

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I rise today to include in the RECORD the following quotes from numerous non-profit, faith-based, and advocacy organizations expressing their national security concerns with the House Republicans' 2024 State and Foreign Operations spending plans:

The Global Health Council, together with 70+ additional organizations, stated the following:

Global Health Council and 70+ Organizations

"As a community of global health and development advocates, we are deeply concerned with the steep cuts being proposed to the House State and Foreign Operations and Related Programs (SFOPS) budget at a time when the world is facing concurrent destabilizing events, such as the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, further instability and food insecurity caused by the war in Ukraine, and the continuous threat of emerging infectious diseases.

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 budget being proposed by the House Appropriations SFOPS Subcommittee falls woefully short of the resources needed to address these converging crises and severely undercuts critical global health and humanitarian assistance programs, which are a key component of how the U.S. engages with the world. According to the U.S. Agency for International Development, these cuts would reverse gains made to combat infectious diseases, including through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), programs to prevent maternal and childhood deaths, and funds to support health workers and global health security.

This bill is a dangerous signal to the rest of the world that the U.S. is ceding leadership on the global stage. . . ."

The Catholic Relief Services released the following statement (excerpt):

Catholic Relief Services Executive Vice President Bill O'Keefe

"Recognizing we are a blessed nation, strong bipartisan majorities have long supported humanitarian and development aid that has saved millions of lives, contributed to greater stability and rolled back global health threats, such as HIV. The House's current proposal is a departure from this legacy and threatens the lives of many around the world as well as our national security."

The United States Global Leadership Coalition (USGLC) released the following statements:

Former Secretary of Defense Dr. Mark T. Esper

"America's leadership in the world cannot be left to doubt. When we don't lead, we create a vacuum that will be filled instead by China, which has only increased its spending on defense, diplomacy, and development.

America's leadership means more than just military capability; diplomacy and foreign assistance are part of it too. This proposed budget would upend that relationship by gutting our civilian toolkit and depriving America of the diplomatic leadership whose benefits I have seen last a lifetime."

Admiral James Stavridis

"Senior military leaders have seen firsthand around the world the risks of instability to national security, and we know that responding to these threats requires more than just a strong military. Significant cuts to our nation's civilian national security toolkit in the International Affairs Budget would chart a dangerous course for the United States at this pivotal moment."

USGLC President and CEO Liz Schrayner

"Cutting nearly one-third of America's footprint in the world would be dangerous to our national security and economic interests—undermining America's ability to compete and win on the global stage while ceding influence to China. If enacted, this would be the lowest funding level for our diplomacy and development toolbox in a generation at a time when America is facing the greatest threats since the Cold War. . . ."

The American Jewish Committee stated the following (excerpt):

American Jewish Committee

"We are concerned by drastic cuts to the proposed FY24 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs (SFOPS) appropriations bill. At just 1% of the federal budget, the international affairs budget is a strategic investment that advances America's interests around the world. Strong, principled American leadership in global affairs is the best protection for our national security interests, the preservation and advancement of democratic values and human dignity, and the security of our closest allies."

InterAction released the following statement (excerpt):

InterAction

"The proposed inadequate funding levels will forcefully cut short life-saving programs and weaken the United States' position as a global leader. The lack of investment compels nations, including American allies, to seek alternative solutions, accumulate more debt, or worse, go without life-saving support. As a result, the most vulnerable people will face heightened risks, leading to a more unstable world and diminishing the influence of America."

The ONE Campaign released the following statement (excerpt):

President of The ONE Campaign Tom Hart

"Foreign assistance, especially development funding, is an incredibly important tool to advance America's foreign policy, national security, and economic priorities. It is not a handout—it is a strategic investment that can lift millions out of poverty, turn the tide against deadly diseases, strengthen our economy, and make America safer. These shortsighted cuts will have long-term consequences, jeopardize our investments, and hurt the American taxpayer."

