

I would also like to recognize Cynthia Greenberg, who is the president of the New Mexico School Nurses Association, for her commitment to our schools and students.

In closing, I want to thank all the school nurses in New Mexico and around the country for their enthusiasm and dedication. I call on my colleagues to join me in thanking them for their valuable work.

CLINTON EXECUTIVE ORDERS CONTINUE TO KILL IDAHO JOBS

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday one of the largest and most well known employers in Idaho—Boise Cascade—announced plans to close two lumber mills in the First District of Idaho, located in Cascade and Emmett. As a result, almost 400 of my constituents will lose their jobs. Many of these people have worked in the forest industry all of their lives.

Yesterday, I contacted the CEO of Boise Cascade about this unfortunate turn of events. He advised that the Clinton Administration's last minute executive orders squeezed their supply by shutting off access to thousands of acres of productive forest areas, and prevented any reasonable chance to harvest enough to keep their operations going.

I'm pleased that the Bush Administration has pledged to review these damaging executive orders. But reviewing them may not be enough.

I hope that the Bush Administration is just as aggressive with their use of executive orders as the Clinton Administration—in a way that protects the environment, the forests, and the livelihoods of our Idaho families and rural areas.

TRIBUTE TO MESCAL HORNBECK

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, while I often have the privilege of congratulating outstanding members of our community, I rarely have the honor of recognizing an individual as distinguished as Mescal Hornbeck. Through her work as nurse, teacher, community leader and town councilperson, Mescal has dedicated her life to helping others.

Mescal was instrumental in the development of the Woodstock Senior Recreation Committee, which continues to provide enjoyment for our senior citizens. Mescal's leadership with Meals on Wheels of Woodstock and the Woodstock Community Center is commendable and reflects her life-long commitment to community service. I am particularly grateful for Mescal's involvement with the Woodstock Chapter of Citizens for Universal Health Care where she is a tireless advocate for health care reform.

I have been fortunate to know and work with Mescal and have always found her to be extremely devoted to improving our community and our country. I am proud to call her my

good friend. Mescal Hornbeck is a most deserving honoree and I applaud the creation of Woodstock's "Mescal Appreciation Day."

SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE LOCK-BOX ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2001

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2, The Social Security and Medicare Lockbox Act of 2001, that seeks to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to prevent the surpluses of the Social Security and Medicare Part A, Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund from being used for any purpose other than providing retirement and health security.

Mr. Speaker, during the 106th Congress, the House passed not one, but two, "lock boxes." On May 26, 1999, the House passed H.R. 1259, the "Social Security and Medicare Safe Deposit Box Act of 1999," which set aside just the Social Security surplus, by a vote of 416 to 12 and on June 20, 2000, the House passed H.R. 3859, the "Social Security and Medicare Safe Deposit Box Act of 2000," which set aside both the Social Security and the Medicare surplus, by an even wider margin—420 to 2. Yet, even though neither of those bills became law, we still managed to protect both the Social Security surplus and the Medicare surplus.

Not only is the Republican Leadership covering the same ground by bringing up this bill today, it is also making the same mistakes that it made in the past.

Just as with both "lock boxes" from the 106th Congress, the bill before the House today has not been considered by any of the Committees of jurisdiction, thereby denying Members the opportunity to debate and to improve the bill.

Just as with both "lock boxes" from the 106th Congress, the bill before the House today does nothing to improve the long-term solvency of either Social Security or Medicare. Certainly, it is critical to ensure that these surpluses are not used to finance a huge tax cut or to fund spending on other programs. However, strengthening Social Security and Medicare requires more than simply protecting the surpluses they already possess. It requires actually adding to those surpluses, but this bill would not add a single dollar to either the Social Security Trust Funds or the Medicare Trust Fund.

Just as with both "lock boxes" from the 106th Congress, the bill before the House today will not protect Social Security and Medicare surpluses nearly as stringently as the Republican Leadership would have you believe. Like its predecessors, this vaunted lock box can be "unlocked" by any bill that defines itself as either "Social Security reform legislation" or "Medicare reform legislation." This means that any bill, including bills to privatize Social Security or Medicare, can use the Social Security and Medicare surpluses as long as it designates itself as "reform."

Mr. Speaker, if we have already reached an agreement about the necessity of protecting the Social Security and Medicare surpluses

and if there are obvious improvements that could be made to this bill, why is the Republican Leadership rushing this bill through the House?

