

vacancies has proven to be extremely cumbersome and the appointments of voting members to the board has not been made in a timely manner. H.R. 3049 would prevent the situation where board members have felt obligated to serve additional terms in order to maintain a quorum for the purpose of conducting business. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this purely technical corrections bill and thank the Speaker for the opportunity to voice my concerns.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, my compliments to the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GOODLING] and the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. KILDEE] for this excellent corrections day bill. Since I have no further requests for time, I will also yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and (three-fifths having voted in favor thereof) the bill was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend section 1505 of the Higher Education Amendments of 1986 to provide for the continuity of the Board of Trustees of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONTINUED GRANT PARTICIPATION BY HISTORICALLY BLACK GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 3055) to amend section 326 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to permit continued participation by Historically Black Graduate Professional Schools in the grant program authorized by that section.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 3055

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The Historically Black Graduate Professional Schools identified under section 326 of the Higher Education Act may receive grant funds if the Secretary of Education determines that such institutions make a substantial contribution to the legal, medical, dental, veterinary, or other graduate opportunity for African Americans.

(2) The health professions schools which participate under section 326 train 50 percent of the Nation's African American physicians, 50 percent of the Nation's African American dentists, 50 percent of the Nation's African American pharmacists, and 75 percent of the Nation's African American veterinarians.

(3) A majority of the graduates of these schools practice in poor urban and rural areas of the country providing care to many disadvantaged Americans.

(4) The survival of these schools will contribute to the improved health status of disadvantaged persons, and of all Americans.

SEC. 2. ELIMINATION OF GRANT RENEWAL LIMITATION.

Section 326(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1063b(b)) is amended by striking the second sentence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. NORWOOD] and the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. CLAY] each will be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. NORWOOD].

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing me and my colleague from Missouri, Mr. CLAY, to bring to the floor a small yet important bill. H.R. 3055 corrects a situation going on here in Washington that has a big effect on five historically black colleges and universities, including two major Georgia colleges that supply health care professionals to nearly every county in my district.

Because of a technicality in the Higher Education Act of 1965, both Morehouse School of Medicine and Clark-Atlanta University could stand to lose their ability to compete for Federal education grants. Under that 1965 Act, grant eligibility is limited to two 5-year grants. These schools have received their two 5-year grants.

This was originally done to make sure a small number of schools didn't monopolize the few grants that were available, but over the years that situation has proven not to be an issue. At present, the other 11 schools covered by the Act have said that they have no objection to Morehouse and Clark, as well as the other three schools, continuing to compete, yet this unnecessary rule still is on the books, which means both colleges will be shut out of the process starting next year unless we act now.

H.R. 3055 will correct this situation. Here's why this is so important—the five schools who will lose grant eligibility under this rule provide more than half of the entire country's African-American physicians, pharmacists, and dentists, and three-quarters of all African-American veterinarians.

For the most part, these health-care professionals practice in poor urban and rural areas, where they serve a large number of poor Americans regardless of their race. It would be inexcusable to allow these colleges' ability to put qualified health-care providers in the field to be compromised because of a rule that should no longer apply.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3055 contains no new spending, and does not increase the Federal deficit. H.R. 3055 contains no new Federal mandates. But what H.R. 3055 does contain is a small measure of help for those who would provide medical help to many in rural and poor areas. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 3055.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise in support of H.R. 3055 and commend my colleague, Mr. NORWOOD, for co-sponsoring this legislation. I am proud to note that this bill was favorably reported by the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities with unanimous, bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, this bill corrects a problem with respect to section 326 of title III of the Higher Education Act. That section was added to the act in 1986 as a way to provide support for historically black graduate and professional institutions of higher education which perform vitally important services for our Nation.

As Mr. NORWOOD stated, the five schools initially included in section 326 educate more than half of all black doctors, dentists, and pharmacists, as well as 75 percent of all black veterinarians each year. That is a major return on the small investment provided by the Federal Government.

H.R. 3055 allows those five institutions to continue to do what they do so well. It will allow them to remain eligible to receive section 326 support at no additional cost to the Federal Government.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan effort.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and (three-fifths having voted in favor thereof) the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RESIGNATION AS CONFEEE AND APPOINTMENT OF REPLACEMENT CONFEEE ON H.R. 3019, BALANCED BUDGET DOWN PAYMENT ACT, II

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a conferee:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, April 23, 1996.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I hereby resign as a conferee for the entire bill, H.R. 3019, the omnibus appropriations measure for Fiscal 1996. I intend to remain a conferee for the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education portion of the bill.

Thanking you and with best regards, I am
Sincerely yours,

STENY H. HOYER.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation of Mr. HOYER as a conferee on the primary panel of conferees is accepted, the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. STOKES is appointed to fill the resulting vacancy among the primary panel of conferees, and is reappointed as a conferee for consideration of section 101(c) of the House bill and section 101(d) of the Senate amendment and modifications committed to conference.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will notify the Senate of the change in conferees.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules but not before 5 p.m. today.

