

more than \$5 billion in critical K-12 and adult education funding that should have been released by the July 1 deadline.

More than 150 Democratic Members of the House of Representatives joined a group of 42 Senators, including 10 Republican Senators, in calling on Secretary McMahon and Director Vought to release the funds by July 15. That date has obviously passed, but we have received no answers.

Although the administration did release the 21st Century Community Learning Center grants yesterday, they are a small percentage of the outstanding funding, and there is still no word on any of the other grants.

School districts across the country are scrambling to make decisions, but they have unclear information and severely constrained budgets. Many districts have already been forced to lay off educators and staff who will not be paid without the Federal funding.

For many students across the country, the new school year starts in a few weeks, and schools are now in an all-out crisis. As one administrator told me, it is a "five-alarm fire."

Funds authorized under the Every Student Succeeds Act are not a luxury. They are part of what closes opportunity gaps. They are a critical part of our effort to provide students across the country, regardless of income or ZIP Code, with a world-class education. Yes, this is about civil rights. Every single dollar is a good investment in students and in our future.

State administered title I, part C grants, which have been around since the 1960s, support migrant students. These grants help children of mobile farmworkers and fishers, people who are harvesting our crops and putting food on our tables, meet academic standards and graduate from high school, preparing them to become responsible citizens and productive employees.

Title II grants provide essential support to recruit, prepare, and retain high-quality teachers and school leaders. These grants address the growing educator workforce shortage and provide professional development for educators to improve teaching and student outcomes.

Title III grants provide English language learners with the integrated academic support they need to learn English and meet State standards.

Title IV, part A grants are designed to give students access to a well-rounded education. That is what students need: to improve school safety and to create better conditions for student learning and engagement. These grants fund critical music and arts programs and integrate technology into the classrooms so students can develop digital literacy skills.

Finally, Adult Basic and Literacy Education grants help provide integrated education and training services that promote essential skills for the 21st century workforce.

These are all programs that Congress authorized. Again, these are programs that Congress authorized, yet the Trump administration is refusing to release the funds.

Mr. Speaker, 10 Republican Senators were brave enough and principled enough to request with the Democrats that the administration release these funds for their intended purposes, yet we have heard nothing, nothing, from House Republicans about the illegal and unconstitutional withholding of these congressionally appropriated dollars.

Is there a fear of President Trump keeping them from their commitment to the millions of students in the school districts that they were elected to represent?

I tell my colleagues that everyone can show that they care about the kids in their districts, that they care about education. Everyone should join us in demanding answers.

Secretary McMahon and Director Vought must release these funds immediately. This is about our Nation's children, our students, and our future leaders. They deserve better.

□ 1050

#### RECOGNIZING CORNWALL CLEANUP CREW

(Mr. RYAN of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Cornwall Cleanup Crew for their commitment to environmental preservation and education in the town of Cornwall and across the Hudson Valley of New York State.

Since 2023, this grassroots group has worked with community members to clean up litter and illegal dumping around the town and educate the public on the importance of conservation and environmental protection.

Started by a high school student and a group of community members, within its first year, the organization amassed a team of more than 1,500 volunteers, managing to clear over 10,000 tons of litter and illegally dumped material in Cornwall.

Cornwall Cleanup Crew has become a popular community service opportunity for students, including at The Storm King School and Cornwall High School, whose students both contribute to the cleanup efforts and learn about the importance of environmental protection.

Finally, after a multiyear, lengthy process, the Cornwall Cleanup Crew has earned their official 501(c)(3) nonprofit certification, allowing them to expand their important environmental work into other communities in Orange County and across the Hudson Valley.

I have been out there with this crew and seen them work in the cold and the heat. Their relentless efforts to combat littering and to really bring our community together in a positive way

while doing so is a truly commendable pillar of selfless service.

On behalf of our entire community, I thank them and join in celebrating this certification that will allow them to continue to expand on their important work.

