

As TSU, Fisk and Meharry demonstrate, HBCU play an array of roles in educating our African-American students. They, along with the many other HBCU's across our country are to be commended for their dedication to academic excellence and commitment to educational opportunity for all. I look forward to working with my colleagues in supporting HBCU's and ensuring that they receive the resources and support necessary to continue their mission.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE STUDENT CONGRESSIONAL TOWN MEETING

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work done by participants in my Student Congressional Town Meeting held this summer. These participants were part of a group of high school students from around Vermont who testified about the concerns they have as teenagers, and about what they would like to see the government do regarding these concerns.

I submit the following statements into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, as I believe that the views of these young persons will benefit my colleagues.

BRIAN LINDSTAM REGARDING HOMELESS TEENS

Brian Lindstam: My subject is on homeless teens. Over 500 Vermont teens become homeless every year in Vermont. That is about two teens a day, and 300 of those teens of that 500 are from Burlington. Why do teens become homeless? Here are several reasons: Abuse, negligence, and one-parent households where the teen is not getting the support because the parent is consumed in his or her own life. Sex abuse and drug and alcohol addiction can be a problem.

Spectrum is a teen shelter in Burlington where troubled teens can get support, counseling and get back into some kind of schooling. Burlington Youth Build is a nine-month program where they get paid \$250 every two weeks and got their GED at the end of program. They run this program as if it was a job. If you miss a day, you get no pay. If you have a drug or alcohol addiction there is a program, it is a three-month program at a rehabilitation clinic called Mountain View in Huntington. This is where Spectrum sends you if you have an addiction or if you need help.

I have an idea for—I have an idea that if you get a job at a food facility, it is a two-day orientation to get you ready for your job. If you have a job at IBM, it is an eight-day orientation to get ready for your job. So I said to myself, two to eight days can get you ready for a job; then why cannot three months of schooling get a student ready for his or her job? Nine months of schooling or four years of schooling will burn out a frustrated mind, so if you have a teen pick one class to excel in for three months and get a \$300 to \$500 bonus at graduation, fee or bonus to help pay for utensils or a wardrobe to get them going in their job. I feel that this problem will help teens that do not like school and it will open new doors to them for a better life.

MATT KOZLOWSKI REGARDING AUTO INSURANCE FOR TEENS

Matt Kozlowski: Congressman Sanders, I have reached the point in my life where I am

a young adult and I have many obstacles to overcome, one of them being car insurance. I will be turning 17 in a month and I am going to get my license. Recently I moved from Toronto, Ontario, Canada where I had gotten around the whole city with buses, subway, streetcars and trains to get to mandatory destinations like school and work.

Now that I am living in Vermont, all my destinations are far apart and cannot be reached by buses, subways, et cetera. Therefore, I need to make a new investment, that being a car.

Purchasing a car is not a problem for working teens. You can save up a couple thousand dollars to purchase it, but what is very expensive and hard to do is maintaining it on the road by paying extremely high car insurance rates. A single male age 16 to 18 pays on average \$2,567.97 annually for car insurance, compared to a single 23- or 24-year-old male who only pays \$994.63 annually.

Just because we fall under the dangerous young drivers category of the insurance companies, I do not feel that we all belong there. I am aware that these insurance rates are based on statistics, but not all young drivers should have to pay high rates due to others' mistakes. The younger we are, the more time we want for sports, school and our social life. We do not want to have to work the majority of each week having to pay a monthly insurance bill of over \$200 to get from one destination to another.

One of the solutions that I would like to propose is giving young drivers a regular 23- to 24-year-old single male insurance rate of approximately \$1,000 annually. If one were to get a speeding ticket, have an accident or be cited for violation or along those lines, then they should fall into the dangerous young driver category. I feel that we all deserve at least one chance before we fall into such a category because we all are not dangerous drivers.

I think that my proposal would be successful in making teens have more time for sports in school as well as resulting in insurance companies having to pay fewer claims. If I knew that I had one chance before my insurance rate went up from \$1000 to \$2500, I would definitely be a very much more cautious driver. I also think that car insurance companies make enough money as it is and shouldn't be taking great amounts of money from minors, most of whom just make enough to keep their cars on the road.

Thank you much for your time and consideration.

MATT CYR REGARDING EMANCIPATED MINORS

Matt Cyr: Sir, I am here to tell you about the lack of knowledge people have on emancipation, and if you all do not know what emancipation is, it is when a minor under the age of 18 is able to move out of the house with your parents consent legally and you get a legal document that says you are on your own, you can sign your own, so they consider you 18 so you can live on your own and manage your own stuff.

And just a little while my dad thought I would be better off at the age of 17, and I thought I would too, but it is kind of hard even though I am fighting through it, but that is not what I am here to tell you about is my money problems. It is about the lack of knowledge people have on this topic, because when I am trying to get my phone, electricity and cable hooked up to my place, they said I needed my parent to do it.