The Christian Connections for International Health released the following statement (excerpt):

Christian Connections for International Health

"Christian Connections for International Health (CCIH) is alarmed and extremely disappointed that the House Appropriations

Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations is proposing to drastically reduce funding to life-saving programs. We believe this abandons the U.S. leadership role on the global stage and undermines decades of progress toward sustainable health."

CARE USA released the following statement (excerpt):

CARE

"CARE is deeply disturbed by the House Subcommittee-passed version of the FY24 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations (SFOPS) bill. This legislation would gut the foreign assistance allocation by over 30% at a time when the U.S. presence in the world is vital, we have the worst global hunger crisis in decades, and record levels of mass migration.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESIDENCY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Commission of Fine Arts District of Columbia Residency Act. This bill would require that a majority of the members of the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) be District of Columbia residents.

Under federal law and presidential executive orders (EOs), the CFA has review authority for federal property in D.C., certain military property, certain coins and medals, D.C.-owned parks and buildings and certain private land in D.C. Under the relevant EOs, CFA has review authority for the design of D.C.-owned parks and buildings. Under the Shipstead-Luce Act, CFA has review authority for the design of private buildings in D.C. "adjacent to public buildings and grounds of major importance," such as Rock Creek Park and the Potomac riverfront. Under the Old Georgetown Act, the CFA has review authority for the design of private buildings in the part of Georgetown referred to as "Old Georgetown" in the act.

Residency requirements for certain government positions are found in federal, state and D.C. law, including for members of the National Capital Planning Commission. The primary reason such laws exist is so that government officials have a connection to the residents they serve and in-depth knowledge of the unique issues and challenges faced by residents.

I have also introduced the Commission of Fine Arts District of Columbia Home Rule Act, which would remove the authority of the CFA over non-federal real property in D.C. However, while the CFA maintains that authority, a majority of the members should be D.C. residents.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

• 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. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2023

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I voted in favor of Roll Call No. 507, H.R. 4368, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2024, in order for the appropriations process to move forward. However, I do have some concerns about certain provisions and cuts in the underlying bill. Watershed programs, rural energy and broadband grants, and water and wastewater projects are just a few programs that are of vital importance to my district and need adequate funding. As the appropriations process continues, I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure the needs of rural America are met.

RECOGNIZING INTERNATIONAL
PLASMA AWARENESS WEEK**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2023

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and support International Plasma Awareness Week (IPAW), October 2–6, both in the United States and around the world. Patients across the globe rely on medicines made from donated human plasma to lead productive, healthy lives. The need for plasma donation is ongoing—plasma is the starting ingredient for numerous lifesaving therapies to treat individuals living with rare diseases. This week, patients, plasma donors, and plasma donation centers will join together to raise global awareness of the crucial need for plasma, recognize the contributions of plasma donors, and call attention to the many rare diseases treated with plasma protein therapies.

Donors and patients alike will observe IPAW through a range of events seeking to enhance awareness of plasma-derived therapies and recombinant analogs, collectively known as plasma protein therapies. These are unique biologic medicines that are either infused or injected to treat a variety of rare, life-threatening, chronic, and genetic diseases. This includes bleeding disorders, hereditary angioedema, immune deficiencies, pulmonary disorders, neurological disorders, and infectious diseases such as tetanus, hepatitis, and rabies.

Plasma protein therapies have significantly improved the quality of life, markedly improved patient outcomes, and extended the life expectancy of patients across the country. Healthy, committed donors provide the human plasma essential to manufacture these lifesaving therapies. There are now over 1,100 plasma collection centers in the U.S. that have demonstrated their commitment to donor safety and quality by earning International Quality Plasma Program (IQPP) certification.

