

Presently, Head Start programs reach over one million children and their families each year. Head Start serves urban, suburban, and rural communities throughout the United States as well as in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and other U.S. territories. In each Head Start site, the overarching goal remains the same—to support the positive growth and development of children from birth to age 5 through services that promote early learning, healthy choices, and family well-being. Head Start programs help America succeed by helping our most vulnerable citizens succeed in school and in life.

In my own Congressional District and hometown of Chicago, countless families have benefited greatly from Head Start and Early Head Start. I am grateful that Head Start serves almost 29,000 children and their families in Illinois. Over the past year, Head Start and its dedicated staff have helped over 17,000 children in my state keep up-to-date on health screenings, over 10,000 children receive preventative dental care, and over 20,000 families receive support services. In fact, Head Start employees in Illinois performed over 260,000 home visits over the past year. I personally know how valuable these home visits are; early in my career, I was responsible for training Head Start and other early childhood educators on how best to conduct home visits in inner-city Chicago.

There are dozens of amazing Head Start and Early Head Start sites in Chicago. The following community-based organizations are examples of those grantees that provide top-notch services in our local communities: Ada S. McKinley Community Services; Carole Robertson Center for Learning; Chicago Commons Association; the City of Chicago; Easter Seals Metropolitan Chicago, Inc.; Henry Booth House; and Start Early.

Famed singer and songwriter Marvin Gaye once stated that “our children are the future, teach them well and let them lead the way.” Head Start is doing just that by making a valued investment in our children and therefore our future. I applaud President Biden for signing the Executive Order on Childcare on April 18, 2023, that will marshal additional federal funds and support for Head Start caregivers and childcare, in general.

I hope my colleagues will join me today in recognizing and celebrating 58 years of Head Start. Going forward, I commit to continuing to work to find additional ways, resources, and means to support this vital, early childhood education and school readiness program that serves millions of hard-working American families and our youngest citizens.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed a vote. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 224.

CONGRATULATING THE MANHEIM TOWNSHIP BOWLING TEAM ON THEIR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Manheim Township Bowling Team for capturing the state championship this year. This is the first time in the school district's history that their bowling team has earned the title of state champions.

Despite finishing third in Section One of the Lancaster-Lebanon League, the team took advantage of the opportunity and continued to defy the odds to be successful.

Head Coach Steve Schulz in an interview: “Our good performance in the regular season blossomed into undisputed excellence in the postseason. Each bowler persevered through disappointing shots or tenacious single pin leaves to throw the best shots to strike again.”

Congratulations to each of the students for their successful season. I wish them all continued success in all their future endeavors. Their efforts have certainly made our community proud. The perseverance they exhibited this season is remarkable.

Congratulations again to the Manheim Township Blue Streaks Bowling Team on capturing the state championship.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMARTER APPROACHES TO NUCLEAR EXPENDITURES (SANE) ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Smarter Approaches to Nuclear Expenditures (SANE) Act.

The United States will spend \$494 billion on our nuclear arsenal through Fiscal Year 2028, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Even the Pentagon acknowledges that this level of spending—more than XXXX—is not necessary to secure the United States. The Defense Department's 2013 Report on Nuclear Employment Strategy of the United States declared we can ensure the security of the U.S. and our allies and maintain a strong and credible strategic deterrent, while pursuing up to a one-third reduction in deployed nuclear weapons from the level established in the New START Treaty. Other experts, including a commission chaired by former Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General James Cartwright, said the U.S. could go even lower without jeopardizing security.

The SANE Act aims to inject fiscal responsibility and strategic reality into the United States' nuclear weapons planning by reducing the purchase of replacement nuclear submarines, cutting the existing ICBM fleet, cancelling the development of new ICBMs, removing the nuclear mission from the F-35, eliminating the life extension program for the tactical B61 gravity bomb and cancelling the development of a new air-launched cruise missile, and terminating construction of new facil-

ties for nuclear weapons processing and storage.

By strategically sizing our nuclear weapons programs, the SANE Act will save at least \$73 billion over 5 years and stay within the New START Treaty warhead levels.

