

hardworking volunteers who donate so much time because they love their hometown and fellow citizens.

A great example of this generosity is seen at Books 'n Friends, a nonprofit used bookstore owned by the friends of the Allegheny County Library. Since 2003, volunteers like Alice Keighton, Joyce Speas, and many others have donated their time at the bookstore, whose profits provide funding for activities and necessities at the library.

This support makes quite a difference and helps the library inform and educate the citizens of Allegheny County.

My deepest appreciation to all of the friends of the library and all the wonderful volunteers in Allegheny County, who do so much to make it such a special place to live, work, and visit.

CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, there has been a great deal of discussion about trade agreements, but there is another important piece of legislation that deals with Customs. This is an often obscure element, but it makes a huge difference to be able to manage the hundreds of billions of dollars of products that leave the United States and those that are imported.

The Customs bill represents important work by our Ways and Means Committee and our colleagues in the Senate Finance Committee finally reaching conclusion. I am pleased with many of the key results. It includes items that are not in the headlines, but are very important to the people that I represent.

For example, the legislation will help our growing outdoor industry by creating new definitions and tariff classifications for recreational performance outerwear.

It reduces costly taxes on outdoor footwear, which both supports the outdoor recreation industry and makes it more affordable for people to get outside and enjoy our beautiful parks and trails.

It includes the full ENFORCE Act, requiring immediate action to investigate and address trade cheaters and take measures to stop those who continually attempt to circumvent the penalties already imposed upon them.

As our trade agreements become more complex, so, too, has trade enforcement. We can no longer rely on a handful of agencies to effectively protect our market from tax cheaters. It requires a whole government approach, and this is why it is critical to see the bill permanently establish the Interagency Trade Enforcement Center to centralize and enhance trade enforcement efforts.

It finally puts into law a ban on the import of goods made with child and forced labor. This will reshape markets and provide additional tools to con-

front horrific work conditions around the world.

Very important for me, it will help ensure our trade agreements actually are enforced. A lack of enforcement is a justifiable criticism of people who are skeptical of trade agreements, who wonder is it worth the paper that it is printed on to have labor and environmental protections.

Well, the greatest obstacle to enforcement has been lack of resources. Enforcing trade agreements is expensive, time consuming, and highly complex. That is why I fought hard to include in this legislation elements that I have introduced, along with Senator MARIA CANTWELL, the Trade STRONGER Act, which creates a trade enforcement and capacity-building fund which would not only provide more resources for the enforcement of labor and environment violations, but helps the fund managed by the USTR be accessible government-wide, not only for enforcement, but for in-country capacity building, helping our current and future trading partners implement the labor and environmental provisions they have committed to.

This is an important step forward because, regardless of what one feels about a particular trade treaty, I think everyone agrees they ought to be enforced.

This Customs bill, in addition to promoting the trade process more effectively and providing relief for some inequitable treatment for products so important to my constituents, establishes more resources to make sure our trade agreements are, in fact, enforced.

This has been the result of long and arduous negotiations, but done in a spirit of cooperation and goodwill.

I particularly want to thank the efforts of Speaker PAUL RYAN and Ways and Means Committee Chair KEVIN BRADY, who have worked with me in a spirit of cooperation to make sure the enforcement provisions are effective. I appreciate this.

I think this will be an achievement that we all should support because we will all benefit from it.

E-FREE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to tell the story of Kathryn Frederickson of Maryland. Kathryn is one of the tens of thousands of women that have been harmed by a permanent sterilization device, the medical device known as Essure.

Essure was recommended as the optimal birth control solution for Kathryn, despite a pre-existing autoimmune condition and a known nickel allergy. After the procedure, she felt severe pain, extreme bleeding, vomiting, and rashes, caused by the nickel-based device.

After 3 weeks of pain and discomfort, Kathryn paid \$7,000 out of pocket to re-

move the device. One coil was found in her uterus. She lost 2 months of work and of her life. Kat's health has never been the same.

I rise as a voice for the Essure Sisters to tell this Chamber that their stories are real, their pain is real, and that their fight is real.

Mr. Speaker, my bill, the E-Free Act, can halt this tragedy by removing this dangerous device from the market. Too many women have been harmed.

So I urge my colleagues to join this fight and to join the bill because stories like Kathryn's are too important to ignore.

THE MOST EFFECTIVE DEFENSE AGAINST AN ARMED TERRORIST IS AN ARMED AMERICAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, ever since the terrorist attack in San Bernardino, leftist politicians have called for more restrictions on gun ownership for Americans. These are the same politicians who have worked for years to open our Nation to unprecedented and indiscriminate immigration from hotbeds of Islamic extremism.

The most effective defense against an armed terrorist is an armed American. If one person in that room in San Bernardino had been able to return fire, many innocent lives would have been saved. But Californians are subject to the most restrictive gun laws in the country, making it very difficult for law-abiding citizens to exercise their Second Amendment right to defend themselves. In a society denied its right of self-defense, the gunman is king.

I repeat: the most effective defense against an armed terrorist is an armed American. Yet, the President and his followers seek to increase the number of terrorists entering through porous borders and lax immigration laws while, at the same time, seeking to decrease the number of armed Americans.

Their latest ploy was announced by the President on Sunday and has been parroted by his Congressional allies this week, to the point of disrupting the work of the House.

In the President's words, "Congress should act to make sure no one on a no-fly list is able to buy a gun." He asked: What could possibly be the argument against that?

Well, while serving in the California State Senate a decade ago, I discovered suddenly I couldn't check in for a flight. When I asked why, I was told I was on this government list. The experience was absolutely Kafkaesque.

My first reaction was to ask, "Well, why am I on that list?"

"Well, we can't tell you."

"Well, what criteria do you use?"

"That is classified."

"How do I get off that list?"

"You can't."