

laws must meet and provides a process to resolve impasses in states without such laws. States that already have collective bargaining laws would be exempt from the federal statute. Furthermore, this bill prohibits strikes and does not call for mandatory binding arbitration.

Public safety workers risk their lives every day to protect the public. At the very least, they should be allowed to bargain for wages, hours, and safe working conditions. This bill helps workers, management, and the general public, because employer-employee cooperation leads to cost savings and better delivery of services.

This bill is supported by the International Association of Fire Fighters, International Brotherhood of Police Officers, International Union of Police Organizations, National Association of Police Organizations, and the Fraternal Order of Police.

I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act of 1999.

EXPRESS YOUR CONCERN ABOUT
CHINA

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I would respectfully request all of my colleagues to join me in signing a letter requesting the President to use the upcoming visit with China's Premier Zhu Rongji to express our profound concern regarding several issues, including: Human rights violations in China and Tibet; China's ongoing public vilification against Japan; China's deployment of several hundred missiles against Taiwan; China's buildup of their nuclear strike capability; China's clandestine efforts to acquire secret United States military technologies; China's assistance to the development of the North Korea missile program; and China's sales of missile and nuclear technologies to terrorist states.

If you agree with me that the time has come for some truth and realism to be put back into our relations with the People's Republic of China please join in signing the letter I have submitted into the RECORD by contacting my office.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We are taking this opportunity, in advance of Premier Zhu Rongji's visit, to express our profound concern about several issues involving the People's Republic of China.

Since 1994 the P.R.C. has been constructing military facilities in the Spratly Islands. The size and nature of these facilities suggest that the P.R.C. is attempting to establish a permanent strategic presence in the area, from which it could patrol the sea lanes in the South China Sea, the waterway through which one sixth of the world's trade is shipped.

The military buildup in the Spratly Islands has been accompanied by an ever more strident campaign of public vilification against Japan, a treaty ally of the United States and the base for 50,000 United States troops, the largest single concentration of United States military forces abroad. In another strategic concern, in March 1997 a Chinese controlled company was able to obtain, from Panama, the rights to the port facilities that flank the canal zone.

Then there is the matter of the democratic nation of Taiwan. The P.R.C.'s 1995 military exercises and 1996 missile firings in the Taiwan Strait have been followed by an offen-

sive military buildup on the Chinese mainland itself that includes tripling the number of missiles (to more than 100) already deployed against Taiwan. With several hundred more missiles expected for similar deployment, the recent Defense Department study on the military balance in the Taiwan Strait describes an "overwhelming advantage in offensive missiles which Beijing is projected to possess in 2005."

These developments are all the more alarming when seen against the backdrop of (1) China's overall military modernization, its abandonment of a traditional, land-based "people's army" in favor a comprehensive strategic and nuclear strike capability by land, sea, and air; (2) China's clandestine efforts to acquire the most secret and sensitive of United States military technologies, including the know-how to replicate the W 88 warhead, the most dangerous security breach in 50 years; and (3) allegations that China has assisted the North Korean missile program, on top of its known and suspected sales of missile and nuclear technologies to terrorist states.

Mr. President, with respect to China, our country has looked the other way for too long. And we have tolerated a ballooning trade deficit for too long. We request that you make it emphatically clear to Premier Zhu that the United States has legal and moral obligations to our allies that we will honor. And if that means, as we believe it does, a land or sea based missile defense in the Western Pacific—then so be it.

Mr. President, we would also request that you emphasize the P.R.C.'s worsening record regarding human rights violations in China and Tibet. Among these violations are the recent excessive jail and labor camp sentences for pro-democracy activists, Xu Wenli, Qin Yongmin, Wang Youcai, and Zhang Shuangang, the latter for allegedly "providing intelligence to hostile foreign organizations" while giving an interview on Radio Free Asia regarding farmer protests.

And as for Taiwan, now is the time to remind Beijing that the Taiwan Relations Act—the law of the United States—mandates the United States to "make available to Taiwan such defense articles in such quantity as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability. That is our law, period. And that same law mandates that the determination of what Taiwan needs will be made by "the President and the Congress."

Mr. President, the United States policy toward the P.R.C. has been based on wishful thinking for far too long. Policy makers in the Administration of both parties have time and time again been willing to give Chinese leaders the benefits of the doubt only to be consistently let down. The occasion of Premier Zhu's visit provides a timely opportunity to put some truth and realism back into this relationship. It will take the same kind of resolution you showed by sending aircraft carriers into the Taiwan Strait in 1996. We applauded you then, and we will support you now in taking the necessary steps to protect the United States interests and our allies in the region.

