Harris, Tara Hernandez, Susan Kaufman, Cathy Kazyaka, Courtney Koder, Amelia Langi, Stormee Massey, Allen Matthews, Laurel McClanahan, Karen McCurdy, Joseph Mendenhall, Thomas Montelongo, Alyssa Nabors, Amanda Stevens, Kent Wooley.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize these outstanding students and teachers and congratulate them on their admirable achievements. I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2020 HEB ISD Awards of Excellence.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is the intent of this chamber that States, Tribal governments, and local units of governments use the funds in the Coronavirus Relief Fund to recover any necessary monies that they would have otherwise collected or generated in order to pay their employees and cover costs but for the COVID–19 pandemic. As the legislation indicates, these funds are specifically targeted towards expenditures incurred between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020. I agree that it is important to try to keep American workers employed and paid during this time. And, I agree with the assessment that these governments rely on the collection of taxes and generation of revenues to pay the wages of these employees, and those costs were an anticipated expenditure to be allowable under the Coronavirus Relief Fund.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, the House considered the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. I would vote YEA on this important measure.

As the coronavirus spreads throughout our country, the devastating impact of this pandemic becomes clearer each day. The bipartisan CARES Act makes an important down payment on needed economic relief for Americans and their families, especially in California. It provides critical cash assistance to people who need it. It grants crucial resources to small businesses, helps prevent layoffs, and delivers urgently needed funds to hospitals, schools, and local governments.

This bill is huge, by any measure. It will provide critical assistance. I am proud of the tireless efforts by House Democrats to secure the best possible deal for working families, and proud that we can reach a bipartisan agreement.

We simply cannot afford to declare victory, though. More will be needed. We're just beginning to understand the full scope of the impacts.

This is the third relief bill Congress will pass related to the coronavirus outbreak, and while they have each been critical in helping us in this fight, we know they are just first steps. Many families, workers, small businesses, first responders, and health care professionals will need more assistance, and we are already working on additional help to address this unprecedented public health threat.

The American people need and deserve a coordinated, fully-funded, whole-of-government response to keep them and their loved ones safe from the coronavirus epidemic, and to protect our economy. I will continue to work relentlessly to put families, workers, and small businesses first.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. MARKWAYNE MULLIN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the CARES Act. We are in the middle of an unprecedented public health crisis and the American people need help.

Over the past two weeks, I have had countless calls with constituents, and they have all said the same thing: they're hurting. Our small businesses, our farmers and ranchers, our teachers, our Tribal governments, our health care workers, and first responders on the front lines—we are all hurting right now.

While this bill won't fix all their problems, it brings them some much-needed relief and confidence that the federal government is taking action to combat this crisis.

In Oklahoma, we call it the Oklahoma Standard. Neighbors helping neighbors through hard times. Together, as a country, we will help our neighbors and get through this together.

I support this bill and look forward to continuing to work with the Administration.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I care deeply about the health of our citizens and our economy. We are in the midst of a National Emergency that has taken lives, disrupted the economy, and threatened the health and economic security of our nation. Americans have called on Congress to pass legislation that provides relief, and we cannot let another day go by without answering that call. While this bill is not perfect, and I disagree with a number of specific provisions within, unprecedented crises demand unprecedented solutions, and I am confident the CARES Act as a whole will assist Missourians and Americans around the country in our time of need.

COVID–19 has prevented too many Americans from working to support their families, and could overwhelm our heroic health care workers and other first responders. I have worked day and night with my colleagues in Congress and our state and local officials to find a way to get people back on their feet. Just days ago partisanship threatened to destroy all of that work, abandoning the people who need this assistance most. But I am grateful that Leader MCCONNELL was able to get a historic and unanimous vote in support through the Senate, and that Speaker PELOSI and Senator SCHUMER finally realized they needed to put politics aside and join us in placing our countrymen and women above petty political fights.

Americans are resilient and, although these are difficult times, I have faith we will emerge stronger as a nation, a people, and an economy. The CARES Act will help Missourians get back to work, keep businesses open, and allow our economy to rebound. This legislation gives financial support directly to families and workers who need it most and provides assistance to struggling small businesses so they can keep their doors open and pay their employees. If you have lost your job, unemployment insurance has been expanded so you can feed your family and keep a roof over your heads during this uncertain time, and this was done in a temporary fashion so we do not disincentivize people from working. Our health care workers and first responders who have worked long hours on the front lines of this crisis will receive vital personal protective equipment and other resources to keep up the fight. This is an extraordinary piece of legislation, but the work doesn't stop here. Congress will keep working to improve upon this legislation, mitigate the effects of this pandemic, and ensure the safety of the American people.

I am disappointed that Democrats insisted on adding many extraneous provisions that are not relevant to the crisis at hand. Millions of dollars for forest research and other items do not belong in urgent coronavirus relief legislation. I am also extremely concerned they insisted on including over $1 billion for Amtrak and $10 billion for the Postal Service. We can have a reasoned debate on these items, but in another forum. The issue at hand is relieving our distressed families and small businesses, not trying to tack on political pet projects when so many people across America need our help. We are in a National Emergency and it is shameful Democrats tried to force through partisan issues, including aggressive union mandates and taxpayer funded abortion. I fought these provisions and am grateful they were ultimately left out of the final bill.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2D19

SPEECH OF

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in recent weeks, this crisis has devastated our families, our communities, and our entire way of life. Americans are suffering, our health care workers are exhausted, and businesses are struggling. Americans need relief, and they need it now.