

the Congressional Black Caucus' collective vision for honorable prosperity for Africans, African Americans, and the American public in partnership and unity with Africa.

The Congressional Black Caucus commends Ward Holdings International for its leadership and innovation, in cooperation with the Nation of Tanzania and other African Nations, to strengthen the economies of these nations from within and to assist them in adopting and applying value-adding processes to their agricultural crops. By this resolution, we encourage like-minded companies to emulate and deliberately engage in ushering in a new dynamic of African and African American empowerment and partnership that signals tangible progress toward overcoming the sordid history of African peoples deliberately imposed disempowerment and disunity.

The Congressional Black Caucus believes that now is the time for all in the African Diaspora to make an equal commitment toward building Africa together. We declare that a strengthened Africa is a strengthened African Diaspora.

The U.S. is the world's leading importer of cashews—a growing industry. It's a mutually beneficial decision for our city to be the doorway for TanzaNutz to join the market under fair and profitable practices in the region of sub-Saharan Africa. TanzaNutz is an exciting addition to the New Orleans import family, and I'm thrilled to have played a role in welcoming you here. I'm committed to strong advocacy for New Orleans' economic development, and to continue to foster a mutually beneficial relationship with our neighbors in Tanzania.

**RECOGNIZING TONY ANDERSON
FOR LIFETIME OF SERVICE**

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Tony Anderson for his upcoming retirement after 40 years of service with electric cooperatives, including 20 years with the Cherryland Electric Cooperative as their General Manager. During his time at Cherryland Electric Cooperative, Tony cemented himself as an indispensable member of their leadership team and a key contributor to their overall success. Tony's career is worthy of celebration and his impact on all he served will continue to facilitate positive change in his absence.

While becoming one of the cooperative's most valuable team members, Tony also directed his energy towards helping others. In an effort to raise money for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Michigan, he ran marathons in each state and Washington, D.C., soon accumulating more than \$500,000 to help his community. He was also named Michigan's Volunteer of the Year, attending the Governor's Service Awards in 2012. Tony continues to pay it forward in his new capacity of President of the NRECA Board of Directors, where he will share his insight and wealth of knowledge dealing with cooperatives across the Nation.

Tony deserves immense praise for all he has done throughout his career and the selfless ways in which he's served the commu-

nity. Over the course of 40 years, Tony's unwavering dedication and staunch commitment to both his craft and community has been immeasurable—and for this, I am grateful.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Tony Anderson for his steadfast service to Cherryland Electric Cooperative and our great state. On behalf of Michigan's First District, I extend my gratitude to Tony and his family and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

CELEBRATING JUDITH ANN O'BRIEN FOWKES ON HER 60TH BIRTHDAY AND HER CAREER IN EDUCATION

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to rise today in celebration of my dear friend, Judith Ann O'Brien Fowkes of Braintree, Massachusetts, in recognition of her 60th birthday. I want to commend her for her tireless dedication to educating and inspiring hundreds of students in the Archdiocese of Boston for more than thirty years.

Born in Fort Smith, Northwest Territory, Canada on June 14, 1963, to Kevin O'Brien and Patricia Bowser O'Brien, Judith graduated from Charles P. Allen High School in Bedford, Nova Scotia in 1981, before pursuing and earning a Teacher's License from Nova Scotia Teachers College in Truro, Nova Scotia in 1984. One year later, Judith received her Bachelor of Arts in Education from Mt. St. Vincent University in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

After completing her education in Canada, Judith arrived in the United States in 1987, and began her teaching career for the Archdiocese of Boston in the fall of that same year. Inspired and driven to always continue learning, Judith earned a Master of Arts in Teaching from Emmanuel College in Boston, Massachusetts in 2002. Furthermore, Judith continued her call to education by serving on the faculties of St. Brigid School in South Boston, the Sacred Heart School in Weymouth, and is currently serving as an aide at the St. Brendan School in Dorchester.

Through her countless examples of compassion and selfless service, she has inspired many of her former students to become lifelong learners and educators themselves. Many of her former students have gone on to pursue careers in public service, serving as police officers, firefighters, and government officials.

Judith has enriched the lives of her family, friends, and all who know her. Her quick and warm smile, her kindness, her compassion, and sense of humor are impossible to dodge. Judith's sincere empathy and care for each of her students over the years is immeasurable.

Judith resides in Braintree, Massachusetts with her adoring co-captain and husband of 32 years, Robert, who served as District Director in my office.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the floor of the House today to congratulate Judith on her 60th birthday and to thank her for her over thirty years of dedicated service in the Commonwealth. I urge my colleagues to join with me, and with Judith's family and friends in recognizing Judith's dedicated career in education.

