

and for his unselfish, lifelong commitment, he is worthy of the highest praise.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IMPROVE
ACQUISITION ACT OF 2010

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I'm pleased to be joined by a number of my colleagues today in introducing the IMPROVE Acquisition Act of 2010. On March 23, the House Armed Services Committee's Panel on Defense Acquisition Reform completed its work by unanimously agreeing to its final report after a year-long investigation of the defense acquisition system. We held 14 hearings and 2 briefings and looked at the whole spectrum of the acquisition system. We found that while the nature of defense acquisition has substantially changed since the end of the Cold War, the defense acquisition system has not kept pace.

It is still a system primarily designed for the acquisition of weapon systems at a time when the acquisition of services, and of information technology, represents a much larger share of the Department's budget. These other areas of acquisition operate very differently from weapons acquisition, but are just as complex and just as risky for taxpayers. It was clear to our Panel that changes are needed, but the extent and complexity of the problem presented a real challenge to us.

Ultimately, we did find a group of common, overarching issues that we were convinced needed to be addressed. Across all categories of acquisition significant improvements can and should be made in: managing the acquisition system; improving the requirements process; developing and incentivizing the highest quality acquisition workforce; reforming financial management; and getting the best from the industrial base. The IMPROVE Acquisition Act of 2010 goes directly at each of these issues.

It requires DOD to regularly and comprehensively assess the performance of the defense acquisition system, and puts the newly created Office of Performance Assessment and Root Cause Analysis in charge of these assessments. These assessments would not simply be material to fill reports to Congress. These performance assessments would be linked directly with the things that matter most to the people in the system: pay, promotion, and the scope of their authority. A similar performance management system is required for the current requirements process for weapon systems and the bill requires DOD to develop a requirements process for the acquisition of services. These systems will now be held accountable to the Department's senior leaders. The bill also requires DOD to revisit its acquisition policy to correct the bias towards weapons system acquisition, and requires DOD to assign actual military units to assist in the development and evaluation of major weapon systems.

The central pillar of the defense acquisition system is the acquisition workforce. Only through supporting, empowering, rewarding, and holding accountable the acquisition workforce can the defense acquisition system be

expected to improve. To achieve this, the bill gives the Department the flexibility to efficiently hire qualified new employees, and to manage its workforce in a manner that promotes superior performance. DOD is required to develop new regulations for the acquisition workforce which include fair, credible, and transparent methods for hiring and assigning personnel, and for appraising and rewarding employee performance. The bill also extends and codifies the Acquisition Workforce Demonstration Program, which already incorporates a number of these important elements, but has been dormant while the Department tried to implement NSPS.

Another key pillar of success for the defense acquisition system is the Department's financial management system. DOD's inability to provide accurate and timely financial information prevents it from adequately managing its acquisition programs and from implementing true acquisition reform. The bill requires DOD to establish meaningful incentives for the military services to achieve unqualified audits well before the current mandate of September 30, 2017. It also requires consequences if they do not meet this mandate, which was enacted in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010.

The last pillar underpinning the defense acquisition system is the industrial base. The bill requires the Department to enhance competition and gain access to more innovative technology by taking measures to utilize more of the industrial base, especially small and mid-tier businesses. And in managing that industrial base, the bill directs DOD to work with responsible contractors with strong business systems. It requires contractors to disclose whether they are delinquent on their taxes when they bid on a federal contract.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this important legislation through the House in the coming weeks.

USC PRESIDENT STEVEN SAMPLE

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to my friend Professor Steven Sample, on the occasion of his retirement from the University of Southern California. I have had the pleasure of working with him on many issues of concern to USC and educational reform, and I know firsthand of his many accomplishments.

In 1991, Professor Sample was appointed USC President. Under his leadership, USC has become world-renowned in the fields of communication and multimedia technologies, received national acclaim for its innovative community partnerships, and solidified its status as one of the nation's leading research universities.

President Sample transformed Jewish life at USC by bolstering the school's efforts to identify, reach, and direct talented Jewish students into community activities and involvement. He also attracted successful Jewish philanthropists, through the Board of Trustees, generating unparalleled financial support to the USC Hillel Foundation's schools, centers and institutes. President Sample is to be recog-

nized for his role in building and supporting Jewish institutions on campus such as the Casden Institute, Chabad at USC, the Jewish Studies Department, and most recently, the Shoah Institute, as well as off campus institutions such as USC Hillel and Hebrew Union College.

Professor Sample is an extraordinary individual. In addition to being an electrical engineer he is a musician, outdoorsman, author, and inventor. In February 1998, he was elected to the National Academy of Engineering for his contributions to consumer electronics and leadership in interdisciplinary research and education. In 2003, he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in recognition of his accomplishments as a university president.

Professor Sample has received numerous awards and great support from the community in recognition of his achievements. He recently received the Distinguished Business Leader Award from the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, the Heart of the City Award from the Central City Association of Los Angeles, and the Chancellor Charles P. Norton Medal, the highest award bestowed by the State University of New York at Buffalo. He has also received the Humanitarian Award from the National Conference for Community and Justice, the Holzer Memorial Award from the Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles, and the Eddy Award for excellence in economic development from the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation.

Madam Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in saluting Professor Sample for his impressive career and dedication to the people of Southern California, and congratulating him on the occasion of his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO OLYMPIC
SNOWBOARDER LOUIE VITO

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the achievements of Louie Vito on his outstanding snowboarding performance at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

Louie is a native of Bellefontaine, Ohio, and got his first snowboarding experience at Bellefontaine's Mad River Mountain. He credits his father, Lou, with helping to nurture his passion for the sport early on.

At age 13, Louie was present at the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City to watch American snowboarders capture the gold, silver, and bronze in the men's halfpipe competition. Inspired by their example, he dedicated himself to the sport, turning pro in 2005. He immediately made his mark in the world of snowboarding with a first-place finish in the superpipe at that year's Burton Australian Open—a feat he repeated in 2006.

His strong showing in Australia set the stage for many future successes. Louie won the 2008 US Grand Prix and was Grand Prix co-champion in 2009. This year alone, he won a bronze at the Winter Euro X Games, took second in superpipe at the US Open, and finished fifth in the halfpipe competition at the Vancouver Olympic Games. The people of