

professional sports. I also want to specifically commend the organization's investment in a state-of-the-art performance center in Centennial, purpose-built for the unique needs of professional women athletes. This facility is a landmark achievement and a powerful statement about the value and importance of women's sports. Most importantly, the players of Denver Summit FC will serve as powerful role models for our children, demonstrating the limitless possibilities that can be achieved through hard work, perseverance, and a commitment to excellence.

I want to extend my sincerest congratulations and a warm welcome to the players, coaches, staff, and ownership of Denver Summit FC. We eagerly await the inaugural season and the excitement of cheering on our new home team. The entire state of Colorado stands with them, and we look forward to celebrating their success for many years to come.

DESIGNATING NIGERIA A COUNTRY OF PARTICULAR CONCERN

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2025

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letter, drafted by respected experts—including former Members of Congress—in the field of religious freedom, underscoring the dire state of religious freedom in Nigeria, and calling for that country to be designated a Country of Particular Concern under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. Their stark appraisal of the situation, and the immediate threat to the lives of thousands of Nigerians, merits immediate action by the administration.

JUNE 13, 2025.

Hon. CHRISTOPHER SMITH,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE SMITH: As religious freedom advocates and leaders of grassroots organizations with millions of American members, we thank you for sponsoring H. Res. 220 which recommends redesignating Nigeria as a Country of Particular Concern (CPC) for particularly severe religious persecution. We consider this a critical first step in addressing the situation in Nigeria.

As you know, House Resolution 220 calls for the Secretary of State to address the egregious, systematic, and ongoing religious persecution, in Nigeria, specifically by redesignating Nigeria as a CPC under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (IRFA).

Nigeria is the world's deadliest country for Christians, according to Open Doors' 2025 World Watch List. Of the 4,476 Christians killed for their faith worldwide during the reporting period, 3,100 (69 percent) were in Nigeria. FIDES, a Catholic news agency, indicated that over ten years least 145 priests had been abducted and eleven murdered.

In addition, designated terror groups such as Boko Haram and the Islamic State West Africa Province have killed thousands of Christians and Muslims who reject their dictates and suppressed the rights of women and girls. Boko Haram kidnapped over 200 schoolgirls in 2014 in Chibok, Borno State, half of whom remain captive, forced them into sexual slavery and pressured them to convert to Islam. In another case, Leah Sharibu remains enslaved following a 2018 terrorist raid on her school.

Most of this slaughter, however, is carried out by militant Fulani Muslim herders, who have been allowed to target Christian villages with impunity. In its recommendation of CPC designation for Nigeria, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) concluded in its 2021 Annual Report that the Nigerian Government has "routinely failed to investigate these attacks and prosecute those responsible, demonstrating a problematic level of apathy on the part of state officials."

Christians who are violently attacked and whose land is confiscated by the militant Fulani Muslim herders, end up living in Internally Displaced People (IDP) camps, which are unspeakably inhumane and unfit for animals. Currently there are well over 2 million people living in such camps in the Makurdi diocese alone. The Pontifical foundation, Aid to the Church in Need, which works to help the Church in areas of high distress in Nigeria, has collected this video evidence from Makurdi of Christians living in such camps.

Authorities also enforce Islamic blasphemy laws that have resulted in recent death sentences for Sufi musician, Yahaya Sharif-Aminu, and two Muslim clerics, and "religious insult" laws that led to a 24-year sentence for Nigeria's Humanist Association head, Mubarak Bala. These laws have also been accompanied by a routine grant of impunity for extrajudicial attacks against their perceived violators. In 2023, there was the unprosecuted mob killing of student Deborah Emmanuel Yakubu after she was accused of blasphemy and the unprosecuted serious death threats against the Sultan of Sokoto. Sokoto's Catholic bishop, and Rhoda Jatau, a Christian woman, all three of whom were targeted for expressing disapproval of Yakubu's murder.

