

HONORING RACHEL LEPINE

**HON. CHUCK EDWARDS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2023

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Rachel Lepine for her invaluable work as a Congressional Intern serving in my D.C. office. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her hard work and recognize the meaningful contributions she made at the office this summer.

Rachel Lepine is from Hendersonville, North Carolina. Rachel graduated from the Honors College at Western Carolina University in December 2022 with a Bachelor of Science in Political Science and minor in Journalism. Rachel previously completed a successful internship for the City of Hendersonville in communications and was an Undergraduate Research Associate at Western Carolina University.

Interns work with staff to serve constituents in North Carolina's 11th Congressional District. Rachel was chosen from a competitive pool of applicants and exceeded every expectation.

It was a pleasure to work with Rachel, and I am proud to have such an intelligent and ambitious intern representing my office. Rachel exemplified the spirit of public service and represents the best that Western North Carolina has to offer. Congratulations to Rachel on the successful completion of her internship.

CELEBRATING THE EXPANSION OF ROCKWALL-HEATH HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the groundbreaking of Rockwall-Heath High School's newest Ninth Grade Center. Located in Heath, Texas, Rockwall-Heath High School operates as part of Rockwall Independent School District and has continuously prepared North Texas students for success.

Rockwall ISD's first documented schools date back to the late 1840's near Heath, Texas. Its first high school was founded in 1925, and the first superintendent was J.A. Wilkerson, who also served as a math teacher and football coach. In 1935, Rockwall ISD purchased its first school bus and began transporting students from nearby county schools.

Under Superintendent Wilkerson's leadership, Rockwall ISD constructed its first football stadium, now known as the Hobart Wisdom Field. Over thirty years later, the new Wilkerson-Sanders Memorial Stadium was constructed in honor of Mr. Wilkerson and Harvey Sanders, a local businessman and longtime supporter.

Rockwall-Heath High School first opened in 2005 and has expanded its educational outreach over the years to local counties. The new Ninth Grade Center is expected to be completed by August 2024, and it will encompass state-of-the-art technology centers, lounge areas, and refreshing outdoor spaces to accommodate all students. I'm proud to represent such distinguished students, and I look forward to their continued growth and success.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol to recognize this historic expansion for the students, teachers, and staff of North Texas. Congratulations to Rockwall-Heath High School, and I wish all students an excellent school year.

RECOGNIZING THE JOB WINSLOW CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

**HON. JACK BERGMAN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2023

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Job Winslow Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR). Located in Traverse City, the chapter was initially organized and chartered in 1914. It was named in honor of Job Winslow, a Veteran of the Revolutionary War from Dighton, Massachusetts. He was a soldier, patriot, and loving father to his daughter, Elida Jane Winslow Lind, who resided in the Traverse City area. As Michiganders, we extend our utmost gratitude to the Winslow Family and offer best wishes to the members of the chapter for their Commemorative Marker Ceremony, held on June 17, 2023.

The NSDAR boasts over 50 chapters in Michigan alone and has connected with countless members throughout their time in our state. They offer programs to their local community, schools, Veterans, and military personnel, which throughout the chapter's 109-year history has emphasized health, structural support systems, and other lifeline resources.

On June 17, 2023, members of the chapter, their families, and other attendees will gather at Oakwood Cemetery to bestow a well-deserved plaque upon Elida Jane Winslow Lind's grave, honoring the legacy of both Elida and her father.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Job Winslow Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and I wish them well for their Commemorative Marker Ceremony on June 17, 2023. On behalf of Michigan's First District, I extend my appreciation to all involved in the NSDAR and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

OPPOSING H.R. 1615, THE "GAS STOVE PROTECTION OF FREEDOM ACT" AND H.R. 1640, THE "SAVE OUR GAS STOVES ACT"

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to speak in opposition to the proposed legislation, H.R. 1615, the Gas Stove Protection Freedom Act and H.R. 1640, the Save our Gas Stoves Act.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is responsible for protecting children and other consumers from unreasonable risk of injury or death from consumer products.

The CPSC carries out its mission by investigating allegations that consumer products pose an unreasonable safety risk, working with industry to develop voluntary product safety standards, issuing, and enforcing mandatory standards on hazardous consumer products, and recalling unsafe consumer products or arranging for their repair.

The CPSC has a history of protecting children and adults from safety risks across a wide range of products, including removing hazardous infant sleep products from the market, adopting corded window coverings standards to prevent strangulation of children, and working with industry to reduce the risk of fires from micro mobility devices like hoverboards and e-scooters.

