

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CUSTOM HEALTH OPTION AND INDIVIDUAL CARE EXPENSE ARRANGEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3799) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for health reimbursement arrangements integrated with individual health insurance coverage.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 3799, which makes two substantial changes to health coverage policy, both of which are very harmful to workers.

H.R. 3799 aims to codify a Trump Administration rule on Individual Coverage Health Reimbursement Accounts (ICHRA) and rename them "CHOICE" accounts.

While this bill certainly allows employers to make choices, it also allows employers to discriminate against certain employees.

First, H.R. 3799 could circumvent Affordable Care Act (ACA) protections on pre-existing conditions, lifetime and annual limits, and preventive care.

This legislation describes individual market coverage but does not explicitly reference the code in defining an individual health insurance plan that requires the ACA market protections like pre-existing conditions protections.

The policy is intended to allow plans that are unable to selffund with adequate reserves to instead purchase a high level of stop-loss insurance.

Lack of adequate reserves leave many of these plans, and their enrollees, at risk since stop-loss insurers often retain the right to drop the insurance if medical costs for the group begin to climb.

This is not a stable form of coverage.

Secondly, this bill leaves room for employers to offer less coverage through ICHRA to lower income workers, hourly workers, or seasonal workers, reserving better coverage for executives.

The mere offer of an ICHRA may leave employees worse off.

For example, an employee who has an offer of an "affordable" HRA is prevented from accessing premium tax credits in the marketplace.

A Brookings analysis found that allowing employers to offer IHRAs alongside a traditional group health insurance plan could increase marketplace premiums by 16 percent to 93 percent.

This offer hurts lower-wage workers where they would otherwise be able to find more affordable coverage in the marketplace and could lead to higher premiums and out-of-pocket costs than under ACA coverage for the employee.

We have seen this from Republicans before, using policies to make the marketplace risk pool weaker, instead of more robust.

Overall, this bill makes it easy for employers to target workers with higher health costs, sending them to the individual market with a voucher.

Republicans once again, are putting wealth before health.

We must work together to mitigate these concerns and include important safeguards that protect employees from discrimination.

Every American is entitled to affordable healthcare, and we must ensure that every American can make the best health care choices for their families.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIONVILLE-SEBEWAING AREA PATRIOTS ON THEIR FOURTH CONSECUTIVE STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt congratulations to the Unionville-Sebewaing Area Patriots on their fourth consecutive state softball championship, which also marks their ninth overall title. The unmatched dedication, skill, and determination of these incredible athletes have once more brought great pride to our community.

This team's triumph not only further solidifies their place as champions, but also sets a new standard of excellence for future athletes to follow. The Patriots' commitment to their craft, their tireless hours of practice, and their winning sportsmanship have certainly propelled them to this fantastic achievement.

As we celebrate this resounding victory, we must also remember that this victory extends far beyond the field. Behind this team, there are incredibly dedicated and supportive coaches, teachers, friends, and families.

It is no small feat to achieve victory once, let alone four straight times. This team has continuously showcased their resilience, winning spirit, and tireless dedication, and it is no doubt that this mindset led to yet another victory.

On behalf of Michigan's 9th Congressional District, I extend my most sincere congratulations to the Unionville-Sebewaing Area Patriots and to all the coaches and families who have helped build this outstanding record.

CELEBRATING THE BIENNIAL MEETING OF THE 4TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church is one of the oldest and most influential African-American denominations in the United States. The roots of the AME Church can be traced back to the late 18th century during a time of intense racial segregation and discrimination in the United States. The institution of slavery was deeply entrenched, and African Americans faced severe restrictions in practicing their faith within predominantly white churches.

In 1787, Richard Allen, a former slave and preacher, along with other black Methodist worshippers, formed the Free African Society in Philadelphia. The society aimed to provide spiritual support, education, and assistance to African Americans in the city.

The AME Church convenes regular conferences and conventions at various levels within its organizational structure, of which the Biennial is one. The Biennial Meeting of the Connectional Lay Organization is done every two years. The Lay Organization of the AME Church is commissioned to teach, train, and empower its members for lay ministry, global leadership, and service following the tenets of Jesus Christ.

Located in the 7th Congressional District of Illinois, the 4th Episcopal District Connectional Lay Organization of the AME Church will host two conventions in Chicago from June 25–30, 2023: the 81st Annual Connectional Lay Organization Meeting, and the 38th Connectional Lay Biennial Convention. Their theme is: "Living A Global Witness Ministry that Transforms, Transcends and Liberates".

I salute the work of the Connectional Lay Organization under the leadership of: Bishop Stafford J.N. Wicker, Commission Chair and newly-elected Council of Bishops President; Bishop John Franklin White, Host Bishop; Mrs. Penny H. White, Episcopal Supervisor; Matikane Abe Makiti, President of the Connectional Lay Organization of the AME Church; Mrs. Patricia Wright, Connectional Director of Lay Activities; Ms. Jameshia Williams, Connectional Young Adult Representative; Mr. Jerry Turner, Jr., 4th District Episcopal President; Mr. Michael A. Cousin, Jr., 4th District Episcopal Director of Lay Activities; and Mr. Terrence Sanford, 4th District Episcopal Young Adult Representative.

