

reaching this incredible milestone, and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

21ST CENTURY STEM FOR GIRLS
AND UNDERREPRESENTED MI-
NORITIES ACT OF 2015

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 15, 2015

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduced the 21st Century STEM for Girls and Underrepresented Minorities Act because I strongly believe that we need more girls and minorities represented in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) careers and professions.

Large segments of our population are underrepresented in those academic and professional areas, which means that our nation is leaving a significant amount of talent on the table—not engaging with or being exposed to tools for tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, here is the problem.

According to a 2014 National Science Board annual report, African Americans, Hispanics, American Indians, and Alaska Natives accounted for only 10 percent of U.S. workers in science and engineering in 2010.

This is a far smaller proportion than their share of the general population, which was 26 percent.

Women are also underrepresented in the science and engineering workforce.

While women represent half of all college-educated workers in the United States, they made up just 28 percent of science and engineering workers in 2010.

These statistics make clear we are ignoring an untapped opportunity to expand STEM employment in the United States, employment which leads to good jobs, steady wages, and the ability to join the middle class.

The development of world-class talent in the STEM fields here at home is critical to America's global leadership.

Supporting women and minorities in STEM is not only an essential part of America's strategy to out-innovate, out-educate, and out-build the rest of the world, it is also important to students themselves.

STEM careers offer women and minorities the opportunity to engage in some of the most exciting fields of discovery and technological innovation.

A highly-skilled STEM educated workforce is essential to ensuring the United States' ability to succeed in the 21st century global economy.

By broadening the STEM pipeline to include those who have been historically underrepresented in STEM fields, we will create a larger, more diverse STEM talent pool of problem solvers and inventors.

We can increase the number of girls and underrepresented minorities in the STEM fields by getting these groups interested in STEM early and keeping them engaged.

Students from historically disadvantaged groups such as African Americans and Hispanics, both female and male, are less likely to have access to advanced courses in math and science in high school, which negatively affects their ability to enter and successfully complete STEM majors in college.

That is why I am introducing the 21st Century STEM for Girls and Underrepresented Minorities Act.

This bill would provide funding to local school districts to carry out activities designed to better engage girls and underrepresented minorities in STEM.

This way we can be sure to tap into these vast talent pools of students, while they are young.

Allowable activities under the legislation include improving professional development for teachers and other school personnel, strengthening outreach to parents, providing mentoring and tutoring programs, improving access to afterschool and summer programs that provide additional enrichment opportunities in STEM, and providing academic advice and assistance in high school course selection that encourages girls and underrepresented minorities to take advanced STEM classes.

Diversity is key for the United States to continue to prosper and compete: We must do more to recruit women and underrepresented minorities into the science, technology, engineering and math fields.

Diversity drives innovation, and its absence imperils our creativity and our productivity.

By training our nation's underserved talent in STEM fields, we will ensure that we have the intellectual capital essential to enhance our position as the world's strongest economy, passing American greatness to the next generation.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in this effort my co-sponsoring.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. GARY
HOLLANDER

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 15, 2015

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gary Hollander who has served as a mentor, teacher, union leader, college instructor, consultant, and academic administrator. Gary Hollander is the first and only President of Diverse & Resilient, Inc. He founded this nonprofit organization to become a voice for the healthy development of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) people in Wisconsin during his 20 years with the agency. He officially steps down as President and CEO of Diverse & Resilient, Inc. in July, 2015.

The agency's name serves to remind us that LGBT people are everywhere, engage in interesting and meaningful lives, and contribute to the welfare of each other and the broader community. Diverse & Resilient serves over 5,000 LGBT people every year. The agency has built the capacity of LGBT groups in Wisconsin and provided direct-service work to address the health disparities experienced by LGBT people in Wisconsin. The agency has focused on six priority areas: Acceptance, Cultivating Leaders, Mental Health, Sexual Health, Partner & Community Violence, and Substance Use.

Gary Hollander is a life-long resident of Wisconsin. He earned a doctorate in educational psychology from the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee where he earned both graduate and undergraduate honors. Gary has both

taught and served as a school psychologist in Milwaukee Public Schools. He worked at Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin and was also a national consultant for Planned Parenthood Federation of America. Gary has worked in health care heading up educational and research programs, starting and managing an HIV clinic, and held clinical positions in family medicine, psychiatry, and psychology. He is also a very active volunteer serving on boards of directors of agencies and other leadership roles.

Hollander is an outspoken proponent for LGBT people across Wisconsin. He has used his platform to build strong relationships with other community agencies in order to educate people on the impact of HIV/AIDS in our community and to look at LGBT issues as part of a broader public health agenda. Under his leadership, the agency has increased its visibility and expanded the number of age groups it attracts and serves.

Although he will no longer be at the helm of Diverse & Resilient, Hollander will continue to advocate and empower people who remain marginalized based on their race, gender or sexual orientation. He also will continue to honor his late husband of 32 years, Paul Mandracchia, an artist and dancer who died December 24, 2014 after a long battle with multiple sclerosis.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Dr. Gary Hollander. He has left a legacy of advocacy and compassion. He is a true trailblazer who has labored to increase acceptance and tolerance for not just gay people but for all of us. The citizens of the Fourth Congressional District, the State of Wisconsin and the nation have benefited tremendously from his dedicated service. I am honored for these reasons to pay tribute to Dr. Gary Hollander.

TRIBUTE TO REBEKAH TOPHAM

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 15, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Rebekah Topham of Griswold, Iowa, for her extraordinary accomplishment as one of Iowa's most decorated track athletes. In May, Rebekah ended her brilliant high school track career at Griswold High School, winning her 11th state championship gold medal.

Rebekah's love for running began at a young age. As a freshman, Rebekah rocketed onto the scene by winning three state titles along with a runner-up medal. But that was only a glimpse of what was to come. Rebekah won eight more gold medals in the next three years, rounding out one of the best track seasons in Iowa high school history. Rebekah's success on the track demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance.

It is with great honor that I recognize Rebekah for her outstanding achievements. I am proud to represent her, and her family in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Rebekah and wishing her nothing but the best as she continues working towards her dreams as a collegiate track athlete.