

TRIBUTE TO KAY GUINANE

• Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise as chairman of the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee to honor and recognize the contributions of Kay Guinane upon her retirement from the Charity and Security Network.

In 2009, Ms. Guinane founded the Charity and Security Network—C and SN—a resource and advocacy center for nonprofit organizations to promote and protect their ability to carry out effective programs that support peace and human rights, aid civilians in areas of disaster and armed conflict, and build democratic governance.

Kay formed C and SN after observing significant obstacles in achieving critical humanitarian, peacebuilding and human rights programs. She recognized laws that restricted interactions with and financial support for designated groups and individuals were also severely limiting the critical work of civil society programs that provided assistance to the most vulnerable populations around the world. C and SN blazed a trail in being one of the first nonprofit organizations to address these issues.

Early on, in concert with colleagues around the world who had experienced similar impediments, Kay began engaging with elected officials and administration policymakers, seeking solutions, including the committees in Congress responsible for illicit finance and sanctions policy. Kay and her organization were a critical resource for the Senate Banking Committee for years as we addressed important policy issues, and unintended consequences of certain policies around illicit financing, bank de-risking, the conveyance of remittances overseas from families in the US—including large communities of Somalis, Ethiopians, and people from across Latin America—and other issues.

In May 2010, Kay testified in the first congressional oversight hearing since September 11, 2001, to look at the impact of anti-terrorist financing enforcement policies on the U.S. charitable sector. The hearing entitled, “Anti-Money Laundering: Blocking Terrorist Financing and Its Impact on Lawful Charities,” was held by the House Financial Services subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. During the hearing, a Treasury official acknowledged that the laws aimed at stopping terrorist financing could have the unintended consequence

of harming the effectiveness of certain charitable programs. Kay outlined specific problems faced by the U.S. nonprofit sector, including the issue of banks freezing accounts indefinitely, and noted the negative impact of U.S. Treasury enforcement actions on legitimate charitable organizations operating solely to assist vulnerable populations.

Over the next decade, Kay and the work of C and SN were a driving force in efforts to address challenges civil society groups had in implementing their essential lifesaving, peacebuilding and human rights work. Kay’s vision and efforts built an impressive network of nearly 200 organizations internationally with a shared goal of assisting the most vulnerable and protecting fundamental civil liberties. These organizations addressed issues surrounding civil societal concerns and financial access restrictions for nonprofits to combating obstacles in reaching general populations due to specific sanctioned entities.

By drawing on legal expertise, firsthand experiences of those working with these limitations, and policy analysis, the work of C and SN has helped raise awareness of and craft solutions for civil society and human rights concerns around the world. It has also resulted in tangible improvements in regulations, international guidelines, and policies. One notable and tangible legislative victory was in key provisions of the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2020, which assisted to improve financial access for charities.

While her steadfast work will be missed, Kay’s legacy at C and SN and its network of affiliates will have an impact on global civil liberties and human rights issues going forward. I offer her my heartfelt congratulations to her on her retirement, and wish her—and C and SN, which she leaves in good hands—all the best going forward.●