

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, how many times do we have to come to the floor asking for help on behalf of the American farmer? How many more farmers have to go bankrupt before we pass the emergency supplemental? When is the Speaker going to stop holding America's farmers hostage and stop playing politics?

This could have been done months ago. The time to act is now. It is the right thing to do. America's farmers deserve to be treated better than this. Let us pass the emergency supplemental.

H.R. 1503, CAPITAL GAINS EXPANSION FOR FARMERS

(Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, a week ago I introduced a bill to correct a flaw in the Tax Code. H.R. 1503 would allow family farmers to take advantage of the \$500,000 capital gains tax break that many other Americans can take when they sell their homes. This bill expands the \$500,000 capital gains tax exclusion for principal residences to cover the entire farm.

Most family farmers are unable to take advantage of the capital gains tax break because they do not spend extra money investing in their principal residence, they spend it investing in their whole farm. As a result, the capital gains exclusion is of little help to farmers selling their land. It simply makes sense. Farmers should enjoy the same capital gains exclusion as other Americans.

Agriculture producers are faced with many challenges these days, and we need to look at a variety of issues to improve the situation in rural America. I believe this bill begins to correct one that we can control, an inequity in the Tax Code.

I ask my colleagues to join me along with the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY) in supporting H.R. 1503.

URGENT NEED FOR SUPPLEMENTAL AGRICULTURE FUNDING

(Mrs. CLAYTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, since the Congress began in January, all have acknowledged the need to enact emergency legislation to assist our small farmers and ranchers.

The emergency supplemental appropriation for farm loans was the result of unprecedented demand for agricultural credit due to the persistent low commodity prices across our Nation.

The Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency, FSA, needs an additional \$152 million in fiscal year 1999 to provide credit and to deliver much-needed services to farmers and

ranchers because of the low prices and bad weather.

The conferees have yet to resolve the differences in the emergency agriculture supplemental so this desperately needed legislation can be brought to the floor of the House for passage of the conference report.

My colleagues, we truly, truly have an emergency. We must act now. The situation is urgent. Let us pass the emergency supplemental so our farmers of America can continue to provide the food and fiber we desperately need.

PRESIDENT HAS CREATED NATIONAL SECURITY EMERGENCY

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I call my colleagues' attention to this graph I have here. It shows that the President has neglected the defense budget for the past 6 years, while stretching our troops around the world. There has been laxity, inattention, and actual negligence in guarding our most valuable nuclear secrets.

I believe the President has created a national security emergency. There have been truly massive cuts in the defense budget in the area of weapons procurement, all this while using American troops in the role of social workers on humanitarian missions around the world. It is a recipe designed to leave our proud military in a state of emergency, unable to match resources with demands.

American servicemen deserve better. Those who serve our Nation should not be put in harm's way when our national security interests are not at stake, and they should be provided with the resources necessary to carry out our mission in a dangerous world.

The war in Kosovo has exposed for all the world to see our national security emergency.

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WEAPONS OF WAR ON OUR STREETS AND IN OUR SCHOOLS

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of the Littleton, Colorado, tragedy yesterday, the gentleman from California (Mr. HENRY WAXMAN) and I sat at a hearing on the GAO report on the 50-caliber, state-of-the-art military rifle that is of Persian Gulf vintage.

The problem is that this armor-piercing sniper rifle, meant to bring down tanks and jeeps, has now infiltrated the States. GAO investigators went undercover in the National Capital area region and found dealers willing to sell the rifle even when the agent said he was interested in taking down a helicopter and in piercing a limousine.

All that is needed is an 18-year-old ID and no felony conviction. In contrast, you have to be 21 to get a handgun. Amazingly, there is no regulation of secondhand assault weapons.

Some of the weapons used at Columbine High School were bought at a gun show. Let us fill this loophole and keep the weapons of war off our streets and out of our schools.

WIC

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, better known as WIC, a program that has been providing short-term, low-cost preventive health services to young families who are at risk due to low income or nutritionally-related health conditions for 25 years.

Studies have shown that pregnant women who participate in WIC have longer pregnancies leading to fewer premature births, have fewer low-birth-weight babies, experience few infant deaths, and seek prenatal care earlier in their pregnancy.

And when I say it is cost effective, let me point out some real numbers to my colleagues. It costs \$22,000 a pound to raise a low or very low-birth-weight baby to normal weight, costs that are often covered by Medicaid. It costs only \$40 per pound to provide WIC prenatal benefits. These figures show that WIC is making a real difference.

I want to thank those who have made the program a success and wish WIC a happy 25th birthday.

TAX REFORM

(Mr. DEMINT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, I recently received a letter from Tori Smith, a senior at Dorman High School in Spartanburg, South Carolina. She wrote:

I think you take out entirely too much money for tax. That is my dad's money. He worked for it, not you, he should keep it all for himself. Also, young teenagers who have part-time jobs, trying to make a little spending money pay taxes too. I do not think you should take taxes from us until we are 18. That is my opinion, which should count.

Well, Tori, your opinion does count. And Mr. Speaker, she is exactly right. That is their money and they deserve to keep a lot more of it. They should not be punished for working hard for some extra money or saving for college.

