

be self-sufficient through charitable donations. The donor or family member would have the option of receiving the Congressional Gift of Life Medal. Families would also be able to request that a Member of Congress, state or local official, or community leader award the medal to the donor or donor's survivors.

Physicians can now transplant kidneys, lungs, pancreas, liver, and heart with considerable success. The demand for organs will continue to grow with the improvement of medical technologies. According to the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), an average of 9,600 donations was made per year between 1995 and 1999. Without expanded efforts to increase the supply of organ donation, the supply of suitable organs will continue to lag behind the need.

This is non-controversial, non-partisan legislation to increase organ donation. I ask my colleagues to help bring an end to transplant waiting lists and recognize the enormous faith and courage displayed by organ donors and their families. This bill honors these brave acts, while publicizing the critical need for increased organ donations.

HONORING LONNELL COOPER

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lonnell Cooper, a retired sergeant with the Fort Worth Police Department and tremendous public servant who has served our community for half a century.

Throughout his life and career, Sgt. Cooper has been a stellar law enforcement officer and a trailblazer. He was a leader in breaking down the color barrier as one of the first six African Americans accepted to the Fort Worth Police Department. He also organized the department's first Explorer post.

Among the many honors bestowed on Sgt. Cooper throughout his distinguished career are Fort Worth Officer of the Year of the department's Service Division, he was designated an Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer by the State of Texas and a Pioneer in Criminal Justice by the U.S. Congress. The Mayor of Fort Worth even designated a "Sgt. Lonnell E. Cooper Day" in the city.

This Sunday, February 18, the New Rising Star Baptist Church is paying much deserved tribute to Sgt. Cooper for his lifetime of service to our community. I want to join with his family and many friends in thanking Sgt. Lonnell E. Cooper for all that he has done to make our community safer and a better place to live.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS EDUCATION ACT OF 2001

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act of 2001." This legislation builds upon legislation I introduced during the last

Congress, numbered H.R. 2888, to improve educational opportunities for homeless children.

As my colleagues will recall, a majority of H.R. 2888 was incorporated into H.R. 2, the Students Results Act, which overwhelmingly passed the House in October of 1999. I am hopeful that this year's version of the legislation will garner the same kind of bipartisan support as did the last bill and ultimately will find its way into law.

Mr. Speaker, I think you would agree that being homeless should not mean foregoing an education. Yet, that is what homelessness means for far too many of America's children and youth today.

Even with our healthy economy, estimates are that one million kids will experience homelessness this year. Due to red tape, lack of information, and bureaucratic delays, some homeless children are missing school or are being turned away at the schoolhouse door and, as a result, losing out on the chance for a better life.

Studies show that as a result of these problems, some 45 percent of homeless children do not attend school on a regular basis. In addition, homeless children are twice as likely to repeat a grade and have four times the rate of delayed development.

Congress recognized the importance of school to homeless children by establishing the Stewart B. McKinney Education of Homeless Children and Youth program. This program is designed to remove barriers that prevent or make it hard for homeless youth to enroll, attend and succeed in school. And, for many homeless children, it may make the difference between success in the classroom and failure in life.

Yet today, more than a decade after the passage of that important program, inadequacies in the federal law inadvertently are acting as barriers to the education of homeless children. We must act to strengthen these weak areas, and we must act now.

This Congress has the rare chance to review, redefine, and improve our federal education policies. Not since 1994, when programs under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) were last authorized, has Congress had a similar opportunity to examine K through 12 education in total.

I believe it is incumbent for Members from both sides of the aisle and in both chambers to take advantage of this unique opportunity to renew our commitment to homeless children. As the 107th Congress rushes forward to reauthorize our federal K-12 education programs, we must pause long enough to ensure that all homeless children are guaranteed access to a public education, so that they acquire the skills needed to escape poverty and lead productive lives. In doing so, we will be meeting America's commitment to, as President Bush has clearly stated, leaving no child behind.

