

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

QUALITY TEACHER RECRUITMENT ACT OF 2000

HON. LINDSEY O. GRAHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2000

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, last week Representative GEORGE MILLER, Representative DALE KILDEE and I introduced the Quality Teacher Recruitment Act of 2000. This bipartisan bill will help recruit high-quality teachers for the low income school districts that need them most.

The Quality Teacher Recruitment Act of 2000 will allow new teachers to have their federal education loans forgiven up to \$17,750 after teaching in an eligible school for five consecutive years. This bill is a win for everyone: school districts will have an easier time recruiting high-quality teachers and new teachers will have their commitment to high-need schools rewarded by allowing them to significantly reduce their student loan debt. Most importantly, students will benefit from having highly qualified teachers in their classrooms.

In 1998, Congress passed and the President signed into law the Higher Education Amendments. This bill provided up to \$5,000 in student loan forgiveness for teachers that taught for five years in a Title I school with 30 percent or higher poverty. In addition, this provision required that eligible secondary teachers have a relevant major to the area in which they were teaching and that eligible elementary school teachers were certified in reading, writing, math and other areas of curriculum as determined by the local school officials.

The \$5,000 in loan forgiveness now offered is helpful, however, education majors graduate with an average of \$17,750 in federal student loans. The Quality Teacher Recruitment Act of 2000 will improve on the existing loan forgiveness in the Higher Education Amendments by allowing qualifying teachers to have their loans forgiven up to this higher amount.

The Quality Teacher Recruitment Act of 2000 will benefit teachers, students, and school districts across the country. Whether it is a low income school in rural America, or a high poverty urban district, schools who have had historically difficult times recruiting teachers will profit from the Quality Teacher Recruitment Act of 2000.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE NICHOLAS H. POLITAN

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2000

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the deeds of an important member of my district, Nicholas Politan of West Orange, New Jersey. Nicholas is being honored tonight with the 58th Annual Humani-

tarian Award from the Columbian Foundation, because of his years of service to the community. It is only fitting that he is honored, for he epitomizes caring and generosity of spirit.

Judge Politan, a life-long resident of Essex County, is a graduate of Arts High School and Rutgers University, Newark, New Jersey. He furthered his education at Rutgers Law School, where he served as Managing Editor of its Law Review.

Nicholas has always been a community leader. In 1960, he served as a Law Clerk to the Honorable Gerald McLaughlin, a Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Following this trend in civic awareness Nicholas decided to open a law practice with his friend and partner James Cecchi in 1961. The time spent working in his practice instilled in him the attributes necessary for him to become the stellar force in the community he has now become. It was the small steps in the beginning of his career that taught him the fundamentals that would make him a role model to the people that he now serves.

Known for a questioning mind and an ability to get things done, Nicholas Politan worked in Lyndhurst, and practiced in many areas of the law. Along with his partner, he has served as both Director and Principal of the County Trust Company from 1980 through 1987. Politan's rise to higher office came with a personal call from President Ronald Reagan, who nominated him to the United States District Court.

On December 14, 1987 Judge Politan was sworn as United States District Court Judge. He has since presided over many significant and controversial cases. He has always served the people well, and remained fair and impartial. Described as affable and disarming by his colleagues, Judge Politan has proven that he has the intellectual integrity and fortitude to make difficult decisions.

Receiving the Columbian Foundation's Annual Humanitarian Award is a prestigious honor. The organization was founded in 1941 by business and professional men of Italian descent from Newark and the surrounding communities. The group's Annual Awards Dinner honors individual achievements. The Humanitarian Award is bestowed upon a man or woman that displays outstanding accomplishments, while supporting the works of the Foundation. These works include college scholarships for needy students, contributions to children's welfare and charitable organizations, donations to Columbus Hospital, the establishment of the Italian Institute of Seton Hall University and the support of similar programs at other colleges, universities and hospitals.

Nicholas, a native of Newark, was born on the city's West Side. A current resident of West Orange, he lives with his wife for forty years, Marian. The couple has two sons, Nick and Vincent and five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, Nicholas' family and friends, the members of the Columbian Foundation, and the State of New Jersey in recognizing Nicholas H. Politan as a Columbian Foundation 1999 Honoree.

TRIBUTE TO LOIS KOENIG

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lois Koenig, a dedicated citizen and employee of San Mateo County, CA, who is retiring after more than 20 years of service to her community as Manager in the Human Services Agency.