The answer is obvious. When the Republican Leadership brings the President's tax cut to the House floor later this year, it wants to be able to claim that "Republicans protected Social Security and Medicare," regardless of the price tag for that tax cut and regardless of how much it drained away resources needed for other priorities.

It is one thing to claim that you have protected Social Security and Medicare, but it is quite another to actually do it. Despite the assertions that Republicans make about this bill, the President's tax plan could easily dip into the Social Security and Medicare surpluses. All it would take is for the Rules Committee to waive the points of order contained in this bill.

Indeed, it is not Democrats here in the House who need to be persuaded about setting aside Social Security and Medicare surpluses. Democrats here in the House voted in favor of a Social Security and Medicare lock box in overwhelming numbers in the last Congress and will vote in favor of one again today.

The people who need to be persuaded about setting aside Social Security and Medicare surpluses are Republicans, both in the other body and in the White House.

Mr. Speaker, even President Bush's chief economic advisor, Larry Lindsey, when asked whether the government should dip into the Social Security surplus to make room for tax cuts that he thinks might stimulate the economy, responded: "It's a question that needs to be asked," and OMB Director Mitch Daniels, when asked whether Medicare should get the same protection in terms of its surplus as Social Security, said: "I don't agree . . . We could allow the concept of a Medicare surplus which exists in Part A, but not en toto, to obscure the need for real reform to which this administration will be committed as a fairly early priority. So for that reason I would be very hesitant to treat those funds in the same way as we do Social Security where I think it's quite in order."

Furthermore, according to a Wall Street Journal article from February 5, 2001, "The Bush administration also won't wall off Medicare's current surpluses in a 'lockbox' . . . In fact, Mr. Daniels said he has told his staff not to talk about a Medicare surplus."

In addition, according to BNA's Daily Report for Executives (February 7, 2001), Senate Majority Leader TRENT LOTT has yet to make a commitment to a Medicare lock-box, suggesting "We're going to think that through" before deciding whether to back the Medicare lockbox measure . . ."

Mr. Speaker, Democrats strongly support setting aside the Social Security and Medicare surpluses, but we also understand that doing that alone is not enough. Both programs need more resources. Unfortunately, once the President's tax plan moves through Congress, it will likely consume all available budget surpluses.

We can not afford to squander the opportunity that budget surpluses provide. Democrats favor a tax cut, but one that is enacted within a fiscally responsible framework. Tax cuts should leave room for priorities like debt reduction, education, transportation, a bipartisan program for defense, and strengthening Social Security and Medicare, including the

addition of coverage for medicines. We can not afford to completely drain budget surpluses to finance an enormous tax cut, instead of using them to address the challenges that the nation faces.

CELEBRATING STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

HON. JIM LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to congratulate several young students from my district who have achieved national recognition for performing outstanding volunteer service in their communities. Rochelle Cotton of East Greenwich and Michelle Wheelock of North Kingstown have been named as my state's top honorees, and Claire Berman of North Kingstown is a state finalist in the 2001 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program. This is an annual honor that is conferred on the most impressive student volunteers around the country.

Miss Cotton is a junior at East Greenwich High School and was recognized for founding the Rhode Island Student Alliance. This student-run non-profit organization identifies issues that affect teenagers in the community and attempts to find solutions. Miss Cotton expanded the program to the entire state, personally presenting her idea to the principals of each high school. Representatives from every school in Rhode Island now meet monthly to work on a variety of projects, such as curbing youth violence and creating an advice book for high school freshmen. Miss Cotton is pleased that students can now come together for cooperation rather than competition.

Miss Wheelock is currently in the seventh grade at Wickford Middle School. She was honored for her work with seniors at a local nursing home. Motivated by the opportunity to "brighten up the day of every resident I met," Miss Wheelock never tires of trying to improve the lives of her new friends. Throughout her service with seniors, she always strives to understand what they are going through and listen to their concerns. Miss Wheelock plans to continue volunteering at the nursing home for as long as she can, sharing her happiness with her new friends.

Miss Berman is a junior at North Kingstown High School, who was instrumental in the collection of more than 840 cans of food for the North Kingstown Food Pantry. She accomplished this by organizing a competition where students competed to construct four-foot "Empire State Buildings" out of canned goods that were then donated to the pantry.

These three students are examples for all our young people. Given the growing trend of Americans being less involved in community activity than they once were, it is important to encourage the kind of dedicated service shown by these three young women. They are inspiring role models for us all.