America must reconcile the facts: our Defense budget is already squeezed, a nuclear deterrent is irrelevant to current international security challenges, yet a nuclear deterrent is still a national security imperative. The SANE Act would secure our nuclear deterrent without undercutting critical investments in readiness and other essential programs.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE JUSTICE FOR SHIREEN ACT

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to reintroduce the Justice for Shireen Act today. I thank my House and Senate Colleagues that joined me to call for a report to Congress from the FBI and State Department, in consultation with the Attorney General, Secretary of Defense and Director of National Intelligence, on the death of American-Palestinian Journalist, Shireen Abu Akleh. I send my deep condolences to the Abu Akleh family for this terrible killing and stand with them to demand justice and accountability.

Shireen Abu Akleh, an American-Palestinian Journalist, was killed, one year ago, on May 11, 2022. She was killed wearing a clearly marked press vest on assignment, reporting on a military raid which took place in the occupied city of Jenin. One year ago, I led a letter, signed by 58 Members of Congress, to the FBI and State Department calling for an independent and open investigation led by her home country, the United States, and 24 Senators have echoed this request. It is imperative that Congress be given the information it needs to conduct the necessary oversight. We must ensure no taxpayer dollars contribute to human rights violations or anyone's death—most especially an American abroad.

As an American, Ms. Abu Akleh was entitled to the full protections afforded to U.S. citizens living abroad. As Members of Congress, we need to uphold the values that our Nation was founded on, including human rights, equality for all, and freedom of speech. As Members of Congress, we have a duty to protect Americans reporting abroad. An Israeli investigation has concluded, finding that it was indeed an Israeli soldier that shot Ms. Abu Akleh in her line of duty. It is the responsibility of the U.S. to learn all the unanswered questions leading up to, during and after the fatal shot that killed Ms. Abu Akleh. Additionally, this bill requires an identification of any United States defense materials or services that were implicated in the death of Ms. Abu Akleh. No U.S. weapons and military services by the U.S. should be used to kill Americans on foreign soil. American taxpayers should not be paying for any violation of human rights abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in calling for justice and accountability for Shireen Abu Akleh.

CONDEMNING PROFITMAKING
FROM CHILD MUTILATION

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the health care industry's obscene profitmaking derived from mutilating little children.

The grotesque fad of chemically castrating boys or performing breast removal surgery on girls is not healthcare. This is a shameful time for those doctors and hospitals that enjoy mutilating children—for sky-high profits (surgery costs about \$150,000).

As a society, we have decided that children and young adults have not developed the mental capacity to make wise decisions in certain areas. For example, if you are under 21 you can't rent a car, buy tobacco, buy a shot of whiskey, and you have to be 18 to vote or buy a gun. You are, after all, still maturing.

However, today, a 5-year-old or 10-year-old child can "decide" they are really the opposite gender, and once a doctor at a children's hospital gets a whiff of that, they smell profits and want to start the process of chemically, surgically, and often permanently castrating boys and maiming girls. It is horribly disfiguring of our children.

In my view this is not healthcare. This is abuse. It is parental-abuse for any parent to subject their child to this. It is unethical and unprofessional for any hospital or doctor to participate in this mutilation.

Victims of this abuse are starting to speak up, but for many it is too late.

If a person is 18 or older, and they want to castrate themselves, I would recommend counseling for mental illness, but at least they have reached the age of majority where they can make decisions, even dumb decisions, on their own behalf.

There is no excuse for any doctor who does this mutilation on anyone under 18. I would vote to criminalize this practice and revoke the medical license of any quack that does these surgeries and hormone treatments.

History will prove us right. The leftists agitating for child mutilation are fundamentally demonic and harming children.

This story is about a hospital in Minnesota claiming that "gender dysphoria" is just like asthma and diabetes. It is not. It is about big money for this hospital—a hospital that cares nothing about the long term impacts its actions will have on these children.

HONORING MS. DIANN BALL

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Diann Ball, a devoted public servant, as she celebrates her retirement after 50 years of service to the Marianna Black Library in Bryson City, North Carolina. For more than half a century, Ms. Ball has served the

Marianna Black Library and the Fontana Regional Library system with unwavering commitment and passion.

