

Founded in 1976 to address the War on Poverty, CSET was established to provide underserved families with the resources, skills, and opportunities they need to build better lives. Since then, CSET has remained committed to that mission while expanding its services to meet the evolving needs of Tulare County residents.

Through its Employment Connection Locations, CSET has helped strengthen and develop the local workforce by offering job search assistance, career planning, vocational training scholarships, and other supportive workforce initiatives. The organization has also provided vital support to underserved community members through energy assistance and free tax preparation programs. These services help families afford essential heating, water, and electricity costs while ensuring they can file their annual tax returns at no expense.

Over the past five decades, CSET's impact has been recognized through a wide variety of grant awards that have helped expand its ability to serve the community. In 2022, CSET received millions of dollars in grant funding from the Bezos Day 1 Families Fund to support its efforts to address homelessness and assist families in need. That same year, the U.S. Department of Labor's OSHA Susan Harwood Training Grant Program awarded CSET additional funding to expand its workplace safety education. The assistance received through this program has equipped vulnerable workers, temporary workers, and workers in high-hazard industries with the training needed to make workplaces around Tulare County safer and healthier.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Community Services Employment Training on 50 years of dedicated service to Tulare County. Through its diverse community initiatives and unwavering commitment to creating lasting change, CSET continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of Central Valley families and truly embodies its core values of belonging, hope, growth, and connection.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MARGARET GORE CASON

HON. SARAH ELFRETH

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Ms. ELFRETH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Margaret Gore Cason, who passed away peacefully at the age of 95. Margaret Cason was a pioneering mathematician, public servant, mentor, and beloved mother, aunt, and grandmother.

Born on November 10, 1930, in Pax, West Virginia, Margaret was raised in a close-knit community. She attended segregated local schools in the Pax and Beckley area and distinguished herself academically from an early age. Margaret went on to attend West Virginia State College (now West Virginia State University), graduating in 1951 with a Bachelor of Science degree. During her college years, she became a proud member of the Nu Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. as one of a remarkable group of young women. Several of her mathematician Sorors from that time period would later gain national recognition in the story depicted in the film *Hidden Figures*.

Following graduation, Margaret married Everett W. Crawford and moved to Havre de Grace, Maryland to begin her professional career working for the United States Army at Aberdeen Proving Ground. Holding the job title of "Computer" before the advent of modern computing technology, she performed advanced mathematical and military ballistic research calculations at APG's Ballistics Research Laboratory (BRL) in support of the Nation's defense efforts. Her work reflected both her exceptional analytical abilities and her commitment to public service.

Margaret remarried and relocated to Birmingham, Alabama with Dr. William P. Cason, where she dedicated herself to helping others. In 1987, she became the State Director of Women in Community Service (WICS) for Alabama. In that role, she devoted her life to assisting young women in overcoming adversity, finding new opportunities, and building brighter futures.

In her final years, Margaret made her home in Ellicott City, Maryland, where she was a cherished member of the community and matriarch to her extended family.

Margaret will be remembered by all who knew her for her intelligence, grace, strength of character, and genuine concern for others. Margaret's life spanned nearly a century of extraordinary change, and throughout it she remained a mentor, and a source of inspiration. From the coalfields of West Virginia to the laboratories of Aberdeen Proving Ground and the communities she served in Alabama, she left an enduring legacy of achievement, service, and love.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I extend my deepest condolences to the Casons and her entire extended family and join them in celebrating the life of an extraordinary woman.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND ASSAULT PREVENTION IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2025

SPEECH OF

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2026

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 2406. This bipartisan bill strengthens protections against sexual assault and harassment at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The researchers, forecasters, engineers, and all supporting personnel at NOAA must be able to conduct their essential work without fear of assault. The mission of NOAA, which also houses the National Weather Service, is to understand and predict our changing environment, share that information with the public, and manage our marine ecosystems and resources. As the Ranking Member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, I understand the importance and necessity of our federal research enterprise and our need to protect it. In order to meet that critical mission, it's the research at NOAA that underscores the successfulness of its forecasts, warnings, and other products and services. The quality of the research is threatened when its workers do not feel safe.

