

global landscape, Rebecca brings a heightened level of professionalism and acumen to all her efforts.

Just recently, Rebecca became a citizen of the United States. She can now call America her home, and surely, our Nation will be more prosperous because of it. People like Rebecca—those who are devoted to hard work and strive for expertise in their field—continue to make the future of the United States uniquely promising. It is my sincere privilege to congratulate Rebecca Murphy on this recent achievement, among the myriad of successes that she has enjoyed in her career and wish her well in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE INDUCTION OF MR. NINO GREEN

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mr. Nino Green for his dedication to the working men and women of Michigan and to congratulate him on his induction into the Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame.

Nino began his accomplished career as a lawyer in 1964 and soon thereafter was appointed as the first executive director of the Upper Peninsula Legal Services, where he provided free, high quality legal advice and representation for individuals and families in need. In 1969, Mr. Green transitioned to a private practice where he tirelessly worked to defend the rights of Michigan laborers.

A celebrated mediator, Nino Green represented federal employees before the E.E.O.C., Merit System Protection Board, F.A.A., and U.S. Forest Service. He also argued cases before the Michigan Workers Compensation Board, Employment Security Commission, Employment Relations Commission, Civil Service Commission, Department of Civil Rights, and State Employee's Retirement System. In addition, he led negotiations for collective bargaining agreements which settled strikes at St. Francis Hospital in Escanaba, Lodal in Kingsford, and Celotex in L'Anse.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mr. Nino Green for his extensive efforts to protect workers' rights and serve his community. On behalf of Michigan's First Congressional District, I'd like to thank Mr. Green for his devotion to the workers of Northern Michigan and congratulate him on this well-deserved accomplishment.

COMMEMORATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF ETNYRE

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor a remarkable company, Etnyre. Etnyre is a family-owned business which manufactures road equipment in Oregon, Illinois. After many years of successful product innovation and superior customer service, Etnyre is celebrating their 125th anniversary.

Founded in 1898, ED Etnyre & Co was established by Edward Daniel to produce thresh-

er tanks and water tanks. Over the years, ED Etnyre & Co expanded to manufacture road equipment including the bituminous distributor and street flusher that were utilized by our Army, Navy, and Air Force in World War II. In the 1950's, Etnyre expanded to a new location where they continue to operate today as a family-owned business employing four hundred individuals. These individuals, called members, work hard to support, and serve Etnyre's mission, values, and the surrounding region's vitality.

Etnyre has a lengthy history of contributing to the betterment of their community and others in the area. In 2018, the Etnyre Foundation was established. The goal of the Etnyre Foundation is to give back to communities that have contributed to Etnyre's success by providing grants to organizations in the Etnyre International Footprint. The Etnyre Foundation has provided \$300,000 in grants since 2018.

I commend Etnyre for their innovative product development, community philanthropy, and successful company growth in Illinois. I extend my sincere congratulations to Etnyre for a successful 125 years in business, and I wish them continued success.

RECOGNITION OF MS. KAY FISCHER

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the remarkable life of Ms. Kay Fischer of Benzie County and wish her a most joyous 100th birthday. Ms. Fischer has led an inspiring and full life of service, including as an integral member of the Manhattan Project.

In 1943, the Michigander and her husband moved to Chicago, where she began work at the University of Chicago in the chemistry department. As a young scientist, Ms. Fischer worked across multiple programs within her department, lending her expertise, diligence, and grit to her colleagues and the country. She proudly worked alongside the brightest minds of the 20th century, including Dr. Robert J. Oppenheimer, Dr. Enrico Fermi, and Dr. Leo Szilard.

Ms. Fischer's work also extended to the study of the effects of radiation on organic matter. She was responsible for conducting autopsies and reporting on the results of sustained exposure to radiation, an inquiry which ultimately influenced the deployment of the first atomic bomb. After leaving this line of secret research, she recalled a few months later listening on the radio as the United States had dropped the result of her work above Hiroshima.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Ms. Kay Fischer for her steadfast commitment to her country. I wish her a birthday full of joy and reflection on the many wonderful memories and milestones in her impactful life. On behalf of Michigan's First District, I wish her and her family the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING ANDY FLICK FOR THREE YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. SETH MOULTON

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of Andy Flick, who served as my Deputy Chief of Staff from 2015 to 2018.

You might think a deputy chief of staff is someone you "take under your wing," but from day one, Andy took me under his. When I began my service in the House on that first day, I did not know what the bells meant, did not know how to actually vote, and I couldn't find my pin. Andy was there to help and guide, to mentor and advise, every step of the way.

In those first three years of serving together, Andy helped make me the most productive Freshman Democrat. We held more town hall meetings than any other Democrat in Congress, House or Senate, and we built a constituent services operation that would soon win awards across Congress. Andy Flick was the most experienced Hill hand on my team, and we couldn't have done it without him.

Best of luck to Andy in his continued rise. I feel fortunate to be his friend.

RECOGNIZING THE UNMET NEED IN RARE DISEASE

HON. A. DREW FERGUSON, IV

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the unmet need in rare disease. Less than 5 percent of rare diseases have a Food and Drug Administration-approved treatment. For families affected by many of these diseases that lack such treatments, the suffering is exponential. Fortunately, advances in biomedical research based on the human genome is creating hope for millions of Americans affected by life-threatening genetic disorders.