On March 13, 2025 the House Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Africa held the hearing: "Conflict and Persecution in Nigeria; The Case for a CPC," with Catholic Bishop Wilfred Anagbe of the Makurdi diocese in Benue State, Nina Shea, Hudson Institute's Senior Fellow and Director of its Center for Religious Freedom, and Family Research Council's President Tony Perkins—all testifying to the medieval-like persecution currently targeting Christians in Nigeria's Middle Belt region.

Ms. Shea stated that "Nigeria's government has not undertaken a thorough, objective, and transparent investigation of the militant Fulani herders' organization, leadership, motives, or intent in these attacks." Yet, Shea noted, "[s]urvivor accounts, collected by churches and journalists on the ground, frequently report that their attackers spoke Fulfulde and shouted 'Allahu Akbar' or other religious sentiments as they killed, as USCIRF noted in its reports."

Following the recent congressional hearing and subsequent international scrutiny, Nigeria's President, Foreign Minister and other governmental authorities, such as the Governor of Benue, have undertaken an aggressive public affairs campaign to deny and deflect the truth about their inaction to stop the Fulani aggression against defenseless Christian farming communities occurring in several Nigerian states. Bishop Anagbe has even been personally threatened following his testimony in Congress.

We were alarmed to hear reports that between May 24–26, 2025, Fulani Muslim militants waged another massacre in Benue state, possibly in reprisal for Bishop Anagbe's speaking out about Fulani violence in his testimony before Congress. This recent attack was against the bishop's home village of Aondona, as well as its surrounding villages of Ahume, Tyolaha, and Tse-Ubiam.

Reuters reports that at least "42 people were shot dead by suspected herders" in those attacks and that 32 of the villagers' bodies were recovered in Aondona and Ahume, alone. In response, the U.S. Mission in Abuja issued a statement on X strongly condemning these brutal attacks and urging Nigerian authorities to investigate and hold the responsible parties accountable. Other governments also issued similar statements. Experience shows that the Nigerian government has routinely failed to ensure such investigations and accountability on what have become relentless Fulani herder assaults on defenseless Christian farming villages.

Encouraged by the example of Bishop Wilfred Anagbe, others are also speaking out against the government's grant of impunity in the face of such atrocities. This is a critical time for Congress to act, as Nigerians in the Middle Belt area are supporting international attention.

Nigeria wields significant influence in Sub-Saharan Africa. By allowing severe religious persecution to proliferate within its borders, Nigeria is compounding already heightened regional insecurity.

We respectfully ask you to co-sponsor House Resolution 220 and urge the passage.

Sincerely,

Ambassador Sam Brownback, *Co-Chair, International Religious Freedom Summit*; Nina Shea, *Senior Fellow and Director, Center for Religious Freedom at Hudson Institute*; Frank Wolf, *Member of Congress (VA) 1981–2015, retired*; Dr. Mary Ann Glendon, *Former Ambassador to the Holy See and Chairman of the State Department Commission on Unalienable Rights*; Douglas Burton, *Director, Truth Nigeria*; Richard Ghazal, Esq., *Executive Director, In Defense of Christians (IDC)*; Patricia Streeter, *Co-leader, Anglican Persecuted Church Network*; Faith J.H. McDonnell, *Director of Advocacy, Katartismos Global*; Mark Tooley, *President, Institute on Religion and Democracy*; Dr. Gregory H. Stanton, *Founding President, Genocide Watch Chair, The Alliance Against Genocide*; Dr. Katrina Lantos Swett, *President, Lantos Foundation for Human Rights & Justice*; Steven Wagner, *President, Solidarity with the Persecuted Church*; Troy A. Miller, *President & CEO, National Religious Broadcasters (NRB)*; David Trimble, *President, Religious Freedom Institute*; Michael Arthur Vacca, *Director, International Catholic Jurists Forum*; Travis Weber, *Vice President for Policy & Gov't Affairs Family Research Council*; George Weigel, *Distinguished Senior Fellow and William E. Simon Chair in Catholic Studies Ethics and Public Policy Center*; Dede Laugesen, *Executive Director, Save the Persecuted Christians*; Kelly (Monroe) Kullberg, *General Secretary, American Association of Evangelicals (AAE)*; The Rt. Reverend Andudu Adam Elnail, *Anglican Bishop of Kadugli and Nuba Mountains, Sudan, Co-leader, Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON) Suffering Church Network*.