Republicans are deliberately misleading the American public with this legislation, which is designed to scare consumers and, unfortunately, Republicans are ignoring the reasonable steps the CPSC has taken to study and address the hazards posed to our children by gas stove emissions.

Legitimate concerns have been raised about the health impact, particularly on children, of the nitrogen dioxide emitted by gas stoves.

Observational studies have found that children living in households that use gas stoves are 42 percent more likely to have asthma.

In December 2022, CPSC issued a recall on a specific gas stove product that was found to be a serious risk of injury or death from carbon monoxide poisoning.

H.R. 1615 would prohibit CPSC from using its rulemaking authority to ban all such hazardous products to protect to Americans.

As the Chairman of the CPSC explained earlier this year, the Commission does not have a proceeding to ban gas stoves but is researching gas stoves and exploring ways to address health risks.

The Republicans' bill peddles the lie that the Biden Administration is attempting to ban gas stoves, but the facts simply are not on their side.

H.R. 1615 will stifle scientific investigation into health hazards and create bad precedent when it comes to protecting our children from health and safety hazards.

Protecting and improving the health and well-being of our children should not be a partisan issue.

On a bipartisan basis, we should be encouraging the CPSC to explore all allegations that appliances or other consumer products put our children's health at risk and give the CPSC more, not fewer, tools for eliminating or mitigating safety risks they uncover.

It is unconscionable to limit the CPSC's options for addressing the potential risks of gas stoves—a product found in homes across America—before the CPSC has fully explored the risks posed by gas stoves and potential solutions.

Efficiency standards are not bans.

Republicans are deliberately misleading the American public to prevent the Department of Energy (DOE) from fulfilling its statutory obligations and finalizing an efficiency standard that will save consumers money.

H.R. 1640 prohibits the Secretary of Energy from finalizing or enforcing a February 2023 proposed rule that would improve the efficiency of electric and gas stoves, ultimately saving families money on their energy bills.

The Republicans' bill simply peddles the lie that the Biden Administration is attempting to

ban gas stoves, but the facts simply are not on their side.

DOE cannot ban gas stoves. DOE is simply proceeding with a Congressionally mandated efficiency standard.

The proposed efficiency standard will save Americans money through lower energy bills while cutting harmful indoor air pollution that disproportionately impacts children's health.

DOE's proposed rule is one of their statutorily required standards—and it follows years of inaction and missed statutorily mandated standards deadlines by the Trump Administration.

In the Fall of 2020, multiple organizations and states filed lawsuits asserting Trump's DOE was in violation of deadlines for the review of 25 of its energy conservation standards.

This Republican bill doubles down on that legacy by obstructing DOE from doing what Congress and a court settlement have required it to do.

Republicans' fearmongering over gas stoves is nothing more than a cheap political stunt designed to scare consumers and protect their fossil fuel friends.

H.R. 1640 prioritizes profits for Big Oil and Gas over the health and economic well-being of everyday Americans.

Efficiency standards save Americans money, while the Republicans' bill will only increase energy costs for Americans and pad the pockets of their fossil fuel friends.

Republicans' scare tactics include pushing a false narrative about how "96 percent of gas stoves on the market don't meet the proposed standard."

This is simply not true.

This deliberate fearmongering is the result of Republicans purposefully misrepresenting DOE data to serve their own political goals.

The statistic Republicans are referencing comes from a DOE test of high-end models that they anticipated would not meet the standard. The test, by design, was not representative of the entire market.

The truth is, nearly half of products on the market today are already in compliance with the proposed rule, including all entry level models.

In a testament to just how far Republicans are willing to go to prop up their polluter friends, H.R. 1640 goes beyond an amendment offered by Rep. PALMER (R-AL) that was added to H.R. 1 by significantly limiting future DOE rulemaking.

This bill does not include a sunset clause—it could forever limit DOE from taking substantive action to improve the energy efficiency of Americans' cooktops.

While the Palmer Amendment would prevent DOE from moving forward with one standard related to cooktop efficiency, H.R. 1640 goes even further by amending the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to restrict DOE from taking similar action in the future.

This bill sets a bad precedent that polluters could seek to exploit.

DOE is already prohibited from banning products based on their fuel source, but H.R. 1640 adds yet another hurdle: it requires DOE to prove that a conservation standard is not likely to result in the unavailability of a product based on the fuel it consumes.

