

Coach Bowser was well-known for his rousing halftime and pre-game speeches. Yet his strong heart and easy laugh made him beloved by everyone who knew him. Under his leadership, the Bakersfield College football program thrived, and his influence continues to this day.

The hundreds of students and athletes he trained will never forget how Coach Bowser dedicated his life to fostering excellence on and off the field. Aware of the steep climb players face seeking professional football careers, Coach Bowser taught personal life discipline which would set his players up for success beyond football. His interest in the lives of his players both on and off the field makes this loss particularly difficult, serving as a reminder of his unique way of leading strongly but with grace and empathy.

On behalf of the 20th Congressional District, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Coach Bowser's family, the Bakersfield College community, and all who were fortunate enough to have known him.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE ENSURING CHILD HEALTH COVERAGE COMPENSATION IN DIVORCE ACT OF 2024

#### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 13, 2024*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Ensuring Child Health Coverage Compensation in Divorce Act of 2024. This bill would require that when a court directs a non-custodial parent (including a stepparent) to provide health insurance for a child, the other parent may get reimbursed directly from the insurer for any out-of-pocket medical expenses for the child incurred by such parent, regardless of the source of insurance.

In a divorce, one parent is typically court-ordered to provide health insurance for the child. However, the other parent may pay for out-of-pocket medical expenses for the child that are reimbursable by the insurer. Under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, group health insurers are required to directly reimburse a parent who pays for reimbursable out-of-pocket medical expenses when the other parent has been court-ordered to provide health insurance for the child. However, other health insurers are not required to reimburse the other parent directly. This bill would require all health insurers to provide such reimbursement.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF BISHOP D.C. THOMAS

#### HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 13, 2024*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and remember an outstanding constituent from my district who recently passed away; Bishop D.C. Thomas. Bishop Thomas was born and raised in nearby Trenton, New Jersey, and worked tirelessly to positively impact his community for his entire life.

In 1985, Bishop Thomas developed an afterschool program to help elementary and middle school students in Trenton. But his efforts to assist Trenton's younger population did not stop there. Bishop Thomas also started a youth summer camp, which not only provided the children of Trenton with summer activities, but it also ensured that every attendee would be properly fed. Later, Bishop Thomas started a food delivery program that helped families in need. This mobile kitchen provided families throughout Trenton with consistent access to hot meals.

Perhaps Bishop Thomas's most impressive accomplishment is the Christian Home Better Life Development Center. This center began as an uninhabitable home, but through his tireless work, was transformed into a rehabilitation center. Without any subsidies or grants, Bishop Thomas helped over 300 individuals battling drug and alcohol addictions by working to turn their lives around. Today many individuals who once passed through its doors are employed and married with families.

We are eternally grateful for the work that Bishop D.C. Thomas has demonstrated throughout his life and our community is a better place because of his extraordinary service. May he rest in peace.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF THE HONORABLE FRANK W. CHEN

#### HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 13, 2024*

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of the Honorable Frank W. Chen, who passed away on July 18, 2024. Judge Chen formerly served as a commissioner for the Los Angeles County Superior Court in California.

Frank was born in Taipei, Taiwan on November 11, 1963, to his parents William and May Chen. Frank moved to the United States at the age of 4 where he settled in Schenectady, New York and graduated from Mohonassen Senior High School. Following his graduation, Frank attended Stanford University and graduated in 1985 with a bachelor's degree in economics. He went on to graduate from the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law in 1988 and started his career as a litigation attorney in Los Angeles that same year after being admitted to the California State Bar.

Frank met Chen-Yen in December of 1999 and in September 2000, they got married and moved to San Marino, CA. They welcomed their first child, Nathaniel Chen in 2003 and then second child, Natalina Chen in 2005. Anyone who knew Frank knew that his family meant more to him than anything else. He worked tirelessly to support his family first and foremost and to ensure that they could also pursue their passions to the fullest.

Frank is well-known for his pro bono legal work in combating abusive litigation. He received awards for his volunteer work with state and local prosecutors, local elected officials, legislators, and the State Bar of California. In 2003, Frank was named a recipient of California Lawyer Magazine's Attorney of the Year (CLAY). That same year, Frank was a recipient of the Asian Pacific American Legal

Center of Southern California's Pro Bono Service Award for his work in coordinating a unique and sweeping defense to abusive litigation brought by the Trevor Law Group of Beverly Hills.

