

status awarded by the State of California and the five-year approval period is the maximum permissible under California law.

Recently the University became eligible to seek accreditation by a national accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. Recognizing the importance of accreditation to the credibility of the University, I urge the accrediting body to review William Howard Taft University in an objective and timely manner.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY, WORK, AND FAMILY PROMOTION ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I voted against the rule and H.R. 4700 because they do not address the transportation needs of TANF program participants and this rule does not provide any opportunity for members to support a Mobile Allowance program for TANF participants.

It is time to admit that the working poor cannot keep their jobs if they cannot get to work. The working poor are fighting to overcome poverty. They are hard working Americans who are struggling to keep low paying jobs, hoping to find a way out of their poverty. Their family resources are most limited. These households can barely meet their basic needs. Very often they have no chance of ever accumulating the savings needed for unexpected financial needs. TANF recipients have few assets and very often a poor credit history. These circumstances make it almost impossible for the working poor to ever acquire automobiles. And yet, we know that transportation is the key to helping people keep their jobs. Without transportation, the working poor risk losing their jobs and remaining confined to the cycle of poverty. Studies have shown that when the working poor are given the help they need to stay employed, their use of public assistance drops significantly.

If this body is going to authorize a Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program we must at the very least, recognize that such a program should address the transportation needs of the working poor or we must admit that TANF has very little chance of genuinely helping families overcome poverty.

The role of transportation in the successful transition from welfare to work cannot be overstated. It is time to include the transportation issue in the debate about how to improve Temporary Assistance to Needy Families. TANF is meant to provide a safety net for the poor and a lifeline to economic stability. The TANF program cannot achieve this goal without addressing the critical link between jobs and transportation. Some states have already established programs to help TANF participants meet their transportation needs. It is time to ensure that all States address this need and establish a Mobile Allowance program.

HONORING MS. ALLISON GLOVER

HON. CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2002

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a constituent of mine from the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, Ms. Allison Glover of Stone Mountain. On Tuesday of this week, Ms. Glover testified in front of the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee in support of increased funding for the National Institutes for Health. The purpose of Ms. Glover's testimony was to raise congressional awareness of the silent killer, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome SIDS. Those familiar with Sudden Infant Death Syndrome understand that despite scientific research no direct cause has been found for the deaths of close to 3,000 infants a year in the United States.

Ms. Glover is not your average government relations professional or lobbyist. Ms. Glover and her family are survivors. In May 2000, Ms. Glover and her husband lost their happy and healthy first-born son, Garrett, to SIDS. Garrett was peacefully sleeping in his cradle next to his parents, when he passed away.

However, Ms. Glover channeled her grief and pain into activism. Ms. Glover's perseverance despite the loss of her child serves as a role model for all of us. Ms. Glover has since become an activist for SIDS research, working toward a goal of the eradication of SIDS.

Today, Allison Glover is the SIDS Training Coordinator with the Georgia SIDS/OID Information and Counseling Program. This program offers comprehensive bereavement support services to all Georgia families who have experienced an infant death. The program also offers SIDS training courses to parents, healthcare professionals, first responders and child care providers. All of these programs are offered to the public at no cost. Ms. Glover honorably works to prevent her tragedy from becoming the tragedy of others.

I salute Ms. Allison Glover for her courage in turning a terrible personal tragedy into positive public service for her community.

STUDENT CONGRESSIONAL TOWN MEETING

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2002

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the outstanding work done by participants in my Student Congressional Town Meeting held this Spring at the University of Vermont. These participants were part of a group of high school students from around Vermont who testified about the concerns they have as teenagers, and about what they would like to see government do regarding these concerns.

JESSICA PREDOM AND AUTUMN ROZON REGARDING TEENAGE STEREOTYPES

JESSICA PREDOM. People, when they hear the word "teen," think of bombs, fires, smoking, sex. Although some teens have experience with these things at a young age doesn't mean we all have. People these days are so hypocritical. Everyone was a teen, but

it is like, if people hit 30, they forget what being 18 is like. I know some kids have sex and do drugs, but a majority do not. just because some teens do, teens like us get classified into a group we would rather not be in.