Mr. Speaker, the following is what the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act does. The bill:

One: ensures that homeless children are immediately enrolled in school. This means that no homeless child will be prevented for days or weeks from walking through the school doors because of delayed paperwork or other bureaucracy;

Two: limits the disruption of education by requiring schools to make every effort to keep

homeless children in the school they attended before becoming homeless, unless it is against their parents wishes. This provision ensures that homeless children are not unwillingly ripped away from their friends and environments where they are comfortable learning;

Three: keeps homeless students in school while disputes are being resolved. Homeless children often spend weeks or even months out of school while enrollment disputes remain unresolved. This legislation address this serious problem by creating a mechanism to quickly and fairly resolve such disputes, ensuring that the enrollment process burdens neither the school nor the child's education;

Four: requires local school districts to select a contact person to identify, enroll and provide resource information and resolve disputes relating to homeless students. Because many schools don't currently have a point of contact for homeless students, these children frequently go unseen and unserved;

Five: strengthens the quality and collection of data on homeless students at the federal level. This is particularly crucial, as the lack of a uniform method of data collection has resulted in unreliable information and the likely underreporting of the numbers of homeless students;

Six: prohibits federal funding from being used to segregate homeless students. Despite McKinney Act requirements to remove enrollment barriers and to integrate homeless students into the mainstream school environment, some school districts continue to segregate these children into separate schools or classrooms. By explicitly prohibiting McKinney money from being used for such a purpose, this provision will better define and put teeth into the current federal statute governing this issue;

Seven: increases accountability by providing States with greater flexibility to use authorized funds to provide technical support to local school districts in order to bring them into compliance with the Act;

Eight And finally: assists overlooked and underserved homeless children and youth by raising the program's authorized funding level to \$90 million in FY2002 and reauthorizing the program for another five years.

Mr. Speaker, a majority of these provisions are derived from the Illinois Education for Homeless Children State Act, which many consider to be a model for the rest of the Nation. These provisions also are a reflection of the best ideas of some of America's most dedicated people—homeless advocates, educators, and experts at the US Department of Education.

Like many of my colleagues here in the House, I am a strong supporter of local control of education. I believe the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act of 2001 meets this principle while making the best use of limited federal resources.

Regrettably, homelessness is and will likely be for the immediate future a part of our society. However, being homeless should not limit a homeless child's opportunity to receive what every child in America is entitled—a free and quality public education. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this much-needed and timely bill.

In closing, let me take a moment to thank Illinois State Representative Mary Lou Cowlshaw, as well Sister Rose Marie

Lorentzen and Diane Nilan with the Hesed House in Aurora, Illinois for bringing this issue to my attention and for their years of tireless, and often unrecognized, work on behalf of the homeless.

I also want to thank Barbara Duffield with the National Coalition for the Homeless for her help in putting together this bill and my colleagues Representative Doug Ose of California and Chaka Fattah of Pennsylvania for being original cosponsors.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE SERVICE CORPS OF RETIRED EXECUTIVES

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of SCORE, the Service Corps of Retired Executives. SCORE is a prototypical model for a nonprofit, non-governmental association that melds American expertise and entrepreneurial spirit with a uniquely American tradition of service and esprit de corps. SCORE utilizes the talents of current and retired American business executives, a talent pool that many consider to be among the finest business minds in the world, to provide volunteer business consulting service to the small business community. SCORE provides these services free of charge thanks to the efforts of its tireless volunteers.

Founded in 1964, there are currently 389 locally based chapters of the organization that provide business counseling at the community level. SCORE currently has over 11,000 volunteers and since its inception, has helped nearly four million business people throughout the nation with free advice. SCORE success stories run the gamut of the business world and include technology oriented companies, retail establishments, restaurants, and service providers, just to name a few. President Bush has repeatedly pointed out that community based organizations such as SCORE can provide an invaluable service to the nation without relying on government bureaucracy and expenditures of taxpayer dollars.

I salute the volunteers of the Service Corps of Retired Executives and hope that they serve as a model for a new generation of Americans dedicated to excellence with a commitment to service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SAMUEL H. DAY, JR.

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sam Day, Jr., a tireless advocate for peace and justice. Sam Day's efforts to preserve our planet from nuclear destruction have been recognized not only in our home community of Madison, Wisconsin, but across the country and around the world.

