

streamline federal education programs at the state and local level. But the history of reduced funding and weakened accountability that comes with block grants suggests that we should approach this issue very cautiously.

I want to add that our bill places greater emphasis in certain areas where the President places less and where we hope to work together to find agreement, specifically, in the areas of: raising teacher standards; creating financial incentives such as loan forgiveness and pay bonuses to attract teachers to high-need schools; improving state and local assessment and accountability; and investing more resources.

I think the Miller/Kildee bill is the best approach in terms of committing new resources to schools, targeting effective programs, and holding schools accountable to high standards without abandoning them.

I am encouraged by the beginning of this Congress and this new Administration. I take the President's commitment to education and to working with Congress very seriously and I look forward to making a difference this year for all children.

PUBLIC EDUCATION REINVESTMENT REINVENTION AND RESPONSIBILITY ACT

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to join my colleagues in highlighting some important aspects of the Public Education Reinvestment Reinvention and Responsibility Act.

This legislation, often referred to as the Three R's, would refocus our national education policy by giving school districts the money and local control they need to improve. And, it demands that they get results.

This bill is the way to help American public schools be a true path to equal opportunity for all students by closing the achievement gap; improving teacher quality; helping immigrant students master English; promoting public school choice; and stimulating local initiatives.

It will increase public education funding by \$35 billion in the next five years and let local schools spend more time with our children, rather than wasting time applying for the same grants year after year by consolidating about 50 federal programs into 5 performance-based grants. This new process would ensure a strong stream of funding with fewer strings attached. In exchange for this increased investment and fewer strings, states and schools would be held accountable for results.

Although increased funding is a critical component to reform, it is not the only one. If we expect states to meet high standards for students, we must give them broad flexibility and strong incentives to try bold new ideas—returning the power to decide how to best educate our children to the teachers who spend the most time with them.

Because education should be a national obsession, as well as a local possession.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SELF-EMPLOYED HEALTH INSURANCE FAIRNESS ACT OF 2001

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, today I will introduce my bill, the Self-employed Health Insurance Fairness Act of 2001, to accelerate the health insurance deduction for the self-employed to 100 percent immediately.

Remarkably, more than 44 million Americans are uninsured. Over 60 percent of the 44 million uninsured Americans have one thing in common: they are either self-employed or have a family member who is employed by a small business that cannot afford to provide health benefits to its employees. Among self-employed families, approximately 5 million Americans and their children or other dependents are uninsured. These families represent small businesses operating as sole proprietors, S corporations, limited liability companies, and partnerships—including the majority of farmers and ranchers. Congress should make health insurance more accessible and affordable to these working families by accelerating their health insurance deduction to 100 percent immediately.

We have the opportunity this year to provide tax fairness and parity on the deductibility of health insurance for all employers. Larger businesses can deduct 100 percent of their health insurance costs. Under current law, the long-standing disparity between the self-employed and large employers does not end until the year 2003. Three more years is a long time to ask small business families with no health insurance to wait for simple tax fairness. For most of us, the prospect of having no health insurance coverage for ourselves and our children for even a few months is daunting—imagine three years.

As critical as this bill is to eliminating the tax disparity between small and large businesses, the bill would also provide small businesses greater access to affordable health care; expand the ability of small employers to provide health insurance to their employees, and simplify taxes for small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Committee on Small Business, I am proud to offer this bipartisan bill together with our ranking Democrat NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ of New York, and Representatives PHIL ENGLISH of Pennsylvania and KAREN L. THURMAN of Florida of the Committee on Ways and Means. We urge its prompt passage in this Congress.

TRIBUTE TO DOUG JACOBS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to a fallen detective from Riverside, CA. Detective Doug Jacobs died Saturday, January 13, in the line of duty for his Riverside community. We send our condolences and prayers to his family, neighbors, and the community.

Doug Jacobs was 30 years of age and employed with the Riverside Police Department

since 1995. He leaves behind his young wife, Tamara, daughter Rachel, and stepson Nicholas Sohn. He also leaves behind neighbors and a community that will miss his constant self-sacrifice, generosity, and deep faith in God. And, now those left behind must pull together to support and strengthen each other during the coming months and years.