How can I do things on my own when and if they do not let me be on my own? They need to give me a chance for me to do it on my own. The law says I can sign on my own and do all the things that an 18-year-old could do, but the public does not know about

this law and if they did they would be able to say yes to the things that I need to do on a common basis.

There are some people that do know about the law and they are not sure as to what the rights I would get or you would get. The only thing I ask is for you to show people about this law and not just this one but other laws as well as what they also mean. There are many places you can do this, like on TV commercials or visits in the schools and tell them about the laws. I do not see things that you guys—I do not see things that people do to inform about the laws because I never heard about it and I never knew about it. Why I think you need to inform a lot more people about the law and others is because I have hardly ever heard of this law or anything about it until it happened. Thanks.

ELIZABETH BOMBARD REGARDING SCHOOL SAFETY

Elizabeth Bombard: My topic is safety in schools. Safety in schools has become a hot topic these days after all that has happened in school in the past few years. Many schools around the nation have heightened security to try to prevent any more tragic events from occurring. The bottom line, the shooting at Columbine really changed how safe students feel at their school.

Colchester High School had to take safety measures last year when repeatedly we got bomb threats. For about a week we had to enter the school from the front doors and go through metal detectors. That goes to show even small schools in small towns are affected by this. Schools throughout the country have started programs to try to prevent things like Columbine from happening.

A school in Ashtabula, Ohio put together a group called the Positive Education Program which helps develop social skills and trust activities. This is a program that school officials think could help include more students and prevent violence from entering their school. Many people think they have more opportunities for children to get involved to help lift the students that do not feel included and may be the violent ones.

Many other schools have also started programs including a school in Tampa, Florida which awarded "Stop and Think" stickers at their own elementary school to children who show exceptional good behavior. Many think this is more effective than metal detectors and security guards. Even though nothing extreme has happened close to Vermont, I do not think it is too early to take safety measures to make sure our schools stay safe for learning.

CHS has done a little to help open more doors to students or things to do, some of which are CHS Cares and Through Helpers. CHS Cares is a group of students who raise money and goods to make baskets for people in our town that need help around the holidays. This year we supplied turkey dinners to many families in the community for Thanksgiving. Through Helpers are sophomores, juniors and seniors who offer to help under classmen with problems they have in school or socially.

I do agree with the many people who think more involvement may help kind students. I also think that many problems with children start right at their own home, but there are little we can do about that. I think the schools around here do need to make more programs and activities open for children to do so they do not have so much free time. It should also include transportation home afterwards for the students who do want to do the programs but do not have parents home until late to pick them up. Often the children who are causing trouble are also the ones who do not have parents home until

late in the evening. Having more opportunities can try to help prevent the problem of violence in our school before it starts.

What I would like to see happen from doing this speech is more funding in schools to try to have more clubs and groups for students which includes transportation.

INTRODUCTION OF ROCKY FLATS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing a bill to designate Rocky Flats as a National Wildlife Refuge once that former nuclear-weapons site in Colorado is cleaned up and closed.

This bill, the "Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge Act of 2000," was developed through a process of collaboration with Senator ALLARD, who is today introducing corresponding legislation in the Senate, and is cosponsored by Representatives DEGETTE, TANCREDI, SCHAFFER, HEFLEY, and MCINNIS.

In shaping this legislation, Senator ALLARD and I consulted closely with local communities, State and Federal agencies, and interested members of the public. We received a great deal of very helpful input, including many detailed reactions to and comments on related legislation that I introduced last year and discussion drafts that Senator ALLARD and I circulated earlier this year.

Both Senator ALLARD and I recognize that introduction of legislation is only the beginning of the formal legislative process. We welcome and will consider any further comments that anyone may have regarding the bills we are introducing today. However, we believe that these bills address the points raised by the many parties in Colorado who are interested in this important matter.

Here is a brief outline of the main provisions of the bills Senator ALLARD and I are introducing today: The bill—Provides that the Federally-owned lands at Rocky Flats site will remain in federal ownership; that the Lindsay Ranch homestead facilities will be preserved; that no part of Rocky Flats can be annexed by a local government; that no through roads can be built through the site; and that some portion of the site can be used for transportation improvements along Indiana Street along the eastern boundary.

Requires DOE and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding within 18 months after enactment to address administrative issues and make preparations regarding the future transfer of the site to the Fish and Wildlife Service and to divide responsibilities between the agencies until the transfer occurs; provides that the cleanup funds shall not be used for these activities.

Specifies when the transfer from DOE to the Fish and Wildlife Service will occur—namely when the cleanup is completed and the site is closed as a DOE facility.

