

but the selected students are often the youth who are successful in extra-curricular activities and community endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Madison Hance in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to reach her goals. I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Madison on receiving this esteemed designation, and wishing her the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO BRITTANY SMITH

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Brittany Smith, an Abraham Lincoln High School of Des Moines, Iowa graduate and current student at Grand View University. Brittany Smith recently received the Most Valuable Player title from the National Collegiate Bowling Coaches Association for 2015–2016.

Brittany was raised in a family of bowlers. Her mother is the general manager of Air Lanes Bowling Center in Des Moines. The time she spent growing up in those bowling centers influenced her love of the sport and developed her work ethic to always improve her game. As she told the Des Moines Register, “I won’t leave the bowling center until I get a problem fixed. I have a mindset that I can be better every single day.” She practices hours each day but is also a full time student, majoring in criminal justice, dreaming of one day serving as a police officer. With that tenacity, Brittany Smith is a shining example of what a true champion is.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Brittany Smith for this recognition. I am proud to represent her in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in

congratulating Brittany Smith and wishing her nothing but continued success.

SHELBY DECISION . . . THREE
YEARS LATER

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today on Restoration Tuesday, I rise to draw attention to the coming three-year anniversary of the Supreme Court *Shelby v. Holder* decision and the damage that it inflicted on our democratic process.

In 2013, the Supreme Court of the United States handed down a decision that simply called for an update of the formula used to determine which states required federal preclearance prior to enacting legislation affecting the voting process. Shortly after, a number of states, including Alabama, quickly passed restrictive laws designed to suppress the vote after the Supreme Court struck down Section 4—the coverage formula provision making it harder of federal protection for vulnerable communities. Since the decision, new restrictive laws have been put in place in 22 states—18 of them Republican led—since 2010. The *Shelby* decision made it easier to limit access to the ballot box. And so here we are . . . three years later.

We must accept the charge that the Supreme Court handed to provide a new modern day formula to determine when states are covered under the Voting Rights Act. In June of 2015 I rose to the challenge and introduced the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015. Most of the Democratic members have signed on as co-sponsors. Just last week, I signed a discharge petition on this legislation to force an immediate vote on the House floor. Still, there has been much talk on both sides with little collective action. We were given this challenge in 2013, but somehow, here we are . . . three years later.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was reauthorized nearly a decade ago and it is shameful that still today, people across the nation do not enjoy full and free access to exercise their right to vote. It is reprehensible that still in 2016, Americans across the nation continue to face modern day barriers to the ballot box. The time is always ripe to do what is right. As we continue to progress throughout this election year, it is especially critical that all Americans have fair and equal access to the ballot box. Our very democracy is built on the ability of every citizen being able to have their voices heard and vote counted. No Vote, No Voice. America cannot and must not be silenced.

After decades of progress that culminated with the Voting Rights Act of 1965, we are now going backward. Old battles have become new again. The guise of a free photo ID masks the various fees necessary to pay for documents needed to obtain the ID. This “poll tax” makes it harder to vote for those who are barely able to make ends meet. Many elderly are unable to acquire documents proving birth due to the high number of midwife births. These are real barriers affecting real people. Is it our job as Members of Congress to deny them the right to vote? Is this obstruction of the vote what we took from the Supreme Court instructing us to revisit and recreate a formula? Why are we still here . . . three years later?

My colleagues, we are approaching the first Presidential election since the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 without full protection of the law against discrimination at the ballot box. We must stand on the virtue of a true democracy, constantly striving to remove blemishes from our process. A year has passed since the introduction of the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015, and it is being held up in committee processes, instead of being pushed through to restore the voting process for all Americans. It is time to band together and fulfil that which we have been tasked to accomplish. Delay too long is justice denied. The time is now. We must Restore The Vote.