PERMANENTLY FIX THE
ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to permanently fix the tax problem caused by the fact that the new tax credits for education and children are limited by the alternative minimum

tax (AMT). Consequently, more and more average Americans who use the dependent care credit, the new child credit, the HOPE credit or the lifelong learning credit, will be forced to fill out the complex alternative minimum tax form. Even worse, a growing number of Americans will have all or part of these credits denied by the interaction of the regular federal income tax and the alternative minimum tax.

This is not a new issue. Last year I introduced legislation, H.R. 4489, to permanently fix this problem. Once it was clear that permanent legislation would not pass, I introduced H.R. 4611 to correct this problem for 1998. This one year temporary "fix" did pass Congress last fall as part of the Omnibus Appropriations Act. This year, the Administration's budget includes a two year "fix" of this problem. This is simply not enough. This is a permanent problem; it demands a permanent solution.

Specifically, my legislation allows personal nonrefundable credits to be used against AMT liability. Nonrefundable credits include the child credit, the HOPE and lifetime learning credits, the dependent care credit, and the adoption tax credit. In addition, the bill eliminates the complex interaction of the partially refundable family credit with the AMT. In doing so, the bill would eliminate a penalty faced by large families.

Under current law, the total allowable amount of nonrefundable personal credits may not exceed the amount by which the individual's regular income tax liability exceeds the individual's tentative minimum tax. For families with three or more children, an additional refundable child credit is provided and this is reduced by the amount of the individual's minimum tax liability. This requires all taxpayers who claim the child credit with incomes above \$45,000 for joint filers and \$33,750 for single filers to make at least a rudimentary minimum tax calculation.

The Department of the Treasury estimated that in 1998, without the one year "fix", eight hundred thousand taxpayers who are entitled to the child credit or the education credits would have been denied the full benefit of these credits by the AMT.

In order to eliminate the complexities of the AMT in a revenue neutral manner, this bill reduces the income phase-outs for the child credit from \$110,000 to \$91,000 on a joint return, and from \$7,500 to \$60,000 for single filers.

According to the IRS, the estimated average time it takes to fill out the alternative minimum tax form is 5 hours and 39 minutes. It would, of course, take much longer for hundreds of thousands of taxpayers who may be forced to fill this form out for the first time as a result of the credits Congress offered them last year in the name of child care and education.

And to show how truly perverse this provision is, the interaction between the AMT and the partially refundable child credit will result in a tax increase on 177,000 large families if the Republican 10 percent across the board tax cut was passed into law. Some might respond that they intend to fix this problem later, but that is exactly the type of thinking that put us in this situation to begin with.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is "must pass" legislation, and it must be passed on a bipartisan,

revenue neutral, permanent basis. I hope it will be.

HONORING GLEN STILLWELL OF
ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, I rise today to honor Glen Stillwell, one of Orange County, California's finest and most generous philanthropists.

Glen, after a long and courageous struggle, recently succumbed to a terminal illness. He has left behind his lovely wife Dotti of 53 years, and a rich legacy of service and leadership in the community of Orange County. His charitable and selfless influence upon the McIntosh Center for the Disabled, the Providence Speech and Hearing Center, the Olive Crest Treatment Center for Abused Children, the Assistance League, the Orange County Performing Arts Center, and the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, allowed these much-needed institutions to thrive.

Glen Stillwell truly lived the American dream. He came to California at the end of the Great Depression and became a pioneer in the budding aerospace engineering industry—a California industry, that, with Glen's help, has become a world-leader. In time, through his own grit and determination, Glen built his own aerospace-manufacturing company, which under the example of his guidance, continues to flourish. But throughout his brilliant career, however, Glen always considered the upbringing of his two sons, Thomas and Richard, his most important calling.

Glen Stillwell was a visionary. He planted the seeds that ultimately became Chapman College and the world-renowned Orange County Performing Arts Center. He also had a passion for civic involvement, and his voice was often heard in the public arena on important issues of statecraft. Indeed, Glen was the best kind of patriot; he loved his country and he loved the community of Orange County, and he loved his family.

Orange County will miss Glen Stillwell, but will enjoy the fruits of his hard work and dedication for many generations to come.

EDUCATION FLEXIBILITY
PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 800) to provide for education flexibility partnerships:

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to support the Education Flexibility Act. Republicans in the House are working on a bipartisan basis to put education back in the hands of local teachers and schools, and provide relief from federal regulations that only serve to stifle innovation in education.