#### CONGRATULATING ZOE MESUCH

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate recent Wallkill High School graduate Zoe Mesuch on concluding a truly remarkable high school basketball career and on her appointment to the United States Naval Academy, where she is now undergoing her summer training.

I was proud to nominate Zoe to represent the Hudson Valley at the Naval Academy in this year's newest class. With more than 2,000 career points, Zoe has been named Daily Freeman Player of the Year 3 years in a row, a record for the award.

This year, Zoe was also named Player of the Year by the New York Basketball Coaches Association and was selected as a top player in the Mid-Hudson Athletic League's American Conference by all the league's coaches.

Zoe is known by her teammates, coaches, teachers, and family as an exceptionally hard worker and team player. These are assets that will be of great service to her and our country as she now serves in the military.

Zoe plans to continue her basketball career at the Naval Academy, where she will also study oceanography in pursuit of becoming a surface warfare officer.

I must tell Zoe, as I think she knows, that I am an Army fan, so I can't say that I will be rooting for her team in the Patriot League this year. Yet, our entire Hudson Valley is rooting for her, and we cannot wait to see all that she will accomplish.

#### RECOGNIZING ELDER JIM CHILDS

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elder Jim Childs, a pillar of our Kingston community, for his decades of service to St. Clara's Church, to his and my home city of Kingston, and to families across the Hudson Valley.

Elder Childs was born and raised in Kingston, New York, the very community that he continues to serve to this day. He graduated from Kingston High School, my alma mater, before beginning his career working for IBM. He worked initially as a mail clerk and took every opportunity to advance his education and training, further his knowledge, and move up within the company.

Additionally, a fellow Army veteran, Elder Childs served his country in uniform while also deepening his faith and love of fellow man, a lesson that would stay with him throughout his life.

When Elder Childs was first appointed pastor of St. Clara's Church of God in Christ in Kingston in 1969, he admitted that he didn't know if he was ready. Yet, he was called to serve his community, which he has done faithfully for the past 56 years.

In 1961, he married Dorothy Neal, and the two of them welcomed four children, Paula, Cynthia, James, and Timothy, seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

This year, Elder Childs was rightfully promoted to superintendent, and he will continue to serve the Kingston community in an even greater capacity than before.

I thank Elder Childs for his continued dedication to and love of our neighbors and neighborhoods. I thank him personally for his mentorship and advice to me in serving in this position. I congratulate him on his recent promotion and a lifetime of service to our community.

#### OPPORTUNITIES TO STAY IN PLACE FOR DISABLED WORKERS

(Mr. GROTHMAN of Wisconsin was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank President Trump and his Department of Labor for stopping an administrative rule that was going to get rid of 14(c) certificates, which are so vital for the lives of our disabled citizens as they pursue good lives of work and self-esteem.

Mr. Speaker, 14(c) certificates are used by people who work in work centers. They may have spina bifida. They may have Down syndrome. That doesn't mean that they can't lead productive lives doing packaging and light manufacturing. I have several facilities in my district, such as Green Valley Enterprises in Beaver Dam and RCS Empowers in Sheboygan, that provide these opportunities for people with different abilities.

Not only does this give them an opportunity to interact with other people who have disabilities, but it also provides them with a little extra money to supplement their SSI income, from which they can buy clothes, buy gifts, and go out to eat from time to time.

In order to allow these folks to work, some of them have to be paid less than minimum wage. Mr. Speaker, if you have never seen one of these work centers, I encourage you to go to the work centers, where you will see people with different abilities at work.

Everybody who works there that I can see is happy to be there and is working there because it is their choice. Nevertheless, I think arrogant people in the Biden Department of Labor had decided that they would get rid of the 14(c) certificates and tell these people, in essence, that they no longer can work, that they can go to a day center and watch television, but they are not allowed to work like their siblings work. They would not be allowed to get out and about in the community where they would get to know people other than their immediate relatives.