OPPOSING H.R. 3633, S. 1582, AND
H.R. 1919

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2025

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3633, the Digital Asset Market Clarity Act. S. 1582, the Guiding and Establishing National Innovation in U.S. Stablecoins Act, and H.R. 1919, the Anti-CBDC Surveillance State Act.

While I am opposed to these three bills, I am not opposed to the concept of crypto itself.

But I have concerns about how crypto is currently being regulated and the financial security of my constituents who invest or store their dollars in crypto. Rather than considering the three bills before us this week, Congress should consider legislation that puts guardrails in place to protect consumers, prevent fraud, and establish an effective regulatory framework for crypto. Instead, these H.R. 3633, S. 1582, and H.R. 1919 fall short of creating an effective regulatory framework, allow Big Tech and the Trump family to enrich themselves, and stifles innovation at the Federal Reserve.

Now, Mr. Speaker, let me tell you a bit about what these three bills would do. H.R. 3633, which Republicans are calling the CLARITY Act, would carve the crypto industry out from current securities laws and regulations. This would continue to expose consumers to harmful crypto practices. Additionally, the CLARITY Act would not only enable conflicts of interest from Trump and his family through meme coins like \$TRUMP, but it would also send the message that Congress approves of the way President Trump is selling access to the White House. That is why I joined Congressman VINDMAN in sending a letter to the House Committees on Financial Services and Agriculture expressing our serious concern that the CLARITY and GENIUS Acts, including dangerous carveouts for the President and Vice President from conflict-of-interest rules.

S. 1582, the GENIUS Act, is a bipartisan attempt at establishing a framework for stablecoins—a type of cryptocurrency primarily used for trading crypto assets, transacting in goods and services, insulating against local currency instability, and sending payments across borders. While S. 1582 is a step in the right direction, it fails to establish an effective federal framework to regulate stablecoins. The bill also opens up a path for Big Tech and other commercial businesses like Meta, Amazon, and Walmart to amass consolidated power over both commerce and banking services. Each of these corporations are exploring starting their own stablecoins.

Finally, H.R. 1919, the Anti-CBDC Surveillance State Act, would immediately halt and prohibit the United States from exploring the potential benefits of a central bank digital currency (CBDC). This bill would stifle innovation at the Federal Reserve as they research and develop ways to meet the evolving money and payments landscape, keeping the U.S. behind the starting line as other countries race ahead and compete to develop and implement CBDCs. As much of our transactions have moved away from using the physical dollar through the increased use of credit cards, mobile wallets, and cryptocurrencies, the Federal Reserve has been researching ways to innovate the U.S. dollar. Congress should not stifle the ability of the Federal Reserve to meet the needs of our evolving digital age.

Mr. Speaker, rather than putting forward three bills that fail to make consumers safer and stifle innovation, Congress should instead consider a comprehensive regulatory framework for crypto that will promote the responsible development of these digital assets while protecting American consumers and investors. I urge my colleagues to reject H.R. 3633, S. 1582, and H.R. 1919.

RECOGNIZING THE 2025 CLASS OF THE OHIO AGRICULTURAL HALL OF FAME

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2025

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, the Ohio Agricultural Council will mark the induction of its 2025 Hall of Fame class at a special ceremony to be held next Friday, August 1, during the Ohio State Fair. I am honored to commend to the House this year's four inductees:

John Linder of Edison in my congressional district served as 2020–2021 President of the National Corn Growers Association. His leadership skills, integrity, and dedication to the promotion of agriculture led to his 2023 election as president of MAIZALL—The International Maize Alliance, which works to break down barriers to trade and innovation. He and his brother are the fifth-generation operators of Linder Farms in Morrow County, where he also co-owns a propane business. John is also famous statewide and nationally as a champion tractor puller.

