

SUPPORTING THE OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS AND CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2023

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we begin the 118th Congress and the new year, I want to take a moment to voice my strong support for the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, Public Law 117-328. Given that this legislation will help so many, it is fitting that we enacted this bipartisan bill during the holiday season—a time of kindness and caring for others.

As people struggle with higher costs, this law provides substantial help paying for food, housing, health care, childcare, and education. For example, a few notable provisions include:

It increases affordable housing funding by 8 percent, including an expansion of vouchers for 12,000 households at risk of homelessness;

It ensures that the 40 million children on Medicaid and CHIP have uninterrupted access to health care through the year by offering continuous coverage;

It expands high-quality childcare and preschool by increasing the Child Care and Development Block Grant by \$1.9 billion and Head Start by \$950 million;

It invests in mental health services for Medicare beneficiaries by expanding the physician workforce, creating a new outpatient benefit, and extending telehealth flexibilities for 2 years;

It helps improve customer service by the Social Security Administration for seniors, people with disabilities, and survivors with an additional \$785 million;

It lowers food insecurity with an additional \$13.4 billion for the SNAP program and by giving 29 million kids healthy meals during the summer with the creation of a permanent summer food program;

It increases Pell Grants by \$500, the largest increase in over a decade;

It helps lower energy costs with \$6.1 billion for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program or LIHEAP;

It helps individuals, families, and communities affected by disasters with \$27 billion; and

It strengthens retirement for Americans.

I am very proud that this law includes 3 of my bills and over \$24 million to help my local organizations and constituents via community projects funding.

The law includes The Jackie Walorski Maternal and Child Home Visiting Reauthorization Act of 2022 that provides historic funding for the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program that funds evidence-based home visiting proven to improve mother and child health, family safety, and child development.

It includes the Retirement Parity for Student Loans Act that improves retirement savings and lowers educational debt by allowing employers to make 401(k) matching payments for employees making student-loan payments, helping younger workers who currently cannot afford to save for their retirement to begin saving much sooner.

In addition, the law includes key provisions of the Unclaimed Savings Bond Act that will help locate bondholders and heirs of unclaimed bonds, helping ordinary Americans claim the over \$33 billion owed to them. Illinois citizens are owed over \$1 billion in matured unredeemed savings bonds. Under current practice, Treasury has required bondholders and heirs who cannot produce the physical bond from redeeming those funds unless they are able to provide the serial number and other detailed information. This requirement likely affects poorer and elderly bondholders who face the most challenges in retaining all of their personal records and who hold a significant percentage of these bonds. Working with my colleague, Ron Estes, and other Ways and Means Members, the law included a fix to ensure that Treasury makes every effort to provide each state with the complete information, including the serial numbers, for bondholders in that state. Helping bondholders and their heirs redeem their investments is the clear purpose of the statute, and I will work with the executive branch to ensure it is carried out.

Finally, this law delivers over \$24 million to help my local organizations and constituents via community projects. These projects will: increase access to quality health, substance abuse, and mental health services; expand affordable and transitional housing; improve higher education for minority men; expand community well-being programs to improve community safety and economic security; help modernize one of our cherished local museums; improve the trauma-informed care system for children on the south and westsides; and provide high-caliber programming to youth.

I am proud that the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, does so much to support individuals, families, communities, and businesses—improving well-being, safety, and economic security. I look forward to seeing all the good things that this law does unfold during 2023.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF DALE CLARMONT

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Dale Clarmont for his 35 years of service in the Cheboygan County Sheriff's Department. Over his time working for the people of North Michigan, including more than 2 decades as Sheriff, Dale has shown considerable poise and professionalism while working to make his community a safer place.

Upon graduating high school in 1979, Sheriff Clarmont started his 8-year military career with the United States Navy as an Aviation Electronics Technician, later returning to the Cheboygan area to raise his family. Dale soon started his time in the Cheboygan County Sheriff's Department as a dispatcher in 1987, quickly cementing himself as a key part of the department and an ideal candidate for county Sheriff in 2000. He would go on to hold this position for 22 years, until announcing his upcoming retirement in January of 2023.