The NOAA sexual harassment Prevention Act led by Congresswoman BONAMICI, another member of the Science Committee, helps create a safe workplace for NOAA personnel. The bill sets to expand the coverage of NOAA's sexual harassment prevention and response policy, provide a secure reporting structure for victims, and improve the ability for the agency to enforce the prohibition of assault and intimidation.

I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, in the House and the Senate, to support this legislation to prevent sexual harassment and assault at NOAA.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF STATE SENATOR LELA ALSTON

HON. YASSAMIN ANSARI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Ms. ANSARI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the remarkable public service career of State Senator Lela Alston upon her retirement from the Arizona Legislature after decades of dedicated service to the people of Arizona.

For more than four decades, State Senator Alston has been a steadfast advocate for her constituents and a respected leader within Arizona's government. Throughout her tenure in both the Arizona House of Representatives and the Arizona State Senate, she earned a reputation for integrity, pragmatism, and an unwavering commitment to improving the lives of Arizona families.

Representing communities across central Phoenix, currently Legislative District 5, State Senator Alston has consistently championed policies that expand opportunity, strengthen public education, support working families, and protect vulnerable populations. Her leadership has been defined by a deep understanding of the challenges facing her constituents and a determination to bring people together in pursuit of practical solutions.

State Senator Alston's impact extends far beyond the legislation she helped enact. As one of Arizona's most respected public servants, she has mentored countless elected officials, community leaders, and public servants who have followed in her footsteps. Her dedication to public service, her ability to build consensus, and her commitment to treating all people with dignity and respect have left an enduring mark on Arizona's civic life.

Throughout her career, State Senator Alston demonstrated that effective leadership is rooted in service, compassion, and a genuine commitment to the public good. Her voice has been a powerful force for her community, and her contributions have helped shape Arizona for the better. As she concludes her distinguished legislative career, we celebrate not only her many accomplishments, but also the example she has set for future generations of public servants. The people of Arizona have been well served by her leadership, and her legacy will continue to be felt for years to come.

On behalf of Arizona's 3rd Congressional District and the United States House of Representatives, I extend my deepest gratitude to State Senator Lela Alston for her extraordinary

service to the State of Arizona. I congratulate her on her retirement and wish her continued happiness, health, and success in the years ahead.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL
AEROSPACE WEEK 2026

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Aerospace Week. There is no better way to celebrate this week each year than to highlight how aerospace is woven into Kansas' past, present, and future.

For more than a century, Kansas' aerospace trailblazers have propelled the United States to the forefront of aviation. Aviation is central to the history and identity of Wichita and south central Kansas. Nearly 100 years ago in 1928, Wichita was designated as the "Air Capital of the World," thanks to aviation pioneers like Clyde Cessna, Olive Ann Beech, and Lloyd Stearman.

Since then, aviation has continued to flourish here, and hardworking Kansans have worked tirelessly to design and manufacture the airplanes and components that fly much of our world. Most everyone from Kansas, and especially Kansas' 4th Congressional District, has a connection to aviation. From the production lines in Wichita to the shop floors in small towns across our state, Kansas is home to the fifth largest aerospace workforce in the country.

The industry supports over 100,000 American jobs that added over \$20 billion to our state's GDP last year alone. The economic impact can be seen across our state's A&D suppliers who manufacture the parts and components that keep our skies safer and connected.

As co-chair of the House Aerospace Caucus, I am proud to represent the Air Capital in Washington. I am humbled to represent the people that help build the technologies keeping American aerospace at the forefront of innovation and safety each day.

COST ESTIMATE OF H.R. 2571,
SELF-INSURANCE PROTECTION
ACT

HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following cost estimate for H.R. 2571, Self-Insurance Protection Act, prepared by the Congressional Budget Office, which was not made available to the Committee on Education and Workforce at the time of the filing of the legislative report.

H.R. 2571, SELF-INSURANCE PROTECTION ACT, AS REPORTED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE ON DECEMBER 15, 2025

By fiscal year, millions of dollars—			
	2026	2026–2031	2026–2036
Direct Spending (Outlays) ..	0	*	*

H.R. 2571, SELF-INSURANCE PROTECTION ACT, AS REPORTED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE ON DECEMBER 15, 2025—Continued

	By fiscal year, millions of dollars—		
	2026	2026–2031	2026–2036
Revenues	0	*	*
Increase or Decrease (–)	0	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	0	0

Sources: CBO and staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation.
* = between –\$500,000 and \$500,000.

