

before they turned 16, and are below the age of 35; have lived here continuously for five years; graduated from high school or obtained a GED; have good moral character with no criminal record; and complete at least two years of college or military service.

The benefits to our country's economy and budget will be enormous with the passage of the DREAM Act. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that this legislation will reduce the deficit by \$1.4 billion over the next decade. The increase in authorized workers would affect individual and corporate income taxes. These changes would increase revenues by \$2.3 billion over ten years according to the Congressional Budget Office and Joint Committee on Taxation. Additionally, a 2010 study by the UCLA North American Integration and Development Center found that DREAM Act beneficiaries would earn between \$1.4 trillion and \$3.6 trillion over the course of their lives.

According to the Immigration Policy Center, there are an estimated 2.1 million undocumented individuals in the United States who might be eligible for legal status under the DREAM Act. In my home state of Georgia, there are 74,000 undocumented young people who could potentially benefit from the passage of the DREAM Act.

This legislation is of the utmost importance to me because Georgia is one of the top ten states with the largest number of DREAM Act beneficiaries. The time to act on this bill is now; the students in Georgia cannot afford to wait any longer. South Carolina has banned undocumented youth from attending public colleges and, unfortunately, it looks like Georgia might follow suit. Earlier this year, in October, Georgia's state board of regents voted to ban illegal immigrants from the University of Georgia, Georgia Tech, Georgia State University, Medical College of Georgia, and Georgia College & State University.

Undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children should not be penalized for a decision that was not theirs. In the long-run, the acceptance and inclusion of young immigrants who arrived as children is a decent and just goal.

As a Member of the Armed Services Committee, I know the importance of having an adequate military to protect our freedoms at home and abroad. Our military would benefit from the passage of the DREAM Act. Millions of talented youth will be ready to serve our country, and would assist the military in its recruiting efforts. In fact, the DREAM Act was included as part of the Department of Defense's 2010–2012 strategic plan by the Office of Personnel and Readiness.

By providing undocumented youth with the opportunity to enhance their education and career readiness, our country will reap enormous economic and cultural benefits.

Yesterday, I spent a good part of my day helping a potential Dreamer beneficiary in my district: Allison Hernandez Sanchez. His parents brought him from Mexico in 1994 when he was five years old. This young man attended Miller Grove High School and graduated in 2009. He was an athlete and played the saxophone in the band.

Like many other undocumented talented young men and women, he had plans to continue his education. However, on October 11, 2010, due to a minor traffic incident, he was detained for not having proper documentation.

He was immediately placed in deportation proceedings.

This young man had no criminal background. Not only was he a student, but a son, friend and brother. Because of the state of current laws, Allison is unable to follow his dreams and attend college. Allison, like many other undocumented youth, calls the United States home, because it is the only home he knows.

Unfortunately, Allison is not alone. Young men and women across the United States belong in colleges, the workforce, and the military—not in detention centers. They are ready to serve their country, to become productive citizens, to offer their talents and skills to make the United States a better country for all of us. They should not be treated as criminals. No child should go through this experience when they did not make the decision to come to this country. They should not be held accountable for a choice that was never theirs to make. They deserve an opportunity to stay and invest in the United States of America.

I am proud to have joined more than 130 Members of Congress in cosponsoring this legislation that will help Allison and millions of other undocumented youth across the country. The DREAM Act was initially introduced in 2001, and it is definitely time to do what is right by bringing this bill to the floor for final passage. The time to pass this bill is now. Our military cannot afford to reject another qualified recruit. America's economy cannot afford to turn away a new entrepreneur to bring economic prosperity, a good teacher to educate our children, or a medical researcher that could create a cure for cancer or HIV.

I am glad that Congress is acting now so that today's dream can become tomorrow's reality. I thank Representatives BERMAN, DIAZ-BALART, and ROYBAL-ALLARD in their leadership in moving this bill forward. Speaker PELOSI, I thank you for working tirelessly to bring this bill to the floor for a vote.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF GIRLS INCORPORATED OF THE ALBEMARLE

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2010

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to honor the 60th anniversary of Girls Incorporated of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City, North Carolina.

North Carolina's first Girls Club was founded in Elizabeth City in 1950. It was the culmination of over a year's effort on the part of a local group of women to organize a club to provide recreation and training for the city's girls.

In 1951, the club affiliated with Girls Clubs of America. When the Girls Clubs of America voted to change its name to Girls Incorporated in April 1990, the Elizabeth City Girls Club's Board of Directors followed the requirements of affiliation, changing the local club's name to Girls Incorporated of the Albemarle in May 1990.

Today, Girls Incorporated of the Albemarle continues to actively pursue its mission: to meet the needs of girls; to develop their self-worth and emotional maturity; to develop their

capacity to be self-sufficient responsible members of their community; and to serve as a vigorous advocate for them.

Girls Incorporated of the Albemarle's staff and volunteers are superior role models for our youth and deliver a wide variety of wonderful after-school and summer camp programs.

Girls Incorporated of the Albemarle also collaborates with our local communities and corporate partners to allow girls to interact with other women in various professions and experience hands on activities and events that they may otherwise not have exposure to. These partners include Museum of the Albemarle, United States Coast Guard Base, Elizabeth City State University, Hopeline, 4-H, Circuit Court Judges and Attorneys, Port Discover, NC Cooperative Extension Service and the Tobacco Cessation Coalition.

This is the only organization in northeastern North Carolina that offers such comprehensive programming designed specifically for girls.

To their credit, the organization's goal is to reach all girls regardless of socio-economic status, and they recognize that girls in at-risk communities have greater need for their programs. Of the girls they serve, 65 percent come from families earning less than \$25,000 a year and approximately one-half are from single-parent homes headed by women.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Girls Incorporated of the Albemarle on their 60th anniversary and for the great service they have provided the community over these many years.

IN HONOR OF POLICE CHIEF
MARTIN LENTZ

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker I rise today in honor of Martin Lentz, Police Chief of Cleveland Heights, as he celebrates retirement after 51 years of service.

Martin Lentz served on the Cleveland Heights police force for 15 years before being appointed Chief of Police. Mr. Lentz worked tirelessly to improve the safety of Cleveland Heights. Some of his accomplishments include obtaining federal grant money to apply computer analysis to crime statistics, staggering shifts to handle times of increased demand and allowing officers to park their cruisers in front of their homes to deter crime.

In honor of his dedicated service and accomplishments while working for the city of Cleveland Heights, the Cleveland Heights Police Academy will be renamed the Martin G. Lentz Police Academy.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Cleveland Heights Police Chief Martin Lentz, whose dedication, expertise and concern for the people of the City of Cleveland Heights has helped to protect our community. I am grateful for his service. I wish Chief Lentz, his family and friends health and happiness.