

solutions where education is concerned.

This testing provision is helpful, it is a useful tool to begin to compare government-owned schools versus a different government-owned school, or maybe a government-owned system versus a private system and so on, but none of that matters until we get choice. This tax credit provision that we proposed, it provides choice in two areas: One, it gives greater liberty to the student as a consumer; and it gives greater liberty to the taxpayer as an investor.

It runs, in principle, with the government system. It is just an alternative model, a different model, and something that I believe can have revolutionary, positive consequences for America's schoolchildren.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. It also gives a great liberty to our public school system, because what it does in our State of Michigan, basically, our public school superintendents who care passionately about the kids in their districts have become beggars to Lansing, our State capital, to get the money to flow into their districts. They are always going to Lansing to get the money.

What this now really does, it empowers them, because so many of the schools in my district have such a loyalty from their constituents and their parents and the kids, but there is no effective way for these people in these communities to put more money into their public schools.

Tax credits will enable them to do that so that, again, there will be some more balance in the system so that these public school superintendents will be able to get some of their money from Lansing, but when they are doing a great job and their test scores come in and say, man, look at how we are doing, in our district some of the public school students have gone to the military academies, and they go there and they are in the top 10 percent of their class at the military academies.

When people see that kind of performance, they are going to say, I am willing to give more money to that superintendent because he or she is doing a great job for our kids, and I think they are going to spend that money wisely.

So it gives a tremendous degree of flexibility, like the gentleman said, to the parents, to the kids, to the taxpayers, but also to the traditional public school system. This should not threaten them because it really will enable them to enhance their relationship with their community and enhance their education programs to take those schools to the next level, as well.

Mr. SCHAFFER. Money follows freedom. That is true almost no matter what we are talking about, whether we are talking about the leadership of countries. If we look around the world, those countries that have a heavy, autocratic, bureaucratic system of rules and no property rights, they have

a very difficult time keeping their economies afloat. Those countries that have made the reforms toward property ownership, toward real liberty and freedom for their citizens begin to see capital being created within those countries.

Here in the United States, our capitalist system of competition and freedom has resulted in wealth creation beyond anyone's wildest dreams, and in the history of human civilization. The same is true in education. If we can begin to cut the strings and the red tape and the restrictions that are associated with school money, we will see more of it generated, and that is our goal.

The current system, for all the things that people see in that as beneficial, the fact remains that at the end of the day, for every dollar spent, approximately 60 cents makes it to a child. What we are talking about is a freedom-based model of education tax credits wherein, under our proposal, for every dollar that it costs the government, \$2 makes it to a child.

We do not have to be rocket scientists to figure out this is a great bargain for the government, a great bargain for the taxpayer, and it is a better bargain for the student.

For the teacher in the middle of all of this, today they are not treated like professionals; I hate to say it. We expect a lot of them, we call them professionals, but the reality is, the worst teacher in a district in a public school model gets paid the same and on the same terms as the best teacher in a district.

What kind of incentive is that for good teachers, when they see the lazy teacher that is not that committed or maybe burned out? And they are the exception, not the rule, but they exist. But when you see these kinds of teachers that I am describing leaving the school when the bell rings, and yet getting the same pay raise on the same pay scale, it does not take more than 4 or 5 years for a good, hard-working teacher to get burned out on that. It is not a motivating factor.

Education freedom through education tax credits begins to allow teachers to be teaching like the professionals they are, too. If they are attracting students, if they are attracting customers, cash will begin to follow that, and these teachers will begin to be paid according to the professional scale I think they deserve.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. I think it holds great opportunity. It is not a perfect system, and it is not going to fix it by itself. Tax credits are not going to reform the system. But when you can combine the tax credits with H.R. 1, more parental choice, cutting some of the rules and regulations out of the bureaucratic model so that, again, more than a dollar or more than 60 cents can make it into a local school, when we start combining all of those things and we can really get some dynamic or exciting form in all of our schools for all

of our kids to make sure our kids are the best-educated kids in the world, that is the goal that we should have.

Until we reach that goal and that objective, we should not stop working.

Mr. SCHAFFER. I spoke to a group of different organizations just this morning about this issue of education tax credits. There were taxpayer organizations there, family organizations, church groups, synagogues represented. It was just a number of organizations that care about education, and they are here in Washington. There must have been about 100 people in the room. They were all very enthusiastic about the proposal. They want to help. They are writing letters to congressmen and making phone calls to the people that they know here.

I think it is important for our colleagues and anyone else who may be monitoring tonight's proceedings to know that this is a very real proposal. It is in play. We do need the voices of Americans to raise up and rally around this education tax credit bill. It is not introduced yet; it will be introduced in a couple of weeks.

