

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

OPPOSING H.R. 1911, SMARTER SOLUTIONS FOR STUDENTS ACT

HON. TONY CÁRDENAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1911, Smarter Solutions for Students Act.

This is a truly devastating bill for every working and middle class family trying to achieve the American Dream.

If we do nothing before July 1st, we will be passively negligent.

If we pass this will today, we will be actively destroying our competitiveness and economic strength by taking dollars out of the pockets of our workforce.

The bill is as far away from “commonsense legislation” as we get. It makes the situation worse by making college education far more expensive!

According to a Congressional Research Service report, under this proposal, a student borrowing the maximum loan amounts with a 5 year subsidized loan will pay more than \$10,000. Even under the doubled rate of July 1, a student with the same loan would pay less than \$9,000. Under the current rate of 3.4 percent, this student pays just over \$4,000.

Those massive differences in repayment rates show that this bill was not written with students in mind.

The growing student loan-burden in our country is critical and must be addressed.

According to the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau, student loan debt recently surpassed the \$1 trillion mark. The 2010 Survey of Consumer Finances reported that 45 percent of all American families hold outstanding student-loan debt. This was an increase from 33 percent in 2007.

While the majority of student debt is held by people under the age of 35, increasing student debt affects every member of the family, especially in a time when nearly half of bachelor's degree holders under the age of 25 are unemployed.

However, addressing increased interest costs is only part of the solution. We need to begin to address the exorbitant prices of higher education. I understand that universities are trying to cope with the decreases in government funding and declining contributions as a result of the tough economic times. However, these institutions also have a role to play in ensuring that education is accessible and affordable to all students. If these institutions would like the government to continue to invest in students, they should do so as well, by doing everything in their power to keep tuition costs low.

I cannot stress enough the importance of making college education accessible. We all agree that education transforms people's lives. Education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty, crime, and violence in any community. It is the engine that will propel our fami-

lies into the middle class and allow us to reinvigorate and grow our economy. We must act swiftly to remedy this unsustainable situation.

IN HONOR OF SHEILA STUART

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Sheila Stuart, a dear friend and long time community activist who recently died. Sheila was a remarkable woman who touched the lives of many throughout her years of tireless service to her community.

Sheila was born in Dublin, Ireland on April 24, 1918, the second of six children. Her father, a school teacher and principal, instilled in Sheila a life-long love of learning. At fifteen, after attending Dominican College for three years, Sheila went to work as a clerk to support her family. In 1945, she met and married John “Harry” Stuart. In 1947, the young couple had a son and a year later moved to London and then India, where Harry worked as a mechanical engineer building power plants. While in India, daughter Orla was born. The family left India in 1954, eventually finding their way to Santa Cruz, California, in 1956. They remained in Santa Cruz for the rest of their lives.

Sheila was an active participant in a number of community organizations. Harry and Sheila joined the Pasatiempo Golf Club where Sheila served as President of the Pasatiempo 18-hole Women's Club and won numerous trophies. In the late 1950's she began serving as both “room mother” at her son Orin's school and Cub Scout Den Mother. She was active in the League of Women Voters, as well as in the Santa Cruz Symphony, and Shakespeare Santa Cruz.

Sheila's interest in politics was fueled by her love for fellow Irishman John Kennedy. Sheila walked precincts for Kennedy, handing out pamphlets. She and the children drove to San Jose to watch Kennedy's motorcade and she often recounted how Kennedy turned and smiled directly at her when she shouted the Irish greeting, “cead mile failte.” Sheila continued her involvement in local politics working as Santa Cruz County Assessor for eleven years, where she assisted with the Homeowner's Exemption Program. An avid Democrat, Sheila said one of her greatest achievements was turning her conservative husband into a liberal Democrat! Sheila ran several campaigns in Santa Cruz including Robert Kennedy's 1968 Presidential Primary, Gary Hart's Presidential bid and two campaigns for DIANNE FEINSTEIN. She helped Leon Panetta in his first Congressional campaign and later volunteered tirelessly for a number of other candidates and issues. After her retirement, she became active in the Democratic Women's Club and The Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee, where she became the

first Voter Services Chair and later DCC Co-Chair. She was also honored as the first DCC “Democrat of the Year”.