Since 2005, Frank has been recognized eleven times as a Southern California Super Lawyer and three times in the National Super Lawyers Business Edition. He was also named one of Pasadena Magazine's Top Attorneys from 2010–2018. Frank first became interested in judicial service while working as a volunteer Temporary Judge for the Los Angeles County Superior Court beginning in 2005 where he presided over small claims. In December 2018, Frank was elected by the judges of the Los Angeles Superior Court to become the Los Angeles Superior Court's Court Commissioner. Frank became the Los Angeles Superior Court's third Taiwanese-born judicial officer and was the fifth nationwide.

Frank was also a well-respected leader in his community. He was a former president of the Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association (SCCLA) and the Taiwanese American Lawyers Association (TALA). He served as a trustee of the Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA) and as a board member of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Los Angeles County (APABA). Frank was also a proud blood donor to local American Red Cross blood banks. He also was a supporter of many online musicians within the Twitch music community and greeted audiences for the past three years as a moderator, fan and friend. Frank was also a faithful member of San Marino Community Church where he served as an Elder and recently joined the Chancel Choir with his wife.

He is survived by many loving family members, including his wife Chun-Yen, son Nathaniel, daughter Natalina, parents William and May Chen, brother Henry Chen and sister-in-law Julie, and nephew Matthew and niece Natalie. May his memory serve as an inspiration to all who knew him.

#### CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMHERST H. WILDER FOUNDATION'S COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS SERVICES

#### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 13, 2024*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Amherst H. Wilder Foundation in Saint Paul, Minnesota on its 100th anniversary of providing community mental health and wellness services. For 100 years, this non-profit organization has provided vital and supportive mental health services to children and families in Saint Paul.

Wilder's Child Guidance Clinic was founded in 1924 as one of the first of its kind in the Nation. It is an outpatient psychiatric clinic for children and their families and is nationally acclaimed for its treatment as well as its training center. Serving children who are experiencing emotional distress, it is one of the oldest continuously operated children's clinics in the country.

Currently, Wilder provides outpatient mental health and wellness services for children,

adults, and families, as well as addiction and recovery services for adults at Wilder Community Mental Health & Wellness Clinic—a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) in Minnesota. As a CCBHC, Wilder increases access to community-based mental health and substance use disorder services, especially to underserved communities and serves individuals through in-person and telehealth appointments, regardless of ability to pay. Wilder's diverse team of mental health experts provides culturally appropriate mental health and wellness services that support people and their families. In addition, Wilder delivers mental health and wellness services in schools across Saint Paul and the Twin Cities.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to the caring and dedicated mental health professionals, practitioners, and staff of Amherst H. Wilder Foundation—as well as the people they serve—as they celebrate 100 years of providing critical community mental health and wellness services.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF FOREIGN VESSEL ACCIDENTS ACT

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 13, 2024*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the “Justice for Victims of Foreign Vessel Accidents Act,” with Congressman HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON (D-GA) as the original cosponsor.

For years, I have been working to recapitalize the U.S.-flag international fleet of ocean-going, commercial vessels needed to support our military. I was honored to serve as the top Democrat on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation from 2013 to 2018.

Less than a week after the foreign-flagged *Dalia* collided with the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore Harbor, the vessel's Singapore-based corporate owner filed in the U.S. District Court for Maryland to limit its total liability for the bridge collapse and recovery effort to just \$43.7 million, valuing the vessel at \$90 million. In doing so, the *Dalia's* owner invoked a federal law enacted in 1851, limiting their legal liability for damages to the dollar value of the vessel and its cargo, minus salvage costs. This tragic accident, which killed six and injured two workers on the Francis Scott Key Bridge, calls into serious question why U.S. law affords the owners of vessels flying foreign “flags of convenience” any liability shield.

Foreign-flagged commercial vessels like the *Dalia* are typically registered under the laws of unscrupulous jurisdictions that lack any Navy, Coast Guard, or ability to inspect commercial vessels to ensure safety, prevent environmental degradation, or stop maritime labor abuses. Furthermore, foreign ocean carriers or other vessel owners flying flags of convenience are often domiciled in offshore tax havens. For these reasons and more, U.S.-flag commercial vessels are already at a competitive disadvantage globally. The U.S. judicial system should not protect foreign competitors to the detriment of victims and their families.