Fortunately, Trump's Department of Labor stepped up and said that they are not going to change the rules and

continue to allow work centers to exist. Maybe they are making \$4 or \$5 an hour to supplement their SSI, but if they want to choose, they can still work there. Hopefully, we will expand the use of work centers so that people begin to work there when they are 18 or 19 years old, like they used to.

One of the great things, like I said, about work centers is that not only do they give disabled Americans a little bit more independence, but they give them the ability to form a lot more friendships, both with other people whose abilities are similar to their own and the management staff at these facilities.

The Democratic Party has tried to prevent people from working there, saying that they are being taken advantage of, which is preposterous. Anybody who looks at these packaging or light manufacturing facilities will see immediately why you have to pay some people under minimum wage.

Secondly, my Democratic colleagues claim that people are being isolated among other people with different abilities. Again, there are people with a wide variety of abilities in these places.

There is an opportunity to form lifetime bonds with people in these facilities. I think of The Threshold in West Bend, RCS Empowers in Sheboygan, Green Valley in Beaver Dam, and Ascend Services in Manitowoc.

□ 1100

I think of the lifelong friends that these people form when their parents and guardians frequently worry after the parents are no longer here, what will these people do for socialization? Where will these people find friends? They find friends in the work centers, and it is horrific for the Biden Department of Labor to try to shut these places down.

In any event, one more time: I thank President Trump for preserving the work centers. I hope his Department of Labor continues to look for more opportunities in these facilities for people at a younger and younger age, reminding you all that this is only if these folks choose to work in the work centers. Everybody else can work wherever they want, but they want these folks stuck perhaps in a place where they are just watching TV or playing games all day.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to tour the work centers. If they do tour the work centers, I think they, too, will become fans of them.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHAD KAMPBELL

(Mr. WHITESIDES of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. WHITESIDES. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life of my dear friend, Chad Campbell.

Chad wasn't just a devoted father, devoted husband, and an admired commu-

nity leader, he was the cornerstone of the Santa Clarita Valley. He and his wife, Michelle, who have been close friends for several years, were deeply involved in our community.

Chad was a former president of the Democratic Alliance for Action of Santa Clarita, an active member of the Santa Clarita Valley Democrats, and someone whose commitment to service ran deep.

One of his friends described Chad perfectly: He was someone who truly grounded those around him, the kind of person who would help you cut through the noise, find your center, and remember why you did the work in the first place. That was Chad, a source of wisdom and calm, always there when you needed him.

He lived in Stevenson Ranch with his wife, Michelle, and their daughter, Bridgette. While no words can ease the pain of their loss, I hope his family knows how deeply loved and appreciated Chad was.

Chad was the kind of guy who would get there early to help set up an event and then stay late breaking down the tables and chairs afterwards. He was a talented designer and photographer. He knew how to communicate, and he used that skill for the benefit of businesses and causes close to his heart.

He was known for his booming voice. For many new activists getting involved, their introduction to civic engagement was seeing Chad kick off a meeting or a rally before taking the time to greet them and every other person there, always with a big smile and an infectious grin. He embodied the truth that the greatest title of responsibility in any democracy is that of citizen.

Chad was a rock of principle. He was committed to making his community, his State, and his country better. Month after month, year after year, he did the work. He and Michelle profoundly changed the Santa Clarita Valley for the better and his impact will never be forgotten.

Chad gave so much of himself to this community because he believed in people and the power of showing up. His absence leaves a real void, but his spirit lives on in the work he championed and the friendships he built.

May we honor him not just in words but in how we carry ourselves with compassion, with humility, and a commitment to something greater than ourselves.

#### THANKING MY SUMMER INTERNS

Mr. WHITESIDES. Mr. Speaker, I close by thanking my summer interns, some of whom are here today. You cannot help but be inspired about the future of our country if you spend some time with the many great young people who work here on Capitol Hill. They work hard. They do crucial work interacting with our constituents, and their passion and inspiration must be recognized.

As a new Member, I am deeply inspired by the idea that people would