

Standards (the "Commission"). Twelve of the 24 voting members of the Commission are appointed by Congress; the other 12 by leading State and local government associations. The Attorney General and the Chairman of the Federal Election Commission serve ex-officio as non-voting members.

In addition to ensuring a balance among Federal, State and local interests, the Act requires that the members of the Commission include equal numbers of Republicans and Democrats, and that larger and smaller states from all geographic regions be fairly represented.

The Commission will have three responsibilities which it must discharge within one year of its appointment. First, it will examine and report to the President, the Congress, and the State Secretaries of State regarding the accuracy, integrity, and efficiency of Federal election procedures in the several States.

Second, the Commission will develop a set of standards for the conduct of Federal elections and make recommendations with respect to the periodic review and updating of the standards. Among the issues to be addressed by the standards are (1) procedures for voter registration and maintenance of lists of registered voters; (2) ballot design, voting equipment, the methods employed in counting [and recounting] votes, and the procedures for challenging the results; (3) factors that affect access to and the efficient and orderly operation of polling places, including hours of voting (which may include standards for a uniform national poll closing time for presidential elections); number and accessibility of polling stations; training of poll workers; methods of reducing delay; and steps to ensure that all voters who report to the polls have an opportunity to cast their vote; and (4) procedures for mail-in and absentee voting (including deadlines for receipt of mail-in and absentee ballots).

Third, the Commission will make additional recommendations to Congress in regard to certain procedural aspects of Federal elections that are governed by Federal law (and would therefore require Congressional action to alter), such as whether Federal law should be amended to authorize Federal elections to be conducted (1) on dates other than those prescribed by current Federal law so as to permit weekend elections, voting on multiple days, or expanded early voting options; or (2) by means of the Internet.

Title II of the Act authorizes the FEC to provide matching grants and technical assistance to the States to improve the accuracy, integrity, and efficiency of Federal election procedures. The Federal share may not exceed 75 percent of the total costs of the program, project, or activity, although the FEC may waive this requirement in whole or in part where appropriate.

Grants may be used for programs, projects, and other activities whose purpose is to bring the conduct of Federal elections into conformity with the standards for Federal elections developed by the National Advisory Commission. Specifically, grants may be used to (1) hire employees or consultants to design and implement systems and procedures that meet the standards; (2) procure equipment, technology, and administrative and managerial support systems that meet the standards; (3) provide training or retraining to election officials, employees and volunteers in the proper use and maintenance of new systems and

procedures that meet the standards; (4) enhance public confidence and participation in the electoral process by increasing awareness of new systems and procedures that meet the standards; and (5) evaluate the effectiveness of new systems and procedures put in place through Federal assistance under the Act.

The Act would not mandate changes in State practices, nor would it federalize election procedures. Rather, it would encourage State election officials to upgrade and modernize their election systems by establishing benchmarks for the conduct of Federal elections and providing the States with the resources needed to meet them. In so doing, the Act gives maximum latitude to the states and localities in assessing their own needs and determining which solutions are most appropriate for their circumstances.

Recent announcements of collaborative ventures among academic researchers and technology companies have fueled expectations of a technological "fix" to our nation's election problems. Such initiatives as the one launched this past December by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Caltech are a very promising development, and ought to be encouraged.

On the other hand, we must resist the temptation to look for attractively simple—and simplistic—solutions. The latest hi-tech equipment will be expensive, and the best technology in the world will make little difference if voters and election workers don't know how to use it. Thus, while some jurisdictions may choose to acquire new technologies, others may feel their resources would be better spent on voter education and training of election workers.

I am hopeful that the Congress will take prompt action on this legislation, so that the most advanced nation on earth will have an electoral system that is second to none.

FEDERAL ELECTION STANDARDS ACT OF 2001

The Act establishes a bipartisan commission to study the accuracy, integrity, and efficiency of Federal election procedures and develop standards of best practice for the conduct of Federal elections. It further authorizes grants and technical assistance to States which wish to adopt measures consistent with the standards.

NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMISSION ON FEDERAL ELECTION STANDARDS

Title I of the Act establishes the National Advisory Commission on Federal Election Standards (the "Commission"). Twelve of the 24 voting members of the Commission are appointed by Congress; the other 12 by State and local government associations. The Attorney General and the Chairman of the Federal Election Commission (the "FEC"), or their representatives, serve ex-officio as non-voting members of the Commission.

In addition to ensuring a balance among Federal, State and local interests, the Act requires that the members of the Commission include equal numbers of Republicans and Democrats, and that larger and smaller states from all geographic regions be fairly represented.

The Commission will have three responsibilities which it must discharge within one year of its appointment. First, it will examine and report to the President, the Congress, and the State Secretaries of State regarding the accuracy, integrity, and efficiency of Federal election procedures in the several States.

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FEDERAL ELECTION STANDARDS IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS

Title II of the Act authorizes the FEC to provide matching grants and technical assistance to the States to improve the accuracy, integrity, and efficiency of Federal election procedures. The Federal share may not exceed 75 percent of the total costs of the program, project, or activity, although the FEC may waive this requirement in whole or in part where appropriate.

Grants may be used for programs, projects and other activities whose purpose is to bring the conduct of Federal elections into conformity with the standards for Federal elections developed by the National Advisory Commission. Specifically, grants may be used to (1) hire employees or consultants to design and implement systems and procedures that meet the standards; (2) procure equipment, technology, and administrative and managerial support systems that meet the standards; (3) provide training or retraining to election officials, employees and volunteers in the proper use and maintenance of new systems and procedures that meet the standards; (4) enhance public confidence and participation in the electoral process by increasing awareness of new systems and procedures that meet the standards; and (5) evaluate the effectiveness of new systems and procedures put in place through Federal assistance under the Act.

CONGRATULATING GENE BESS,
COACH OF THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL, ON HIS 880TH WIN AND FOR BEING THE WINNINGEST COACH IN JUNIOR COLLEGE BASKETBALL

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2001

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, Vince Lombardi once said, "Leadership rests not only upon ability, not only upon capacity; having the capacity to lead is not enough. The

leader must be willing to use it. His leadership is then based on truth and character. There must be truth in the purpose and will power in the character."

While Vince Lombardi coached football, the same thoughts regarding his life and leadership can be applied to Coach Gene Bess of Three Rivers Community College. As a coach for Three Rivers, Gene has had amazing career that has spanned three decades. During that time, he has proven that a true leader leads not simply with words, but through example. Without a doubt, Gene Bess has lived his life—on and off the court—as an example of what many of us strive to achieve in life.

Now, Gene stands on the threshold of a remarkable accomplishment. This month, Gene will set a record that only few in coaching have reached when he secures his 880th win as the coach of the Three Rivers Community College Men's Basketball Team. No longer will he be exactly like the 212 other coaches in the National JC Athletic Association Division I. Sure, like those coaches and the others who influence the lives of their players day in and day out, he will place a whistle around his neck, don a pair of athletic shoes, and stand on the sidelines coaching and cheering his players on to victory. But unlike those coaches, his hard work, determination, and dedication to being a positive influence in the lives of his players, has placed him in a special class that is set aside for coaches like John Wooden, Mike Krzyzewski, Dean Smith and Mizzou's own Norm Stewart.

The leadership and dedication that Gene Bess demonstrates on the court does not end at the final buzzer. Instead, it translates into his personal and public life. He has been married for nearly 40 years and is a deacon at First Baptist Church of Poplar Bluff where he has attended Sunday Service in service to God for 30 years. He still lives on his same street—Sunset Avenue—that he has jogged nearly every morning for more than two decades. And most of all, he has an unwavering code that he lives by which reflects his common sense, nose to the grindstone attitude. As Tony Jimenez noted in the Juco Report, "Basketball is not number one in his life, in or out of the season, he puts faith first, family second, and the game third."

