

Today, Congress can fulfill the wishes of the American people for greater control over their children's education by simply allowing parents to keep more of their hard-earned money to spend on education rather than force them to send it to Washington to support education programs reflective only of the values and priorities of Congress and the federal bureaucracy.

The \$5,000 tax credit will make a better education affordable for millions of parents. Madame Speaker, many parents who would choose to send their children to private, religious, or parochial schools are unable to afford the tuition, in large part because of the enormous tax burden imposed on the American family by Washington.

The Family Education Freedom Act also benefits parents who choose to send their children to public schools. Parents of children in public schools may use this credit to help improve their local schools by helping finance the purchase of educational tools such as computers or to ensure their local schools can offer enriching extracurricular activities such as music programs. Parents of public school students may also wish to use the credit to pay for special services, such as tutoring, for their children.

Increasing parental control of education is superior to funneling more federal tax dollars, followed by greater federal control, into the schools. According to a Manhattan Institute study of the effects of state policies promoting parental control over education, a minimal increase in parental control boosts students' average SAT verbal score by 21 points and students' SAT math score by 22 points! The Manhattan Institute study also found that increasing parental control of education is the best way to improve student performance on the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) tests.

Clearly, enactment of the Family Education Freedom Act is the best thing this Congress could do to improve public education. Furthermore, a greater reliance on parental expenditures rather than government tax dollars will help make the public schools into true community schools that reflect the wishes of parents and the interests of the students.

The Family Education Freedom Act will also aid those parents who choose to educate their children at home. Home schooling has become an increasingly popular, and successful, method of educating children. Home schooled children out-perform their public school peers by 30 to 37 percentile points across all subjects on nationally standardized achievement exams. Home schooling parents spend thousands of dollars annually, in addition to the wages forgone by the spouse who forgoes outside employment, in order to educate their children in the loving environment of the home.

Ultimately, Madam Speaker, this bill is about freedom. Parental control of child rearing, especially education, is one of the bulwarks of liberty. No nation can remain free when the state has greater influence over the knowledge and values transmitted to children than the family.

By moving to restore the primacy of parents to education, the Family Education Freedom Act will not only improve America's education, it will restore a parent's right to choose how best to educate one's own child, a fundamental freedom that has been eroded by the

increase in federal education expenditures and the corresponding decrease in the ability of parents to provide for their children's education out of their own pockets. I call on all my colleagues to join me in allowing parents to devote more of their resources to their children's education and less to feed the wasteful Washington bureaucracy by supporting the Family Education Freedom Act.

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL OF CHEWELAH DELIVERS HIGH QUALITY HEALTH CARE

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate St. Joseph's Hospital of Chewelah for being rated as a top performer in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Premier Hospital Quality Incentive project.

St. Joseph's Hospital of Chewelah was founded in 1929 by the Dominican Sisters. As a member of Providence Health Care, their mission is to provide a community of healing, collaborate with caregivers, and uphold a commitment to excellence. This is the kind of service and care they provide every day.

As a top performer, St. Joseph's Hospital of Chewelah was evaluated on their performance and outcome measures in five clinical areas—acute myocardial infarction (heart attack), heart failure, coronary artery bypass graft (CABG), pneumonia, and hip and knee replacement.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend St. Joseph's Hospital of Chewelah for setting the standard for clinical excellence, and for providing excellent health care to the Eastern Washington community. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the doctors and employees of St. Joseph's Hospital of Chewelah on this great achievement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM FINE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor William Fine, a veteran of World War II, for his exemplary service in defense of freedom and award him with the Jubilee of Liberty Medal.

On June 6, 1944 the United States and its allies embarked on the largest air, land, and sea invasion ever undertaken. This massive effort included 5,000 ships, 10,000 airplanes, and over 150,000 American, British, Canadian, Free French, and Polish Troops. During the 50th anniversary of this historic event, the French Government awarded the Jubilee of Liberty Medal to American servicemen for their participation in the Battle of Normandy.