Ms. Ball began her journey at the Marianna Black Library on February 3, 1973, marking the inception of her career within the library system. Starting at the age of 18, like many others, Ms. Ball began with recording and cataloging books, diligently placing them on shelves and assisting patrons in finding their desired titles. As time progressed, she took on additional responsibilities, including organizing and conducting library programs, eventually taking on the role of program coordinator. Through these endeavors, Ms. Ball played a pivotal role in expanding access to learning and fostering a love for reading among individuals of all backgrounds throughout the rural and historically underprivileged mountains of Western North Carolina.

Ms. Ball's involvement in the Marianna Black Library's mobile library program, called "Rover the Bookmobile," demonstrated her enduring dedication to promoting literacy. Through this program, books were brought directly to patrons who would otherwise be unable to visit the library themselves. Ms. Ball contributed to educational advancement by supporting persons of all ages in their research and educational endeavors, facilitating an environment conducive to teaching and learning. Her dedication to empowering individuals to grow intellectually is truly commendable.

Ms. Ball's contributions have elevated the Marianna Black Library and the Fontana Regional Library system, making them better, more accessible and inclusive places for all. Her extensive knowledge of both the library and her community has made her the go-to person for information, particularly for visitors seeking information regarding their family history. Ms. Ball's warm and familial approach to assisting individuals has left a lasting impact on countless citizens in Swain County.

As we celebrate Diann's 50 years of service to the people of Swain County and the town of Bryson City, we extend our deepest appreciation and gratitude for her invaluable contributions. She has truly exemplified the spirit of public service throughout her distinguished career, and represents the best that Western North Carolina has to offer.

HONORING PEACHY LEE FOR HER
SUCCESS IN POETRY OUT LOUD

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Peachy Lee of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, for her commemorable achievements at the Poetry Out Loud competitions. Poetry Out Loud is an annual event which encourages students to study poetry by performing live recitations. The program is organized by the National Endowment of the Arts, The Poetry Foundation as well as various state and local agencies. The event is hosted local, regional, state and national levels.

Peachy Lee is a senior at the Lancaster Country Day School in Pennsylvania's 11th

Congressional District. In March, Peachy competed at the Pennsylvania Poetry Out Loud Competition and placed first to move on to the national competition. Her poetry selections were "Cartoon Physics, part 1" and "England in 1819." On May 9th and 10th, Peachy competed here in Washington, D.C. at the national competition and received an honorable mention for her performance. I am so proud to have students such as Peachy Lee representing my district and state here in the Nation's Capital. Again, congratulations to Peachy Lee on her accomplishments and best wishes for continued success in her future endeavors.

CELEBRATING CLERMONT COUNTY
DEPUTY BOBBY HAU PHAM,
MEDAL OF VALOR

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Clermont County Deputy Bobby Hau Pham, who was awarded the Medal of Valor by President Biden for his heroic efforts while on duty, rescuing the life of a woman trapped in a car sinking underwater.

On November 23, 2021, Deputy Pham sprang into action after a woman drove her car into East Fork Lake, submerging it under water. Fighting through dark, frigid conditions, Deputy Pham sprang into action, jumped in the water, and fearlessly worked to rescue the driver from the sinking car.

Through his bravery, Deputy Pham saved her life, and he said he would do it all over again wherever needed. Deputy Pham is an example of the extraordinary actions our law enforcement officers make each and every day to protect our citizens and communities. I want to thank all who put on the uniform and risk their lives to protect us every day.

I thank Deputy Pham for his service and courage. I congratulate him on being recognized with the Medal of Valor, our Nation's highest honor for bravery by a public safety officer, for his actions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, due to a family funeral, I was not able to be present to cast my vote for the following roll call votes on May 17, 2023 and May 18, 2023.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 217; NAY on Roll Call No. 218; YEA on Roll Call No. 219; YEA on Roll Call No. 220; YEA on Roll Call No. 221; YEA on Roll Call No. 222; YEA on Roll Call No. 223; NAY on Roll Call No. 224; YEA on Roll Call No. 225; YEA on Roll Call No. 226; and YEA on Roll Call No. 227.