In a society where it oftentimes seems so difficult to find heroes, I am honored and privileged to have a man who exemplified the character of a leader, right here in our own community. Gene Bess is that type of a man. He is a man of purpose who has a way of understanding that people, when working together—on the court, in their church or in their community—can have a positive and memorable impact on the lives of each and everyone they meet throughout the journey of life.

As the same article by Tony Jimenez mentions, Gene Bess has a reputation for winning

that is build on a foundation of leadership, truth, and respect for all those who work with him. Jimenez stated, "What has bode well for Bess' reputation is his unwillingness to bend to give certain issues when it comes to his team and the players. He doesn't swear. He doesn't just talk about an open door policy, the players know that his door is always open. He treats his players with the respect all coaches talk about, but not all of them follow through on. He carries himself with the aura of a major college coach, but he is just as a accessible, honest and down to earth as, well, a juco coach in a small town in Missouri."

It's often been said that success is not measured by great wealth or material treasures. Instead, success is measured on the person you are, the life you live, and how your life influences the lives of others. If that is true, and I believe that it is, then we are all richer for knowing Gene Bess. Mr. Speaker, on this very special occasion, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in congratulating Coach Bess and the Three Rivers Raiders on this milestone and wish them every happiness for the future. Thank you.

PROVIDING GRANTS FOR 100,000
RESOURCE-BASED STAFF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2001

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to re-introduce a bill that provides 100,000 Resource-Based Staff for our public schools to help students cope with the stress and anxieties of adolescence. This bill is similar to HR 2982, which I introduced in the 106th Congress.

None of us will ever forget the tragedy at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, where two student gunmen killed 12 classmates and a teacher before taking their own lives. Why did this happen? What could make children from a seemingly typical upbringing turn so violent? And what can we do to ensure that our children will be safe at school?

I don't know if we will ever find all of the answers. I believe that ultimately, we must look to our culture and within our own families to find some of the answers. Congress owes it to our children to work on policies that can bring about change.

First, we must look to substantive preventative measures. Security guards, metal detectors, and expelling violent students all have their place in addressing this problem. But they do nothing to prevent tragedies from occurring.

Ultimately, we must work with children to ensure they can handle their anger and emo-

tions without resorting to violence. Many of our children enter school with emotional, physical, and interpersonal barriers to learning. We need more school counselors in our schools, not only to help identify these troubled youths, but to work on developmental skill building.

Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher has said that appropriate interventions made during or prior to adolescence can direct young people away from violence toward healthy and constructive lives. The window of opportunity for effective interventions opens early and rarely, if ever, closes. Thus, prevention is the best guard against youth violence.

We have no real infrastructure of support for our kids when it comes to mental health services in our schools. The most recent statistics indicate that there are 90,000 guidance counselors for approximately 41.4 million students in our public schools. That translates to 1 counselor for every 513 students. In Hawaii, we have only 1 counselor for every 525 students. In California, there is only 1 counselor for more than 1,000 students. That is simply not enough.

With current counselors responsible for such large numbers of students, they are unable to address the students' personal needs. Instead, their role is more often administrative, scheduling, and job and college counseling. The child is forfeited for different goals.

My bill will put 100,000 new resource staff in our schools to focus on the mental health needs of students. This will make it easier for children to get the attention they need.

This resource staff will be hired to address the personal, family, peer level, emotional, and developmental needs of students, enabling them to detect early warning signs of troubled youth. They will improve student interaction and school safety. In a nutshell, they can help save children's lives.

The resource staff can also consult with teachers and parents about student learning, behavior, and emotional problems. They can develop and implement prevention programs and deal with substance abuse. They can set up peer mediation, and they can enhance problem solving in schools. Resource staff will provide important support services to students, and to parents and teachers on behalf of the students.

This legislation should be the cornerstone of a much larger proposal. We must address the media's impact on violence and the easy accessibility of guns. We must strengthen our programs for families and early childhood development, and we must develop character education programs.

If we really are serious about addressing school violence, we must address prevention.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.