Miss Cotton, Miss Wheelock and Miss Berman should be extremely proud to be chosen for this honor out of a group of such motivated volunteers. I would like to honor these young citizens for their initiative in bettering their communities. They are truly extraordinary in their level of commitment, and they deserve the admiration and respect of us all.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you and our colleagues will join me in congratulating these students, along with all of the Prudential Spirit of Community awardees throughout the country.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TEACHER TAX CREDIT ACT

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the bipartisan "Teacher Tax Credit Act" which gives a \$1,000 tax credit to eligible public school teachers to defray qualified costs for classroom expenses, professional development expenses, and interest paid on certain education loans. A similar bill, S. 225, has been introduced in the Senate by my Virginia colleague Senator JOHN WARNER.

I think that most people would agree that America's teachers did not enter the profession because they thought that the pay would be good. They teach for far more altruistic reasons: to educate our children and make a lasting difference in their lives. I'm sure that every one of us can remember at least one teacher who changed our lives for the better.

Despite the important role that teachers play in our children's lives, elementary and secondary school teachers remain underpaid, overworked, and all too often under-appreciated. Many teachers spend significant amounts of their own money on expenses that improve our children's education, both directly and indirectly. Teachers often spend their own money to buy learning materials for their classrooms such as books, supplies, pens, paper, and even computer equipment. They also have professional development expenses that indirectly benefit our children by insuring that they will be taught by qualified, competent people who know the latest teaching techniques.

All of these expenses benefit students in the classroom either through better classroom materials or through better teachers, and that which benefits America's students benefits all of us. Why do our teachers have to spend their own money on things that benefit all of us? Simply put, because current school budgets are not adequate to meet the costs of educating our children. Our teachers have stepped in to fill the gap with their own money.

Current tax law provides that teachers can deduct some of these expenses. There are several impediments to using this deduction, however, that result in few teachers actually realizing any benefit: teachers must itemize their returns, classroom and professional development deductions have to exceed 2 percent of their incomes, and student loan interest is deductible only for the first 60 months after graduation and is subject to an income phase-out.

In order to better help teachers defray these costs, I am introducing this bill with my good friend and Virginia colleague, Senator JOHN WARNER, who is the primary sponsor for this legislation in the Senate. Our bill would ensure that qualifying teachers would not have to itemize their deductions or exceed the 2 percent floor to receive the credit. Teachers would not be phased out of the student loan interest benefit based on income level, and there would be no 60 month limitation.

We all agree that our education system must leave no child behind. As we try to achieve this goal through strengthening and reforming our educational system, we must keep in mind their most important component—the teachers.

RECOGNIZING THE 5TH ANNUAL FAST OF REVEREND RONALD I. SCHUPP ON TIBETAN NATIONAL DAY, 2001

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to inform my colleagues that on March 10, 2001, which is Tibetan National Day, one of my constituents, Reverend Ronald I. Schupp will begin his fifth annual 24-hour fast to call attention to China's occupation of Tibet. Reverend Schupp will be sending a message to the People's Republic of China to free Tibet and allow for displaced Tibetans to return to their homeland.

The 14th Dalai Lama was forced to leave Tibet in 1959 and is still working for a just outcome to China's occupation of Tibet. In 1989, the Dalai Lama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his ongoing efforts to focus attention on this subject.

I respect the efforts of Reverend Schupp and wish him well in his efforts on behalf of the people of Tibet.

181ST ANNIVERSARY OF SUSAN B. ANTHONY

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mrs. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring attention to and commemorate tomorrow's 181st anniversary of the birth of Susan B. Anthony. This anniversary is a good time to remember her lifelong work for women's rights, her opposition to slavery, and work that changed the course of this nation. And it is a good time to remember, or perhaps, recover, another very important aspect of her legacy in promoting equal rights for all. I refer to Susan B. Anthony's pro-life legacy in calling for equal rights for both women and their unborn children.

In fact, Susan B. Anthony considered opposition to abortions as part and parcel of her work to promote women's rights. Anthony branded abortion, "child murder," and believed women turned to it only because of their treatment as second class citizens. She called for "prevention, not punishment," for the abortion problem of her day, and believed the best way to prevent abortion was to promote the dignity and equality of women.

More than a century later, "prevention, not punishment" remains a sound strategy for all those who would promote the rights of both women and unborn children.