Being a police officer was all that Doug ever dreamed about when growing up—his family remembers him as a child riding in the car and pretending to talk to officers in passing police cars through the spare seat belt buckle. His career ambition only grew stronger as he grew older, joining the Riverside Sheriff's Department as an Explorer at 14. And recruiters saw in Doug an applicant who not only talked the talk of being an officer, but walked the walk. His love for police work led him to service in the police and sheriff's departments of Los Angeles, before returning home to work for Riverside in 1995.

The National Law Enforcement Officer Memorial, says it the best, that it is not how these officers died that made them heroes, it is how they lived.” And as Riverside Police Chief Russ Leach noted at the funeral, Detective Jacobs “Lived His Dreams.” Many of us cannot truly understand the latent danger associated with the day to day routine of our law enforcement officers. They put themselves in danger everyday when they stop a vehicle, respond to an incident or a noise complaint—like Detective Jacobs. The danger and violence they face day in and day out is very real and it is times like these, sadly, that make us stop and honor our law enforcement officers. We hope that they be given such honor, respect and thanks always—not only when life's fragile nature is revealed. Detective Doug Jacobs lived his life protecting others and we can best serve his memory by honoring, respecting, and thanking our law enforcement officers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join us today to remember this fine detective. On behalf of the residents of the city of Riverside, we extend our prayers and most heartfelt sympathy to his family and loved ones.

IN HONOR OF THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FLORISTS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, it's with great pride that I rise today to honor the work of the Society of American Florists and specifically, my constituents John and Eda Muller of Half Moon Bay, California, for their breathtaking work which displayed during the Inauguration.

The Society of American Florists has provided the floral needs for inaugural events since John F. Kennedy's administration. This year, more than 150 floral industry volunteers from 32 states and the District of Columbia arrived in Washington, D.C. a week before the inaugural festivities to create the floral themes for inaugural festivities. Together, the volunteers donated over 5,000 hours during pre-inauguration week, creating elegant and exquisite works of floral art for nine balls, three dinners and other events. Designers used their skills to arrange 150,000 roses, tulips, lilies

and other flowers from around the world, and delivered more than 1,500 centerpieces, podium pieces and stage arrangements.

Mr. Speaker, I'd specifically like to commend the efforts of my constituents John and Ida Muller. For the last thirty years, John and Ida have owned and operated Daylight Nursery in Half Moon Bay, California. Their efforts during the Inauguration are consistent with their spirit of giving, which is unlimited. They are constantly giving to their community, often hosting disabled children at their nursery. John Muller serves on the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Control Board and was recently named Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, John and Eda Muller are two of the finest human beings that I've ever had the privilege of knowing and it is a great privilege to represent them. We owe all the volunteers from the Society of American Florists our deepest gratitude for their selfless efforts during the Inauguration. Because of them, the words 'America the Beautiful' have ever more meaning for us all!

IN HONOR OF DARIEN'S 2000
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Dee Leverson, the 2000 Citizen of the Year for Darien, IL.

The city of Darien is at the heart of Illinois' 13th Congressional District. It is a central crossroads for a growing region. And its residents continue to work hard to live up to the city's understated motto—"a nice place to live."

Sometimes, though, that is a tall order. We all know that civic involvement is declining. Even the pillars of our communities, such as the Parent Teachers Association and the Boy Scouts, are experiencing declining rates of participation.

But we also know that there are those in our communities that set a shining example to which we all should aspire. Dee Leverson is one of those people.

When one looks at all that Dee has done for Darien, it becomes clear why she was selected as Darien's 2000 Citizen of the Year. She helped found the Darien Women's Club. She assisted in organizing the Darien Chamber of Commerce. She served on the Darienfest committee for several years, including two as its cochairperson. She then served as chairperson of Darien Day for 2 years as well.

In between all of that, Dee somehow found time to serve on the committee for the first Darien Bookmobile, was active in the Lace School PTA, was a Cub Scout leader, and coowned and operated a women's apparel store in Darien. She also served as a cochairman for the first Cystic Fibrosis drive in the area and helped her husband, Ron, launch the Darien Lion's Club needy family drive.

However, I could not sum up what Dee has meant to Darien better than what her own neighbors said about her.

They wrote: "Dee exemplifies what good citizenship is. Her strong commitment to home, family, community, and the less fortu-

nate make her an outstanding candidate for Citizen of the Year."

