, and the Hawthorn Community Center. At a national level, John dedicated a decade to the Partnership for America's Children's board of directors.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring John Brandon as he enters this new chapter filled with cycling, reading, and family. We celebrate his legacy of outstanding accomplishments as we continue to ensure a brighter future for our nation's youth.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment that was included in the En Bloc amendment to the FY 2024 Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education funding bill.

My amendment would recognize the success of the TRIO program.

The TRIO program provides low-income, first-generation college students' with academic financial and social support.

TRIO has produced more than 6 million college graduates—including me.

When I was 18 years old and beginning college, I became pregnant with my daughter. As a single mother, it felt nearly impossible to complete my degree.

But Marquette University's TRIO program provided the support I needed to reach my potential.

TRIO championed me, and now as a Member of Congress, I can champion them.

Because without TRIO I would not be here in these halls today.

And it goes to show how high someone can climb if they are given the chance.

November 8 was First Generation College Student Day—a now annual celebration focusing on the need to help first-generation college students, faculty, staff, and alumni succeed in every possible way, a goal that TRIO is working everyday to help achieve.

I am so proud to stand here today, as a TRIO alum, as a TRIO Caucus Chair, and as a Member of Congress, to advocate for this program.

I know the Ranking Member understands very well the value of this program and greatly appreciate her support for its inclusion in this En Bloc.

RECOGNIZING 2023 BEST COMMUNITY FOR MUSIC EDUCATION RECIPIENT KISKI AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. GUY RESCIENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. RESCIENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Kiski Area School District for being recognized by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation as one of the best communities for music education in 2023.

The NAMM Foundation celebrates schools and school districts by recognizing their ability