

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SPORTS ACT OF 2023

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 734) to amend the Education Amendments of 1972 to provide that for purposes of determining compliance with title IX of such Act in athletics, sex shall be recognized based solely on a person's reproductive biology and genetics at birth:

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 734, Republicans' disturbing and discriminatory Politics Over Participation Act, the first standalone anti-trans legislation to ever receive a vote on the House Floor.

H.R. 734 is part of the extreme MAGA majority's political agenda that legislates hate against our vulnerable transgender youth. This bill fails to protect America's children and puts their privacy and physical security at risk. If passed, H.R. 734 could require girls and young women to answer deeply personal questions about their menstrual cycle and physical development; and could lead to physical inspections by adults whom they may not even know.

This bill would also deny transgender girls the community building and personal growth that comes from being part of a sports team. Participating in sports helps young people develop skills like leadership, teamwork, and building self-esteem. At a time when mental health emergencies among children and young adults are skyrocketing, House Republicans are failing to prioritize the real issues affecting America's children. If they truly wanted to support female athletes and women's sports, then they should be addressing issues like equal pay, ending institutional mistreatment of female athletes, and broadening opportunities for participation for historically excluded communities.

Mr. Chair, sports should be safe, accessible, and fair for everyone. Enforcement of H.R. 734 would do the opposite and cause irreparable damage to children. I will not stand for further restrictions on the lives and livelihoods of transgender Americans and the bullying of our transgender children.

TRIPLE-NEGATIVE BREAST CANCER

HON. SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 20, 2023

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring greater awareness to triple-negative breast cancer and to talk about the pressing need for increased funding for triple-

negative breast cancer research. Breast cancer is a devastating disease that overwhelmingly affects women, especially women of color. Triple-negative breast cancer is one of the most aggressive and deadly forms of breast cancer.

Women with triple-negative breast cancer often face a worse prognosis and limited treatment options. We need to increase funding for research into this disease so that we can find better ways to detect it early and to develop new treatments that will give women with triple-negative breast cancer a fighting chance.

But funding for research is not enough. We also need to ensure equitable access to treatment for all women with breast cancer, regardless of their race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status. Women from marginalized communities often face barriers to accessing care, and we must work to break down those barriers.

No woman should have to fight breast cancer alone, and no woman should be denied the care she needs because of where she comes from or how much money she makes. We must come together as a community to ensure that all women have access to the care and treatment they need.

I urge my fellow lawmakers to join me in supporting increased funding for triple-negative breast cancer research and ensuring equity and access to care for all women with breast cancer. Together, we can make a difference and save lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 20, 2023

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, I was not present to vote on rollcall No. 186 H. Res. 298, due to a personal medical appointment. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on rollcall No. 186.

TRIBUTE TO TIM STRACK

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 20, 2023

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to City of Riverside Fire Department Captain Tim Strack, who passed away on Saturday, April 1, 2023. Tim was a dedicated leader in Riverside, and he will be deeply missed.

Tim joined the Riverside Fire Department 28 years ago. Throughout his career, Tim performed his job with courage and dedication to improving public safety in the community. He was also a tireless advocate for the firefighters who worked beside him. For the past 21 years, Tim served as the President of the Riverside City Firefighters' Association, Local

1067, and as California Professional Firefighters 1st District Vice President for 10 years. He was a leading voice for improving the working conditions of the firefighters in our community, our state, and our country.

Under Tim's leadership, the Riverside Fire Department received a Class 1 Public Protection Classification from the Insurance Services Office, the highest fire protection rating offered. In addition to his legacy of leadership within the Riverside Fire Department, Tim will be remembered for the strong bonds and friendships he developed throughout our community. Personally, I was privileged to call him a friend. I always looked forward to joining Tim and his firefighter colleagues for dinner during their annual advocacy trip to Washington, D.C.