I first heard of Sam Day long before I ever had the honor of meeting him. It was back in

the late 70s. In high school, I studied Sam's legal, ethical, and moral case against the U.S. government and his steadfast support for the First Amendment; his unyielding respect for our Constitution. As editor of "The Progressive" Magazine, Sam Day agreed to publish "The H-Bomb Secret: How We Got It, Why We're Telling It." The federal government tried to prevent publication of that article, bringing suit against the magazine in a case that upheld our right to free speech. By publishing that article, Sam taught us much more than how to build a bomb. His efforts taught us about the right of a citizen to question his or her government . . . a radical notion whether you're seventeen or seventy. And he taught us the obligation of every human being to actively oppose nuclear annihilation, no matter what the personal toll. These are lessons that I carry with me every day into the Halls of Congress.

Sam's commitment to social change was unwavering; his mission the same whether challenging the government of the United States on its nuclear policies or challenging our local bus company on policies that adversely affected people with disabilities—to protect and preserve humanity in the face of everything from outright aggression to insensitive indifference. He remained, until the very end, a self-proclaimed, "Old Codger for Peace." Our nation has lost a powerful voice of conscience. I ask the Congress today to recognize the life of Sam Day, Jr., an indefatigable fighter for peace, and to continue, through our own words and deeds, his lifelong pursuit of justice.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MIDDLE INCOME HEATING ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2001

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Middle Income Home Heating Assistance Act of 2001 (MIHHA).

In the face of this winter's natural gas crisis, there has been a great deal of discussion nationwide, about raising the LIHEAP 150% poverty level eligibility cutoff. While LIHEAP funding and eligibility limits must be increased to protect the increasing number of people who desperately need assistance, the tremendous cost associated with such legislation, must be supported by other legislative initiatives designed to accomplish similar assistive goals.

Consider the statistics in Illinois alone. In Illinois, when the eligibility cutoff was 125% of poverty level, LIHEAP covered 633 thousand households. At the current eligibility cutoff of 150% of the poverty level, 740 thousand households will be covered. If raised to 175%, as some have proposed, close to 1.4 million households will be covered. This would more than double the number of homes currently covered, and would according to State officials, result in an additional \$130 million in administrative costs.

Instead of altering LIHEAP, my bill would pick up where LIHEAP leaves off. The importance of relief for those earning just above the 150% poverty rate is especially clear in a year when many individuals have received in-

creases in Social Security benefits, and have been pushed just beyond the cutoff.

My bill does the following: where a taxpayer, in any given year, pays an average of 50% more per therm, over the average per therm cost for the previous three years, she is entitled to a refundable tax credit. The maximum credit, which is phased out from the 150 to 300% poverty level, is \$500. Under this bill, a family of four, with an annual income of \$25,575 would be entitled to a \$500 credit. The phase-out, for a family of four would end at one with an income of \$51,150.

While we must find solutions to the United States' energy problems, we in Congress must also attend to the consequential costs which those problems levy against the average consumer. The Middle Income Home Heating Assistance Act of 2001 focuses on the middle income consumer, and ensures some relief in years where current law offers none.

CHARITY TO ELIMINATE POVERTY TAX CREDIT ACT OF 2001

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, we are introducing today—Valentine's Day—the Charity To Eliminate Poverty Tax Credit Act of 2001. This legislation is a Valentine's present for all the families and people who are struggling every day to survive. I am talking about our nation's poor.

We are a wealthy nation. The federal government should reward people for trying to help raise the standard of living of those living in poverty.

This bill would give every American the option of sending \$100 to an organization that primarily assists the poor instead of sending the money to the IRS.

When you fill out your tax forms this year, wouldn't you like the opportunity to redirect \$100 of your money that is headed to the federal bureaucracy and give it directly to an organization that is helping raise the standard of living of some of America's poorest citizens?

The Charity To Eliminate Poverty Tax Credit Act of 2001 allows a tax credit up to \$100 (\$200 if filing a joint return) for charitable contributions to tax-exempt organizations that help people whose annual income is under 150 percent of the official poverty level. Currently, that level is \$12,525 annually for an individual and \$25,575 for a family of four.

The legislation also acknowledges the impact that inflation can have on the "real" dollars that people may give to charity so we have indexed the tax credit amount to inflation.

Another important provision requires an organization to spend at least 70 percent of its money on helping the poor in order to qualify. Only a maximum of 30 percent of the charitable organization's budget can be spent on administrative expenses, expenses to influence legislation, fundraising activities, and litigation costs, among others. We want the charitable contribution to go to the poor, not to increase an administrator's salary.

President Bush's tax proposal touches on this objective by suggesting that a charitable tax deduction be allowed for people who do