Throughout his distinguished career, Sheriff Clarmont prioritized his community's safety

and well-being above all else. Dale's longtime devotion to our country is commendable, and the impact of his work on his fellow officers and the people of the Cheboygan cannot be overstated. We owe Dale our utmost gratitude for his continued effort to better himself, his colleagues, and the community he has served for the past 35 years.

Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Dale Clarmont for his decades of combined service to the United States Navy and the Cheboygan County Sheriff's his local Sheriff's Department. On behalf of Michigan's First District, I extend my gratitude to Dale and his family and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO GERALD "BUD" CHITTON

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Gerald "Bud" Chittom, a larger-than-life restaurateur, musician and promoter of Memphis' iconic blues throughfare—Beale Street—and my friend. Bud passed in 2018 after a career opening and managing dozens of Memphis area restaurants and night clubs. He was awarded a Beale Street Brass Note in 2011 with the inscription "A Man You Don't Meet Everyday," putting him in the company of fellow Brass Note honorees, B.B. King, Isaac Hayes, Elvis Presley and Sain Phillips. Bud will be honored this week by the Downtown Memphis Commission with its Vision Award, which will be received by his daughter, Caitlin. It's well-deserved. Bud was instrumental in the renewal of Beale Street, creating the Blues City Café at Second Street, founding Jerry Lee Lewis' Café and Honky Tonk at 310 Beale, and driving business to other venues on Beale and his restored Earnestine and Hazel's on South Main Street, now world-renown as the Nation's best dive bar. He didn't rest until the area's revival as a mecca for tourism and music lovers was assured. A bass player himself, he often sat in with bands playing venues up and down the street. After I successfully passed the Tennessee Education Lottery as a Tennessee state senator, Bud and Blues City Café co-owner, Wilbur Hensley sold me the first lottery ticket in Tennessee in 2004. The Vision Award recognizes Bud's contribution to our community, and I commend the Downtown Memphis Commission for saluting him, and congratulate his family and friends for making him a part of our lives.

HONORING JAY PENDERGRAPH ON HIS 19 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jay Pendergraph upon his retirement from the Wheatland City Council. Throughout Mr. Pendergraph's tenure on City Council, he fervently advocated for his fellow

community members and led efforts to revolutionize Wheatland's infrastructure through investments in critical projects.

Mr. Pendergraph has served on the Wheatland City Council since 2003, faithfully advancing the interests of Wheatland residents and helping usher his community into a new era of prosperity. As a prominent member of the Economic Development Sub-Committee, Mr. Pendergraph played an indispensable role in ensuring Wheatland's economic stability. Moreover, his leadership on the Pool and Sewer Ad-Hoc Committees played a critical role in improving the resources and services available to his community. His efforts not only modernized Wheatland's infrastructure, making it safer and more efficient, but also improved Wheatland residents' quality of life.

As the Vice-Chairman of the Feather River Air Quality Management District, Mr. Pendergraph also collaborated with local leaders across Yuba and Sutter Counties to promote and improve their communities' air quality. Mr. Pendergraph's advocacy on this issue was essential in reducing emissions and safeguarding the people of Wheatland from the health impacts of air pollution.

Mr. Pendergraph's dedication to public service extends beyond his role on City Council. Following over 2 decades of brave service in the U.S. Air Force, Mr. Pendergraph continued to proudly support his fellow veterans and current servicemembers through his 10 years of work with the Department of Defense at Beale Air Force Base. In addition, Mr. Pendergraph diligently serves his community outside his professional career as a proud member of the Wheatland Lions Club.

While his presence on the Wheatland City Council will surely be missed, Mr. Pendergraph's years of service to the residents of Wheatland have left an indelible legacy. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for Mr. Pendergraph's service to the people of Wheatland and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

**CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
DEPUTY SONNY JOHNSON**

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and work of Deputy Sonny Johnson of the Wyandotte County Sheriff's Department. Deputy Johnson led a dutiful life of public service and was known to those around him as one who emitted selflessness. Deputy Johnson leaves behind a family and community that will miss him dearly.

Deputy Johnson was born July 24, 1962, in Czechoslovakia, later moving to Germany where he spent most of his youth. In the late 80's, Deputy Johnson moved to the United States, earning citizenship and beginning his career in service to Wyandotte County. Deputy Johnson became a deputy with the Wyandotte County Sheriff's Office on August 07, 2008, proudly serving his entire career in the adult detention center where he worked multiple positions—including acting supervisor. Those who knew him would say that no deputy was prouder to put on the uniform and wear a badge each day.