SUPPORTING THE RIGHT TO CONTRACEPTION ACT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the right to contraception for all Americans.

Last year, Justice Clarence Thomas' concurrence to the *Dobbs v. Jackson's Women's Health* decision called for the U.S. Supreme Court to reconsider the right to contraception.

Emboldened by this statement, Republican-controlled state legislatures across the Nation began limiting access to birth control.

Nine states have already adopted restrictions to emergency contraception.

I stand with my colleagues, Congresswoman MANNING and Senator MARKEY, as they reintroduce the Right to Contraception Act.

Last year, this bill passed the U.S. House with a bipartisan vote of 228–195.

I am proud to be a part of the effort to bring this important issue into legislative focus and protect women's health.

This bill sets out statutory protections for an individual's right to access and a health care provider's right to provide contraception and related information.

Generally, the bill prohibits measures that single out and impede access to contraception and related information. However, a party may defend against a claim that a measure violates the bill's prohibitions by demonstrating, through clear and convincing evidence, that the measure significantly advances access to contraception and cannot be achieved through less restrictive means.

The Department of Justice, individuals, or health care providers may bring a lawsuit to enforce this bill, and states are not immune from suits for violations.

This Act would codify into law a person's right to obtain contraceptives and to engage in the use of contraception.

It would also define and protect a health care provider's corresponding right to prescribe contraception and to provide information about the use of contraception to their patients.

The ability to make personal choices about one's own body is a fundamental human right.

The right to contraception is internationally recognized by the World Health Organization, and by the United Nations as intrinsically linked to women's health, economic mobility, and self-governance.

Birth control pills, IUDs, and other forms of contraception are all forms of safe and essential healthcare.

They are central to women's ability to participate equally in the workplace, in academia, and in society.

Contraception allows individuals, couples, and families to be in control of their own futures.

Contraception can allow a young woman to achieve her dreams of earning a college degree.

It can allow a young couple to prioritize their careers before raising a child.

It can allow parents to focus their financial and emotional resources on the care of a special needs son or daughter.

It is a tool that allows those who wish to become parents, and those who do not, the agency to make the decision that is best for them.

A 2010 study found that access to contraceptive care resulted in approximately one million fewer unplanned conceptions per year.

That is one million fewer children born into families who are unprepared to support them.

When access to contraceptives is limited, more children are born into lives of difficulty and hardship.

The “Right to Contraception Act,” would help ensure that children are born into families who are eager, equipped, and prepared for their arrival.

The right to contraceptives has long been an expectation held by the American people.

In 1965, the United States Supreme Court’s decision in *Griswold v. Connecticut* affirmed a married couple’s right to birth control. In 1972, *Eisenstadt v. Baird* protected that right for single people. Then in 1977, the right to contraception for minors was secured in *Carey v. Population Services International*.

For more than 50 years, the right to contraception has been settled law.

That is, until the Supreme Court’s recent ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, when five conservative Justices chose to let their personal opinions and beliefs supersede decades of established precedent by overturning women’s right to abortion.

Since then, the American people have witnessed the abhorrent consequences of Republicans’ radical agenda to criminalize women’s reproductive health decisions.

In his concurring opinion, Justice Clarence Thomas made it very clear that the extremist ruling that ended *Roe v. Wade* could be used to chop away at other rights—including the right to access contraception.

Reproductive rights opponents are now including emergency contraception, IUDs, and other forms of birth control in their anti-abortion legislation.

These anti-abortion laws shackle women to unwanted pregnancies.

Conservative lawmakers now seek to stop women from exerting agency over the prevention of pregnancy, as well.

If a woman is not permitted to end a pregnancy, and she is not permitted to prevent a pregnancy, I ask, what rights to her body does she have left?

Even before the barbaric *Dobbs* ruling, conservative lawmakers across the country have been moving to limit women’s ability to make decisions about their own healthcare and bodies.

In 2021 alone, at least 4 states attempted to ban access to some or all contraceptives by restricting public funding for these products and services.

Those laws work in conjunction with actions conservative legislators in red states have taken to curtail funding for family planning services at reproductive health centers like Planned Parenthood.

Such actions would limit access to birth control, particularly for Black and Brown low-income women.

We cannot allow human rights to be so callously stripped away from the American people.

We must fight back and codify these rights into law.

RECOGNIZING POSTTRAUMATIC GROWTH (PTG)

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation on Posttraumatic Growth (PTG).

