

The legislation also strengthens the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding gun owners by banning the government from creating a federal registry and makes the misuse of records a felony, punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

It provides reasonable exceptions for family and friend transfers and allows active military personnel to buy guns in the state they are stationed.

It lets gun owners use a state concealed carry permit issued within the last five years in lieu of a background check and permits interstate handgun sales from licensed dealers.

The bill also improves the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) by incentivizing states to improve reporting of criminals and the dangerously mentally ill and by directing future grant funds toward better record-sharing systems.

H.R. 1217 will also reduce federal funds to states that do not comply.

Mr. Speaker, you cannot be against criminals, terrorists and the dangerously mentally ill getting guns and be against background checks.

I thank Congressmen PETER KING (R-NY) and MIKE THOMPSON (D-CA) for introducing this bipartisan legislation (H.R. 1217), which is the House companion to an identical bipartisan bill introduced previously by Senators JOE MANCHIN (D-WV) and PAT TOOMEY (R-PA).

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1217 is anti-crime, pro-lawful gun owner and pro-Second Amendment.

It will save lives and strengthen the rights of law-abiding gun owners.

It deserves a vote in the House.

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#### RECOGNIZING THE 2015 MVLE AWARD RECIPIENTS

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2015*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 2015 MVLE Annual Award Recipients.

For 44 years, MVLE has provided employment opportunities and support services to individuals with disabilities and thereby created an environment which has allowed its clients to live in dignity and as independently as possible. MVLE has achieved this success by partnering with local businesses as well as with government agencies and other not-for-profit organizations to maximize the benefits of its various programs and services. MVLE, its staff, and dedicated volunteers and supporters can be proud that they are making a positive difference in someone's life every day.

Each year, MVLE honors individual participants, as well as business and community partners, who exemplify MVLE's ideals. I am pleased to submit the names of the following 2015 award recipients:

The President's Award is presented to individuals who have shown outstanding progress toward gaining independence and self-sufficiency through participation in employment and community services. The 2015 President's Award recipients are Anis Iqbal, Steven Pennington, and Josh Renggli.

The Chairman's Award is presented to an outstanding business partner who has shown

excellence in hiring practices, creating supportive work environments, and supporting the mission of MVLE. The 2015 Chairman's Award recipients are Ah Love Oil and Embassy Suites Springfield.

MVLE also presents four Community Awards in honor of the four components of our community: Government, Employment, Social Responsibility, and Integration.

The Government Champion Award is presented to Parsons in recognition of its commitment to the creation of meaningful employment opportunities across government and business sectors.

The Employment Partner Award is presented to the Arlington County Equipment Bureau in recognition of its efforts in creating meaningful community employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities and military veterans.

The Advocacy Champion Award is being presented to state Senator Barbara Favola, who represents Virginia's 31st district. MVLE presents this award to an outstanding partner who advocates for community integration by fostering partnerships across sectors to create new opportunities one person at a time.

There are two recipients of the Social Responsibility Award: Digital Office Products and Supply World. MVLE presents this award to an outstanding partner who supports MVLE and our community through contributions and volunteer work.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending MVLE for its success in helping individuals with disabilities achieve independence and in congratulating the 2015 MVLE Annual Award recipients. The efforts of MVLE, its supporters, community partners, and clients are an inspiration to all and are truly worthy of our highest praise.

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#### CONGRATULATING THE NEW HAVEN HIGH SCHOOL SHAM- ROCKS FOR THEIR SECOND PLACE FINISH IN THE 2015 MIS- SOURI CLASS 2 VOLLEYBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

### HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2015*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the New Haven High School Shamrocks for their second place finish in the 2015 Class 2 Volleyball State Championship.

This team and their coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the second place win to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing the New Haven Shamrocks for a job well done.

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#### TRIBUTE TO KENNON BALSTER

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Kennon Balster of Blanchard, Iowa, for his induction into the

Iowa High School Speech Association Hall of Fame. Kennon has been the coach of the Large Group and Director of Theatre at Clarinda High School for over 30 years.

The Iowa High School Speech Association Hall of Fame was established in 1976 to recognize distinguished individuals of statewide reputation for their outstanding accomplishments. Inductees are selected for going above and beyond expectations with their contributions, service, dedication, and commitment to the Association. It is the highest honor the Association can confer on an individual.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Kennon for earning this award. He is a shining example of how hard work and dedication can positively affect the future of our youth. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Kennon for his contributions to the speech and education community in the state of Iowa. I wish him nothing but continued success.

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#### INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY: THE CHINESE GOVERN- MENT HARVESTS THE ORGANS OF THE FALUN GONG

### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2015*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today is the 65th International Human Rights Day.

It is fitting that we remember how the Chinese Government has denied the human rights of so many of Falun Gong, their family members and their friends.

The most basic human right is the right to live free.

Today, there are more Falun Gong practitioners in prison in China than any other persecuted group.

The Chinese Government's top priority is not to take care of its people; it is to stay in power. It sees Falun Gong rise in popularity in the 1990s as a threat. In reality, Falun Gong just wanted to be left alone.

To silence this threat, the Chinese Government murders Falun Gong members, harvesting their organs to give to others deemed more worthy.

We know this because brave men and women have come forward and reported these crimes, refusing to be silent. Those who have spoken out include the wife of a doctor who was forced to perform surgeries to remove the organs. A security guard who was ordered to stand watch while the surgeries take place has also spoken out about these practices. The evidence is undeniable of this detestable, inhumane practice by the Chinese Government.

The practice is a billion dollar business for the Chinese Government. Organ harvesting is the number one source of revenue for Chinese medical centers. A medical center is supposed to save lives, not take lives. Apparently, in China, the lives of the Falun Gong do not matter. Reports indicate that more than 10,000 have been killed by these barbaric medical procedures; they have been murdered for their organs.

The Chinese Government makes a profit and silences any group it sees as threatening. But they can't silence the Falun Gong nor