Increases net direct spending in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2037? No.

Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2037? No.

Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply? Yes.

Mandate Effects:

Contains intergovernmental mandate? Yes, Under Threshold.

Contains private-sector mandate? No.

H.R. 2571 would amend the Employee Retirement Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) to exclude stop-loss policies from that act's definition of health insurance coverage. Those policies insure against excess or unexpected losses by selfinsured group health plans or sponsors of a group health plan that self-insures. Excluding stop-loss policies from the definition of health insurance would exclude those policies from being regulated by ERISA. The bill also would preempt state laws that prevent group health plans from obtaining stop-loss policies.

CBO and the staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) estimate that enacting H.R. 2571 would not significantly affect direct spending, revenues, or deficits over the 2026–2036 period. CBO and JCT's analysis of state laws indicates that few states prohibit the sale of stop-loss coverage; thus, the bill's preemption of state laws would affect only a small number of people.

H.R. 2571 would impose an intergovernmental mandate as defined by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) by preempting any state laws that prevent certain group health plans from using stop-loss policies to insure against excess or unexpected claims losses. CBO estimates that the cost of the mandate would not exceed the intergovernmental CBO Cost Estimate Page 2 H.R. 2571, as reported by the House Committee on threshold established by UMRA (\$107 million in 2026, adjusted annually for inflation). The bill would not impose any private-sector mandates.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Emily Vreeland (for federal costs) and Andrew Laughlin (for mandates). The estimate was reviewed by Chad Chirico, Director of Budget Analysis.

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director, Congressional Budget Office.

HONORING THE 2026 INDUCTEES TO
THE FLORIDA INVENTORS HALL
OF FAME

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as our Nation commemorates the 250th anniversary of its founding, I rise today to honor the ten inventors selected as the 2026 Inductees

to the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame. The 2026 Inductees are inventors who were nominated by their peers nationwide and evaluated through the rigorous review of the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame Selection Committee. They are being recognized for innovations that significantly impact the quality of life, economic development, and welfare of their communities, the residents of Florida and the United States.

The Florida Inventors Hall of Fame was founded in 2013 at the University of South Florida and formally recognized by the Florida Senate through Senate Joint Resolution 1756, adopted on April 30, 2014. As our Nation marks 250 years of independence, the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame carries that spirit of ingenuity forward by catalyzing the cycle of discovery and innovation across the state of Florida by recognizing pioneering inventors, empowering future problem-solvers and change-makers, and propelling the American legacy of innovation through transformative experiences and meaningful storytelling.

Nomination to the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame is open to all Florida inventors, living or deceased, who are or have been residents of Florida. Nominees must be named inventors on a patent issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and their inventions must have made a significant impact on society through commercialization, utilization, or the innovations they inspired.

The Florida Inventors Hall of Fame proudly celebrates the 2026 class of Inductees whose inventions have helped shape the American story. Their achievements underscore the critical role that innovation has played in driving progress for two and a half centuries, strengthening our economy and enhancing our Nation's global competitiveness. The 2026 Inductees collectively hold more than 300 United States patents, representing industry, academia, technology and medical/health institutions. Since its founding, the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame has inducted 96 inventors, who collectively hold over 6,000 United States patents.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my neighbors in Tampa Bay and the residents of Florida, I am proud to honor the 2026 Inductees to the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame for this outstanding achievement. As the United States marks 250 years since its founding, innovation remains at the heart of the American story, and Florida continues to help write its next chapter. I applaud these accomplished inventors, and the institutions and communities that support them, for their tireless pursuit of discoveries that improve lives and expand what is possible. It is because of the vision and perseverance of inventors like these that future generations will be encouraged to reach beyond their limits and extend the boundaries of innovation.

I include in the RECORD the following list of 2026 Inductees:

Reza Abdolvand: Professor and Chair of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Central Florida, who is recognized for significant contributions to MEMS-based timing and sensing technologies that power high-speed communications, 5G networks, and connected devices, enabling the infrastructure of the modern digital world.

Clara Rivero Baleine: Lockheed Martin Fellow at Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control, who is recognized for breakthrough developments to gradient refractive index