

□ 1030

This tax shelter is not available to average workers or even to average investors. It is available only to the very wealthy, so that they can avoid paying taxes.

It is important to shut down these tax shelters as we uncover them. Otherwise, we undermine the faith people have in our voluntary tax system. The Committee on Ways and Means is looking at tax shelters this year. This should be the number one issue on our list.

#### A FOCUS ON CHILDREN

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is important that we focus on our children. I am delighted to congratulate the WIC program on its 25th anniversary, a program that has provided nourishment for women and children and infants, a program that has helped so many to be able to have the basic nourishment that allows them to go to schools and then be educated. Our children are our greatest asset.

Then I would like to note that this is Asthma Awareness Day and Month. I hope that we realize the importance of more research to help cure asthma. So many of our children and, yes, so many of our citizens are impacted by that.

Likewise, Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite and acknowledge that the Congressional Children's Caucus will be holding a hearing this afternoon at 2154 Rayburn on the crisis of school violence, how do we help our children. We want solutions and not accusations.

We hope to develop a mental health system for children, where children can be referred and helped and rehabilitated, because in fact they are our precious resource. We will be listening to children today, we will be listening to mental health experts on the crisis of school violence and how do we help our children. We hope the children will come and let us hear them today.

Mr. Speaker, today is a special day for several reasons. Today is the 25th Anniversary of the WIC Program and it is also Asthma Awareness Day. Also today, the Congressional Children's Caucus, which I am the chair, will have a hearing today on the psychology of school violence. I hope My Colleagues will join me for the hearing.

The WIC Program, or the Women, Infant and Children's Supplemental Nutrition Program, has been providing nutrition education and diet counseling since 1972. It is a federally funded program designed for low-income pregnant women, mothers and their children who face nutritional risk.

WIC helps mothers make infant feeding choices and provides breastfeeding support, children's growth checkups and referrals for other health services. WIC also gives mothers one-on-one instructions for making healthy meals for their families.

Families on WIC receive monthly supplies for food like milk, eggs, cereal and juice. This

is an important program for mothers and children in need, and I am happy to salute them today on their 25th Anniversary.

Today is also Asthma Awareness Day. Asthma is a serious condition that causes difficulty in breathing and it affects children and adults. An estimated 4.8 million children under 18 have asthma and many more have undiagnosed asthma.

Asthma is the leading chronic illness in children and it is the leading cause of school absenteeism. Hospitalizations due to asthma are disproportionately high for inner-city children, particularly for children of color. Each year, 600 children die from asthma and 150,000 are hospitalized.

Today, there will be screenings for asthma and allergies and I urge everyone to get tested. As it is now allergy season, this is the time to find out how serious your allergies may be and also how to relieve your symptoms.

Finally, today there will be a hearing sponsored by the Congressional Children's Caucus on the issue of school violence. We have a panel of mental health experts who will discuss the need for mental health services in schools. We will also have a panel of students who will discuss their fears about violence in school. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the pending business is the question of agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SCHAFER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 359, nays 41, not voting 33, as follows:

[Roll No. 108]

YEAS—359

Abercrombie	Bilbray	Camp	Crane	Kelly
Ackerman	Bilirakis	Campbell	Kennedy	Porter
Allen	Blagoevich	Canady	Kildee	Portman
Andrews	Billey	Cannon	Kilpatrick	Price (NC)
Archer	Blumenauer	Capps	Kind (WI)	Pryce (OH)
Armey	Blunt	Capuano	King (NY)	Quinn
Bachus	Boehlert	Cardin	Kingston	Radanovich
Baird	Boehner	Castle	Kleczka	Rahall
Baker	Bonilla	Chabot	Deal	Regula
Baldacci	Bonior	Chambliss	Knollenberg	Reyes
Baldwin	Bono	Chenoweth	Kolbe	Reynolds
Ballenger	Boswell	Clayton	Kuykendall	Riley
Barcia	Boucher	Clement	LaFalce	Rivers
Barr	Boyd	Coble	LaHood	Rodriguez
Barrett (NE)	Brady (PA)	Coburn	Lampson	Roemer
Barrett (WI)	Brady (TX)	Collins	Lantos	Rogan
Bartlett	Brown (FL)	Combest	Largent	Rogers
Bass	Brown (OH)	Condit	Larson	Rohrabacher
Bateman	Bryant	Conyers	Latham	Ros-Lehtinen
Bentsen	Burr	Cook	LaTourette	Rothman
Bereuter	Burton	Cooksey	Lazio	Roukema
Berkley	Buyer	Cox	Leach	Royal-Allard
Berry	Callahan	Coyne	Doolittle	Royce
Biggert	Calvert	Cramer	Doyle	Ryan (WI)
			Dreier	Ryun (KS)
			Duncan	Salmon
			Dunn	Sanchez
			Edwards	Sandlin
			Ehlers	Sanford
			Ehrlich	Sawyer
			Emerson	Saxton
			Eshoo	Schakowsky
			Etheridge	Sensenbrenner
			Evans	Serrano
			Everett	Sessions
			Ewing	Shadegg
			Fletcher	Shaw
			Foley	Shays
			Forbes	Sherman
			Fossella	Sherwood
			Fowler	Shimkus
			Frank (MA)	Shows
			Franks (NJ)	Shuster
			Frelinghuysen	Sisisky
			Frost	Skeen
			Gallegly	Skelton
			Ganske	Smith (MI)
			Gejdenson	Smith (TX)
			Gekas	Smith (WA)
			Gilchrest	Stabenow
			Gillmor	Stearns
			Gilman	Stenholm
			Gonzalez	Strickland
			Goode	Stump
			Goodlatte	Sununu
			Goodling	Talent
			Gordon	Tancredo
			Goss	Tauscher
			Graham	Taylor (NC)
			Green (TX)	Thomas
			Hall (OH)	Thornberry
			Hall (TX)	Thune
			Hansen	Thurman
			Hastings (WA)	Toomey
			Hayes	Traficant
			Hayworth	Tucker
			Herger	Turner
			Hill (IN)	Udall (NM)
			Hill (MT)	Upton
			Hill (PA)	Velazquez
			Hill (VA)	Wentz
			Hines	Walden
			Hinchey	Walsh
			Hinojosa	Wamp
			Hobson	Watt (NC)
			Hoefel	Weldon (FL)
			Hoekstra	Weldon (PA)
			Holden	Wexler
			Hooley	Weygand
			Horn	Whitfield
			Hostettler	Wise
			Houghton	Wilson
			Hoyer	Wolfe
			Hulshof	Woolsey
			Hunter	
			Inslee	
			Isakson	
			Jackson (IL)	
			Jackson-Lee	
			(TX)	
			Jefferson	
			Jenkins	
			John	
			Johnson (CT)	
			Johnson, Sam	
			Jones (NC)	
			Jones (OH)	
			Kanjorski	
			Kaptur	
			Kasich	