H.R. 800 will give states and communities more decision-making flexibility. This flexibility

is crucial to ensure that schools can promote the best opportunities for our children so that they may reach their greatest learning potential. This bill also creates real, measurable accountability standards for teachers to encourage them to bring out the best in every child at school.

With the passage of the Ed-Flex, my home state of Washington will finally have the opportunity to utilize this flexibility when designing their education programs. Local districts and schools, such as Tahoma High School in Maple Valley, will have the flexibility to design a plan that works for Tahoma, not bureaucrats in Washington, DC. By broadening this plan from the original plan of 12 states to include the rest of the nation, we offer all states much needed relief from over-burdensome regulations.

The proof is in the reforms already begun by states that participated in the ed-flex pilot program. In both Texas and Maryland, Ed-Flex has enabled school districts in each state to improve the test scores of their poorest children. In return for greater flexibility, both states have produced solid academic results.

Ed-Flex is a program that works—for schools and for students. A Kent County, Maryland school with 60% of the students at the poverty level utilized ed-flex and now has the third highest test scores in the state for elementary schools. Parents of the students in this school know first hand the value of local flexibility. Their kids are improving their reading, writing, and math skills—some of the most important tools in life.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to think of the possibilities ed-flex can create in their home districts, to imagine how flexibility at the local level will stimulate new ideas and programs that will improve the quality of education for our children, and create opportunities for our teachers and educators to design plans that help our children reach their fullest potential. I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING GLORIA B. CORLEY-
MCKOY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gloria B. Corley-McKoy for her exemplary community service and contribution to the Brooklyn Community.

Ms. Corley-McKoy has lived in the Brooklyn Community of East New York for the past 35 years. She was employed as a drug counselor by the Board of Education for 22 years and currently works as a community and project liaison for the AFSCME-AFL-CIO.

Although retired from her position at the Board of Education, Ms. Corley-McKoy continues her tireless advocacy on behalf of the children of New York. She currently serves as President of the Community School Board and President of the Boulevard Houses Tenant Association, a position she uses to advocate for improving the lives of children in the community.

Ms. Corely-McKoy is married to Jeffrey McKoy. She is a product of the New York Public School System. Her late son, Edward,

was a graduate of Community School District 19. Ms. Corley-McKoy comes from a loving family of eight sisters and 2 brothers. One of her sisters, Priscilla A. Wooten, serves on the City Council and Ms. Corley-McKoy played an instrumental role in her sister's election while serving as campaign manager.

Mr. Speaker, it is a considerable honor for me to speak about one of our community's most cherished leaders. I have known Gloria for several years, and I can think of no better role model for the community. America should be aware of the tireless, unselfish work of community leaders like Gloria B. Corley-McKoy.

IN HONOR OF LAVATUS V.
POWELL

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lavatus V. "Vate" Powell, a friend and community leader, who passed away on February 17, 1999.

Vate was known for his integrity, straightforwardness, and positive outlook on life. His life was centered around service to others.

Vate was born in Mississippi and graduated from Jackson State University in 1955. He earned his master of science degree in 1964 from Case Western Reserve University. He was a Cincinnati Public Schools teacher from 1955 to 1965.

He began his career with Procter & Gamble in 1965 as a systems analyst in the Data Processing Systems Department. He went on to hold positions in personnel, urban affairs, and public relations, before becoming public affairs manager. He went on to become vice president of Procter & Gamble's Ohio Government Relations Division, where he served until his retirement in 1997.

Vate was an extraordinary community volunteer. He served as president of the Andrew Jergens Foundation; chairman of Preserving Affordable Housing; chairman of the Purcell-Marian High School Foundation and a member of the Purcell-Marian board of trustees; trustee of the Cincinnati Museum Center; member of the Partners of Children's Defense Fund, and a director of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce. He served as co-founder and treasurer of the Black Male Coalition; Capitol Revival Task Force; chairman of the Cincinnati United Way Government Affairs Committee; and president of the Board of Trustees of Family Service of the Cincinnati area. He was an elder at Carmel Presbyterian Church.

In 1997, he received an Imagemaker Award from Applause magazine for his efforts to promote education. That same year, he was honored by the African American Leadership Network for his work with Procter & Gamble.

Vate was a warm and caring person who gave generously of his time and talents. Cincinnati was blessed to have him as a leading citizen. Many of us were blessed to have him as a friend.