Lois Koenig's distinguished career in public service is exceptional. During her tenure at the Human Services Agency, Lois designed many special projects including Intake Process, GAIN, and the GIS automation system. As Assistant to the Director, Lois was instrumental in bringing together the implementation of SUCCESS, San Mateo County's version of the California welfare reform program, CalWORK's. She also played a key role in developing the Human Services Strategic Plan which identified three outcomes which were used to measure the success of SUCCESS.

Lois Koenig has also served as a leader and mentor to other volunteers and has inspired many in her community to volunteer. Her leadership and exemplary work in volunteer services earned her outstanding and deserving recognition from the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. In 1998, she was chosen for the Outstanding Community Service by Women Award in Management and also voted Volunteer of the Year by the Mid-Peninsula YMCA.

Lois Koenig's contributions and accomplishments include working with ten major non-profit organizations in the County of San Mateo, Assisting them in raising funds, training their staff in budgeting and financial strategy skills, and helping to raise more than a quarter of a million dollars a year for the citizens of San Mateo County. Lois cochaired the Crystal Springs Trail Day Fundraising Events in 1997 and 1998 and raised funds for the upkeep of trails and the expansion of Sawyer Camp Trail in San Mateo County. She was also a member of the 1994 Tenth Annual San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to an exceptional person who has given much for the betterment of her community and our country.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RECEIVERSHIP ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2000

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2000

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the District of Columbia Receivership Accountability Act of 2000. This legislation became necessary because of information

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

I have gathered that indicates that receiverships in the District of Columbia have been run largely unfettered by systematic supervision; guidelines for performance; monitoring to assure that promised actions are taken, and improvements achieved; cost and efficiency accountability; and other measures to assure that the agency is returned to the District promptly and in good condition.

The only District of Columbia agency to go promptly through receivership and emerge in good condition has been the D.C. Housing Authority. Its receiver, David Gilmore, demonstrated rare management and human relations talent. A Superior Court decision appointing a receiver for special education services for the District's juvenile detention center has been overturned by the D.C. Court of Appeals. Information concerning the other agencies in receivership have raised such serious questions that D.C. Subcommittee Chairman TOM DAVIS and I have requested GAO reports on all of the outstanding receiverships: Child and Family Services, the Commission on Mental Health Services, and the Corrections Medical Receiver for the D.C. Jail. However, information that we now have has led Chairman DAVIS and I to conclude that immediate legislation to assure adequate supervision of the agencies involved cannot await the completion of the GAO reports on these three agencies. Additional legislation may be necessary after completion of the GAO reports, but the bill we propose today is clearly necessary now to assure the safety and well-being of D.C. residents and cost effective reform of the receivership agencies.

Most of the outstanding receiverships appear to have similar problems, but the Child and Family Services receivership, appointed in 1995 by the U.S. District Court, caused special concern by D.C. officials and congressional members after the death of the infant, Brianna Blackmond. Brianna who was returned to her mother, after a judgment found that she neglected Brianna and her seven siblings, with apparent signoff from the court, lawyers, the child's advocate, and the social workers involved. Since the baby's death, no fair assessment of what went wrong, or fact-finding hearing by a court, and no effective remedial action to correct the problem, or assurance that more deaths of children might not occur, has been forthcoming. Instead, there have been reports of chaos and further deterioration in the agency. Chairman DAVIS has set a hearing on the Child and Family Services Agency receivership for April 14, 2000.

The Commission on Mental Health, charged with providing community-based and institutional mental health care to indigent residents of the District, was placed in receivership in 1997. The receiver has resigned and not only have the services not improved, but the plaintiffs agreed in a negotiated settlement to terminate the receivership because the agency appears to be in worse condition than when it was placed in receivership. Consequently, the court and all of the parties have agreed to a transition plan, and an interim receiver has been appointed by the court to return control of the agency to the city by April 1, 2001.