I welcome the participants of the Biennial Meeting of the 4th Episcopal District Connectional Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church to the 7th Congressional District of Illinois, and I wish them much success.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I missed Roll Call No. 140. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

HONORING DANA GERSHON

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the leadership of Dana Gershon, whose term as Board President of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) comes to an end on June 30th. She has helped to navigate and grow the organization despite a tenure that coincided with COVID. She is a dedicated, tireless, and passionate advocate for women, children, and families who has represented the organization to world leaders including President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, and Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff. Dana has guided the organization through our Jewish values of b'tzelem Elohim, we are all created in G-d's image; kavod ha bri'ot, respect and dignity for all and tzedek tirdof, the pursuit of justice. These values inform her perspective, inspire her efforts, and drive her work to ensure everyone has the full range of health care, enough to eat, and a safe place to call home; in which we can all each achieve financial security while caring for our health and family; in which every young person is affirmed at school, gets unbiased information about their health, and is safe; that no matter who we are or where we are from, we all can access education, economic opportunities, and a court system committed to justice for all; and in which our democracy is strong and stable.

Dana has been a leader and trusted partner of mine, organizing grassroots advocacy efforts for critical legislative priorities, including the Abortion is Health Care Everywhere Act, the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Package, the Immigrant Safety and Empowerment (WISE) Act, the Violence Against Women Act, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the Enhanced Background Checks Act, the assault weapons ban and countless other initiatives that would enhance equity and social justice.

Dana Gershon has been a social justice activist and leader in the Jewish community since high school. A graduate of Combined Jewish Philanthropy's (CJP) Acharai program, Dana held a number of leadership positions during the nearly twenty years that she and her family lived in Boston: she served as President of the Board of Trustees of the Rashi School (the Boston area Reform Jewish Day School) from 2010–2012 and was Co-Chair CJP's Boston-Haifa Connection. Dana was instrumental in the founding of Parents at the Center in Haifa, Israel, early intervention for underserved children and their families. She has been a Director on the national board of NCJW since 17, and is a member of the Executive Council of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Dana's work has been expansive and impactful and I thank her for her collaboration and best in her future endeavors.

**CONGRATULATING BEN F. KOLB
MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR EARNING
HISTORIC STATE AND NATIONAL
RECOGNITION IN THE SCHOOLS
TO WATCH PROGRAM**

HON. PETE AGUILAR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ben F. Kolb Middle School students, teachers and administrators by congratulating them on being nationally recognized in the Schools to Watch Program, Kolb Middle School, located in the City of Rialto, was one of 36 new California schools selected in the Schools to Watch program in 2023.

The Schools to Watch program recognizes schools that demonstrate a strong commitment to academic excellence, foster positive school culture and support holistic student development. Schools chosen for this prestigious award are high-performing, model schools that demonstrate responsiveness to the needs of young students, social equity and exceptional academic performance.

Today, I offer my hearty congratulations to former Principal Armando Urteaga and his dedicated staff for their commitment to their students for not only developing a well-rounded academic curriculum, but also providing Social-Emotional Learning support. By ensuring their students develop healthy identities, learn how to manage their emotions and make responsible and caring decisions, Kolb Middle School has allowed Rialto students to thrive.

I'm incredibly proud of the hard work of our Kolb Cougars and celebrate the accomplishments of all the California schools recognized as Schools to Watch this year.

HONORING PERRY MILLER

HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mrs. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Perry Miller, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Capital Region Airport Commission, which owns and operates the Richmond International Airport.

Perry is an airport executive with a distinguished career spanning three decades. He graduated from Texas Southern University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Airway Science and a Master of Science degree in Transportation Planning and Management. Perry began his airport career with the Houston Airport System, where he spent 25 years serving in several capacities that are critical to the smooth functioning of our Nation's airports, including airport operations, maintenance, properties management, and business development. His positions there included Airport Manager of Ellington Airport, Airport Manager of William P. Hobby Airport, and Interim Manager of George Bush Intercontinental Airport.

In 2015, Perry became the Chief Operating Officer of the Jackson Municipal Airport Au-

thority in Jackson, Mississippi. In 2019, Virginia was fortunate to have Perry accept the position of President and Chief Executive Officer of the Capital Region Airport Commission. In the four years since he has been there, Perry has successfully led the Richmond International Airport through the COVID crisis, has worked to increase the level of air service for the Capital Region, and has undertaken a comprehensive infrastructure program to meet our region's current and growing needs.

In recognition of Perry's distinguished career, his peers in the airport community previously elected him to serve on the Board of Directors of the American Association of Airport Executives, the world's largest professional organization for airport executives. Founded in 1928, AAAE has 9,000 members from more than 800 airports.

Most recently, Perry became the Chair of AAAE, the highest volunteer leadership position within this prestigious national organization. Achieving this senior position is clear testimony to Perry's distinguished career in the airport community, the high regard his fellow airport executives have for him, his high level of professional achievement, and his dedication to public service.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Perry Miller on this significant accomplishment. We are grateful for his many contributions to our Nation's aviation system and look forward to his continued contributions in the years ahead.

**EMPLOYER REPORTING
IMPROVEMENT ACT**

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3801, the Employer Reporting Improvement Act.

This bill streamlines reporting requirements for small businesses when it comes to health insurance coverage information.

This bill will reduce administrative burdens and make it easier for businesses to comply with the Affordable Care Act.

More specifically, it permits employers to electronically file certain documents related to employees' health coverage if the employee has previously agreed to electronic statements.

The bill further streamlines reporting by allowing employers the option to use covered individuals' full name and date of birth if the employer is unable to collect the covered individuals' taxpayer identification number.

Currently, small businesses can be left in limbo by the IRS, sometimes for years, without knowing whether they correctly filed their health insurance coverage information.

The Employer Reporting Improvement Act reins in the IRS' ability to penalize American small businesses and gives them peace of mind that they won't be unfairly hit with a penalty.

Thanks to these streamlined procedures, small businesses will now have more time to focus on running their business, providing opportunities for their employees, expanding their business, and serving their customers.

In my home district of Houston, nearly 97 percent of the region's businesses are considered small businesses.