BATTERY RECYCLING AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for 1 minute.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from New Mexico is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, on the issue of the environment and Earth Day, we have to be very careful not to politicize these issues. We are about to take up a battery recycling bill, which is a good bill. By the way, it used to be my bill and FRANK PALLONE' bill, now is a Republican bill. We accept that. Things change.

But we should not, by passing this bill, say that we have ended our tasks in protecting the environment. Battery recycling is important, but it does not correct the environmental rollbacks that many in this Republican majority have pursued this year: Weakening the Clean Water Act, slashing funding for the EPA, weakening the Endangered Species Act, attempting to close down some of our national parks.

We want to take some positive steps on the environment. We also should pass a bipartisan Superfund bill that does not pass the cost of cleanups on to the taxpayer, a safe drinking water bill that keeps public health as a top priority, a park concessions bill that allows fair competition to concessionaires and keeps the cost of visiting our parks down to all Americans.

I do want to commend, I will be commending Chairman BLILEY, Chairman OXLEY, Chairman DINGELL, and ranking member PALLONE for their efforts

to bring this battery recycling bill to the floor. Hopefully this will be a good precedent for the Republican majority to celebrate our environment, not just on Earth Day by going to a zoo and exhibiting concern for animals, but by passing concrete legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I think that this is starting to happen with our majority here that realizes that taking on the environment has not been a good issue, that going out and weakening our environmental laws has rebounded negatively with voters. This is a good bill, and our colleague, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. KLUG], should be commended for it.

I especially want to commend the work of the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE], who has been a leader in the fight on mercury poisoning; that is, reducing it. He has been a leader in many issues relating to recycling.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE].

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New Mexico for those very kind remarks and, of course, say the same thing about him. I know this battery bill has been very important to him and the whole issue of battery recycling and concern for mercury in the atmosphere.

I agree with him completely when he says that as much as we believe that this bill is important today and we certainly do want it to pass, that that should not take away from what the Republican majority and the Republican leadership are doing about the environment in general, and how they are continuing to try to move legislation on the floor of this House that would tear down the environmental protections we have had in place for a number of years.

Particularly, today I found out in the Committee on Appropriations, although they are very close to agreement on a spending bill that would take us through the remainder of this year, that the disagreement once again is over environmental issues and over the fact that the Republican leadership insists on these environmental riders or antienvironmental riders that are placed in the appropriations bill that would, among other things, prohibit new Superfund sites from being designated, prohibit the EPA from designating standards for radon in drinking water, prohibit the EPA from being involved in wetlands protection, and the list goes on and on.

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So they are continuing their assault on the environment; that is, the Republican majority, at the same time they are making an effort today, or at least to seem to try to show today, that they do bring some environmental legislation to the floor. We cannot mask the fact that some of these measures like the battery recycling bill, even though they are very important, are small measures compared to the

damage the Republican majority is doing to the environment.

If I could just for a minute quote what I thought was a great editorial in yesterday's New York Times, just some of it, that is called "Defunding Mother Earth." It says:

There are many destructive proposals on the Congressional agenda, including several bills that would transfer millions of acres of public land to state and commercial jurisdiction. But the most urgent example of bad legislation is an omnibus appropriations bill now under consideration in a House Senate conference. The bill sharply reduces appropriations for the Environmental Protection Agency and the Interior Department and contains a dozen or so crippling anti-environmental riders.

Today marks the 26th anniversary of Earth Day. In full knowledge of that, House Speaker Newt Gingrich recently formed a 77-member Republican environmental task force. Although 36 members of this task force earned "zero" ratings from the League of Conservation Voters for their routine support of anti-environmental legislation, many of them are likely to spend the week planting trees, visiting zoos and striking friendly poses next to recycling bins. But the best thing Mr. Gingrich could do for his country and his party would be to recognize that what counts here is content, not imagery—and remove those riders from the appropriations bill.

Once again, we need to keep pressing the point that you cannot talk about the environment in a favorable way, and move some bills, and at the same time continue the assault on the environment to tear down the last 25 years of environmental protection since Earth Day.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey. I hope our friends from the majority are on their way. Here is their opportunity to do a real environmental bill. I hope they are not hesitating. I am sure they are on their way. I thank the Chair for allowing this dialog.

This does not diminish the fact this is a good bill, this battery recycling bill. It is something I will say industry, some industry, has taken a very positive role in changing this, in being constructive about change. Hopefully, it will lead to other issues that involve protecting the environment. I think it is very important that we have a bipartisan bill on Superfund, a meaningful bipartisan bill, that does not pass the cost of cleanups on to the taxpayer.

Next, this is the very glorious Committee on Commerce, a safe drinking water bill that keeps public health as a top priority.

MERCURY-CONTAINING AND RECHARGEABLE BATTERY MANAGEMENT ACT

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2024) to phase out the use of mercury in batteries and provide for the efficient and cost-effective collection and recycling or proper disposal of used nickel cadmium batteries, small sealed lead-acid batteries, and certain other