Tim is survived by his wife Wendy, and their 3 children: Madeline, Justin, and Isabella. I extend my heartfelt condolences to the Strack family, his friends, and everyone fortunate enough to know Tim. Although he may be gone, the many contributions Tim made to his community and family will never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING PASTOR DE'SHANTE ERVIN

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 20, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize De'Shante Ervin, in recognition of his appointment as pastor to Rock of Ages Missionary Baptist Church, a house of worship in Detroit in Michigan's 12th District Strong.

Pastor Ervin brings a wealth of experience to his new position in leadership at Rock of Ages. Born May 23, 1980, to Eddie and Mary Ervin, he was raised alongside his older siblings in the city of Detroit. His upbringing instilled in him the importance of community and service to others. Pastor Ervin accepted his call to the ministry in 1997. He received his ministerial license in May of 2000 and was ordained in January of 2005.

In August of 2006 Pastor Ervin became the founder and CEO of Rhema Word Ministries, which is his personal teaching and outreach ministry. Through this ministry he has had the opportunity to start up many home-based faith studies throughout the Metro Detroit area and be a blessing to many needy and less fortunate families. Through Rhema Word Ministries, Pastor Ervin is most proud of the joy he was able to share to families in need through its Christmas program, providing families in need with toys and clothing for the holiday. In addition to his charitable work, Pastor Ervin has authored one book and served for many years as pastor at Living in Victory Everyday Ministries (L.I.V.E.) in Southfield, Michigan.

In 2019, Pastor Ervin joined Rock of Ages Christian Ministries, serving under Pastor Jerome McAfee. He continued his work in service to the community, spearheading Rock of

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Ages' food distribution efforts during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to his duties at Rock of Ages, Pastor Ervin serves as a Detroit Police chaplain at the seventh precinct.

Please join me in recognizing Pastor De'Shante Ervin's service to the communities of Michigan's 12th District as we wish him well in his new role as pastor of Rock of Ages Missionary Baptist Church.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AANAPISI OPPORTUNITY ACT

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLÁN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 20, 2023

Mr. SABLÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the AANAPISI Opportunity Act. This legislation seeks to ensure that the U.S. Department of Agriculture provides research and career opportunities to students at all Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) by creating grant programs for the only MSI without any USDA support: Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs).

The AANAPISI Opportunity Act is modeled after several already existing competitive grant programs for MSIs in USDA. Specifically, the bill establishes grants to support Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI)-centered agricultural research and scholarships to support agricultural education and career development. Additional funding will be given to AANAPISI students through a 50 percent institutional matching requirement. For low-resourced AANAPISIs who might not be able to match, like Northern Marianas College in my district, USDA may provide a waiver to help keep them in consideration for grant awards.

In addition to enhancing the potential of American agriculture, this bill will have generational impact by investing in the AAPI agricultural pipeline. USDA's 2017 Census of Agriculture identified 25,310 Asian producers in the United States, most of whom were younger and more likely to have recently started farming than U.S. producers overall.

Although 25,310 accounts for only 0.7 percent of the country's farmers and 2 percent of total U.S. agricultural sales, this bill would bolster the number of skilled AAPIs that contribute to our nation's agricultural workforce and output. A 2019 Journal of Research in Technical Careers article found that the highest-rated student retention strategies for underrepresented students pursuing agricultural careers were "academic support [and] giving students practical work experiences in their intended major."

U.S. agricultural priorities can only be met when all producers are given opportunities to compete and succeed, including Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Now it is time for Congress to fully commit to investing equitably in one of the nation's most indispensable industries.

I thank my colleagues who joined me in introducing this important, bipartisan legislation—Mr. CASE, Ms. CHU, Mr. MOYLAN, Ms. RADEWAGEN, and Ms. TOKUDA.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS ABOLITION AND CONVERSION ACT OF 2023

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 20, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Conversion Act of 2023. This bill would require that, beginning on the date that the President certifies to Congress that all countries possessing nuclear weapons have begun the verifiable and irreversible elimination of such weapons under the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Treaty), the United States redirect resources that are being used for nuclear weapons programs to be used for addressing the climate crisis and human and infrastructure needs, such as housing, health care and restoring the environment.