I think it is really important for all of us to contact our colleagues here in the Congress, particularly those who serve on the Committee on Ways and Means and in our leadership, and voice in the strongest terms possible support for this freedom-based tax credit proposal to help children and to get it passed.

We need that kind of support and that kind of a campaign around this proposal now, and this special order is just one part of trying to accomplish that. For that, Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for your indulgence in recognizing us tonight. We will be back in 2 weeks to talk about the same topic again.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. LIPINSKI (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today after 6:00 p.m. on account of a family matter.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for the week of May 20 on account of personal reasons.

Mrs. EMERSON (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of a death in the family.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. TURNER) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SHERMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BLUMENAUER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TURNER, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. GRUCCI) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GEKAS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. NUSSLE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HAYES, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. INSLEE, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REFERRED

A concurrent resolution of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. Con. Res. 115. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that all workers deserve fair treatment and safe working conditions, and honoring Dolores Huerta for her commitment to the improvement of working conditions for children women, and farm worker families; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until Thursday, May 23, 2002, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6981. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Adjustment of Appendices to the Dairy Tariff-Rate Import Quota Licensing Regulation for the 2002 Tariff-Rate Quota Year—received May 9, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6982. A letter from the Chief, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—National Forest System Land and Resource Management Planning; Extension of Compliance Deadline (RIN: 0596-AB87) received May 17, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6983. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Change in Disease Status of Portugal Because of African Swine Fever [Docket No. 01-026-2] received May 2, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6984. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Karnal Bunt; Restrictions on the Use

of Grain Originating in a Regulated Area [Docket No. 01-118-1] received May 2, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6985. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Adjustment of Appendices to the Dairy Tariff-Rate Import Quota Licensing Regulation for the 2002 Tariff-Rate Quota Year—received May 2, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6986. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Tart Cherries Grown in the States of Michigan, et al.; Final Free and Restricted Percentages for the 2001-2002 Crop Year for Tart Cherries [Docket No. FV02-930-1 FR] received May 7, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6987. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Cotton Research and Promotion Program: Procedures for Conduct of Sign-up Period [Docket No. CN-01-007] received May 7, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6988. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a request for an FY 2002 supplemental appropriation for the Department of Veterans Affairs; (H. Doc. No. 107-218); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

6989. A letter from the Under Secretary, Acquisition and Technology, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's annual report on the Defense Environmental Quality Program Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2000, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2706(b)(1); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6990. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule—Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Overseas Use of the Purchase Card in Contingency, Humanitarian, or Peacekeeping Operations [DFARS Case 2000-D019] received May 7, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6991. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—Technical Corrections to Certain HUD Regulations [Docket No. FR-4747-C-01] received April 30, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6992. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—Loan Guarantees for Indian Housing; Direct Guarantee Processing [Docket No. FR-4241-F-02] (RIN: 2577-AB78) received May 13, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6993. A letter from the Director, FDIC Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule—Risk-Based Capital Standards: Claims on Securities Firms (RIN: 3064-AC17) received May 2, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6994. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP); Pilot Project-Public Entity Insurers (RIN: 3067-AD17) received May 7, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6995. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Final

Flood Elevation Determinations—received May 7, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6996. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket No. FEMA-7779] received May 7, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6997. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 610 of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 011218304-1304-01; I.D. 012202D] received April 30, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6998. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Exemption for the Acquisition of Securities During the Existence of an Underwriting or Selling Syndicate [Release No. IC-25560; File No. S7-20-00] (RIN: 3235-AH57) received May 2, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6999. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) 1999-2000 Accountability Report and the 1999-2000 School Profiles for the Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DoDDS), pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 924; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7000. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule—Capacity Building for Traditionally Underserved Populations—received May 7, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7001. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Annual Report on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) AIDS Research Loan Repayment Program (LRP) for FY 2001; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7002. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Public Information; Cross Reference to Other Regulations; Technical Amendment [Docket No. 02N-0086] received May 9, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7003. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Secondary Direct Food Additives Permitted in Food for Human Consumption [Docket No. 01F-0233] received May 9, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7004. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's annual report on international terrorism entitled, "Patterns of Global Terrorism: 2001," pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2656f; to the Committee on International Relations.

7005. A letter from the Director, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule—International Services Surveys: BE-48, Annual Survey of Reinsurance and Other Insurance Transactions by U.S. Insurance Companies with Foreign Persons [Docket No. 010607148-1277-02] (RIN: 0691-AA42) received May 7, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.