Deputy Johnson's compassion and service did not end with his career—he cared for his community. As Wyandotte County Sheriff Daniel Soptic shared, Deputy Johnson would walk by his coworkers and greet them with a kind "Hey Bubba," his way of asking after you to see how you were doing. He was devoted to family, to caring for his chickens, and to bringing laughter to those he loved. He loved his wife, Nadine. Those who knew Deputy Johnson best know he would do anything, for anybody, at any time.

Mr. Speaker, I know that Deputy Johnson will be remembered by many for the way he loved his job, he loved his family, and he loved the country he served.

**NO VOTE ON ANTI-CHOICE H.R. 26
AND H. CON. RES. 3**

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 26 and H. Con. Res 3, two pieces of legislation that yet again seek to limit access to reproductive health care and insert politics into personal reproductive health care decisions.

H.R. 26 is a deliberately misleading bill that effectively politicizes abortion care and criminalizes doctors. This bill is offensive to those who face pregnancy complications and opens the door to political interference when families are making difficult, complicated, and often heartbreaking medical decisions. This legislation is based on false claims; it vilifies families and the doctors who care for them, and carelessly misleads the public about these rare and complicated scenarios. When a family is dealing with the unthinkable, an infant that will not survive, they should be able to hold and comfort their child and peacefully say goodbye. If this bill were to become law, forced medical intervention would cut short parents' final moments with their child, and doctors across the country would face extreme penalties simply for doing what is best for their patients.

H. Con. Res. 3 is nothing but a political move by the extreme Republican House majority that is both disingenuous and puts actual health care clinics at risk. Let me be clear: I condemn violence in all its forms. However, this resolution only focuses on protecting "pro-life pregnancy centers" and "faith-based women's health clinics"—not medical facilities. Here's a fact: attacks on abortion providers and clinics are on the rise, increasing 128 percent in just one year. The resolution before us falls short of fully condemning political violence, and I encourage my colleagues to stand together and condemn all violence, so that everyone can have the freedom to access reproductive health care without fear.

COMMENDING THE INCLUSION OF AN ALL-FEMALE DIVISION IN THE QUEBEC INTERNATIONAL PEE-WEE HOCKEY TOURNAMENT 2023

HON. MARY GAY SCANLON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to the importance of promoting inclusion and equity in sports by promoting women and girls' sports, and to commend the efforts of our neighbors to the North in promoting such inclusion and equity with the addition of an all-female division at this year's Quebec International Pee-Wee Hockey Tournament, one of the largest pee wee hockey tournaments in the world.

The United States and Canada enjoy both a vibrant rivalry and partnership in the sport of ice hockey. Each year, that rivalry and partnership is on display at the Quebec International Pee-Wee Hockey Tournament.

From February 8 through 19, 2023 the 2023 Quebec International Pee-Wee Hockey Tournament will feature 120 teams, including an all-female division for the first time in its 62 year history.

We applaud this significant development.

The United States and Canada are the closest of friends, partners, and allies, sharing common values and goals, such as promoting representative democracy where all may develop their skills and talents to the benefit of society as a whole, including in women and girls' sports.

In 2022, the United States celebrated the 50th anniversary of the passage of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 that prohibited sex discrimination in education and opened new athletic opportunities for girls and women.

Similarly, Canada's Physical Activity and Sport Act states that the Government of Canada's policy regarding sport includes the principle to ensure the full and fair participation of all persons in sport.

Accordingly, my Congressional colleagues and I congratulate the 2023 Quebec International Pee-Wee Hockey Tournament on the illusion of an all-female team division this year for the first time in the tournament's history. We express our appreciation to the people and Government of Canada for their long history of friendship and cooperation with the people and Government of the United States.

**CELEBRATING COLONEL ANTOINETTE GANT'S PROMOTION TO
BRIGADIER GENERAL IN THE
UNITED STATES ARMY**

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Antoinette R. Gant on her promotion to the rank of brigadier general in the United States Army. Brig. Gen. Gant is the first African American female, active-duty engineer to be promoted to the rank of general officer. She was officially promoted to the rank