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SPEECH OF

HON. BRENDA L. LAWRENCE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2015

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, as we vote on H. Res. 295, I would like to address the need for body cameras worn by on-duty law enforcement.

As a result of the influx of controversial reports citing alleged inappropriate behavior by police officers, body cameras will provide more transparency in what can be otherwise confounding cases. In instances like the Walter Scott shooting, the McKinney incident, and the Trayvon Martin case, video footage from a body-worn camera may have provided critical, tangible evidence regarding the events that transpired. Such technology has the capability to reduce the number of complaints of excessive use of force by officers. It also provides the power to dismiss officers from false, malicious complaints. Additionally, footage from body cameras can be utilized as a teaching tool in which officers review video in an attempt to learn from their mistakes and improve their performance. Both exemplary and inappropriate police behavior can be analyzed in order to build greater trust between law enforcement and the communities they are tasked with serving.

Furthermore, there are studies that show improved behavior occurs with both police officers and potential suspects when both parties know they are being recorded. Detroit's significantly higher crime rate when compared with the U.S. average makes this topic of particular concern to me and my District. The violent crime rate in 2012 was nearly six times that of the U.S. average. The implementation of body cameras will help ensure the safety of my constituents by recording interactions between officers and civilians. I urge support for this bill for the protection and interests of all involved.

I would like to thank my colleague, Congressman GREEN for this bipartisan legislation to reform our nation's law enforcement policies and procedures by promoting transparency while protecting citizens and officers.

HONORING RICHARD C. EHLKE

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, Jr.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2015

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Richard C. Ehlke, Senior Advisor to the Director and Senior Specialist, of the Congressional Research Service (CRS) of the Library of Congress. Mr. Ehlke retired on May 29, 2015 after a distinguished career of over four decades with CRS.

During his tenure, Mr. Ehlke served in many roles at CRS. He began his career as a legis-

lative attorney with the American Law Division of CRS, and Members of Congress and staff actively sought his thoughtful, objective analyses of some of the most complex and nuanced legal issues facing the Congress. His highly regarded and much relied upon briefs often focused on potential points of friction between Congress and the Executive Branch. At the behest of his Congressional clients, he analyzed the legal intricacies of legislative vetoes, Congressional access to agency and presidential information, the interplay of the President's constitutional powers under the Appointments Clause and of Congress' legislative and advice and consent prerogatives, and the transparency in government provided for by the Freedom of Information Act. He was routinely called upon by Congressional offices to clarify the legal complexities arising out of the federal government's relationship with Native Americans.

Following his many years of providing direct legal counsel to Congress as a legislative attorney, Mr. Ehlke was promoted to serve as the head of CRS' American Law Division. In this role, he guided the work of a generation of Division attorneys and paralegal assistants, instilling in them the rigorous, careful legal research and analytical skills that had always been the hallmark of his own work. He was instrumental in establishing the Division's Law Recruit Program in 1988, which has attracted new hires, contributing to a vibrant and diverse workforce of legislative attorneys.

Following his tenure as head of the American Law Division, a succession of CRS Directors called upon Mr. Ehlke for his sage advice and leadership skills in the service of Congress in a number of critical roles. His accomplishments during this part of his career were significant. Mr. Ehlke played a leading role in the development of a new performance assessment system for CRS. He also advised the Director on the establishment of the position of Section Research Manager (SRM) (first-line supervisors) in the Service and assisted with the recruitment, hiring, orientation, and performance expectations of the initial cohort of these SRMs. Additionally he oversaw a complete redesign of the CRS website and served as a member of the website governance board to streamline services for our Congressional offices. Given his long-term interest in ensuring CRS' objective of providing the best service to Congress, Mr. Ehlke assisted with the Congressionally mandated CRS customer satisfaction survey. And as the Senior Advisor to the Director and as a Senior Specialist, he advised on significant legal issues relating to ethics, media policy, CRS relations with the Library of Congress, speech or debate privilege, CRS reorganizations, and personnel actions.

Whatever his role, the result has always been the same—a highly competent, skillful performance for the benefit of Congress, its Members, and staff. CRS has been fortunate to have had such a person of high intellect dedicated to the institution's mission of providing objective, authoritative service to Congress in an unflinching and courteous manner for over forty years. We wish him the very best in his retirement, and thank him for his exceptional record of service to CRS and to the Congress of the United States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER A. DEFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2015

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 9, 2015, I missed several roll call votes due to undergoing a medical procedure in Oregon. Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes:

Roll Call vote 309, On Passage of H.R. 2289, the Commodity End-User Relief Act, I would have voted Nay.

Roll Call vote 310, On Agreeing to the Blackburn Amendment to H.R. 2577, I would have voted Nay.

Roll Call vote 311, On Agreeing to the Gosar #1 Amendment to H.R. 2577, I would have voted Nay.

Roll Call 312, On Agreeing to Gosar #2 Amendment to H.R. 2577, I would have voted Nay.

Roll Call 313, On Agreeing to Posey #1 Amendment, I would have voted Nay.

Roll Call 314, On Agreeing to Sessions #1 Amendment, I would have voted Nay.

Roll Call 315, On Agreeing to Sessions #2 Amendment, I would have voted Nay.

Roll Call 317, On Agreeing to Posey #2 Amendment, I would have voted Nay.

Roll Call 318, On Agreeing to Posey #3 Amendment, I would have voted Nay.

Roll Call 319, On Agreeing to Yoho Amendment to H.R. 2577, I would have voted Yes.

Roll Call 320, On Agreeing to Brooks Amendment to H.R. 2577, I would have voted Yes.

Roll Call 321, On Agreeing to Hultgren Amendment to H.R. 2577, I would have voted Nay.

Roll Call 322, On Agreeing to Meehan Amendment to H.R. 2577, I would have voted Nay.

Roll Call 323, On Agreeing to Garrett Amendment to H.R. 2577, I would have voted Nay.

Roll Call 324, On Agreeing to Ellison Amendment to H.R. 2577, I would have voted Aye.

Roll Call 325, On Agreeing to Emmer Amendment to H.R. 2577, I would have voted Nay.

Roll Call Vote 326, On Agreeing to Peters Amendment, I would have voted Aye.

Roll Call Vote 327, On Agreeing to Issa Amendment to H.R. 2577, I would have voted Nay.

Roll Call 328, On Motion to Recommit with Instructions to H.R. 2577, I would have voted Aye.

Roll Call 329, On Passage of H.R. 2577 would have voted Nay.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF BEAU BIDEN

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2015

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in remembrance of a friend, a public servant, and a good man—Beau Biden. I joined the Biden family last weekend to mourn his loss, which is felt by all who knew him, and celebrate his life, which has left an indelible impact.