detention systems have a broad menu of alternatives to detention to facilitate release—we have a duty to use them. Second, for those who remain in custody, these facilities must do the essential work to prevent the spread of COVID–19 in close consultation with public health officials.

I am proud of House Democrats who fought very hard to include many of these protections and issues in our House bill. It is unfortunate that Republicans fought us on so much. However, at the end of the day, this is still a bold, bipartisan, and urgently necessary bill to deliver critically timed relief to individuals, families, businesses, and communities across the country who are suffering and I am proud to cast my vote for its passage. This is a crisis of epic proportions and we must continue to do everything we can to respond with the scale sufficient to address the suffering of people across our country. I am also proud to represent a district and a state that has responded with so much compassion, caring, and commitment, and I will continue to fight for all my constituents as we weather this together.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, it is not lost on me how consequential the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act is for our nation.

Along with many of my colleagues, I wish I could be there in person to voice my support for this historically massive and wide-reaching legislation. The absence of Members from our chamber doesn't make the House of Representatives any less united in our support of this significant relief package for the American people, who are greatly suffering by no fault of their own due to the COVID–19 pandemic.

The natural disaster caused by COVID–19 is unlike any other our nation has encountered in modern history. Its impact is severely felt across the whole of society—causing an unprecedented strain on our public health defenders and medical providers as well as sharp economic losses and unexpected disruptions for Americans of all stripes.

Hardworking Americans, families, communities, small businesses and numerous industries have been hit hard and fast in a matter of days and weeks. Given the enormous scope of this disaster, its consequences and the damage already done, it is critically important to get help to those Americans facing difficult times. I am encouraged that the CARES Act extends a much needed helping hand.

To help individuals and families weather this storm, the CARES Act provides financial assistance in the form of direct cash payments and unemployment support. The legislation provides unprecedented help to sustain small businesses and their workers, after many businesses on Main Street have been forced to close their doors to comply with the guidance and orders from federal, state, local and tribal officials.

For our health workers fighting on the front lines across the nation, this relief package replenishes vital medical supplies like masks, respirators and other equipment. Moreover, it provides reinforcement supplies and resources for state and local response efforts.

Finally, I worked very hard to ensure tribal nations are equipped to face and fight the unknown challenges ahead with this coronavirus like other state and local authorities. Oklahoma is home to 39 sovereign tribes, and each one plays an invaluable role in the lives and health of their members and surrounding communities. I am proud that this relief package dedicates generous resources specifically for tribal nations to respond.

Therefore, had I been present, I would vote ''yea'' if there was a recorded vote.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID P. JOYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, as we prepared to appropriate supplemental funding for Indian Country through the Bureau of Indian Affairs budget, my colleagues and I became keenly aware of the need to mitigate the hardships that this pandemic has caused for Tribal governments who have to rely on business revenues—rather than taxes—to fund essential services for their Tribal members. In addition, Tribal governments are often the largest employers on reservations, where unemployment rates are already significantly higher than the rest of the country.

For these reasons, this bill directs that not less than $400 million—nearly 90 percent of the Bureau of Indian Affairs supplemental appropriation—shall be made available to meet the direct needs of Tribes. For these same reasons, this bill directs that not less than $450 million of the Indian Health Service supplemental appropriation be distributed to directly operated programs and to Tribes and Tribal organizations by utilizing existing contracts, compacts, and other agreements to speed up the process.

In addition, I was pleased to see and support an additional $8 billion for payments to Tribal governments through the Coronavirus Relief Fund in this bill. Because of the Federal Government's unique government-to-government relationship with Indian Tribes, providing these funds to Tribes directly—rather than through the States—is the right approach. It is critical that the Secretaries of the Treasury and the Interior consult with Tribal leaders immediately to determine the most expeditious, transparent, and fair method of allocating these funds.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID KUSTOFF

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of The CARES Act.

The COVID–19 Pandemic has greatly affected the health and livelihoods of people around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is not perfect but it is a solid step forward to providing the stimulus needed to revive our economy.

There is no that doubt that as a nation we have endured tough times in our history, but we have always come back stronger and more resilient.

I am proud to be here today, representing West Tennessee during this trying time.

There may be more challenges coming in the days ahead, but we know that the American people will meet them head on and we will prevail—just like we always do.

As a body, we need to demonstrate our support for all of the brave men and women working to protect us, for our fellow citizens and for the President—and pass the CARES Act.

CONGRATULATING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2020 H.E.B. ISD AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 2020

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate thirty-three outstanding students from the Hurst Euless Bedford Independent School District who have been selected to receive the District's Awards of Excellence for the 2019–2020 school year.

These accomplished students possess unique talents that have enabled them to succeed in their respective disciplines. This year's recipients have been recognized for their achievements in a diverse field of subjects which include visual and performing arts, business and industry, science, mathematics, and communications to name but a few. Through their hard work and dedication, the following young men and women have built a strong foundation upon which they will continue to enhance their education.

Asim Adhikari, Kierra Ashford, Lexie Barthelemess, Khaezer Xann Bellen, Indya Bobb, Erin Brewer, Melanie Butcher, Tanvi Dalal, Kameron Dancy, Antoni Davila, Marcos De La Liana, Zachary Deande, Giandré Dejesús, Maliabo Diamba, Sofia Dominguez, Lyra Ehninger, Anna Maria Glowacki, Myra Gordon, Mason Hunter-Gray, Kya Jordan, Charlotte Lewis, Alec Liu, Savannah Lo, James Mahon VI, Hayley Otteson, Elizabeth Perry, Alana Rada Pico, Nicolas Sears, Devashree Shah, Grant Trusty, Mahanga Uhilamoelangi, Yulisa Villeda, Allyrica Williams.

In addition to recognizing the above, I would like to take this oppmtunity to thank the instructors who have worked tirelessly to ensure the needs of their students are met. It is with great praise that I recognize the following teachers from Hurst Hills Elementary, Central Junior High, L.D. Bell, Buinger CTE Academy, KEYS, and Trinity High School for their invaluable role as educators:

Lauren Allen, Jo Ann Antinone, Shawn Bemis, Andy Bloodworth, Pamela Bracken, Tammy Brown, Mario Casanova, Monica Chavez, Jennifer Choate, Amanda Collins, Ken Davis, Michael Dean, Bianca Diaz, John Fetters, Kenda Fries, Mark Gustafson, Candace