Sheila is survived by son Orin and daughter-in-law Arlene of Sutter Creek; daughter Orla of Santa Cruz; grandchildren Jason, Nicole (Ian), Courtney (Ryan), and Trevor; three great-grandchildren, Sophia, Colton and Cayden, numerous nephews and nieces in Ireland and Canada, and many dear friends.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in honoring Sheila Stuart and the remarkable life she led and in extending our condolences to her family and friends. The civic activism that Sheila Stuart embodied is the lifeblood of our democracy and our nation owes her a debt of gratitude for her efforts.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES DESIGNATION

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Divine Temple Church of God in Christ, located in Green Bay, Wisconsin. This historically significant structure, designed by architect George Rockwell for the Christ Episcopal Church, was built in the famous Gothic Revival-style. The site has now been added to the National Register of Historic Places. The church and its members are planning to celebrate this milestone on Friday, June 28th, 2013.

The cornerstone of this church was put in place in 1898, and the structure that stands today was completed one year later. Throughout its long history in downtown Green Bay, this church has served the spiritual needs of the community, and offered congregants a safe place to worship. I congratulate Pastor L.C. Green for his efforts to pursue this designation, and commend the congregation of Divine Temple Church of God in Christ for volunteering their time to preserving this wonderful structure.

There is a quote from Romans 15:7 on the church website that reads: “Wherefore receive ye one another as Christ also received us to the glory of God.” May this church continue to receive those seeking spiritual refreshment in the years to come. Again, congratulations to Divine Temple Church of God in Christ for receiving this special recognition.

HONORING ANGIE MCDONALD'S RETIREMENT AFTER 23 YEARS OF TEACHING

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Angie McDonald who retired on

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

Friday, June 7, 2013 after 23 years as a public school teacher. Angie, a constituent and resident of Mansfield, TX, was a teacher in the Mansfield Independent School District for 15 years and finished her career as a Reading Specialist serving all of the Mansfield-area high schools. Through her dedicated work teaching students how to overcome reading and writing deficiencies, she gave countless students a greater opportunity to excel academically and succeed professionally. The efforts of teachers like Angie are essential in promoting a more prosperous future for the next generation of Americans and our nation as a whole. I am extremely proud to have her as a constituent and cannot thank her enough for her 23 years of devotion to our children's prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 6th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring Angie McDonald and her 23 years of selfless work as an educator. We must always recognize those who dedicate their careers to enriching the lives of our children.

HONORING AVIS PARMAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Avis Parman, who will celebrate her 90th birthday on July 28, 2013.

Avis has been an important leader in Albany, Missouri for decades, earning the moniker "Miss Albany." While she grew up in Worth County, she moved to Albany in 1943. In 1963, she became a founding member of Albany Community Betterment, an organization dedicated to improving Albany and one of two clubs that have competed in the Missouri Community Betterment program every year of its existence. Albany Community Betterment won the Grand Prize in state community betterment in 2001 and 2010, a feat Avis was instrumental in helping achieve. She has also taken time to serve on parks boards, on the Missouri Agriculture and Small Business Development Authority, serving as chairwoman from 1998 to 2000, on the state Environmental Improvement and Energy Resources Authority, on various library projects and currently as a director emeritus of the Missouri Independent Bankers Association. Whatever Albany or Avis's neighbors in northwest Missouri needed, she answered the call and served to the best of her ability.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Avis Parman for a life of service to Albany and northwest Missouri, congratulating her on her 90th birthday and wishing her many more wonderful years to come.

HONORING DE'ONTAY DE'CAROL JONES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a determined and

eager young man who understands it takes tenacity and self reliance to reach the highest success, Mr. De'Ontay De'Carol Jones.

De'Ontay De'Carol Jones was born May 18, 1994 in Vicksburg, MS to the proud parents of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jackson. De'Ontay was a part of the May 2012 graduating class of Warren Central High School. De'Ontay is currently enrolled at Jones County Jr. College located in Ellisville, MS.

De'Ontay understands that obtaining a good education, and community and civic involvement is the recipe for a success. While in high school De'Ontay participated in the school choir, student council, yearbook club and Future Teacher's Association.

He is a faithful and active member of Greater Grove M. B. Church where he is an usher and a member of PRIDE, Greater Grove's teen ministry. De'Ontay is also a member of the Kappa League Boy's Club. He enjoys learning about the political process and likes to participate in political campaigns.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. De'Ontay De'Carol Jones for his hard work, dedication and a strong desire to achieve.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for votes on Tuesday, June 25, 2013, due to Flight #4042 being delayed by approximately four hours before departing Charleston International Airport. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

H.R. 2383—To designate the new Interstate Route 70 Bridge over the Mississippi River connecting St. Louis, Missouri, and southwestern Illinois as the "Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge." Vote: "yes."

H.R. 1092—To designate the air route traffic control center located in Nashua, New Hampshire, as the Patricia Clark Boston Air Route Traffic Control Center." Vote: "yes."