The late Bill Isler of Prospect in my congressional district was a third-generation farmer and pork producer in Marion County. His commitment to innovation in the field of herd health earned him international recognition. As owner/operator of Isler Genetics, he was among the first to implement specific pathogen-free herd standards. A recipient of the Ohio Pork Industry Excellence Award from the Ohio Pork Council, Bill joins his brothers, Dick Isler and the late Gene Isler, as a Hall of Fame member.

The late Steven D. Maurer of Botkins in my congressional district was a long-time public servant both locally and statewide. For much of the 1970s, he served as Mayor of Botkins, later representing the area in the Ohio Senate for one term. He held top roles at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and led the Ohio Department of Agriculture for several years in the late 1980s. For 16 years, he worked as State Executive Director of the USDA's Farm Service Agency. Steve traveled overseas extensively throughout his career to promote Ohio products and expand our state's trade opportunities.

A native of Carroll County, John H. Davis has dedicated his life to teaching others about the importance of agriculture. After several years in the classroom in Ashtabula County, he was tapped to oversee vocational agriculture education statewide. During his 20 years as Director of Ohio FFA Camp Muskingum, he expanded the camp into a year-round education center reaching thousands of students. John is a former Carroll County Commissioner and a member of the Carroll County Farm Bureau Hall of Fame.

Selection for the Hall of Fame is a high honor that has been accorded to only 257 Ohioans since 1966. Consideration for induction is given to those who have made outstanding contributions to agriculture, Ohio's top industry.

On behalf of the people of Ohio's Fourth Congressional District, I am pleased to join in the accolades for these four remarkable inductees as they are recognized for their commitment to agriculture and their lifetime of service to others. I also thank the members of

the Ohio Agricultural Council for their ongoing work to honor Ohio's agriculture leaders.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ALICIA EUGENIA WHITE BELL

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2025

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Alicia Eugenia White Bell.

Alicia was born in Macon, Georgia on February 22, 1943 to parents John Alfred and Emmie Lucinda White. They instilled in Alicia and her four siblings the value of education and a strong work ethic. Alicia received a four-year scholarship to Paine College in Augusta, Georgia and graduated Salutatorian.

A woman of faith, courage, and strength, Alicia touched the lives of many people in San Diego and beyond.

Alicia met Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and participated in the historic march from Selma to Montgomery, a pivotal moment in the Civil Rights Movement and the fight for justice and equality.

She also enlisted in the Domestic Peace Corps and worked with migrant workers before becoming a teacher at B.S. Ingram Elementary School and the lead teacher at Gingerbread Head Start Preschool in San Diego. Alicia also worked for twenty years as a Deputy Probation Officer with the County of San Diego Juvenile Division.

Alicia was deeply committed to serving her community and giving back. She owned and operated the Fourth District Seniors Resource Center gift shop, provided interior design services to low-income senior community residents at little to no cost, and was a motivational speaker and life coach.

Additionally, Alicia was the owner of "Just Because", a founding member of Ladies Involved in Vital Experiences, Inc. (L.I.V.E.), a past president of Encanto AARP Chapter 5417, a former board member and community ambassador for Fourth District Seniors Resource Center, and a coordinator for the Volunteers in Probation program.

Because of her incredible achievements, Alicia received the Retired Seniors Volunteer Service Award from the County of San Diego and was an honoree for the "Breakfast for Milady" San Diego Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Alicia's legacy will live on. My prayers are with her loved ones and may her memory be a blessing.

HONORING JOHN GHERINI

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2025

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, with his retirement as President of the Board of Directors of the Santa Barbara Mission Archive-Library on January 17th, 2025, John Gherini, Esq. concluded over thirty-seven years of distinguished service to the Archive-Library. Established as public non-profit educational corporation in 1967, the Santa Barbaran Mission Archive-Library serves as a unique repository of Mission