AUTUMN ROZON. Just the other day, I was looking at the back of Glade air freshener bottle, and it said: "Warning. Flammable. Keep away from small children and teens to avoid substance abuse." I can see where the small-children statement comes in, but keeping air freshener away from teens? I mean, come on. I didn't know our reputation was that bad. It's almost painful to see someone be turned down for a job because he or she has green hair and two piercings. Automatically, when you see a teen like that, you automatically think: Druggie. What most people think is not the true story. It is almost like an instance where someone hears part of your conversation and reacts before they know the whole thing. Now, my town is small, so when you are driving down Main Street, you see some kids sitting outside the grocery store, you think to yourself: They're up to no good. When, really, they're just waiting for their friend who works there.

A few years ago, there was an incident that we all remember. The tragedy at Columbine was one of the biggest scares to our country. Because of the shooting at Columbine, teens around the world were looked as something that could explode at any time. The headlines focus on the teen part of the shooting, and not on the main issue of the two kids who did it. By stereotyping like this, teens feel the need to rebel. Rebellion is the cause of most kid's sexual experiences and drug abuse.

The way our world looks at teens causes them to do certain things. If people could stop looking at us as teens, and look at us as young adults, we would start to accept ourselves and our community more. I think everyone has a good side, and people in our world are not letting teens express their good side. Don't judge us because of what we wear or what we look like. Take time to get to know us, and you will see that most of us do not do drugs, do not have sex, and do not drink. We have lives and we are trying to live them while we still can.

DANIEL MAY REGARDING STUDENT REPRESENTATION ON SCHOOL BOARDS

DANIEL MAY. Good afternoon, Congressman Sanders.

I am presenting the issue of student representation on local school boards.

In our state of Vermont, there are 18 high schools that have at least one student representative on their board, while other high schools don't. I pity these schools who don't, because, by having at least one student on the school boards, there ought to be three impacts.

First, the boards will be able to make better decisions and be able to implement them more easily. Second, members of the student body will have raised political awareness of their school and the surroundings of their city. And third, the student representative will be provided with opportunities to assume leadership roles and gain skills.

Students should have a right for making their voices heard, because they are the people being affected by the school board's decisions. Silencing the voices of people you control isn't in the best interest of those governing bodies. Encouraging participation is a lesson that teachers need to take from the students.

I want to make sure that the students get their voices heard. I fear that some school boards may be inconsistent in allowing a student on the board. First of all, I'm concerned that some school boards will fail to

provide orientation from the student-trustees. Some student reps may begin their terms without any training. They will just attend their first meeting, not understanding the meeting procedures, nor jurisdictions, nor their own rules, rights and responsibilities. Then they will spend their first month learning how the board operates, and only be able to play a more meaningful role towards the end of term.

My other concern is that student reps be excluded from the debate and compromise that it is a part of decisionmaking. Many student reps that feel their participation in the decision-making process is limited to their formal role during public meetings. They feel that their input is not sought out formally when the trustees discuss issues and seek support for their positions.

As long as these two issues do not become a concern, school boards will become more efficient with a student representative.

JAMIE WALBRIDGE REGARDING GRADUATED LICENSE

JAMIE WALBRIDGE. The issue that we, the teens of the community of Barre, are raising today is the new graduated driver's license. This is an issue that has been raised among many households, and we feel it should be raised once again to the Vermont legislators. We feel the graduated driver's license law has many faults that affect the young teens as well as their families.

The effect of this law on families in our community is that the teens who have recently gotten their license and fall under this law are restricted from bringing even their siblings to school. There are some schools in Vermont, such as Spaulding, that do not provide a bussing system, forcing parents to go when one of the children is already going. Parents still have to be present when their child and a group of friends carpool to any sort of event.

In the next few years, all teenagers will be under this law. Therefore, no one can carpool, and there will be more cars on the road. With more cars on the road, the chance of getting into an accident will increase, as well as an increase in pollution going into the air. Here at Spaulding High School, parking is already a major issue. Students are having trouble finding a parking spot, and that's with approximately half the drivers under the law. Can you imagine the parking problems when every student has their own car?

Another problem we found with the graduated license is that Vermont's restrictions are more harsh and for a longer period of time than most other states that have issued the law, as well. In Vermont the law states that we have our permits for a year, then have passenger restrictions for six months. The first three months of having your license include the following restrictions: By yourself, or if there are other people in the car with you, you need to have a licensed driver of 25 years of age or older. For the second three months of your license, you can only have immediate family with you. In Wyoming, teens have their permits for ten days, and no restrictions when they get their license. Do you think that those teens are ready to drive at all? Kansas, Montana, Nevada, Oklahoma, and Alabama have no restrictions at all.

