

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 life-saving 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 POLICIES

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.

During these assimilation practices, many were not able to see their family or speak their language, and even experienced verbal and sexual abuse.

There are so many stories of children that never returned home. Future artists, doctors, language keepers, storytellers, and leaders skipped generations. We still feel those impacts today.

The federal government and our country must do better to acknowledge its legacy and understand the full truth of these policies.

This Congress, I'm working with Congressional Native American Caucus Co-chair TOM COLE on the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States Act. This legislation seeks healing for stolen Native children and their communities.

Originally introduced by now-Secretary Deb Haaland, this bill would establish a formal commission to investigate, document, and acknowledge past injustices of the federal government's Indian Boarding School Policies. This commission is a critical step to allow Native families and communities to begin to heal.

Representative COLE and I are in the process and narrowing down the legislative text and hope to introduce the bill again soon. It received bipartisan support in the past, which shows that our relatives are being seen. And both the House and the Senate held hearings on the bill last Congress, which shows our colleagues are ready to listen.

The importance of fully understanding the impacts of Indian boarding school policies in the United States transcends political lines. And I know that sharing these experiences

and learning the truth is a brave and sometimes hard thing to do.

We hope that in this difficult process, Tribal communities will also support each other physically, mentally, and spiritually. I will continue to amplify the voices of Indian Country in the halls of Congress and encourage my colleagues to join me in that mission.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2023

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 503, I mistakenly voted yea when I intended to vote NO.