MARKETING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF THE KOREAN WAR

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mark the upcoming sixtieth anniversary of the end of the Korean War and it is with the utmost respect that I recognize this milestone.

On July 27, 1953, an armistice was signed which brought to a close over three years of terrible war on the Korean Peninsula. In the aftermath of World War II, a newly-divided Korea became the site of global crisis as 75,000 invading North Korean soldiers crossed the 38th parallel on June 25, 1950. The global community was fast to respond, as the United Nations Security Council recommended on June 27 that member states take action. Twenty-one nations heeded the call and collectively sent over 340,000 troops,

88 percent from the United States, to assist the over 600,000 South Koreans fighting for their country.

The three years of tragic bloodshed helped stem communist conquest and secure a people's independence in a dangerous world. Yet it came at a great price. 36,574 Americans lost their lives, and approximately 100,000 were injured. Over 170,000 allied troops were confirmed killed with half of a million wounded and, to this day, many thousands remain missing. By some counts, 2.5 million civilians on both sides, 10 percent of Korea's pre-war population, perished.

No words here, then, can adequately mark our recognition and the deep honor that we owe to the men and women who sacrificed so much in Korea sixty years ago. What we can do is pause to ensure that what they went through and what they accomplished will never be forgotten. And we can give the highest respect to those who survived and that we have with us today—our veterans whom I wish to thank and honor this day for their great service.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the sixtieth anniversary of the end of the Korean War, and honoring our veterans and those who lost their lives in that great struggle.

HONORING KATRINA CLARK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE FAIR HAVEN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the many family, friends, colleagues, and community members who have gathered in celebration of Katrina Clark who is retiring from her position as Executive Director of the Fair Haven Community Health Center after forty years of dedicated service.

Katrina has been at the helm of this organization for all but its first two years. It has been under her leadership and because of her vision that the Center has grown so successfully over the last four decades. I have had the privilege to know Katrina for many years. Her commitment to the people of the Fair Haven community is only equaled by her determination to ensure that they have access to quality, affordable health care. She is an extraordinary woman and I consider myself fortunate to benefit from her counsel and friendship.

In 1971 a small group of dedicated nurses, doctors, students, and neighborhood volunteers, under the leadership of a community advocacy agency called the Alliance for Latin American Progress, opened the Fair Haven Clinic in a local elementary school. Two nights a week, the Clinic served adults and children on a walk-in basis for minor ailments, immunizations, and family planning services. With a budget of only five thousand dollars, made available through a grant from the Greater New Haven Community Foundation, they were able to accommodate over five hundred visits in their first year.

It was clear that families were not only in need of these basic services, but of expanded health care as well. Over the next decade, guided by Katrina's remarkable leadership, the Clinic worked to expand the services that they were able to provide to more comprehensive primary health care. Today, the Fair Haven Community Health Center has grown into one of our community's most respected non-profit primary health care organizations, providing comprehensive health care—from prenatal and pediatric to adolescent, adult and geriatric care—to hundreds of residents every year.

Katrina's passion for and dedication to providing children and families with access to quality, affordable health care has helped to guide the Fair Haven Community Health Center over the course of its history. Its success and the difference it continues to make in the lives of those it serves is her legacy. She has left an indelible mark on our community, setting a standard of service to which we should all strive. While her physical presence will most certainly be missed, I have no doubt that she will continue to serve as an inspiration to all of those at Fair Haven Community Health Center as they continue her good work.

For her outstanding service to our community and unparalleled dedication to some of our most vulnerable citizens, I am honored to stand today to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to Katrina Clark as she celebrates her retirement. I wish her, her partner Bonnie, and their children, Jared and Jonathan all the best for many more years of health and happiness.

HONORING DARRIN ARNOLD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Darrin Arnold. Darrin is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 214, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Darrin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Darrin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Darrin has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Darrin repaired 200 feet of a hiking trail inside the Parkville Nature Sanctuary in Parkville, Missouri, removing tree roots and large rocks, overlaying the path with gravel and providing a better walking experience for hikers in the sanctuary.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Darrin Arnold for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING COLONEL ROBERT L.
HOWARD-MOH

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life and accomplishments of Colonel Robert L. Howard and the dedication of the Headquarters Building of the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky in his honor.

Colonel Howard retired in 1992 after serving 36 years in the United States Army, with more than 33 years on airborne status, and is considered one of our Nation's most highly decorated veterans. While serving in Vietnam, Colonel Howard received the Medal of Honor on March 2, 1971 for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action" while on a mission to rescue a missing American soldier in enemy controlled territory. He passed away on December 23, 2009 in Waco, Texas.