When we were researching this law, we called the Department of Motor Vehicles to get statistics, and we were told that nothing could be released because they could not prove that the graduated license was the reason for the decrease in teenage driving fatalities.

Another problem with the law is that police officers are not even familiar with the

graduated license. To us, this seems very unorganized. I was pulled over for having a light out, and I got an \$80 ticket for having passengers in my car. I am grandfathered from the law, but I had no proof to show the officer. I contested the ticket and got it voided, but it was a big hassle for no reason.

We don't think that every aspect of this law is negative or bad. We agree one hundred percent that, without having our permit for a full year, we would not be ready to face the responsibilities and the unexpected problems of the open road. Our solution to this problem is to shorten the restrictions after getting your license, shorten it from six months to two or three months. We don't want to completely abandon the whole law.

We think that, with all these restrictions on driving, that it has taken away the fun of being 16 and having your license. When you are a little kid, there are three birthdays that you look forward to: When you are 15, you get your permit. At 16, you get your license and can drive around with your friends. At 18, you are officially an adult. The excitement and freedom of turning 16 feels like it is being taken away.

ON PRESIDENT BUSH'S CUBA POLICY

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support President Bush's policy on Cuba. The Bush Initiative, which says the United States will work with Cuba once Fidel Castro takes concrete measures to improve the abysmal human rights situation and lack of freedoms granted to his people, is the correct course for us to take.

The Bush policy clearly places the ball in Castro's court. Unlike comments made by former President Jimmy Carter last week, the Bush policy recognizes that Castro is a dictator who represses his people and that he, therefore, must take the first steps if he is serious about normalizing ties to the U.S.

I concur completely with the President that Castro must free his political prisoners, legalize political activity, permit free elections, and cease discriminating against Cuban workers before Congress can begin to even consider lifting the economic embargo. Until the Cuban people are free, trade and other favorable relations with Cuba will not help the people. Rather, it will enrich and empower Castro and his cronies so they can maintain an iron clasp on freedom.

Until Castro makes a lasting commitment to freedom, the U.S. cannot engage in activity that would prop him up

LEHIGH VALLEY HERO—LEHIGH VALLEY REGIONAL TEAM DUI TASK FORCE

HON. PATRICK J. TOOMEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2002

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to share my Report from Pennsylvania for my colleagues and the American people.

All across Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District there are some amazing people

who do good things to make our communities a better place. These are individuals of all ages who truly make a difference and help others. I like to call these individuals Lehigh Valley Heroes for their good deeds and efforts.

Today I would like to recognize the Lehigh Valley Regional Team DUI Task Force. This organization has truly made a difference in their community.

The most recent statistics from 2000 show 1,520 people died in traffic crashes in Pennsylvania. One-third of those were alcohol related and many involved teenagers. Obviously this is an alarming statistic.

The purpose of Team DUI is to reduce these alcohol-related traffic crashes, fatalities and injuries related to seatbelt non-use, speeding and impaired driving among the youth of Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton. Recently, the Lehigh Valley Regional Team DUI received a two-year, \$250,000 grant from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to educate area teenagers on the dangers of mixing alcohol with driving. Team DUI will use the money for educational programs, public awareness activities and law enforcement.

Team DUI is determined to do what they can to curb this dangerous and deadly phenomenon and therefore they are Lehigh Valley Heroes in my book.

Mr. Speaker, this concludes my Report from Pennsylvania.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAPTAIN CHARLES BULLOCK

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2002

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Captain Charles Bullock, upon the occasion of his retirement from the Houston Police Department (HPD). On May 21, 2002, the HPD Fondren Storefront Citizens Advisory Council will join his friends and family in honoring him at the Chancellor's Family Center located in Houston, Texas.

Originally from the small town of Shepherd, Captain Bullock possesses an undying love for the State of Texas. He graduated from Allen High School in 1954, before receiving his undergraduate degree from the University of Houston. He served the Nation for four years in the United States Air Force before being honorably discharged. In 1959, Captain Bullock entered HPD's Police Academy and soon after was sworn in as an officer. As a result of his hard work and devotion to the city of Houston, Captain Bullock was promoted to the rank of Captain on October 9, 1976.

Throughout his tenure at the Houston Police Department, Captain Bullock has maintained a stellar record, which reflects his commitment and dedication to serving both the Houston community and its police department. While working in the Emergency Communications Dispatch Division, he was instrumental in implementing the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, which has helped emergency operators respond efficiently to crisis situations.

Captain Bullock's exemplary model of community activism has earned him the respect