

to the broader question of how to protect drivers on the road and how to encourage them to drive more safely. As NHTSA itself recently recognized, “[o]nly a small percentage (approximately 2%) of the annual highway fatalities is directly attributable to vehicle factors (some design issues, some owner maintenance issues, some defect issues). Rather, 94 percent of highway fatalities are related to various human factors, including driver actions, such as speeding, distraction, impaired driving, and not wearing a seatbelt.”

No one questions the need for accountability in this case. My concern is with potential unintended effects of going too far in an effort to ensure accountability, as well as potentially getting distracted from the larger issue of how to encourage our constituents to drive more safely and responsibly.

In this instance, pushing Takata too hard financially, for example, will not save a single American life. To the contrary, it will make it harder to ensure safe airbags are installed in every vehicle that needs one and potentially put lives at risk. Moreover, doing so could significantly disrupt the auto sector, which depends on the company for airbags, seat belts, and other safety features that are essential for protecting lives.

Let me put this in perspective.

Takata’s Highland Industries, headquartered in Kernersville, North Carolina, in my congressional district, is one of the largest suppliers of fabric for the North American airbag market. My talented, hard-working constituents at Highland Industries take pride in their work, which has played a direct role over the years in saving thousands of American lives. In addition to helping save the lives of individuals in an accident, they produced the fabrics that have safely gotten astronauts into space, including to the moon and back. Indeed, the flag planted on the moon is made of fabric that was produced by these hard-working Americans in my congressional district.

Destroying the jobs of my constituents in the name of safety will not make American drivers and passengers safer. It will ultimately make them less safe.

We all mourn the American citizens who lost their lives tragically in accidents in which an airbag did not perform as intended. Their legacy should be a better and stronger system of airbag safety in the United States, through the development of even more advanced airbags and other safety features. We owe it to their families to put political agendas and posturing aside and work together to achieve that goal.

RETIREMENT OF COL ROMNEY C.
ANDERSON, M.D.

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2015

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress and the U.S. Military medical community, I congratulate Colonel Romney C. Andersen, M.D. on his long-standing dedication to our nation.

With over 30 years of service, Colonel Andersen exemplifies the values of a model Soldier with his utmost commitment to caring for the combat injured casualty.

Colonel Anderson’s distinguished service to our nation began as a cadet at West Point,

followed by leadership as an infantry officer and continued training including Ranger school.

Dr. Andersen’s time in uniform is celebrated by the advancements he made in the military medical community. It has been my honor to serve under Colonel Andersen at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center; he is an irreplaceable asset to military medicine.

As an exemplary man of many roles, Dr. Romney Andersen has brought unparalleled virtue to himself, his family and his nation.

Congratulations on your retirement and thank you for your service to the United States of America.

May God bless you.

RECOGNIZING VALLEY CITIES ON
THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Valley Cities Behavioral Health Counseling on the occasion of their 50th anniversary.

Valley Cities was first established in 1965, formed by members of south King County community who advocated for better mental health resources and with the belief that all people are capable of overcoming personal obstacles and barriers with proper support. The organization’s aim is to strengthen communities through the delivery of holistic, integrated behavioral health services that “promote hope, recovery and improved quality of life.” Valley Cities became a United Way partner agency in 1967.

Over the last 50 years, Valley Cities has grown to operate six clinics in the cities of Auburn, Federal Way, Kent, Renton, Des Moines, and Bellevue. As a reflection of the diversity of the 9th Congressional District, Valley Cities serves clients from around the world. Their health clinics often provide care for those with low incomes and who are from our most underserved neighborhoods, making Valley Cities an important healthcare partner in our community.

Today, Valley Cities remains dedicated to helping individuals and families through licensed mental health counseling, chemical dependency treatment for adults, family support programs, and specialized veterans services. In recognition of the pace of change in south King County, Valley Cities continues to evolve to meet the needs of the communities it serves.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Valley Cities Behavioral Health Counseling on its 50th Anniversary. I am proud to have such a dedicated organization serving and healing community members in and around the 9th Congressional District of Washington.

