

ways to streamline application procedures and requirements across agency programs.

SECTION 402. EXTERNAL REVIEW

Requires NSF to task the Nation Research Council to review federal K-12 science education programs, similar to the tasking to the committee under section 401.

SECTION 403. EDUCATION PLAN

Requires the OSTP director through the interagency committee, and in consultation with appropriate state and private sector entities, to prepare a plan for federal K-12 science education programs that will delineate a strategy to increase the effectiveness of federal programs in assisting localities engaged in standards-based reform efforts, to identify best practices for use of information technologies in classroom instruction, and to replicate programs identified as being effective.

SECTION 404. SCIENCE, MATH, ENGINEERING, AND TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Requires NSF to convene annual K-12 science education conferences to provide a forum for information sharing and to help coordinate school reform efforts among the federal government, state and local education agencies, teachers, and the private sector. NSF is authorized \$0.3 million for FY 2003, and \$0.2 million for FY 2004.

SECTION 405. REPORTS

Specifies that the OSTP director shall provide annual reports on the development of the education plan required under section 403 and on its implementation. NSF is required to provide annual reports on the results of the conferences established under section 404.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ANITA COVERT

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Anita Covert on being named Michigan's Small Business Person of the Year by the United States Small Business Administration.

In 1982 Anita Covert realized her dream of owning a small business by opening her first quilt shop in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. Today, Anita maintains four quilt shops located in east Lansing, Flint, Jackson and Owosso, Michigan with 60 total employees. Anita has always maintained a commitment to her staff, even helping employees achieve the American dream by starting their own small business.

Anita Covert's business, Country Stitches, Ltd., is the third largest dealer of high-quality Viking Sewing Machines and has become the eighth largest Pfaff Sewing Machine dealer in the nation. Country Stitches has also been honored as one of the top ten quilt shops in the nation by Better Homes and Gardens.

Since 1982, Anita Covert has served as a job provider and community leader. I commend her for her commitment to mid-Michigan and wish her continued success. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Anita Covert for being named Small Business Person of the Year by the United States Small Business Administration.

HONORING NANCY ATKINS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of service of Nancy Atkins from Toledo, Ohio. Nancy is retiring on May 1, 2001 after twenty years at the helm of Toledo Metropolitan Mission (TMM), a faith-based agency dedicated to uplifting the underserved. Concurrently, she led the metro Toledo Churches United (MeTCU) for the past fifteen of those years. The last ten years also found her leading these organizations' umbrella agency, Toledo Ecumenical Area Ministries.

Thomas Paine said, "I believe that religious duties consist in doing justice, loving mercy, and endeavoring to make our fellow creatures happy." This sentiment has been the guiding principle behind these organizations' development under Nancy's ever-present leadership. Nancy's leadership positioned TMM as the strongest advocate for the weakest among us, influencing or developing programs for poor people, children, struggling women, homeless people, and older people. TMM has weighed in heavily on issues affecting these disaffected groups of people, from housing to health care to the impact of welfare reform. TMM and MeTCU are respected as voices of true compassion, never forgetting Christ's admonition, "Whatever you do to the least of my brethren, that you do unto me." Nancy has empowered TMM to lead the charge for the rights of those most vulnerable and yet ignored. Her guidance saw TMM develop more than a dozen programs to address those rights, forged coalitions of agencies committed to those rights, and nurtured in many the growth of self-advocacy for those rights.

A member of more than fifteen community, social justice, and inter-religious organizations, Nancy Atkins has galvanized the role of TMM in bringing the rights of all to the table and ensuring that no one is left out of the discussion. She has fostered a spirit of cooperation while working together toward common goals and practical solutions. Truly, her contribution to the success of TMM and its mission cannot be underestimated.

Mindful of Dr. Martin Luther King's creed that "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere" Nancy Atkins' leadership these past two decades has been the embodiment of social justice. If the measure of a person is her legacy, then Nancy Atkins' legacy thus far is beyond measure. Her daily presence at TMM will be sorely missed, but her imprimatur is there, it will not fade. She will remain a vibrant contributor to its mission for she will always be a part of our community. We wish her well in retirement, and hope she is able to spend time doing all those things she most enjoys.

IN HONOR OF DAVID P. BYRNES

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor David Byrnes for his years of service

and dedication to the greater Cleveland community, and his distinguished service to the Fire Fighters of Northern Ohio.