This added condition could significantly weaken and slow down DOE's ability to issue future energy conservation standards.

DOE's proposed energy efficiency standard for gas and electric stoves is smart, common-sense policy that would cut pollution, improve Americans' health, and lower energy bills. And it can be achieved using readily available design changes.

DOE's commonsense proposal will benefit Americans' health and pocketbooks.

DOE estimates the proposal will: Save consumers as much as \$1.71 billion and slash nearly 22 million metric tons of carbon dioxide and 245 thousand tons of methane.

These benefits would come without imposing any undue burdens on manufacturers.

DOE's proposed rule gives manufacturers three years after the date of the rule's publication to comply.

Nearly half of products on the market today are already in compliance with the proposed rule, and there are readily available design changes available for those that don't.

Energy efficiency standards are popular: three out of five Americans support stricter energy efficiency standards for appliances and buildings.

It is time we stop the negativity and counterproductive efforts that are ripping apart our country, and to instead focus on coming together to work towards sensible and effective solutions that can work for the betterment and growth of our country.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2023

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, due to an illness, I was unable to attend votes on June 14, 2023.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 257; YEA on Roll Call No. 258; NAY on Roll Call No. 259; NAY on Roll Call No. 260; NAY on Roll Call No. 261; YEA on Roll Call No. 262; YEA on Roll Call No. 263; NAY on Roll Call No. 264; YEA on Roll Call No. 265; NAY on Roll Call No. 266; NAY on Roll Call No. 267; YEA on Roll Call No. 268; and NAY on Roll Call No. 269.

#### RECOGNIZING BRIAN KEITH

##### HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Battalion Chief Brian Keith for his 24 years of service with the Dearborn Fire Department in Michigan's 12th District Strong.

Battalion Chief Keith began his career as a firefighter with the Dearborn Fire Department in 1999. Over the past 24 years, he has served in numerous roles and has remained steadfast in his commitment to service and keeping our communities safe. Battalion Chief Keith has been recognized many times over the course of his career in Dearborn for his exemplary record, including lifesaving, valor and for his military service. He has also been awarded the esteemed John D. Dingell Medal of Freedom Memorial Commendation in 2019.

Please join me in recognizing Battalion Chief Brian Keith for his 24 years of out-

standing service to the people of Dearborn in Michigan's 12th District Strong as we wish him well in his retirement.

#### CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF JOE BARRON

##### HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2023

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Joe Barron on his retirement from Kennywood, an amusement park in West Mifflin, Pennsylvania, where he worked for over 50 years.

In 1972, Mr. Barron began working in the games department at Kennywood at 16 years old. Two years later, Joe met a new hire, Peggy, while staffing a Skee-Ball machine. She would later become his wife.

Joe's distinguished career at Kennywood included rising to Human Resources Director in the personnel department and serving as Human Resources Chairman of the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions for years.

For 51 years, nearly every employee hired at Kennywood has had the pleasure of working alongside Mr. Barron, including his own children—and me as a teenager. As the years and management changed, Joe remained a staple at the park, driving to preserve the park's status and cultural significance to the greater Pittsburgh area. His deep respect and interest in the lives of the park's staff undoubtedly fostered the family-friendly atmosphere experienced by his colleagues and all who visit the park. Kennywood will sorely miss Joe's leadership and kind-spiritedness.

Mr. Speaker, Joe Barron's innumerable contributions to the success of Kennywood and its staff are an inspiring example of the rewards of hard work, dedication to one's profession, and service to others. On behalf of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I congratulate Mr. Barron on his retirement and wish him continued success in the next chapter of his life.

#### RECOGNIZING U.S. COAST GUARD SECTOR SAULT SAINTE MARIE

##### HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2023

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Captain Anthony R. Jones and Captain James R. Bendle of U.S. Coast Guard Sector Sault Sainte Marie. Captain Jones will be relieved by Captain Bendle on Friday, June 23, at their Change of Command Ceremony. Since beginning his time as Sector Commander of USCG Sector Sault Sainte Marie in July of 2020, Captain Jones has overseen and protected over 1,850 miles of shoreline and 560 miles of border between the United States and Canada. His expertise and exceptional work over the past few years have allowed the station to navigate everchanging weather, obstacles, and needs from the public—and for that I am grateful.

Leading more than 750 active duty, reserve, civilian, and supplemental personnel, Captain