William served in the United States Army, Company G, 318th Infantry Division and served in Central Europe, Ardennes and the Rhineland. For his heroism and valor, William was awarded the American Service Medal, the

European African Middle Eastern Campaign Service Medal, the WWII Victory Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor William Fine for his heroic service in the United States Military. His dedication to this country in the theater of war is truly exemplary. I commend the sacrifices he has made to protect our freedoms and I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize his service. I applaud William Fine for his successes and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

INTRODUCING THE EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT TAX CUT ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Education Improvement Tax Cut Act. This act, a companion to my Family Education Freedom Act, takes a further step toward returning control over education resources to private citizens by providing a \$5,000 tax credit for donations to scholarship funds to enable low-income children to attend private schools. It also encourages private citizens to devote more of their resources to helping public schools, by providing a \$5,000 tax credit for cash or in-kind donations to public schools to support academic or extra curricular programs.

Education remains one of the top priorities of the American people. Unfortunately, most proposals to address the American people's demand for education reform either expand federal control over education or engage in the pseudo-federalism of block grants. Many proposals that claim to increase local control over education actually extend federal power by holding schools "accountable" to federal bureaucrats and politicians. Of course, schools should be held accountable for their results, but they should be held accountable to parents and school boards not to federal officials. Therefore, I propose we move in a different direction and embrace true federalism by returning control over the education dollar to the American people.

One of the major problems with centralized control over education funding is that spending priorities set by Washington-based Representatives, staffers, and bureaucrats do not necessarily match the needs of individual communities. In fact, it would be a miracle if spending priorities determined by the wishes of certain politically powerful representatives or the theories of Education Department functionaries match the priorities of every community in a country as large and diverse as America. Block grants do not solve this problem as they simply allow states and localities to choose the means to reach federally-determined ends.

Returning control over the education dollar for tax credits for parents and for other concerned citizens returns control over both the means and ends of education policy to local communities. People in one community may use this credit to purchase computers, while children in another community may, at last, have access to a quality music program because of community leaders who took advantage of the tax credit contained in this bill.

Children in some communities may benefit most from the opportunity to attend private,

parochial, or other religious schools. One of the most encouraging trends in education has been the establishment of private scholarship programs. These scholarship funds use voluntary contributions to open the doors of quality private schools to low-income children. By providing a tax credit for donations to these programs, Congress can widen the educational opportunities and increase the quality of education for all children.

Furthermore, privately-funded scholarships raise none of the concerns of state entanglement raised by publicly-funded vouchers.

There is no doubt that Americans will always spend generously on education, the question is, "who should control the education dollar—politicians and bureaucrats or the American people?" Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in placing control of education back in the hands of citizens and local communities by sponsoring the Education Improvement Tax Cut Act.

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TRIBUTE TO LARRY INMAN

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**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a northern Michigan citizen who has been an exemplary leader in business, in his community and in his State. Larry Inman will celebrate his retirement this week after twenty-eight years of service to the Huntington National Bank (formerly Empire National Bank).

Mr. Inman is a northern Michigan original. He obtained his education and spent nearly his entire career in northern Michigan. He earned an Associate of Science degree from Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City before graduating from Northern Michigan University in Marquette in 1976. Mr. Inman had a brief internship in the Michigan Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division before he began his career with the Empire National Bank as a loan adjuster in 1979.

Mr. Inman's career at Huntington National Bank has been characterized by loyalty and dedication. His hard work and tenacity were often recognized and rewarded at Huntington National Bank. During his twenty-eight years there, he was promoted nine times, ultimately landing the position of Vice President, Commercial Loan Officer—Sales Executive Senior.

While Mr. Inman has been a tireless employee for Huntington National Bank, what is most remarkable is how he always took time to be an active member of his local community. In fact, given his track record of success at Huntington National Bank and the amount of time he dedicated to his professional career, it is truly astounding the number of community organizations that he has supported, belonged to or helped to lead. Larry has involved himself in community fundraisers for the local Junior Achievement and the Grand Traverse Bay YMCA. He spent time as a Volunteer Probation Officer for Michigan's 86th District Court. Maintaining his ties to his alma mater, he served on Northwestern Michigan College's Curriculum Advisory Committee.

Mr. Inman also applied his knowledge and professional experience toward the growth and development of the Grand Traverse County

area, serving on the Grand Traverse County Economic Development Corporation, the Waste Council, the Northwestern Regional Airport Commission and the Grand Traverse County Planning Commission.