Mr. Byrnes represents the very best of Cleveland, dedicating his career to helping others. Since 1985, Mr. Byrnes has served as the distinguished President of the Northern Ohio Fire Fighters Union representing fifty-three International Associations of Fire Fighters' Local Unions in Northeast Ohio with over 2700 active members. During his tenure as president Mr. Byrnes has helped solidify and protect the union of some of Ohio's greatest civil servants. Mr. Byrnes' sixteen years of service to this vital union deserves the highest of praise.

Mr. Byrnes' dedication to the Cleveland community extends beyond his service to the Fire Fighters. Since 1997, Mr. Byrnes has stood up for the rights of working men and women as Vice President of the Cleveland Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, representing almost 140,000 active and retired union members. In addition to his service to the AFL-CIO and fire fighters, Mr. Byrnes currently is Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Cuyahoga Community College, in the Cleveland area.

Mr. Byrnes has received countless awards for his dedication to the community including being recognized by the Cleveland AFL-CIO, Warrensville, Ohio Mayor Fudge, and former Ohio Governor George Voinovich to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in rising to honor one of Ohio's finest. A man who has tirelessly dedicated his career to helping others and making our Cleveland community better. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Byrnes' service to the greater Cleveland Community is an example for all of us to follow.

IMPACT AID

HON. SUSAN DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I am proud that my district is home to over 80 military installations and over 25,000 military families. Along with most other San Diegans, I am honored to have military families living in our neighborhoods and sending their children to our schools.

Impact Aid is vital to communities in the San Diego area who have a high proportions of military families. In my district, the City of Coronado is a prime example. Coronado has a population of 29,229 and is home to the North Island Naval Air Station. During a recent visit to the Coronado Public Schools, it was brought to my attention that school administrators are having difficulty receiving the impact aid they deserve and counting on the impact aid they need. While students from military families regularly make up 41% of pupils, in a given year, the district can receive as little as \$400,000 or as much as \$1 million in impact aid funding. Anyone who's ever created a budget knows you can't operate with that kind of insecurity.

Impact Aid is a matter of fairness to the school districts like Coronado and San Diego Unified which educate children of the military. Property taxes and state taxes fund our schools along with some federal funding targeted to particular needs. However, military

bases and military-owned housing are not on the property tax roles to contribute their share of local taxes to fund education. Budgets of those districts are stressed by large and often changing numbers of military children. In some cases, parents of special needs students are purposely assigned to bases in districts where these services will be readily available.

For over fifty years, the federal government has offset this missing revenue source to the impacted districts. However, the funds are authorized annually, and the formula has not been fully funded for the last thirty years. The bill which I have co-authorized with Representative KIRK and which has been introduced today will assure that this funding will be in every year's budget.

Schools are entitled to this money to educate the children of our military residents. We are proud to have them in our schools. The federal government should make this commitment permanent.

HONORING FRANCINE LEVIEN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Francine Levien. Francine Levien was a model in our community for the value of activism. Diagnosed with breast cancer in 1995, Francine founded Marin Breast Cancer Watch to investigate possible causes for the epidemic of this disease in Marin County.

As a long-time advocate of safe and nutritious foods, Francine was aware of the potential negative health consequences of various substances in our environment. With Marin's breast cancer rate the highest in the nation, Francine pioneered a movement here that has spread through the Bay Area and beyond. Her work also explored the links between toxins and other illnesses, and her interest in human rights led to concern for people with breast cancer world-wide.

Mr. Speaker, Francine was instrumental in securing federal funding for a breast cancer study in Marin. Her spirit and vision will continue to inspire not only the search for a cause and a cure for this disease but also the focus on a healthier environment for all of us. She will be sorely missed.

IN SUPPORT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE RETIREMENT SECURITY AND PENSION REFORM ACT (H.R. 10)

SPEECH OF

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2001

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was proud to lend my strong support to critical tax relief legislation, the Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act.

The American personal savings rate is negative for the first time in over 65 years. More than half of all workers have no idea how much money they and their families will need to live comfortably in retirement. Regrettably,

many believe that Social Security is enough. But, it is not, and it was never meant to be.