In 1993, District of Columbia peace activists were successful in getting a ballot initiative in D.C. passed that called for nuclear disarmament. Every Congress since then, I have introduced a bill based on that initiative, including this bill. In March 2019, the D.C. Council passed a "Sense of the Council" resolution urging the United States to approve the Treaty. These actions show that D.C. residents were early, prescient leaders on this important issue. It seems that the rest of the world is, thankfully, starting to catch up to D.C.

As the only Nation that has used nuclear weapons in war, and that still possesses one of the largest nuclear weapons arsenals, my bill would help the United States reestablish its moral leadership in the world by redirecting funds that would otherwise go to nuclear weapons to address the climate crisis and urgent domestic needs.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF BISHOP HENRY HEARNS

HON. MIKE GARCIA

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 20, 2023

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a giant of the Antelope Valley and historic leader who is celebrating his 90th birthday, Bishop Henry W. Hearn, Sr., of Lancaster. Bishop Hearn is a model for younger generations and exemplifies what it means to truly be a man of service. As our community congregates to celebrate the 90 wonderful years Bishop Hearn has spent with us, we also gather to commemorate and reflect on his accomplishments from his military service to his public service to his community service.

Bishop Hearn came from humble beginnings, growing up as a sharecropper in Mississippi. Going on to serve his nation with honor in the U.S. Army, and having served overseas in Korea, he came home determined to pursue new opportunities and make a bona fide difference in any way he can. He settled on engineering, first attending Tennessee State University and later earning a master's degree in environmental engineering from the

University of Southern California. He went on to lead a groundbreaking career at Edwards Air Force Base. It was during this time, when he was immersed in his passion and providing for his family that he answered a higher calling, to serve as the Senior Pastor of what would become Living Stone Cathedral of Worship.

Upon his retirement in 1989 from Edwards Air Force Base, Bishop Hearn decided to carry on his charge of service by becoming the first elected African American official in Lancaster, California. Elected multiple times by his peers, including as Mayor, Bishop Hearn sought to make our community an incredible place to live. Even as he now serves as Mayor Emeritus, he continues to volunteer his time by serving on the boards of multiple service organizations.

So as the Antelope Valley community gathers to celebrate Bishop Hearn's birthday, we also thank him for his lifetime of continued service. We salute his resolve and his patriotism, and we look forward to his future contributions to the city that he loves so much.

REMEMBERING COLUMBINE

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 20, 2023

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the victims of the horrific mass shooting that occurred at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado 24 years ago. It has been 24 years since 12 teenagers and one teacher went to school and never made it home.

It's been 24 years since Daniel Rohrbough's mom gave him a hug and kiss goodbye before he walked out of their home one last time.

It's been 24 years since Dave Sanders placed the lives of over 100 students above his own before he was murdered.

It's been 24 years since Steven Curnow's greatest concern was when he could finally see Star Wars: the Phantom Menace.

It's been 24 years since John Tomlin held the hand of his classmate to comfort her as they hid under a table in the library.

It's been 24 years since Daniel Mauser was shot and killed two weeks after he expressed concern to his dad about America's gun laws. Daniel asked his dad about the loopholes in the Brady Bill that allow individuals to obtain guns online or at gun shows. Daniel's life was taken by a gun purchased through one of those loopholes.

I ask: What has changed since Columbine?

The gun show loophole remains open to this day. Gun violence in this country is the worst it's ever been. Our children fear going to school every single day, and Republicans in Congress refuse to take the necessary steps to protect them.

Americans have had enough. I've had enough.

A quote etched into the side of the Columbine Memorial reads: "It brought the nation to its knees but now that we've gotten back up how have things changed; what have we learned?"

We can and must do more to protect our children and our communities from gun violence. We must ban assault weapons and ensure these weapons of war are inaccessible to the general public.