PROTECT MEDICAL INNOVATION
ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2015

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my thoughts on the medical device tax.

H.R. 160, the Protect Medical Innovation Act of 2015, would repeal the 2.3 percent excise tax on medical devices enacted as part of the Affordable Care Act. While I voted in opposition of H.R. 160, I recognize the concerns of many in the medical technology industry regarding the implications of an excise tax on medical devices.

Under the Affordable Care Act, 16.4 million Americans have gained health coverage and access to critical health services. The tax on medical devices was designed as a means to offset the gains made by the industries that benefit from the law’s successful expansion of healthcare coverage and is a critical component of paying for the law’s implementation. It is problematic that H.R. 160 does not provide for the cost of eliminating the tax. I do not believe that it is prudent to repeal this tax at this time, but we should continue to monitor its long-term impact and perhaps revisit the issue in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO DIRECT THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY TO ACCEPT A STATUE DEPICTING PIERRE L’ENFANT FROM THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce a bill to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to accept a statue depicting Pierre L’Enfant from the District of Columbia and to provide for the permanent display of the statue in the United States Capitol.

Pierre L’Enfant was born in France in 1754. He was an engineer and an architect, and he traveled to the United States to serve with the United States in the Revolutionary War. In March 1791, L’Enfant was hired to develop the design for the District of Columbia. L’Enfant’s design for the city was so remarkable that it remains and is cherished today in the nation’s capital and throughout this country. L’Enfant’s design envisioned a federal and residential city with diagonal streets propelling from Congress and the President’s home, beautiful boulevards on local streets and neighborhoods, and open spaces for monuments, memorials and historical structures, all of which largely remain intact, protected as a historical treasure.

In 2006, the residents of the District of Columbia chose L’Enfant as one of the top ten Americans that have given distinguished service to the District, and the selection committee created by the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities chose L’Enfant as the second statue from the District of Columbia to be

placed in the United States Capitol. The District's first choice for a statue was Frederick Douglass, and I am pleased that the Douglass statue now sits in Emancipation Hall. Because the United States Capitol does not currently appropriately recognize the contributions of Pierre L'Enfant, and because D.C. residents and stakeholders chose L'Enfant as a distinguished Washingtonian, this bill would require the Joint Committee on the Library to place the Pierre L'Enfant statue in the United States Capitol.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CODIFICATION OF TITLE 55,
UNITED STATES CODE, ENVIRONMENT

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2015

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing a bill to enact certain laws relating to the environment as title 55, United States Code, "Environment". The bill restates the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, and the Clean Air Act, along with related provisions in other Acts, as a new positive law title of the United States Code. The new positive law title replaces the existing provisions, which are repealed by the bill.

The bill was prepared by the Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the House of Representatives as part of its ongoing responsibility under 2 U.S.C. §285b to prepare, and submit to the Committee on the Judiciary one title at a time, a complete compilation, restatement, and revision of the general and permanent laws of the United States.

All changes in existing law made by the bill are purely technical in nature. The bill was prepared in accordance with the statutory standard for codification legislation, which is that the restatement of existing law shall conform to the understood policy, intent, and purpose of Congress in the original enactments, with such amendments and corrections as will remove ambiguities, contradictions, and other imperfections.

The bill is not intended to make any substantive changes in the law. As is typical with the codification process, a number of non-substantive revisions are made, including the reorganization of sections into a more coherent overall structure, but these changes are not intended to have any substantive effect.

The bill, along with a detailed section-by-section explanation of the bill, can be found on the Law Revision Counsel Internet site at <http://uscde.house.gov/codification/t55/index.html>. Interested parties are invited to submit comments, not later than 30 days after today's date, to Tim Trushel, Senior Counsel, Office of the Law Revision Counsel, U.S. House of Representatives.

HONORING BANDELIER
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2015

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 75th anniversary of Bandelier Elementary School in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The school opened its doors in the southeast heights of Albuquerque which, at the time, seemed like the middle of nowhere. There were no trees, houses or structures surrounding the school.