When Social Security was established, in the 1930s, it was meant to be one of three legs in a stool representing responsible retirement savings. A second leg was employer-provided pensions and the final leg was personal savings. In 2000, the average monthly Social Security benefit was \$804. Social Security pays the average retiree only about 40% of pre-retirement earnings. Experts estimate that you need 70–90% of your pre-retirement earnings to maintain your standard of living—with lower-income workers represented at the high end of that range.

Clearly, we need to do more to prepare for our futures. IRAs, 401(k)s, and other tax-favored retirement plans are one way to do so. But, it's been more than 20 years since we increased the cap on how much money individuals can contribute to these accounts. We should do all we can to encourage people to take full advantage of this saving mechanism.

H.R. 10 will gradually increase the annual IRA contribution limits to \$5,000, increase the annual limit on salary contributions to 401(k) plans, and provide catch-up provisions so that those over 50—who will retire shortly—could begin to take these steps even sooner. Furthermore, H.R. 10 modernizes and simplifies pension laws so that small businesses can provide pension coverage for their employees. Currently, only one in five offers such a benefit, leaving many employees and their families without even an opportunity to save in this way.

It's not every day that Congress conducts debate on such a commonsense measure. The broad bipartisan support this bill received in this body and amongst interested organizations is a testament to that fact. I encourage my colleagues in the Senate to vote in favor of this bill and to help workers all across the nation prepare responsibly for their retirement.

COMPREHENSIVE RETIREMENT SECURITY AND PENSION REFORM ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2001

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 10, the Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act. This comprehensive legislation is an excellent first step toward rectifying the severe retirement savings shortfall in this country.

At present, half of our nation's workforce—75 million Americans—lack access to a 401(k)-type plan or any kind of pension. Further, contribution limits on pensions and IRAs have been frozen at their current levels since 1981. As a result, individuals could invest more in a 401(k) plan in the early 1980s than they can today, and of all retirement savings plans, only the IRA limit has never been indexed for inflation.

H.R. 10 would allow individuals to set aside more money by increasing the current \$2,000 IRA contribution limit for both traditional and Roth IRAs to \$5,000 over a three-year period. Additionally, it would reduce regulatory burdens on plan sponsors, enabling small busi-

nesses to offer retirement plans. Finally, this legislation would allow for greater portability between plans, strengthen legal protections for pension participants, offer quicker vesting and include "catch-up" provisions to make up for earlier missed contributions by reaching out to women reentering the workplace and workers over fifty.

As traditional, employer-funded benefit pension plans continue to shift toward contribution plans funded by workers, retirees need to have the tools to better manage their assets during the savings phase and ensure that they do not outlive their income during retirement. Current statistics indicate that one-fifth of today's 35-year-olds who reach retirement can expect to live into their 90s—evidence that many Americans will outlive their retirement savings. Therefore, it is absolutely critical that Congress ensure that Americans have the resources necessary to achieve a financially secure retirement.

I would urge my colleagues to support this landmark legislation that would expand access to private pensions and increase flexibility for families to save for retirement.

COMPREHENSIVE RETIREMENT SECURITY AND PENSION REFORM ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2001

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that H.R. 10, The Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act, is before the House today.

I applaud Congressmen PORTMAN and CARDIN for creating this package that will allow Americans to set more aside in IRA or 401(k)-type plans, modernize pension laws, and provide regulatory relief to encourage more small businesses to offer retirement plans.

This fair, bipartisan plan will help millions of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased the Ways and Means Committee included an amendment offered by my colleague PHIL ENGLISH that will improve the retirement options available to the Amish.

This amendment corrects a line in the tax code that excludes Amish from deducting contributions to Keogh, SEP, or Simple IRA retirement plans.

In 1989, Congress passed a law permitting self-employed members of certain religious faiths, like the Amish, to treat their self-employed earnings as eligible income, even though they are exempt from self-employment tax. This was done to allow these individuals to deduct contributions to IRAs from their taxes.

However, Congress didn't change the sections of the code which apply to SEP, Keogh, and Simple IRA plans.

As a result, Amish members have been able to deduct contributions to IRAs, but cannot deduct contributions to Keogh and SEP, and Simple IRA plans.

Mr. Speaker, this was clearly an oversight made in 1989.

With the inclusion of Mr. ENGLISH's amendment, Amish will now be able to deduct their contributions to all of these plans.