I could not agree more. Dee is the kind of person who keeps our communities vibrant and alive. Congratulations to Dee Leverson, Darien's 2000 Citizen of the Year. She has made Darien much more than a "nice place to live."

THE OVARIAN CANCER RESEARCH
AND INFORMATION AMEND-
MENTS OF 2001

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that I am today introducing the Ovarian Cancer and Research Amendments of 2001. I am proud to be joined by 56 original co-sponsors and would like to invite the rest of my colleagues to join me in support of the bill.

Ovarian cancer is the most lethal cancer of the female reproductive system, primarily because it is so difficult to detect in its early stages. While survival rates are quite high if the disease is found before it spread beyond the ovaries, the five-year survival rate drops to 28% for women who are diagnosed and treated in the later stages of the disease. Only 25% of ovarian cancer cases are caught in the earliest stages.

The Ovarian Cancer and Research Amendments of 2001 has three components.

First, it authorizes \$150 million for ovarian cancer research: one-half to be spent on basic cancer research and one-half on clinical trials and treatment. The bill requires that priority be given to developing a test for the early detection of ovarian cancer; research to identify precursor lesions and to determine the manner in which benign conditions progress to malignant status; and research to determine the relationship between ovarian cancer and endometriosis. Moreover, the bill requires that appropriate counseling be provided to women participating in clinical trials.

Second, the bill provides for a comprehensive education program to provide information to patients and the public on screening procedures, the genetic basis to ovarian cancer, factors that increase the risk of getting ovarian cancer; and any new treatments for ovarian cancer.

Finally, it requires that the National Cancer Advisory Board include at least one individual who is at high risk of developing ovarian cancer.

I hope all my colleagues will join me in supporting this worthy cause and help to give women a fighting chance against ovarian cancer.

INTRODUCTION OF INTER-
NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG
PRICING PARITY RESOLUTION

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, our nation is facing a growing crisis—the high cost of pre-

scription drugs. The threat is greatest to our elderly who rely most heavily on prescription medications to maintain their health.

The scientific wonders of newly-developed life-saving drugs mean nothing if the people who need these medications cannot afford them.

Within our country, citizens pay widely varying prices for the same drugs. We know, for example, that seniors who rely on Medicare actually pay the highest prices for prescription drugs. We can and should work to provide a voluntary, universally-available prescription drug benefit under Medicare.

However, what I find most unconscionable is the difference in price between identical drugs sold in the United States and in our neighboring countries. Studies show that U.S. drug manufacturers often charge Americans more for their products than they do citizens of other countries. The average price differential is about 33 percent, though for certain drugs it can be much greater. Apparently, American pharmaceutical companies are happy to utilize taxpayer funded research to develop new drugs and then turn around and sell the resulting medicines to Americans at premium prices, while selling them abroad at reduced rates. Talk about fleecing of America.

Citizens of my state and many other border states have resorted to boarding busses to visit doctors and pharmacies in Canada in order to save money on their prescriptions. America is the greatest nation in the world, yet Maine people are forced to travel to Canada to obtain life-saving medicines at a price they can afford. This is simply wrong.

And yet, currently they have no alternative. Congress must seize this opportunity to make a real difference in the health and welfare of all Americans by ensuring that our citizens have affordable access to prescription drugs. We must ensure that Americans can purchase medications at prices comparable to those that citizens of other countries pay.

The need for this action is clear. Today I am reintroducing, along with Representative JO ANN EMERSON, a resolution that makes clear Congress' understanding of the high priority this issue must hold. It affirms our opposition to cross-border prescription drug price disparities and our commitment to address this issue in a meaningful way. I hope that my colleagues will join us in recognizing the seriousness of this issue, and taking action to help those most in need of affordable medications.

COMMENDING THE PREVENTION
OF A TRAGEDY AT DE ANZA
COLLEGE

HON. MIKE HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest appreciation for the excellent investigative work of the San Jose Police Department and the actions of an extraordinary citizen. Yesterday, through the thoughtful work of our law enforcement and a concerned citizen who chose not to "look the other way", a tragedy akin to Columbine was averted.

A young man, whose motives are not yet fully understood, was apprehended with a