On behalf of young women like Tori and the students at Dorman High School, I ask my colleagues to find the courage to reduce taxes and get rid of the oppressive Tax Code. Let us say, enough is enough. Let us replace it

with a national sales tax that rewards hard work and allows these young people to make their dreams come true.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Tori for writing me. I believe we are on the way to giving her a more secure future.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBER TO COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Without objection, and pursuant to section 2(b) of Public Law 98-183, and upon the recommendation of the minority leader, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following member to the Commission on Civil Rights on the part of the House, effective May 4, 1999, to fill the existing vacancy thereon:

Mr. Christopher F. Edley, Jr., Cambridge, Massachusetts.

There was no objection.

REAPPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS TO NATIONAL SKILL STANDARDS BOARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to section 503(b)(3) of the National Skill Standards Act of 1994, (20 U.S.C. 5933) and upon the recommendation of the minority leader, the Chair announces the Speaker's reappointment of the following members to the National Skill Standards Board on the part of the House for a 4-year term:

Ms. Carolyn Warner, Phoenix, Arizona; and

Mr. George Bliss, Washington, D.C.

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on motions 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 6 of rule XX.

If a recorded vote is ordered on House Concurrent Resolution 84, relating to the Disabilities Education Act; House Concurrent Resolution 88, relating to the Pell Grant Program; or House Resolution 157, relating to teacher appreciation, those votes will be taken after debate has concluded on those motions.

If a recorded vote is ordered on any remaining motion, those votes will be postponed until tomorrow.

URGING CONGRESS AND PRESIDENT TO FULLY FUND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 84) urging the Congress and the President to fully fund the Federal Government's obligation under the Individuals With

Disabilities Education Act, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 84

Whereas all children deserve a quality education, including children with disabilities;

Whereas Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Children v. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 334 F. Supp. 1247 (E. Dist. Pa. 1971), and Mills v. Board of Education of the District of Columbia, 348 F. Supp. 866 (Dist. D. C. 1972), found that children with disabilities are guaranteed an equal opportunity to an education under the 14th amendment to the Constitution;

Whereas the Congress responded to these court decisions by passing the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975 (enacted as Public Law 94-142), now known as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), to ensure a free, appropriate public education for children with disabilities;

Whereas the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act provides that the Federal, State, and local governments are to share in the expense of educating children with disabilities and commits the Federal Government to pay up to 40 percent of the national average per pupil expenditure for children with disabilities;

Whereas the Federal Government has provided only 9, 11, and 12 percent of the maximum State grant allocation for educating children with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in the last 3 years, respectively;

Whereas the national average cost of educating a special education student (\$13,323) is more than twice the national average per pupil cost (\$6,140);

Whereas research indicates that children who are effectively taught, including effective instruction aimed at acquiring literacy skills, and who receive positive early interventions demonstrate academic progress, and are significantly less likely to be referred to special education;

Whereas the high cost of educating children with disabilities and the Federal Government's failure to fully meet its obligation under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act stretches limited State and local education funds, creating difficulty in providing a quality education to all students, including children with disabilities;

Whereas, if the appropriation for part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1411 et seq.) exceeds \$4,924,672,200 for a fiscal year, the State funding formula will shift from one based solely on the number of children with disabilities in the State to one based on 85 percent of the children ages 3 to 21 living in the State and 15 percent based on children living in poverty in the State, enabling States to undertake good practices for addressing the learning needs of more children in the regular education classroom and reduce over identification of children who may not need to be referred to special education;

Whereas the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act has been successful in achieving significant increases in the number of children with disabilities who receive a free, appropriate public education;

Whereas the current level of Federal funding to States and localities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act is contrary to the goal of ensuring that children with disabilities receive a quality education; and

Whereas the Federal Government has failed to appropriate 40 percent of the national average per pupil expenditure per child with a disability as required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

to assist States and localities to educate children with disabilities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That—

(1) the Congress and the President—

(A) should, working within the constraints of the balanced budget agreement, give programs under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) the highest priority among Federal elementary and secondary education programs by meeting the commitment to fund the maximum State grant allocation for educating children with disabilities under such Act prior to authorizing or appropriating funds for any new education initiative; and

(B) should meet the commitment described in subparagraph (A) while retaining the commitment to fund existing Federal education programs that increase student achievement; and

(2) if a local educational agency chooses to utilize the authority under section 613(a)(2)(C)(i) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to treat as local funds up to 20 percent of the amount of funds the agency receives under part B of such Act that exceeds the amount it received under that part for the previous fiscal year, then the agency should use those local funds to provide additional funding for any Federal, State, or local education program.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING).

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

(Mr. GOODLING asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, this is an old topic for me, 25 years, speaking on the same subject, trying to encourage the Congress to put their money where their mouth was 24 years ago, when school districts were promised that if they participated in the Federal Individuals With Disabilities Education Act they would receive 40 percent of the excess cost in order to fund special education programs to educate a child with a disability, which may be two, three, five, ten, twenty times greater than to educate a non-disabled student.

Obviously, that was not done. We got up to 6 percent. In the last 3 years, fortunately, we have been able to get huge increases, which gets us all the way up to 12 percent. And, hopefully, by the end of this year, it will be 15 percent, and we still have a long way to go.

What does it mean when we do not fund what we promised? It means that the local school districts must raise millions of dollars in order to fund a mandate that came from the Federal level, a mandate if they decided to participate.

I realize that no matter how much money we put up, we can never fully fund even our 40 percent unless we deal with the number of people who are placed in special education programs, many of which only have a reading problem and, therefore, really should not be there.