Gene therapy, which in many instances are single treatment course interventions, is now a reality to either satisfy this unmet need or improve the standard of care for conditions that have had treatment options. Since 2019, FDA has approved gene therapies for spinal muscular atrophy, biallelic RPE65 mutation-associated retinal dystrophy, cerebral adrenoleukodystrophy, beta thalassemia, hemophilia A and B, Duchenne muscular dystrophy, and dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa. Estimates suggest that FDA is likely to approve another 20 gene therapies for rare genetic disorders by 2030.

Georgia is playing a leading role in this rapid innovation as well as its ultimate access. For example, Emory University Hospital in Atlanta is a clinical trial site for a sickle cell disease gene therapy that is currently under review for marketing authorization at FDA, as well as gene therapies for Fabry disease, phenylketonuria, and hemophilia. The Hemophilia of Georgia Center for Bleeding and Clotting Disorders at Emory will be a site for the administration of the most recently FDA-approved gene therapy. ROCTAVIAN, which is

indicated for adults with severe hemophilia A, is an outpatient infusion in which a functioning factor VIII gene is transferred to the patient's liver to allow for the patient to produce normal levels of factor VIII on their own. Prior to this treatment option, severe hemophilia A patients exclusively required prophylactic disease management, which is extraordinarily expensive and currently consists of infusions of blood clotting factors three times per week or weekly injections of monoclonal antibodies. This gene therapy is expected to significantly reduce this burden, improve health outcomes, and save millions of dollars per patient.

As a member of the GOP Doctors Caucus, I am concerned that payors, particularly Medicaid plans, may hide behind flawed coverage criteria recommended by state pharmacy and therapeutics committees or drug use review boards because of the cost of gene therapy. That simply should not be the case. Patients must have access to this innovation. Indeed, if a medical professional prescribes a medicine for an individual patient and attests to its medical necessity for such individual, all payors, including Medicaid, should pay for it without subjecting it to step therapy or placing any other restriction relating to the use or prescribing of such drug, unless such requirements or limitations are specified in the "Indication and Usage" section of its label. With Georgia recently establishing a rare disease advisory council (RDAC), it is my hope that the patients, caregivers, clinicians, scientists, and officials comprising the council will be able to appropriately ensure this access by influencing Medicaid drug coverage policies, among other important objectives regarding rare disease family needs.

The "medical necessity" of a rare disease therapy should be determined by the prescriber, not the state Medicaid plan. Timely access to prescribed therapies for these pa-

tients is consistent with the mission of Georgia's RDAC and should also be a goal for us in Congress, especially considering the unmet need already affecting the community. Timely access to therapy is especially critical in rapidly progressing, fatal pediatric disorders, such as cerebral adrenoleukodystrophy, Batten disease, cystic fibrosis, Hunter syndrome, metachromatic leukodystrophy, Sanfilippo syndrome, and spinal muscular atrophy type 1, conditions that have a limited treatment window, such as achondroplasia, or diseases with painful, life-threatening episodes, such as sickle cell disease, epidermolysis bullosa, and hereditary angioedema. For several of these conditions, FDA either recently approved its first medicine, or are soon expected to approve its first medicine, so access to this innovation without delay must be a priority.

Access to medicine is the lynchpin to driving continued innovation. Without clear pathways to access, the investment in transformative therapies for rare disorders will erode. Complex, fatal genetic disorders with low prevalence will become less attractive for biopharmaceutical engagement if payors continue to limit access and Congress continues to pursue anti-innovation price controls. We must come together to explore solutions that promote access to innovation.

RECOGNIZING THE INDUCTION OF
MR. GREG SEPPANEN

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mr. Gregory J. Seppanen for his induction into the Upper Peninsula Labor Hall

of Fame. Mr. Seppanen dedicated his career to improving the lives of students, advocating for fellow educators, and serving the Upper Peninsula communities.

Mr. Seppanen graduated from Northern Michigan University in 1979 and soon found a passion for serving others. Greg was first appointed to the Marquette County Planning Commission in 1982, where he combined his love for environmental activism with community planning. It was there that Greg learned that collaboration and communication with the community was the key to an effective plan.

Greg began his distinguished career in education in 1986 as a high school counselor and later as a counselor-teacher. Two roles were not enough for Mr. Seppanen, as he also became the building representative for the district's executive board of the Marquette Education Association. He tirelessly worked to better his school, support his fellow educators, and create a welcoming community. Greg retired from an exemplary tenure with Marquette Area Public Schools in 2010.

Supplementing his role as an educator, Mr. Seppanen served on the Marquette County Board of Commissioners and as the Chocolay Township Supervisor. In that capacity, Mr. Seppanen fought extensively to better the communities within his purview and foster collaboration among their citizens. Most recently, Mr. Seppanen returned to Northern Michigan University, this time as an appointee to the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mr. Gregory J. Seppanen for his incredible service to Northern Michigan and induction into the Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame. On behalf of Michigan's First Congressional District, I'd like to thank Mr. Seppanen for his contributions to our community and his dedication to advancing education.