Colonel Howard is one of the most impressive people I have met during my life. I am proud to have had the honor of working with him. Then-Captain Howard was my company commander when I was an instructor at the Army Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Even if you did not know that he had been recommended for the Medal of Honor three times, receiving one, he was also a recipient of our Nation's second highest decoration, the Distinguished Service Cross, and was awarded a Silver Star. And even if you did not know he had been wounded fourteen times during 54 months of combat duty and received eight Purple Hearts, you would still know he was a real leader.

Colonel Howard embodied everything there is in a good leader, a fine soldier, and a great American. He was someone you would be happy to follow at the Airborne School or into combat. He had the upmost respect from everyone around him, from junior enlisted personnel, to noncommissioned officers, and senior officers.

In my conversations with him after his retirement from military service, he was even more impressive, working for the Department of Veterans Affairs as a liaison to other veterans. Combined, he spent 52 years in government service.

It was a high honor to have known him and to have served under him. I have had the unbelievably good fortune to be part of this memorization process, and to know that his legacy will live on in this building.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I believe it is appropriate at this time that we honor Colonel Howard's service to our Nation with the dedication of this building. His commitment to duty and professionalism is an inspiration to all of us.

HONORING CHARKYRIA SAMONE
EVANS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable student, Ms. Charkyria Samone Evans.

Charkyria, an aspiring Aerospace Engineer, is the 19 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D'Andre Williams and Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Evans. As a native of Washington County, Charkyria has witnessed a few troubling moments that occurred in her county and specifically Greenville, Mississippi. These occurrences drew Charkyria's attention even at a young age.

As a fifth grader at Ella Darling Elementary School, Charkyria decided to take the first step in enhancing her community by joining a campus organization called Darling Leaders/Delta Action Coalition. This organization helped Charkyria receive the support she needed to express her enlightening ideas and persuaded her to submit an essay that promoted Greenville's beautification. Charkyria was able to execute her plan of beautification when she and a few other students designed a mural, displayed on the walls of Higher Dimensions Church. Charkyria's determination did not stop there.

Upon entering Coleman Middle School (CMS), her community service efforts were refreshed when she became a CMS cheerleader, student council member and President of the National Junior Honor Society.

Immediately upon entering Greenville-Weston High School, Charkyria took on roles of SGA Senator, Science Olympiad Scholar, Academic Bowl Scholar, Principal's Club Pupil, NSL-ITEST scholar (Mississippi Valley State University), varsity cheerleader and an eager mentor for students of various ages. Being involved in school only molded her to become even more involved in Washington County.

Additionally, she became an active member in Teenette Art and Civic Club, Delta Center Stage, Washington County's Democratic Caucus, Chi Mu Omega Chapter of AKA's Cotillion, Eta Theta Omega Chapter of AKA's Fashionetta, Mayor's Youth Council, and Old Jerusalem M.B. Church's Youth Ministry.

Now that Charkyria has embarked upon a new journey at Tuskegee University as an ambitious Aerospace Engineering student, she continues to reach out into her world community. She stretches her arms of love out to all in hopes of inspiring the lives of community members and students through community service.

Charkyria continues to use the skills that she has learned to help nourish the pride of the swift-growing South. With this mindset, she continues to grow with a sense of dignity and nationalism for her local communities and the United States of America because she remembers, "For God so loved the world. . .".

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Charkyria Samone Evans for her dedication to serving others and giving back to her community.

SECTION 5 OF THE VOTING RIGHTS
ACT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following:

1. How did Congress conclude that Section 5 was still necessary in 2006?

Congress conducted 21 hearings and amassed a record of over 15,000 pages during the 2006 process. The bipartisan vote was

the largest to date: the House vote was 390–33 and the Senate vote was 98–0. President Bush signed the measure into law on July 27, 2006.

2. How did Section 5 work to prevent discrimination in 2012?

In South Carolina (Voter ID): The federal court approved the state's voter ID law in future elections only after DOJ's use of Section 5 ensured that the final law would not discriminate against African-American voters.

In Texas (Redistricting): The federal district court denied preclearance to Texas' redistricting plans for Congress, state Senate, and state House, and affirmatively found that the plans for Congress and state Senate were adopted with a racially discriminatory purpose.

In Florida (Early Voting): The federal court denied approval of a reduction in early voting until state agreed to implement plan that would not make it more difficult for minorities to vote.

3. How will Congress respond to the Supreme Court decision?

Congress will work in a measured bipartisan manner to conduct hearings and to deliberate in order to determine the appropriate legislative response to the Court's decision and to ensure that the voting rights of Americans are not violated.