As the co-chair of the Rare Disease Congressional Caucus, I understand that hundreds of thousands of Americans with rare diseases rely on plasma protein therapies that are only available because of the commitment of dedicated plasma donors. For example, Americans

living with primary immunodeficiencies (PI) require intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) treatments derived from plasma donors. Without timely care, even the most common infections can present the risk of serious illness or death for these patients. That is why I introduced the PI Post Acute Access Act, which would expand access to IVIG treatment for Medicare beneficiaries with PI in skilled nursing facilities. I have long advocated to ensure access to IVIG treatments, and I will continue to fight to ensure all Americans, including rare disease patients, have access to the innovative treatments they need.

I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me and rise in commemoration of International Plasma Awareness Week, honoring those committed donors and donation centers that make and collect needed and lifesaving contributions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to a viral infection, and on my physician's advice and wanting to keep my colleagues healthy, I was unable to cast votes on final passage of the following bills. Had I been present, I would have voted YES on:

Final Passage of H.R. 5225, the Spending Reduction and Border Security Act (Roll Call No. 511); Final Passage of H.R. 4368, the Fiscal Year 2024 Agriculture Appropriations Act (Roll Call No. 507); Final Passage of H.R. 4367, the Fiscal Year 2024 Homeland Security Appropriations Act (Roll Call No. 505); Final Passage of H.R. 4365, the Fiscal Year 2024 Defense Appropriations Act (Roll Call No. 502); and Final Passage of H.R. 4665, the Fiscal Year 2024 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Act (Roll Call No. 500).

Had I been present, I would have voted NO on:

Final Passage of H.R. 5692, making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024 (Roll Call No. 503), and Final Passage of H.R. 5860, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 and Other Extensions Act (Roll Call No. 513).

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA COURTS HOME
RULE ACT**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Courts Home Rule Act. This bill would give the Council of the District of Columbia authority over the jurisdiction and organization of the local D.C. courts. The D.C. Home Rule Act (HRA) expressly prohibits the Council from enacting any law with respect to any title 11 of the D.C. Code, which relates to the jurisdiction and organization of the local D.C. courts. Congress can correct this injustice to D.C. residents,

who pay all federal taxes, by amending the HRA, even before D.C. becomes the 51st state.

Fifty years after passage of the HRA, matters involving the local D.C. courts almost never come to Congress, so Congress knows virtually nothing about D.C.'s local courts—and could not care less. Notwithstanding the importance of D.C.'s local courts to D.C. residents, the Council, which is the repository of knowledge and experience for D.C.'s criminal and civil justice systems and the body accountable to D.C. residents, is irresponsibly left on the sidelines while Congress remains the sole entity that may correct flaws in D.C.'s local courts.

Under the HRA, the Council has no authority to “enact any act, resolution, or rule with respect to any provision of title 11 of the District of Columbia Code (relating to organization and jurisdiction of the District of Columbia courts).” Matters in title 11 primarily relate to the rules of criminal and civil procedure, court administration, the branches of the courts, the rules of jury service and admission to the bar. This bill would strike this limitation on the Council's authority.

D.C. has never had authority over its local courts, even when it was responsible for paying for their operations. Under the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997, the federal government assumed the costs for several state-level functions, including the courts. This bill would not change the courts' funding. This bill also would not change the authority of the President to nominate, or the Senate to confirm, local D.C. judges, which has been within their purview since the creation of the modern local court system in 1970.

This bill is an important step to increase democratic self-government for D.C. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HIGHLIGHTING THE HISTORY OF
INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL POLI-
CIES**HON. SHARICE DAVIDS**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2023

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud member of the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin. I believe a big part of my role as a Native woman in Congress is to simply educate my colleagues about our federal governments' relationship and responsibilities to tribes.

That includes the hard histories between the federal government and our Tribal communities—things that can be difficult to face. It would be difficult to find a Native person that has not had the Indian boarding school era impact their families or community.

It is estimated that by 1926, nearly 83 percent of Native children were enrolled in one of at least 367 currently known Indian boarding schools across 30 states. Thousands of our children were torn or coerced from families and communities by the federal government or religious entities to be “assimilated” into American society.

Students at Indian boarding schools were forced to change their entire sense of being with new names, hair, language, and culture.