

to join me in this tribute to this incredible man, and hope that his legacy lives on for future generations.

WELCOMING THE XIX INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE TO WASHINGTON, DC

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome the XIX International AIDS Conference, AIDS 2012, back to Washington, DC. On July 22, 2012, more than 30,000 people from approximately 200 countries are expected to converge on Washington, DC, for AIDS 2012, including 20,000 delegates, 10,000 additional participants in the Global Village, and up to 2,000 journalists. Over the course of the Conference, which runs through July 27, 2012, the world's leading scientists, public health experts, policy-makers, community leaders, and persons living with HIV/AIDS will chart the way forward in the global response to HIV/AIDS by turning the latest scientific advancements into action.

The III International AIDS Conference was held in our Nation's capital in 1987, the same year that the United States established a policy barring HIV-positive foreigners from obtaining permanent immigration status or entering the United States without special waivers. As a result, no major scientific conferences on HIV/AIDS have been held in this country since—until now. Thanks to years of advocacy by countless individuals and the leadership of former President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama, the misguided travel and immigration ban against people with HIV was lifted in 2010. This was a critical step forward in addressing societal stigma and discriminatory practices against people living with HIV/AIDS.

The return of the International AIDS Conference to the United States could not come at a more critical time. Here at home, more than one million people are living with HIV and approximately 50,000 individuals become newly infected with the virus each year. And among individuals living with HIV, one in five is unaware of his or her infection. This not only increases one's risk for developing worse health outcomes and unknowingly transmitting the virus to others, but undermines HIV prevention efforts as a whole. Furthermore, significant disparities persist across diverse communities and populations with regard to incidence, access to treatment, and health outcomes, particularly for men who have sex with men, MSM, African Americans and other minorities, women, and young people.

However, more than 30 years after the beginning of the epidemic, we are now at a point where we have the tools necessary to prevent the spread of HIV and bring an end to the crisis. The theme of AIDS 2012, "Turning the Tide Together," represents the challenge before us. In order to change the course of HIV/AIDS in the United States and abroad, we must harness the potential of the most recent scientific advances in HIV/AIDS treatment and biomedical prevention, continue research for a HIV vaccine and cure, and scale up effective, evidence-based interventions in key settings.

As the world's leader in HIV research and the largest funder of international AIDS programs, including the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, PEPFAR, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, TB, and Malaria, continued commitment by the United States to HIV/AIDS research, prevention, and treatment programs is crucial to improving global health.

Mr. Speaker, AIDS 2012 is a tremendous opportunity to further strengthen the role of the United States in global HIV/AIDS initiatives within the current context of significant global economic challenges. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to join me in welcoming the delegates and participants of AIDS 2012 to Washington, DC, as well as commit to helping support a stronger international response to HIV/AIDS, advancing the health and rights of people living with HIV/AIDS, and working to create an "AIDS-free generation."

LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2012

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 20th anniversary of the Leadership Alliance. Founded in 1992 by Brown University in my home State of Rhode Island, the Leadership Alliance is a national academic consortium of leading research universities and minority-serving institutions with the mission to develop underrepresented students into outstanding leaders and role models in academia, business, and public service.

Through an organized program of research, networking, and mentorship at critical transitions along the entire academic training pathway, the Leadership Alliance prepares young scientists and scholars from underrepresented and underserved populations for graduate training and professional apprenticeships. Leadership Alliance faculty mentors provide high quality, cutting-edge research experiences in all academic disciplines at the Nation's most competitive graduate training institutions and share insights into the nature of academic careers.

During difficult economic times, it is important to educate and train young people to become active participants in the workforce. In particular, I believe we must build on programs in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, or STEM fields. If we do not engage future generations to excel in these fields, it will hurt our Nation's ability to innovate, and hurt our employers' ability to fill 21st century jobs. It is through their creativity and talent that we will strengthen our economy and competitiveness.

In the 20 years since its establishment, the Leadership Alliance has proven that investing in our students yields immeasurable returns. Brown University has mentored 386 Leadership Alliance participants, of whom 35 percent have received a graduate level degree. Notably, over half of the Leadership Alliance doctoral degree recipients are in the STEM disciplines.

Opportunities through the Leadership Alliance and other programs, such as the Community College to Career Fund, offer students of all gender, racial, and economic backgrounds to get involved, and ultimately, to suc-

ceed. As co-chair of the Career and Technical Education Caucus, I am always searching for ways to excite and entice these young students to develop their potential and share their knowledge. When we invest in their successes, we invest in our economic future.

I am pleased today to congratulate the Leadership Alliance and Brown University for 20 years of mentoring a diverse, competitive research and scholarly workforce, and I look forward to following their successes over the next 20 years.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5856) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of Mr. YOUNG's statement. As a fellow * * * as is BILL YOUNG, and as a father of four sons currently in the military, I find the suggestion that the Department of Defense spends too much money recovering the remains of our military men and women who are killed in action to be absolutely offensive and insensitive to military families. As Chair of the Military Personnel Subcommittee I appreciate the extraordinary efforts of recovery worldwide.

Our service members who are engaged in combat operations make a solemn vow to one another: "I will never leave a fallen comrade behind." The military, consisting of all the branches of service have a similar responsibility to the families of our service members. When a service member is killed in action, the military service branch that they belong to has a responsibility to return the remains home to the family. They have a responsibility to return the remains to their final resting place with dignity and honor.

The military men and women who are killed in action overseas are heroes who make the ultimate sacrifice to preserve the freedom that we all enjoy. The military rightly does everything necessary to return our service members' remains to their families. I believe that the military does a superb job under very trying circumstances, and I know that our military families are very grateful. I know firsthand of this * * *. I sadly was present for the return of a brother-in-law killed overseas as a Marine pilot. Our family appreciated the proven love of the American people, which has been promoted by Congressman BILL YOUNG and his wife, Beverly.

OBAMA TAX HIKES

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, at a time when businesses in this country are navigating