

resources to sponsor professionals for permanent resident visas. They are building a highly skilled workforce in the US within technical specialties in which few American workers with applicable skills exist. This is something we need to do if we are going to grow out of our current economic difficulties.

I suggested to the Secretary of Homeland Security that she consider making the technical fix as part of regulatory guidance on this new fee. The Department later informed me that such a fix required congressional action.

I raise this issue Mr. Speaker, because it is my hope that we can work with our colleagues in the Senate to ensure that companies that are trying to do the right thing are not unintentionally hurt by this provision. Since this unintended consequence was caused by a provision in an appropriations bill, I hope that we can make the necessary technical fix on an appropriations bill at the appropriate time.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 1, 2011*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1017) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Chair, I rise to support the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan, which would strike language from this legislation that would restrict Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funding to only 10 urban areas across the country.

Last year, as a result of Republican-led cuts, the number of urban areas eligible to receive funding in UASI to assist local law enforcement deal with the threat of terrorist attacks was dropped from 64 to 31. Last week those cuts hit home, when two cities in my district were unjustly removed from the list of areas that received federal funding as part of this grant program. While we in Western New York appreciate the many national security needs across the country, it made me question our security priorities when two cities in an international border were denied funding only to have funding allocated to smaller cities in our nation's interior. I think that if you ask law enforcement officials in Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Albany, they'll tell you that denying this small amount of funding to Upstate does not mean we are less at risk. Rather we've shifted the financial burden of security on them. In turn we may all be less safe.

Should this amendment fail to pass, it will effectively prevent cities like Rochester and Buffalo from competing for UASI grants in the future thanks to the plans of the majority to reduce funding even more in future years. At a time when the threat of terrorist attacks is high, we cannot lay the entire financial burden of securing our cities on local authorities, first responders, law enforcement and agencies and expect to adequately protect our citizens and make our cities safe.

DENNIS RITTENMEYER  
RETIREMENT

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 2, 2011*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Dr. Dennis C. Rittenmeyer and to wish him well upon his upcoming retirement from his position as President of Calumet College of Saint Joseph in Whiting, Indiana. Dr. Rittenmeyer's many years of service in the field of education have had a positive impact on numerous students and educators within the community of Northwest Indiana and across the nation. In honor of Dennis, a retirement reception will be held on Tuesday, June 7, 2011, at The Center for Visual and Performing Arts in Munster, Indiana.

Dr. Dennis Rittenmeyer's true passion for education is reflected in his impressive 40 year career in higher education. Dr. Rittenmeyer received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Western Michigan University. He went on to earn his doctoral degree in Higher Education Administration from Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan. In 1987, Dr. Rittenmeyer became President of Calumet College of Saint Joseph. At the time, the institution was in serious financial crisis. Dennis successfully restored the college's financial stability, utilizing the leadership skills for which he is well-known. Throughout his tenure, his perseverance to see the right thing done sustained his efforts to overcome obstacles in order to establish Calumet College of Saint Joseph as the exceptional resource it is today. Under Dr. Rittenmeyer's direction, the enrollment at Calumet College of Saint Joseph increased from 870 in 1987 to nearly 1,300 in 2010; educational programs were expanded to include not only associate's degree programs but also bachelor's and master's degree programs. Additionally, an athletic program was introduced; currently, more than 270 participate in intercollegiate sports. The physical development of the campus included extensive renovations to the main building and a new Student Activity/Community Center was completed in 2009. My good friend also established an endowment fund for the continuously growing institution. For his truly impressive commitment to Calumet College of Saint Joseph, Dr. Rittenmeyer is to be commended.

Perhaps more remarkable is Dr. Rittenmeyer selflessly giving of his time, intellectual skills, and power of persuasion to move the community of Northwest Indiana ahead. In 2009, he was honored by Governor Mitch Daniels with the Distinguished Hoosier Award for his efforts on behalf of public transportation in Northwest Indiana. Much needs to be done before we have a true regional transit system in our region, but it will occur because of Dennis Rittenmeyer's lone sojourn in the wilderness preaching the human value of developing such a system long before it became a fashionable topic of debate. There would be no debate and no hope of much an improvement for future generations if Dennis had not stepped forth before all others.

Dr. Rittenmeyer's commitment to education and the community of Northwest Indiana is exceeded only by his devotion to his amazing

family. He and his wonderful wife Leslie have five beloved children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Dr. Dennis C. Rittenmeyer for his lifetime of leadership, service, and dedication. He has touched the lives of countless students and educators, as well as every one of us in Northwest Indiana. For his service and uncompromising dedication, Dr. Rittenmeyer is worthy of the highest praise, and I ask that you join me in wishing him well upon his retirement.

SIXTH DISTRICT CHEERS AMERICAN IDOL SCOTTY MCCREERY

**HON. HOWARD COBLE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 2, 2011*

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, for years, the sounds and drama of American Idol have captivated the eyes and ears of Americans, gluing them to their TVs to find out who the next great singing star would be. Over the 11 seasons of American Idol mania, the state of North Carolina and the Sixth District have been well represented in the finals of this singing competition. This season's American Idol competition was no different, ending with 17-year-old Scotty McCreery, from Garner, North Carolina, crowned as the latest American Idol.

Scotty has strong connections to the Sixth District, as well. Several members of Scotty's family live in our area. His grandmother and grandfather, Paquita and Bill McCreery, reside in the Moore County town of Aberdeen, while his aunt and uncle, Tina and Billy Creech, live just down the road in Pinehurst.

The members of Scotty's family, however, are just some of a long line of connections to the Sixth District of North Carolina. We have been home to two previous finalists in the American Idol competition, Fantasia Barrino and Chris Daughtry. Fantasia, from High Point, won the American Idol competition during its third season. Daughtry, from McLeansville, though he did not win the competition, has gone on to become a successful recording artist, releasing several multi-platinum albums.

North Carolina is one of only two states that can boast more than three finalists over the competition's history; the other is Alabama. North Carolina has had a total of seven finalists over the years.

Joining Barrino, Daughtry and McCreery as American Idol finalists are four other proud North Carolinians. Clay Aiken of Raleigh, Bucky Covington of Rockingham, Kellie Pickler of Albermarle, and Anoop Desai of Cary, a UNC-Chapel Hill alumnus, all represented North Carolina in the finals of the competition, as well.

Even Scotty McCreery's grandmother, Paquita, got some face time on American Idol. Like any proud grandmother would do, she used her chance at the microphone to tell the world, "That's my Scotty."

On behalf of the residents of the Sixth District, we offer our congratulations to Scotty and his family who live in the Sixth District. And from the state of North Carolina, we say again, congratulations, "That's our Scotty."