Whereas, Posttraumatic Growth (PTG) refers to the transformative positive changes that can occur in individuals following traumatic experiences, leading to personal growth, resilience, and a newfound sense of purpose;

Whereas, Boulder Crest Foundation, a renowned nonprofit organization headquartered in Bluemont, Virginia, has been at the forefront of providing Posttraumatic Growth-based support and resources to veterans and first responders experiencing trauma;

Whereas, the Warrior PATHH (Progressive and Alternative Training for Helping Heroes) Program, developed by Boulder Crest Foundation, is a groundbreaking initiative that offers a comprehensive and evidence-based approach to help individuals overcome the invisible wounds of war and trauma;

Whereas, Ken Falke, a distinguished Veteran and entrepreneur, and his wife Julia Falke founded Boulder Crest Foundation and have dedicated their lives to assisting fellow veterans and first responders in their journey towards healing and growth;

Whereas, Josh Goldberg, the Chief Executive Officer of Boulder Crest Foundation, has displayed exemplary leadership and unwavering commitment to the well-being of those impacted by trauma;

Whereas, Dr. Richard Tedeschi, the Executive Director of the Boulder Crest Institute, and co-founder of the science of Posttraumatic Growth has created a pathway for transforming pain into purpose and loss into gain;

Whereas, the tireless efforts of Boulder Crest Foundation, Ken Falke, and Josh Goldberg have positively impacted the lives of countless individuals, empowering them to overcome adversity and thrive;

Whereas, recognizing and promoting Posttraumatic Growth can help foster a greater understanding and acceptance of the potential for growth and resilience that exists within individuals who have experienced trauma;

Whereas, it is essential to acknowledge the significance of Posttraumatic Growth and to encourage initiatives that promote healing, resilience, and personal development;

I, Jack Bergman, do hereby resolve:

June 13th shall be designated as “Posttraumatic Growth Day” to recognize the transformative potential and resilience demonstrated by individuals who have experienced trauma.

I commend Boulder Crest Foundation for their outstanding contributions in the field of trauma recovery and their development of the Warrior PATHH Program. The commitment and dedication of Boulder Crest Foundation, Ken Falke, Josh Goldberg, and Dr. Richard Tedeschi to helping Veterans, first responders, and others affected by trauma are deserving of the highest recognition.

I strongly encourage individuals, communities, organizations, and educational institutions to observe Posttraumatic Growth Day by

raising awareness of Posttraumatic Growth, sharing stories of resilience, and promoting initiatives that support healing, personal growth, and the well-being of those affected by trauma.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with other relevant federal agencies, should take appropriate measures to disseminate information about Posttraumatic Growth, Boulder Crest Foundation, the Warrior PATHH Program, and the efforts of Ken Falke, Josh Goldberg, and Dr. Richard Tedeschi to ensure widespread awareness of the available resources and opportunities for growth and healing.

I recognize the significant contributions of Boulder Crest Foundation, Ken Falke, Josh Goldberg, and Dr. Richard Tedeschi in advancing the field of trauma recovery and commend their dedication to improving the lives of individuals impacted by trauma.

I pledge my support to further research, education, and initiatives aimed at understanding and promoting Posttraumatic Growth, and acknowledges the importance of comprehensive trauma recovery programs such as the Warrior PATHH Program in supporting individuals on their journey toward growth and resilience.

HONORING GLADYS KNIGHT, SINGER, SONGWRITER, ACTRESS, AND BUSINESSWOMAN

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Gladys Knight, the Empress of Soul, who will be inducted into the Madam Walker Legacy Center Walk of Fame on June 16, 2023. The historic Madam Walker Legacy Center is in Indiana’s 7th Congressional District.

Gladys Maria Knight was born in 1944 in Atlanta, Georgia, to Sarah and Merald Knight. Her musical career began early in life in a church choir, where her singing talent was quickly recognized. Ms. Knight performed with her siblings and cousins in a quintet that would later become known as The Pips. In 1961, the group signed with Fury Records and changed their name to Gladys Knight & The Pips. The group released several successful albums until 1987, when Ms. Knight began to pursue a solo career. She went on to release several solo albums and achieved incredible feats in the music industry, becoming an icon for R&B and soul music across the world.

Ms. Knight has been widely recognized with prestigious awards for her achievements. She has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Hollywood Walk of Fame, and the National Rhythm and Blues Hall of Fame. In 2008, Rolling Stone named Ms. Knight one of the “100 Greatest Singers of All Time,” and the American Academy of Achievement presented her with the Golden Plate Award in 2019. She also received an Honorary Doctorate in Performing Arts from Shaw University.

However impressive, these achievements do not capture the true brilliance of Gladys Knight. Her love of family and children shines through in her philanthropic efforts, including