

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

STOP SETTLEMENT SLUSH FUNDS ACT OF 2023

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 788.

H.R. 788 would prevent the Department of Justice from negotiating settlements in court cases to include payments to third parties, such as nonprofits, community organizations, trusts, or foundations. This redirection of funds is especially important in cases when harm is difficult to monetize, such as assessing damage to the environment or unknown health outcomes to individuals resulting from chemical exposures. In these cases, third parties are able to utilize the small portion of settlements they receive to help rectify the harm done by the plaintiff. For example, after the 2010 BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, \$20 million was redirected to groups aiming to restore the health of the Gulf—one way to further remedy the environmental harm caused by BP. It is critical the federal government retains its ability invest in harm remediation while holding bad actors accountable.

Congress should not be undermining the Department of Justice's ability to hold corporations accountable when they do harm to the public. The federal government must retain all its tools in its effort to protect the public interest and enforce our nation's laws. Instead of undermining the ability to settle cases with just outcomes for those impacted, we should be focused on passing legislation that serves the needs of the American people.

PROTECTING U.S. SECTOR INVESTMENTS IN HONDURAS

HON. STEVEN HORSFORD

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2024

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of protections for U.S. private sector investments in Central America, which addresses the root causes of illegal immigration to the United States of America.

In 2023, it was announced that the Government of Honduras would open six new consulates in the United States. They are intended to address the needs of Hondurans who made the dangerous journey to the United States and entered the country illegally. This after-the-fact approach is emblematic of a multilateral failure to deal with the root cause of illegal immigration—a fundamental lack of opportunity in Central America. Once a local economy has failed to provide opportunity, job seekers are forced to look elsewhere to provide for their families. They often come to the U.S., but the battle is lost at this stage. Con-

sulates in foreign land serving those who arrived here due to shortcomings of broken political systems are too little, too late. What do those who emigrate desire most? A secure, well-paying job in their own country.

A thriving domestic private sector provides a job market that allows capable and ready-to-work individuals to support their families. We know this can be done. In fact, in Honduras, it has been proven that U.S. private sector investment, spent wisely and properly deployed, is creating thousands of jobs in the local economy. One prominent example is Honduras Prospera, a U.S.-led developer of special economic zones called ZEDES. Prospera has invested over \$100 million to bring new industries and new opportunities into Honduras. But now the underpinning Honduran constitutional ZEDE-law is under attack by President Xiomara Castro's administration. They are threatening illegal retroactive repeal of the ZEDE law via an illegitimate reshuffling of the country's Supreme Court. We cannot stand by and allow the expropriation of U.S. investment while denying thousands of Hondurans the right to a stable job. And this action violates a 50-year legal stability guarantee under the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR).

Undermining U.S. private sector investment will have significant and lasting negative effects for the Honduran people. Over the past few years, Honduras has confronted both the destruction wrought by Category 4 Hurricanes Eta and Iota, along with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. As Hondurans work to rebuild, ensuring stable U.S. investment will afford Hondurans a fair working environment that provides good economic, educational, health care, labor, and housing opportunities. Better domestic opportunities help to reduce the pressures that lead citizens to irregular migration.

Sustained U.S. investment in Honduras is strongly in our national security interest. After breaking Honduras' alliance with Taiwan and establishing diplomatic ties with China, President Castro recently traveled to China to meet with President Xi Jinping "to jointly plan for the future development" and inaugurate Honduras' embassy in Beijing. The promise of Chinese investment is both a powerful motivator for President Castro and a growing concern for global stability in the region. Preserving and furthering U.S. investment and engagement in Honduras is critical for our national security.

I encourage my fellow Members of Congress to ensure that all hard-working Hondurans who wish to live and work in their country can have the opportunity to do so. So, let's request that U.S. agencies that control American visa access deny these benefits to any Honduran politician or policymaker advocating the expropriation of U.S. assets or investments. Strategic U.S. private sector investment is proving to make Honduras a land of opportunity for Hondurans while alleviating an ever-growing migration crisis here in the U.S.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR HERBERT (HERB) KOHL

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2024

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to extend my deepest condolences to the family and community grieving the loss of the esteemed former United States Senator Herbert Hiken Kohl. Senator Herb Kohl, a notable figure in the political, sporting, and education spheres, passed away on December 27, 2023, at the age of 88.

Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to the union of his Polish Jewish immigrant father, Max Kohl, and his Russian Jewish mother, Mary Kohl. Senator Kohl's humble beginnings trace back to Washington High School. He later earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1956, where he also became a Pi Lambda Phi fraternity member. Continuing his academic pursuits, he obtained a Master of Business Administration degree from Harvard Business School in 1958, concurrently serving in the United States Army Reserve from 1958 to 1964.

Senator Kohl entered the political scene around the 1970s, initially as a donor and fundraiser for then Governor Patrick Lucey. Following Governor Lucey's 1974 inauguration, Senator Kohl assumed a prominent role as the chairman of the Wisconsin Democratic Party (WisDems). Under his leadership, WisDems achieved historic victories in the 1976 election, securing a supermajority in both chambers of the legislature. He remained chairman of WisDems until he resigned at the June 1977 state party convention.

A stalwart public servant, Senator Kohl dedicated four consecutive terms to representing Wisconsin as a U.S. Senator from 1989 to 2013. Notably, he holds the distinction of having an undefeated record in politics, winning all 72 counties in Wisconsin during the 2006 election. His bipartisan approach and commitment to addressing crucial issues earned him respect across party lines.

In addition to his political contributions, Senator Kohl left a permanent mark on the world of sports as the owner of the Milwaukee Bucks in the National Basketball Association. Acquiring the team in 1985, he guided them through challenges and triumphs, demonstrating his commitment to both the local community and the sport of basketball. Under Kohl's stewardship, the Bucks became a source of pride for Milwaukeeans, and his passion for keeping the Bucks in the city of Milwaukee was evident when he pledged \$100 million of his own money to support the construction of what many now know as the Fiserv Forum.

Beyond his political and sports achievements, Senator Kohl's passion extended to

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

uplifting Wisconsinites. A staunch supporter of public education, he funded efforts to bolster public schools, students, and educators in the state. Establishing the Herb Kohl Philanthropies, he recognized students, teachers, and schools with grants to support educational achievement. Since its founding, the Herb Kohl Foundation has distributed over \$20.9 million in grants and scholarships, impacting the lives of over 8,000 individuals and benefiting more than 3,000 schools.

A singular thread unites the various tributes pouring in from the realms of politics, sports, and philanthropy: Senator Herb Kohl's sincere and compassionate demeanor. Colleagues, allies, adversaries, and athletes alike enthusiastically praise him for his boundless generosity, unassuming modesty, and the enduring relationships he fostered throughout his life.

Mr. Speaker, Senator Herb Kohl stood as a beacon of moral principles during a time marked by commercializing professional sports and increasing political polarization. His legacy serves as a poignant reminder of the positive impact one person can make when guided by morality, empathy, and a genuine concern for the well-being of others. Herb Kohl was a man of the people, who truly cared for all Wisconsinites. His footprint on our state will remain forever.

CELEBRATING KOREAN-AMERICAN DAY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Korea, I am grateful to recognize Korean American Day. Celebrated annually on January 13, it commemorates the arrival of the first Korean immigrants on that day in 1903.

In 2003, President George W. Bush, proclaimed January 13, as Korean American Day, and in 2005, the U.S. House and Senate passed resolutions demonstrating their unanimous support for the recognition, and appreciation of the Korean American community.

South Carolina is blessed to be the home of a large and vibrant Korean American population. For almost 20 years, Columbia, South Carolina, has welcomed thousands of people from across the state for their Korean Festival, an experience filled with food, music, dancing, and traditions at the Korean Presbyterian Church on Richland Street.

I was also grateful to have celebrated the 70th Anniversary of the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement on July 27, with Ambassador Hyun-Dong Cho and several members of the Korean National Assembly ruling party, People Power Party Leader, Assemblyman Gi-Hyeon Kim, members of the National Assembly Chul-Gyu Lee, Seok-Ki Kim, Sang-Bum Yoo, Min-Kuk Kang, and Chairman of the International Relations Committee of the People Power Party and former National Assemblyman Jae-Young Lee.