That is why our “Justice for Victims of Foreign Vessel Accidents Act” would increase the liability for foreign-flagged vessels to up to 10 times the dollar value of the vessel and its cargo, minus expenses. This would ensure that victims and their families can hold foreign vessel owners accountable in federal court for wrongful death or personal injury claims. Current law only allows compensation for lost wages. Importantly, our bill would maintain the current liability threshold for U.S.-flagged vessels including those compliant with the Jones Act, which unlike foreign-flagged vessels are subject to U.S. law and inspected regularly by the Coast Guard and state regulators. Lastly, our bill would apply the higher liability level for damages by foreign-flagged vessels to March 25, 2024, the night before the Francis Scott Key Bridge's collapse.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the Maryland Delegation and the Biden-Harris Administration's ongoing work to rebuild the Francis Scott Key Bridge with federal funding as quickly as possible. I hope that the House will act swiftly on Congressman KWEISI MFUME's (D-MD) “Baltimore Bridge Response Invests and Delivers Global Economic (BRIDGE) Relief Act” (H.R. 7961). In the meantime, I encourage all Members of the House will join us in cosponsoring this commonsense reform.

#### NEWSLETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN CHUCK EDWARDS

**HON. CHUCK EDWARDS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 13, 2024*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following newsletter to give an update to my constituents on issues surrounding spending bills, healthcare consolidation, and government regulations.

DEAR FRIEND, I'm disappointed that the Do Our Job Act, the bill I introduced to keep us in DC until our budget work is completed, did not get the support it needed and deserved to make it to a committee hearing. But I've learned that many ideas need to be introduced many times before they get traction. Fixing how Washington works will not be easy, so I am undeterred, and I'll continue to push for this reform.

While I enjoy time in the district with my constituents, I would rather be in DC passing the rest of our appropriations bills and avoiding the threat of another government shutdown or continuing resolution.

The Do Our Job Act would have made sure that Congress did not leave for this district work period unless the House passed all 12 annual appropriations bills. While the House Appropriations Committee, which I am a member of, passed all 12 spending bills to be considered by the House, the House has only passed five of these 12 spending bills.

In the nearly five decades that our current appropriations process has been in place, Congress has only passed all 12 bills four times. Four times in almost 50 years. Western North Carolinians and the American people deserve better than an 8 percent success rate for funding our government.

The American people have been far too generous with us, and it is high time that we fix how Washington works.

#### INCREASED HEALTH COSTS, DECREASED QUALITY OF CARE

Western North Carolina is no stranger to high healthcare costs, and as a member of

the House Budget Committee, I want to share what we learned from the committee hearing that evaluated the budgetary effects of healthcare consolidation.

The hearing discussed the unsustainable trajectory of federal health spending and policy opportunities to combat consolidation and enhance free market competition; or to put it simply, how to make health care more affordable and more accessible for the American people.

The U.S. is seeing a surge in hospital mergers, resulting in increased federal health spending and higher patient costs. Simultaneously, patients have been experiencing lower quality of care, which is a less easily quantifiable but arguably worse consequence than dealing with high costs.

This is the reality right here in our mountains following the Mission HCA Healthcare acquisition in 2019. That is why I have demanded the Federal Trade Commission, the agency responsible for all acquisitions and mergers, re-review the Mission/HCA deal and take action to overturn the acquisition if malfeasance is found.

It is my mission as a member of the House Budget Committee and House Appropriations Committee to promote policies and funding that deter consolidation and promote greater choice, affordability, and quality of care for the citizens of NC-11 and beyond.

#### REVITALIZING COMMUNITIES IN WNC

During my time in our mountains, I continuously hear from constituents who are interested in developing environmentally challenged properties in Western North Carolina but decide not to because of the significant cleanup, redevelopment costs and time delays that are often required from environmental contamination.

The Economic Opportunity for Distressed Communities Act that I introduced would provide a tax incentive for those who decide to redevelop Superfund and brownfield areas by designating such environmentally challenged properties as Opportunity Zones. By incentivizing cleanup and development of brownfield and Superfund sites, we can create jobs, business opportunities and increase property values for Western North Carolina and nationwide.

#### REGULATIONS BACKED BY SCIENCE

As a small business owner, I have experienced the real-life consequences of new government regulations imposed by Washington bureaucrats who do not understand the implications of their misguided rules.

The Show Me the Science Act that I introduced would require federal agencies to publish the data that they use to inform decisions behind new rules. If a federal agency cannot prove that the benefits of a new rule outweigh the costs, then we should not burden the American people and Main Street businesses with unnecessary regulations.

Federal agencies make legally binding requirements on the public, often with an inability or unwillingness to share the information that they use to form the basis of their rules and fail to calculate the costs and benefits of those rules for American taxpayers.

We need to fix how Washington works by requiring more transparency in federal rule-making and improving congressional and public oversight of the rulemaking process.

#### “UNPLUGGED” TOWN HALL SERIES IS COMING TO MACON COUNTY

Join my next in-person town hall in Macon County on Thursday, August 15. The town hall will take place from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building, 1288 Georgia Rd., Franklin, NC.

I'm looking forward to sharing an update about the latest legislative opportunities