At a threshold level, Congress must hold oversight hearings to determine the current scope of voting discrimination across the country. This bipartisan process would review not only voting discrimination in past covered jurisdictions, but voting discrimination in all other states. This oversight process will necessarily involve the Department of Justice and all parts of the civil rights advocacy community.

We must be careful to maintain a deliberative and bipartisan oversight process. While the process may not yield immediate results, we must be careful ensure that it yields comprehensive a result that will survive legal scrutiny.

Until a new coverage formula is in place, the Section 5 "preclearance" remedy is inactive, as there are no covered jurisdictions. That will require each of us to maintain vigilance with respect to discrimination, particularly in formerly covered jurisdictions, as Section 5 protections will probably sent during the 2014 election cycle.

1. Supreme Court found the current Section 5 Coverage formula Unconstitutional:

The Court ruled that Section 5 cannot be enforced unless Congress crafts a new formula for determining which states and localities are covered by the "preclearance" mechanism. By a 5–4 vote, the Court found that Congress in the 2006 reauthorization relied on 40-year-old data that does not reflect racial

progress and changes in U.S. society. The Court found that Congress must "identify those jurisdictions to be singled out on a basis that makes sense in light of current conditions." The Court recognized that "voting discrimination still exists" and remains a problem that Congress is constitutionally entitled to address through legislation.

The court did not strike down the "preclearance" approval requirement of the law that has been used, mainly in the South, to open up polling places to minority voters in the nearly half century since it was first enacted in 1965. However, the Court noted that Congress must update the formula for determining which parts of the country must seek Washington's approval, in advance, for election changes.

2. What did Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act require?

Required that all or part of 16 states with a history of discrimination in voting submit requests to change election-related procedures for federal approval before they can be implemented.

Requests could be submitted to U.S. Attorney General or to the U.S. District Court for DC.

Freezes voting changes before implemented to stop voting discrimination before it begins.

Section 5 reauthorized by Congress in 1970, 1975, 1982, and 2006.

Requires covered jurisdictions to show that a voting change is not discriminatory.

Covers more jurisdictions than the South/Geographic Coverage of Section 5.

Entire State: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia.

Jurisdictions within a State: California, Florida, Michigan, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, South Dakota.

IN HONOR OF BRENDA BATTAT
FOR HER SERVICE TO THE
HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICA

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to recognize the accomplishments of my constituent, Brenda Battat, and her 24 years of dedicated service to the Hearing Loss Association of America, HLAA. Through her tenure at HLAA, which she has served as Executive Director since 2008, Ms. Battat was instrumental in making HLAA the

nation's leading consumer organization for people with hearing loss. Among her many accomplishments, Ms. Battat made significant contributions to raising public awareness on hearing loss and advocating for greater accessibility in public and private venues.

At the HLAA, Ms. Battat worked to ensure that Americans with hearing loss have more and better health care and technology options. She led advocacy efforts to increase consumer choice in the hearing loss marketplace. She assisted people with hearing loss in obtaining more options for communication and entertainment, such as hearing aid-compatible telephones and increased captioning of internet and mobile television programming. By fighting to make hearing aids and hearing technology more affordable and promoting the use of hearing assistive technology with consumer train-the-trainer programs, Ms. Battat has achieved easier and more effective communication for the hard of hearing. Ms. Battat's promotion of hearing assistive technology has removed barriers for those with hearing loss to participate fully in both private and community life.

Ms. Battat, who herself has a profound hearing loss and uses a cochlear implant and hearing aid, has served on many state and national advisory boards, including the National Institute on Deafness & Other Communication Disorders Advisory Council, the National Association of Hearing and Speech Action, the National Center for Deaf Health Research External Committee, the Maryland Telecommunications Relay Advisory Committee, the Federal Communications Commission's Hearing Aid Compatibility Negotiated Rulemaking Committee, and Consumer/Disability Telecommunications Advisory Committee. In short, her efforts have benefitted countless people.

Ms. Battat's outstanding work has earned her well-deserved national recognition. She received the Sheldon Williams Itzkoff Leadership Award in 2010, the Robert H. Weitbrecht Telecommunications Access Award in 2007, the Oticon Focus on People Advocacy Award in 2005, and the Self Help for Hard of Hearing People National Access Award in 2002. Under her leadership, the HLAA maintained financial stability and earned the GuideStar Exchange Seal for transparency.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to represent Brenda Battat in the U.S. House of Representatives and to thank her for her outstanding accomplishments on behalf of those with hearing loss. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ms. Battat on her contributions and in wishing her an enjoyable and fulfilling retirement.