Medical services in the D.C. Jail were placed in receivership by the U.S. District Court in 1995 for a period of five years. Recently, the receiver let a contract at a cost three times the national average without comparing program and cost estimates regionally

or nationally, and over the objections of the Corrections Trustee appointed pursuant to the 1997 Revitalization Act. The contract was given to an entity consisting of employees of the present receiver who have never had a contract before and whose only contract and only revenue would come from this D.C.-financed contract. In response to concerns I expressed, the court-appointed monitor detailed services provided without indicating if other jurisdictions provide similar services and asserted that medical conditions in the District were worse than other jurisdictions. However, she made no mention of the nearest comparable jurisdiction, the Baltimore Jail medical services, which also are operated by a private contractor pursuant to District Court supervision. The court monitor cited diseases at the D.C. Jail, which undoubtedly are found in big city jail populations throughout the country, and did not indicate why the District should have the same elevated costs and staffing levels now with presumably revitalized systems as it had under emergency conditions in the first years of receivership. The court monitor did not indicate why comparative costs assessments were never undertaken or what standards should guide a cost effective system and what completion of the receivership and return of control to the District should entail. No comprehensive outside professional audit was undertaken before the receiver approved large, ongoing costs for jail medical services.

Thus, three out of four of the existing receiverships present such substantial problems that Chairman TOM DAVIS and I have agreed that action to ensure higher standards and cost accountability cannot wait. The District of Columbia Receivership Accountability Act places affirmative duties on all receivers who are appointed by either Federal or D.C. courts to administer any department, agency, or office of the government of the District of the District of Columbia. These duties are:

First, best practices: The bill places an affirmative duty on each receiver to conduct all operations consistent with the best practices and financial stability and management efficiency of the District of Columbia.

Second, annual audit by the District's Inspector General: Each receiver must submit to an annual financial and program audit conducted by the Inspector General of the District of Columbia.

Third, controlling costs: Each receiver must ensure that costs are consistent with applicable regional and national standards (including personnel costs), except that this requirement may be waived during any initial two-year emergency period of the receivership.

Fourth, consultation with city officials on the budget: In preparing the annual budget for the entity in receivership, the receiver must consult with the Mayor and Chief Financial Officer of the District of Columbia. After this consultation, the receiver must prepare and submit her budget to the Mayor for inclusion in the city's annual budget. The Council may comment and make recommendations on the receiver's budget estimates.

Fifth, procurement practices: When entering into contracts, each receiver must fully comply with the procurement procedures of the District of Columbia and work through the District's procurement officials.

The bill applies to all receivers appointed beginning with 1995. Existing receivers must

comply with the requirements of this bill beginning with fiscal year 2001. I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN, INC., 17TH ANNUAL FOUNDER'S DAY LUNCHEON—“LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND: MOVING STRATEGICALLY INTO THE MILLENNIUM”

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2000

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, March 18, 2000, the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. (NCNW), North Shore Area Section (NSAS) is sponsoring its 17th Annual Founder's Celebration Luncheon at Fort Monmouth, NJ.

On that occasion, the annual Mahala Field Atchison Award will be presented to Dorothy McNish, an NSAS member. Since 1989, this award has been presented annually to a member of the North Shore Area Section, in memory of Mrs. Atchinson, an exemplary educator and humanitarian. Her lifelong devotion to enriching the lives of children and making our community a better place has been recognized in many ways. In 1973, the Primary School on Sycamore Avenue in Tinton Falls, NJ, was renamed Mahala F. Atchinson School. It is indeed a significant honor for Ms. McNish to receive this award, and I am proud to pay tribute to her on this occasion.

The keynote speaker at Saturday's event will be Major General Robert Nabors, the Commander of the U.S. Army's CECOM (Communications Electronics Command) at Fort Monmouth. Major General Nabors has been the Commander at CECOM since September 1, 1998. He has served our country in numerous posts, both internationally in Vietnam, Korea, Germany, and Italy, and domestically, most recently at the command of the 5th Signal Command, prior to assuming the command at CECOM. During his distinguished career, he has won numerous awards and decorations. Major General Nabors and his wife Valerie have three adult children.

The National Council of Negro Women, Inc., North Shore Area Section, is a non-profit community-based organization striving to ensure the educational, social, economic and cultural enrichment of African American women, their families and their communities. The NCNW, which was founded in 1935 by the noted educator and human rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune, fulfills its mission through research, advocacy, national and community based services and programs in the U.S. and in African countries. Born of NCNW, NSAS has been a part of the Monmouth County community for 18 years.

I would like to pay tribute to all of those who have worked so hard to make Saturday's event a success, particularly NSAS current president Laura Lewis and luncheon chairperson Girdie B. Washington.