During World War II, military planes used the red roof of the building to guide them into landing at the Kirtland Army Air Field, as it was known in those early years.

The school became the center of activity as the community grew around it and served children from all walks of life. Many families looked forward to the annual events that included a Halloween Carnival, singing Christmas Carols around a bonfire, Track and Field Day and the Student Safety Patrol Program.

Over the years, the fundamental reading, writing and arithmetic were combined with music, art, track and field, baseball and soccer, which created an environment for well-educated and well-rounded students.

I join all the community members who are celebrating the 75th anniversary of Bandelier Elementary School. I am certain that the academic excellence, community involvement and exceptional learning environment will serve many more students in years to come.

PROTECT MEDICAL INNOVATION
ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 160, the "Protect Medical Innovation Act of 2015," which would repeal the 2.3 percent excise tax on medical devices that was enacted as part of the Affordable Care Act.

I oppose this bill strongly because repeal of the excise would increase the deficit by \$24.4 billion over 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 160 is nothing but our Republican friends' latest unpaid-for permanent tax cut bill.

If H.R. 160 were to become law, House Republicans will have passed unpaid-for GOP tax cuts that increase the deficit by a total of \$611 billion just this year.

Mr. Speaker, given the real challenges facing our nation, it is irresponsible for the Republican majority to continue bringing to the floor bills that have no chance of becoming law and would harm millions of Americans if they were to be enacted.

House Republicans have tried at least 58 times to undermine the Affordable Care Act, which has enabled more than 16 million previously uninsured Americans to know the peace of mind that comes from having access to affordable, accessible, high quality health care.

Their record to date is 0-58; it will soon be 0-59 because the President has announced that he will veto this bill if it makes it to his desk.

Mr. Speaker, all sectors of the health care industry are benefiting from the projected 25 million Americans who will gain coverage under reform, all were called upon to contribute.

The medical device tax that H.R. 160 would repeal was simply the medical device industry's contribution to this collective undertaking.

A repeal of the medical device tax would encourage drug companies, health insurers, hospitals, clinical laboratories, and home health agencies to seek the repeal of their own contributions as well.

According to a study conducted by Wells Fargo Securities, increasing the number of insured Americans, will increase medical device sales by 3.6 percent over its first decade.

Moreover, the medical device tax, which went into effect in 2013, has not damaged the medical device industry.

In fact, the medical device industry is prospering grandly.

A recent analysis by Ernst and Young indicates that the medical device industry's revenue increased by \$8 billion in 2013, while R&D spending by the industry increased by 6 percent and employment in the industry increased by 23,500.

Also, despite industry's claims to the contrary, the medical device tax has not forced companies to ship jobs overseas and there is no disadvantage for U.S.-based firms.

Mr. Speaker, our friends across the aisle just cannot accept the fact that the Affordable Care Act is a success and is making a positive difference in the lives of more than 16 million persons.

These Americans come from all walks of life.

They are women, who can no longer be denied coverage or be forced to pay exorbitant amounts for coverage simply because of their sex.

They are nine million seniors and people with disabilities, who have saved \$1,600 each on expensive and lifesaving prescription medication.

And they are this country's most vulnerable citizens; people who are working hard and struggling to make ends meet while living in near-poverty, and who have been covered by Medicaid expansion in 27 states and the District of Columbia.

These benefits have been felt across the country, and especially in my home state of Texas where:

1. 10,695,000 individuals with pre-existing conditions such as asthma, cancer, or diabetes—including up to 1,632,000 children—will no longer have to worry about being denied coverage or charged higher prices because of their health status or history.

2. 4,889,000 uninsured Texans have new health insurance options through Medicaid or private health plans in the Marketplace.

3. 5,198,000 individuals on private insurance have gained coverage for at least one free preventive health care service such as a mammogram, birth control, or an immunization in 2011 and 2012.

4. In the first ten months of 2013, 233,100 seniors and people with disabilities saved on average \$866 on prescription medications.

5. 357,000 young adults have gained health insurance because they can now stay on their parents' health plans until age 26.