On several occasions, I have had the good fortune of visiting South Korea and have personally experienced the warmth of its people. In 2023, I visited North Korea at Pyongyang and I saw firsthand the contrast of dictatorship

there of darkness in the North as contrasted to the vibrancy of the South.

I am grateful for the vast contributions Korean Americans bring to our community, from business to culture, and to commemorate this day. Their continued success is a tribute to the American Dream fulfilled.

CELEBRATING THE LIVE OAKS CAREER CENTER JROTC CADETS

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2024

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the hard work and dedication of the Live Oaks Career Center JROTC Cadets. Beginning as a local Army JROTC program in 1993 to teach high school students leadership and citizenship classes, the Live Oaks JROTC program has evolved into a nationally recognized leadership and citizenship program.

This year, three teams of Live Oaks JROTC Cadets competed against 216 other teams in the U.S. Army Cadet Command Junior ROTC Raider Challenge Championships at Fort Knox. The Live Oaks male and female teams finished first in their divisions, and the coed team came in fifth place. Twenty-eight cadets earned full-ride scholarships to the university of their choice due to their success.

Live Oaks' JROTC Cadets demonstrated incredible tenacity and grit in their championship success, qualities that will serve them well in their southern Ohio communities. I am proud to congratulate them today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2024

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, on January 12, I was unavoidably absent. Had I been present, I would have voted YES on passage of H. R. 839, Roll Call Vote No. 9 and I would have voted NO on passage of H.J. Res 98, Roll Call Vote No. 10.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2024

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 1, and NAY on Roll Call No. 2.

RECOGNIZING FIRE CHIEF EUGENE A. VANCE, III

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2024

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored, humbled, and saddened to posthumously rec-

ognize Steelton Fire Chief, Eugene A. Vance, III.

Upon graduating from Steelton-Highspire High School in 1972, Chief Vance dedicated his life to the service of our communities. As a 35-year veteran of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of General Services, he was a member of the Steelton Baldwin Hose Company No. 4 serving as Firefighter, Foreman, Captain, and Battalion Chief before earning the privilege of becoming Chief of the Steelton Fire Department in 1998. He also served on several Dauphin County volunteer fire companies, the Dauphin County Volunteer Fireman's Association, and County Volunteer Fire Chiefs Association.

Chief Vance retired from his official capacity in 2012, but continued to play a vital role, and his call to duty returned him to the Fire Chief position once again in 2016. He administered countless AED life-saving responses, and earned prestigious awards, honors, and accolades throughout his storied career—to name but a few, in 2012, he earned the Firefighter of the Year and was presented his bugle from the Department, and in 2020, he earned the Craig Webb Memorial Award for Excellence in Fire Service.

Chief Vance's life truly mattered; he made a mark on everyone he met—whether he knew them briefly, personally, professionally, or for a lifetime. He will be dearly missed.

Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to recognize Fire Chief Eugene A. Vance, III for his selfless, tireless, and dedicated service to his family, friends, fellow brave firefighters, our communities, Commonwealth, and United States of America. He is the standard by which we all should be judged. May God bless and keep him.

HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF U.S. ARMY SERGEANT ANDREW PAUL SOUTHARD

HON. ANDY BIGGS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2024

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and service of United States Army Sergeant Andrew Paul Southard.

Andrew was a husband; a father; a son; a brother; an elite Nightstalker with the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment; and a resident of Apache Junction in Arizona's 'Fighting Fifth' District.

Tragically, his life was cut short as one of five Special Operations soldiers aboard a Blackhawk helicopter that went down in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea on Friday, November 10, 2023. His sacrifice, like that of all our courageous fallen, is the culmination of a life of duty and honor.

Andrew was born to Kim and Randy Southard in Spokane, Washington in 1996, and moved to Apache Junction, Arizona at the age of 11. From a young age, he embodied the integrity and compassion instilled in him by his family and tight-knit community. A former high school teacher shared this about Andrew after his passing:

"He didn't do things because he thought people were going to give him gratitude for doing it. He did it because he thought it was right."