that they are stronger than those that divide us.

CELEBRATING INDEPENDENT RESTAURANTS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Independent Restaurant Coalition who have been my partners on the RESTAURANTS Act that is currently being negotiated between the Speaker and the White House. This coalition has willed this legislation into effect.

It is comprised of chefs Jose Andres, Nina Compton, Andrew Zimmern, Tom Colicchio, Naomi Pomeroy, Gregory Gourdet, Erika Polmar, Bobbie Stuckey, Robert St. John, and Will Guidara.

Mr. Speaker, these key leaders have represented 500,000 independent restaurants across America and their 11 million workers. They are sort of the point of the spear for the 180-member steering committee who have extended themselves in an extraordinary fashion in helping craft targeted legislation. They make the case to the American public that restaurants—independent restaurants—are the cornerstone and the very fabric of our communities.

It is hard to imagine your city or mine, Mr. Speaker, without these independent restaurants. For many people it is the first job that they get. They are representative of minorities, and they are disproportionately women-owned. They have an energy and a vitality. They provide an area for Americans to come together. In the time of COVID–19, we miss that opportunity to gather, and we need to take action to make sure that they remain in business.

That is what the coalition has done. Uniting behind the RESTAURANTS Act, they have made the case to people all across the country. They have driven Members in the House and the Senate to cosponsor legislation—well over 200 in the House and 40 companion bills in the Senate—making the case that there is something that we can do.

The need here is to have a tailored approach. Without something specific for independent restaurants, we face 85 percent of them closing their doors permanently by the end of the year. The restaurant industry of these independent restaurants are the hardest hit segment of the American economy. In April alone they accounted for half the unemployed.

We have united behind a proposal of $120 billion in direct grants to restaurants. The PPP simply isn't working for them. It is too cumbersome; the time constraints don't work; and, as a practical matter, we don't need to change the format that we have developed. We have extensive research that documents if we are able to extend this $120 billion lifeline to the independent restaurants, then we will avoid over $183 billion of costs for unemployment and having these institutions file bankruptcy rather than paying their taxes. They support the supply chains in every community. That includes not just the restaurant workers and owners but deals with the people who supply them with the linens, the fruits, the vegetables, and the wine. This is an extensive supply chain that stretches throughout the local economy.

The good news is that we have progress. The Heroes Act includes the RESTAURANTS Act in its entirety with the full $120 billion. Yesterday there was extensive discussion with our leadership and the White House. We had earlier conversations in the White House with leaders from the Independent Restaurant Coalition. I heard from Will Guidara from New York City about the interaction he had with Secretary Mnuchin, and President Trump was there as a part of it.

This is something that we can do. We can come together, support this provision in the Heroes Act, and negotiate out in terms of the final package to make sure that we protect this lifeline for these vital institutions for all our communities.

I deeply appreciate the interest and momentum that has been developed in both the House and Senate; the people who are stepping forward to help their independent restaurants and the members of the coalition; and, most of all, I want to thank the members of the coalition who represent this critical industry and a potential solution to those problems.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, so it is fitting that I rise today in support of H.R. 4078, the EARLY Act Reauthorization, which passed the House earlier this week. I am honored to have co-led this bipartisan legislation with my good friend, colleague, and breast cancer survivor, Representative DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

This is an important public health bill to ensure that young women throughout the United States understand the importance of breast health and the value of regular breast cancer screenings.

This bipartisan bill raises public awareness about breast health and educates healthcare providers to encourage early detection of breast cancer. It also supports initiatives and research to help identify high-risk women by collecting family histories and educating patients about early warning signs.

These programs are vitally important. We all know the statistics. One in eight women in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer over her lifetime, and many women with breast cancer typically have no symptoms.

This disease has taken far too many of our loved ones. In 2017, breast cancer was the number one most diagnosed cancer type in the United States and the number two most deadly.

Earlier this year, I lost a very dear friend to this terrible disease, Judy Christofilis. She and I had volunteered in the Junior League in Indianapolis over 20 years ago. She was a successful accountant, a pillar of the Indianapolis community, and, above all, a dedicated philanthropist.

She was on the board of the Indianapolis Day Nursery, Indiana's oldest and largest early childhood education nonprofit. She was extremely active in the Junior League of Indianapolis and the Indianapolis Art Center.

But in the last decade of her life, when she was battling breast cancer, she was a founding member of the Indianapolis American Cancer Society Guild and served as its treasurer. The guild's mission is to support the central Indiana office of the American Cancer Society by generating awareness, raising funds, and providing support for community outreach programs to achieve the shared goal of savings lives by helping people stay well, get well, find cures, and fight back.

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This mission epitomizes Judy's fight against breast cancer. She battled metastatic breast cancer for more than a decade. Her resilience, and spirit, served as an inspiration to me and so many others in our community.

Her story is just a reminder of why breast cancer screening is vitally important, and it is often the best and only way to identify this cancer in its earliest stages. Women—even young women—are susceptible to this deadly disease, which is why regular breast screenings are so crucially important.

Our bill reauthorizes the program through fiscal year 2024, and it funds CDC programs to identify gaps in education and awareness, particularly among young women and healthcare providers. It supports young survivors through grants to organizations focused on helping them cope with the many unique challenges they face as young women and in implementing a targeted media campaign to reach young and higher-risk women.

The science is clear: Early detection is the single most effective way to stop these cancers before they become deadly.

In my very last conversation with Judy before she passed away in March of this year, she asked me to keep up the fight for all people battling cancer. This bill, in large part, for me, is dedicated to my very dear, close friend Judy Christofolis. She truly is one of my heroes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge our Senate colleagues to pass this important bill this month during Breast Cancer Awareness Month.