Perhaps most important to the region's planning and development, Mr. Inman was elected in 1993 to the Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners and has been successively re-elected every two years.

Beyond the organizations that helped guide the region's economic growth and development, Mr. Inman was active with a number of organizations that assist those in the Grand Traverse community who need the most help. For instance, he spent time on the Funds Distribution Board of the United Way of Northern Michigan and the Grand Traverse County Veterans Affairs Board.

Beyond his service to the local Grand Traverse region, Mr. Inman also served the State of Michigan in a variety of capacities. The Governor appointed him to serve on the Board of Trustees of Northern Michigan University. Since 1998, he has represented a ten-county region on the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments. He serves today on the State of Michigan Community Corrections Board and chaired the Corrections Board from 1999 to 2006.

Given the amount of time that Mr. Inman has dedicated to serving his state and his local community, it is no wonder that his colleagues have, at times, jokingly referred to him as "Larry Never In Man." Yet, despite the demands that community involvement places upon his time, Mr. Inman has led a highly successful career at Huntington National Bank. Some might speculate that his success can be attributed to his effervescent attitude. He is known around the office for responding to the question, "How are you?" with his trademark response, "Simply the best!"

With Larry's well deserved retirement, perhaps he will have more time to indulge his passions of attending Martina McBride concerts and collecting country music memorabilia. However, even while he enjoys these hobbies, I know Mr. Inman will remain an active part of the Grand Traverse Community.

Madam Speaker, all of us struggle to balance our professional lives with involvement in our local communities. As a leader in local business, in his community and in the State of Michigan, Larry Inman exemplifies that balance.

Madam Speaker, I first met Larry Inman when I attended Northwestern Michigan College from 1970-1972. Larry and I, along with Tom Wilson, were studying law enforcement, young ladies and the latest night spots. We became good friends in college and better friends in business and politics. I regret that I cannot personally attend his retirement party as my Congressional responsibilities are keeping me in Washington, D.C. Larry knows I am with him in spirit, in friendship and in my heart, because you really do not have that many good friends like Larry Inman!

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in saluting Mr. Larry Inman for his years of dedication and in congratulating him on a well deserved retirement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROBERT GLANS

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**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Glans, a veteran of World War II, for his exemplary service in defense of freedom and award him with the Jubilee of Liberty Medal.

On June 6, 1944 the United States and its allies embarked on the largest air, land, and sea invasion ever undertaken. This massive effort included 5,000 ships, 10,000 airplanes, and over 150,000 American, British, Canadian, Free French, and Polish Troops. During the 50th anniversary of this historic event, the French Government awarded the Jubilee of Liberty Medal to American servicemen for their participation in the Battle of Normandy.

Robert served in the United States Army, 60th Infantry Regiment and served in Normandy, Northern France, and the Rhineland. For his heroism and valor, he was awarded the Purple Heart, the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Service Medal with three Bronze Stars, the WWII Victory Medal, and the American Campaign Medal.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Robert Glans for his heroic service in the United States Military. His dedication to this country in the theater of war is truly exemplary. I commend the sacrifices he has made to protect our freedoms and I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize his service. I applaud Robert Glans for his successes and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING AND PRAISING THE NAACP ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 98TH ANNIVERSARY

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SPEECH OF

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 12, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an organization that has been at the forefront of the fight for civil and political liberty. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, our Nation's oldest civil rights organization, has been on the right side of history for 98 years.

Doing the right thing wasn't an easy task, especially given the entrenched discrimination black Americans faced. When African Americans were victims of lynching; when hostile government policies forced black Americans into substandard, segregated schools; when black voters were disenfranchised by poll taxes and other unfair barriers, the NAACP stepped up to help end discrimination and do what was right.

I feel privileged to represent a district with a strong branch of the NAACP. The Sonoma County NAACP was co-founded by my friends Gilbert and Alice Gray and other local activists. Alice was a dedicated volunteer and fearless leader. Almost 1 year ago, I rose to honor Alice after her passing. Some of her accomplishments bear mentioning again, for the scope and depth of her activism. In 1954, she