## NAYS—41

Aderholt	Hilliard	Ramstad
Borski	Holt	Rush
Clay	Johnson, E. B.	Sabo
Clyburn	Klink	Schaffer
Costello	Kucinich	Stupak
DeFazio	Lee	Sweeney
English	Lewis (GA)	Taylor (MS)
Filner	LoBiondo	Thompson (CA)
Ford	McDermott	Thompson (MS)
Gephardt	McGovern	Visclosky
Gibbons	Miller, George	Waters
Gutknecht	Moran (KS)	Weller
Hastings (FL)	Oberstar	Wu
Hefley	Pickett	

## NOT VOTING—33

Barton	Granger	Scott
Becerra	Green (WI)	Simpson
Berman	Greenwood	Slaughter
Bishop	Gutierrez	Smith (NJ)
Brown (CA)	Hutchinson	Tiahrt
Carson	Hyde	Tierney
Cubin	Istook	Watkins
Dickey	Lewis (KY)	Watts (OK)
Engel	Rangel	Wynn
Farr	Sanders	Young (AK)
Fattah	Scarborough	Young (FL)

□ 1052

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

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**PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 833, BANKRUPTCY REFORM ACT OF 1999**

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 158 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

## H. RES. 158

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 833) to amend title 11 of the United States Code, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. Points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with section 302 or section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against the

amendments printed in the report are waived. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

H. Res. 158 is a fair, structured rule providing 1 hour of general debate divided equally between the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on the Judiciary.

The rule waives points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act which prohibits consideration of legislation which exceeds a committee's allocation of new spending authority, or section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act which prohibits consideration of legislation that would cause the total level of new budget authority or outlays in the most recent budget resolution to be exceeded or cause revenues to be less.

□ 1100

The rule provides that it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill. The rule waives all points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute and amendments thereto.

The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in the Committee on Rules report accompanying the resolution. The rule provides that amendments made in order may be offered only in the order printed in the report and may be offered only by a Member designated in the report. These amendments shall be considered as read and be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and opponent. They shall not be subject to amendment and shall not be subject to a de-

mand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

The rule allows for the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes during consideration of the bill and to reduce voting time to 5 minutes on a proposed question if the vote follows a 15-minute vote.

Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 833, the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1999, will fundamentally reform the existing bankruptcy system into a needs-based system. I am proud of the tireless efforts of the House Committee on the Judiciary to address this issue and ensure that our bankruptcy laws operate fairly, efficiently, and free of abuse.

This should not be a controversial issue because Congress has spoken on this issue before. Both the House and the Senate overwhelmingly approved bankruptcy reform legislation last year on a bipartisan basis. Although the measure fell short in the waning days of the 105th Congress because the Senate failed to act on the conference report, the House voted by a veto-proof majority of 300 to 125 to pass very similar legislation last year.

There is great need for this bill now. A record 1.42 million personal bankruptcy filings were recorded in 1998. This is a stunning increase of 500 percent since 1980. Despite an unprecedented time of economic prosperity, unemployment, and rising disposable income, personal bankruptcies are rising, costing over \$40 billion in the past year.

Without serious reform of our bankruptcy laws, these trends promise to grow each year, costing businesses and consumers even more in the form of losses and higher costs of credit.

As we debate and vote today, we should keep in mind two important tenets of bankruptcy reform.

First, the bankruptcy system should provide the amount of debt relief needed that an individual needs, no more and no less. Second, bankruptcy should be a last resort and not a first response to a financial crisis.

As a businessman with over 16 years' experience in the private sector and because of many conversations that I have had with leaders, consumers and others who are associated with loan defaults, I am well aware of the problems that are associated with the abuse of our bankruptcy laws.

A record 1.4 million personal bankruptcies were filed last year. That is one out of every 75 households in America. The debts that remained unpaid as a result of those bankruptcies each year cost American families that do pay their bills on time \$550 a year in the form of higher cost for credit, goods and services.

Unfortunately, much of the debt that was eventually passed on to the consumers last year was debt that bankruptcy filers could have avoided by