Describes the land and facilities that will be transferred to the Fish and Wildlife Service (most of the site) and the facilities that will be excluded from transfer (any cleanup facilities or structures that the DOE must maintain and remain liable for); directs that the transfer will

not result in any costs to the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Directs that the DOE will continue to be required to clean up the site and that in the event of any conflicts, cleanup shall take priority; maintains DOE's continuing liability for cleanup.

Requires the DOE to continue to clean up and close the site under all existing laws, regulations and agreements.

Requires that establishment of the site as a National Wildlife Refuge shall not affect the level of cleanup required.

Requires the DOE to clean up the site to levels that are established in the Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement as the agreement is revised based on input from the public, the regulators and the Rocky Flats Soil Action Level Oversight Panel.

Requires DOE to remain liable for any long-term cleanup obligations and requires DOE to pay for this long-term care.

Establishes the Rocky Flats site as a National Wildlife Refuge 30 days after transfer of the site to the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Provides that the refuge is to be managed in accordance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act.

Provides that the refuge's purposes are to be consistent with the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, with specific reference to preserving wildlife, enhancing wildlife habitat, conserving threatened and endangered species, providing opportunities for education, scientific research and recreation.

Directs the Fish and Wildlife Service to convene a public process to develop management plans for the refuge; requires the Fish and Wildlife Service to consult with the local communities in the creation of this public process.

Provides that the public involvement process shall make recommendations to the Fish and Wildlife Service on management issues—specifically issues related to the operation of the refuge, any transportation improvements, leasing land to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, any perimeter fences, development of a Rocky Flats museum and visitors center; requires that a report is to be submitted to Congress outlining the recommendations resulting from the public involvement process.

Recognizes the existence of other property rights on the Rocky Flats site, such as mineral rights, water rights and utility rights-of-way; preserves these rights and allows the rights holders access to their rights.

Allows the DOE and the Fish and Wildlife Service to impose reasonable conditions on the access to private property rights for cleanup and refuge management purposes.

Requires the federal government to seek to acquire the underlying mineral rights through agreement with the private owners.

Allows the Public Service Company of Colorado to provide an extension from their high-tension line on the site to serve the area around Rocky Flats.

Authorizes the establishment of a Rocky Flats museum to commemorate the history of the site, its operations and cleanup.

Requires the DOE and the Fish and Wildlife Service to inform Congress on the costs associated with implementing this Act.

Let me take a moment to address a few of the more important issues that were raised by the local communities and how they are addressed in this bill.

First, transportation issues. Rocky Flats is located in the midst of a growing area of the Denver metropolitan region. As this area continues to grow, pressure is being put on the existing transportation facilities just outside the borders of the site. In addition, the Denver-metropolitan region has been constructing a beltway around the city. The last segment of this beltway yet to be completed or approved for construction is to be in the northwest section of Denver, the same general areas where Rocky Flats is located. The communities that surround the site have been considering transportation improvements in this area for a number of years—including the potential completion of the beltway.

So, one of the questions on which Senator ALLARD and I sought comments was whether our bills should allow some use of Rocky Flats land to assist in addressing the transportation needs and future demands. We asked for and received the views of the public and the local communities. That input, along with the recent decision by the local communities to forego for now the construction of the beltway in the northwest region of Denver, overwhelmingly indicated that the bill should allow for possible availability of some land along Indiana Street along the eastern boundary of Rocky Flats for this purpose, but that the bills should not specifically provide for a more far-reaching availability of Rocky Flats land for a beltway. So the bills we are introducing reflects that position.

Second, the Rocky Flats Cold War Museum. This section of the bill authorizes the establishment of a museum to commemorate the Cold-War history of the work done at Rocky Flats. Rocky Flats has been a major facility of interest to the Denver area and the communities that surround it. Even though this facility will be cleaned up and closed down, we should not forget the hard work done here, what role it played in our national security and the mixed record of its economic, environmental and social impacts. The city of Arvada has been particularly interested in this idea, and took the lead in proposing inclusion of such a provision in the bill. However, a number of other communities have expressed interest in also being considered as a possible site for the museum. Accordingly, the bills being introduced today provide that Arvada will be the location for the museum unless the Secretary of Energy, after consultation with relevant communities, decides to select a different location after consideration of all appropriate factors such as cost, potential visitorship, and proximity to the Rocky Flats site.

Third, private property rights. Most of the land at Rocky Flats is owned by the federal government, but within its boundaries there are a number of pre-existing private property rights, including mineral rights, water rights, and utility rights-of-way. In response to comments from many of their owners, the bills acknowledge the existence of these rights, preserve the rights of their owners, including rights of access, and allow the Secretaries of Energy and Interior to address access issues to continue necessary activities related to cleanup and closure of the site and proper management of its resources.

With regard to water rights, the bills protect existing easements and allow water rights holders access to perfect and maintain their rights. With regard to mineral rights, the bills