

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REGULATORY INTEGRITY ACT OF
2016

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5226) to amend chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, to require the publication of information relating to pending agency regulatory actions, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to HR 5226, the Regulatory Integrity Act of 2016.

The Regulatory Integrity Act seeks to bar a federal agency from promoting or soliciting public support for its actions, such as proposed regulatory rules. Under current law, agencies are already prohibited from spending funds on publicity or propaganda lobbying, but in some cases agencies may communicate with the public regarding the benefits of a rule. If this bill becomes law, any such action could be interpreted as illegal. Further troubling, the bill requires an agency to report each of its communications with the public on the rules about which the Agency has been most vocal. Such an effort will dramatically increase the cost of Federal rulemaking to the public.

In my opposition to this bill, I associate myself with the remarks of Ranking Member ELIJAH CUMMINGS who said, "Agencies already are barred from engaging in 'substantial grassroots lobbying campaigns' when those campaigns are aimed at encouraging members of the public to pressure Members of Congress to support the Administration or department legislative or appropriation proposals. The bill would require agencies to report to Congress every communication to the public—including every oral communication from an agency official—about the five regulatory actions the agency issued the most communications on in the previous year. This would be unnecessarily burdensome and likely would not be workable for agencies."

The Administration also opposes the bill, threatening a veto on the grounds that the measure is "duplicative, vague, costly and puts unnecessary procedure requirements on agencies that would prevent them from efficiently performing their statutory responsibilities and potentially lead to a less informed public."

The public has a right to know how a proposed regulation will affect them personally and the agency issuing that regulation is uniquely qualified to offer the data necessary to make that determination. In the absence of such information, the public will be at the mercy of any well-funded special interest or high priced lobbyist who might want to defeat regulations that protect the public interest, but not their profits.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL E.
KUNZ

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Michael E. Kunz to our federal court system. Mr. Kunz retired this past July after more than forty years of service in the Eastern Judicial District of Pennsylvania, including more than 37 years as its chief clerk.

Mr. Kunz was respected and beloved by all who had business before the court—judges, prosecutors, attorneys and others—and he left an indelible mark in the halls of the courthouse in Philadelphia.

During Mr. Kunz's tenure as chief clerk—the longest of any clerk in the history of the Eastern District—he oversaw unprecedented growth, expansion and modernization of the court. On the day of Michael's appointment in 1979, there were just 24 judges and some 50 employees within the Clerk's Office. Today, there are nearly twice as many judges and more than 200 employees facilitating the day-to-day operation of the judicial system.

I had the privilege of serving with Michael during my own tenure as U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District. I was always impressed by his tireless commitment, his ability and his loyalty to the court he served. I'm proud to call him my friend. I wish him the best in his retirement and I commend him for his decades of service.

HONORING BODEGA MARINE
LABORATORY

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, Representatives JOHN GARAMENDI and MIKE THOMPSON, to recognize the University of California, Davis' Bodega Marine Laboratory upon its 50th anniversary. Seated on the 362-acre Bodega Marine Reserve within the University's Natural Reserve System, which supports the highest number of research projects of any reserve in the state and arguably in the nation, the Bodega Marine Laboratory is the primary open-coast research facility along the California coast.

Since its founding in 1966 by the University of California, Berkeley, this instrumental coastal and marine sciences laboratory has educated thousands of students, coordinated hundreds of projects with local and state agencies and has conducted outreach education initiatives in local communities. The Bodega Marine Laboratory's history of research, education,

and outreach has contributed substantially to the strength of California's habitats.

The Bodega Marine Laboratory's interdisciplinary, collaborative approach to addressing California's unique environmental challenges has established California as a prime example of what we can accomplish through coordinated efforts to protect our natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, it is therefore fitting that we congratulate the Bodega Marine Laboratory upon its 50th anniversary, and thank its leadership and staff for their invaluable contributions to our environment and community.

GROWTH AWARENESS WEEK

HON. DENNY HECK

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize this week, September 19–23, as Growth Awareness Week in order to realize the reality of growth disorders and their impact on our children's health.

Monitoring growth is a major sign of a child's overall health and physical development. When a child's growth is delayed, it is an early indicator of potential underlying medical disorders. According to the Pictures of Standard Syndromes and Undiagnosed Malformations (POSSUM) database, more than 600 serious diseases and health conditions cause growth failure. These diseases range from nutritional disturbances and hormone imbalances to serious conditions such as unidentified kidney problems and even brain tumors that can all exhibit early signs by changing how much that child grows. Too many children with serious growth disorders are not receiving the medical attention they need because their condition is not caught at an early age. In fact, 48 percent of children in the U.S. who were evaluated with the two most common causes of growth failure went undiagnosed.

The longer a child with growth failure goes undiagnosed, the greater the potential for damage and higher costs of care. Early detection and diagnosis are crucial in ensuring a healthy future for a child with growth failure. Therefore, raising public awareness of, and educating the public about growth failure is a vital public service.

Growth Awareness Week is a key tool in educating families on their children's health, and I would like to thank the tremendous efforts of the MAGIC Foundation for their incredible work in furthering public awareness and understanding of growth failure. I look forward to working with my colleagues to improve the lives and health of children.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.