

and I—one Democrat and one Republican—could work so well together to tackle the problems of hunger in our community is proof that there is no partisanship in these issues. But none of this could happen without his vision, dedication, determination and the personal sacrifices that he has made over the years.

Mr. Speaker, the Tucson Community Food Bank will not only survive but will grow even stronger because of the base that Punch Woods has built for it.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT E. "BOB"  
BOWEN

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 7, 2003*

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, The Polymer Alliance Zone (Polymer) was developed in 1996 as a private/public partnership designed to promote the polymer industry in West Virginia. Polymer has been cited as one of West Virginia's most successful initiatives and has been emulated in the chemical and wood industries throughout the world.

One man, Robert E. "Bob" Bowen has served with great distinction as the Chairman of the Board of Directors since Polymer's inception. During that time, his leadership has brought the organization to a level of success that far exceeded all expectations, creating thousands of jobs and millions of dollars in new investments.

Mr. Bowen has leveraged resources from education, labor, management and government to bring worldwide recognition to Polymer and focus attention on the many opportunities available for companies and workers in West Virginia.

Mr. Bowen has dedicated countless hours toward facilitating and managing the many successes of the Polymer Alliance Zone, and has served as mentor to other alliances now forming among West Virginia industries.

After six years of successful leadership, Mr. Bowen is retiring as the Chairman of the Board of Directors. His vision and skill have secured the jobs of thousands of West Virginia families and growth for the future of many communities.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express the appreciation of the citizens of West Virginia to Robert E. "Bob" Bowen for the invaluable contribution he has made to our beloved state.

H.R. 100, THE SERVICEMEMBERS  
CIVIL RELIEF ACT

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 7, 2003*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today Mr. EVANS of Illinois and I are introducing H.R. 100, the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, a bill to restate, clarify and strengthen the legal protections afforded our men and women who serve on active duty in our armed forces. This measure would modernize and rename the current Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act, which has had only a few changes since it was passed during World

War II. While it has always provided extremely important legal protections, this law is badly in need of comprehensive redrafting in modern legislative language so that it has a more inclusive name, is easier to understand and interpret, and, most importantly, provides updated protections to reflect the considerable changes in American society that have occurred over the past fifty years.

During the 107th Congress, I introduced H.R. 5111, a bill of the same name. H.R. 100 is a continuation of that initiative, and it may be possible to make more improvements as the new bill is considered. I think the timing of this legislation is important. Our Nation is engaged in a war against terrorism and once again contemplates the possibility of a war to prevent Saddam Hussein from developing weapons intended to terrorize the world. Our servicemembers need to know their elected representatives are working to reduce the burdens they and their loved ones face as they protect our freedoms and way of life. That is why we are introducing this bill on the first day of the 108th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 100 is intended to make the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act (SSCRA) easier to understand by restating it in plain language, to incorporate generally accepted procedural practices, and to adjust its provisions to developments in American life since 1940. Major improvements to the SSCRA in H.R. 100 would:

1. Expand the SSCRA provision temporarily suspending legal proceedings that may prejudice the civil legal rights of military personnel to include administrative as well as judicial proceedings;

2. Add a section pertaining to Legal Representatives that clarifies the term "servicemember," as used in the Act, and incorporates by reference the concept of a legal representative (the SSCRA is silent on this issue);

3. Establish a 90-day automatic stay of proceedings when military duty requirements materially affect the servicemember's ability to appear in a judicial or administrative proceeding;

4. Clarify the 6 percent interest rate cap by specifying that interest in excess of 6 percent per year is forgiven;

5. Improve eviction protections by precluding evictions from premises occupied by servicemembers for which the monthly rent does not exceed \$1,700, rather than the current ceiling of \$1,200;

6. Add leases to the provision protecting servicemembers who, prior to entry into military service, have entered an installment contract for the purchase of real or personal property by prohibiting creditors without court action from terminating contracts and repossessing property for nonpayment or breach occurring prior to or during military service;

7. Expand the termination of the real property leases provision by adding a clause stating that, if a servicemember while in military service executes a lease and thereafter receives military orders for a permanent change of station (PCS) move or a deployment order of 90 days or more, the servicemember can terminate the lease by giving the landlord written notice;

8. Clarify that protections regarding taxes on personal property include all forms of property owned by a servicemember or jointly held by a servicemember and the servicemember's spouse;

9. Add a provision that states "a tax jurisdiction may not use the military compensation of the non-resident servicemember to increase the tax liability imposed on other income earned by the nonresident servicemember or spouse subject to tax by the jurisdiction"; and

10. Include legal services as a professional service specifically named under the provision that provides for suspension and subsequent reinstatement of existing professional liability insurance coverage for designated professionals serving on active duty.

Mr. Speaker, during the last Congress, with Public Law 107-330 we amended the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act to expand coverage to National Guard members activated under title 32 to respond to national emergencies declared by the President. Just in the past few days, some members of the reserve components have received notices that they will be called up for active duty, and Congress should consider more ways to encourage citizen service in the armed forces both by reducing its burdens and increasing its incentives. I hope to do that during this Congress. What was once called the Militia is now the National Guard and the Reserves, but the purpose remains the same, to give the people themselves the opportunity and responsibility to voluntarily contribute their time and talents to the national defense.

Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that the House will consider and pass H.R. 100 early in this session. Our servicemembers should be uppermost in our minds and in our prayers during these dangerous times. As we depend on them, we must also do our part.

JUAN NEPOMUCENO SEGUIN  
POSTAGE STAMP

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 7, 2003*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a resolution which urges the United States Postal Service to commission a postage stamp commemorating Juan N. Seguin, hero of Texas' War for Independence.

Juan Seguin believed in the freedoms that we enjoy today, many of which we take for granted.

He was fair minded, did not tolerate injustice, and fought for basic human rights for all people, despite the constant risk of imprisonment or death.

He was one of the key leaders of Texas' War for Independence.

As territorial governor of Texas, he protested the dismantling of the Mexican Republic of General Antonio Lopez de Santa Ana, and was the first to sound the alarm in response to Santa Ana's tyrannical actions.

He renounced General Santa Ana's overturning of the Mexican Constitution of 1824, which had granted all citizens and subjects of Mexico their basic human rights.

This was what the men in the Alamo were fighting to restore, as represented by the famous image of the Mexican flag with the number "1824" painted across the middle.

In October 1934, Seguin convened the first revolutionary meeting protesting the actions of Santa Ana's government.

Once the revolution was underway, he fought in the successful battle to retake San Antonio from General Martin Perfecto de Cos.

Later he was one of the 189 defenders of the Alamo, and his life was spared by Colonel William Travis' decision to send him with a request for reinforcements to Colonel James Fannin at Goliad, Texas.

He left on March 5, 1836, the day before the fall of the Alamo and the slaughter of its defenders.

He was able to rejoin the remainder of the Texas Army under General Sam Houston, and thus became the only man to fight at both the Alamo and San Jacinto.

Juan Seguin was a legendary leader in the Texas Revolution and an unsung hero of Texas. Though he is seldom given credit for his contributions, he helped establish the Texas that we are so proud of today.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this resolution.

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STATEMENT AGAINST A  
PREVENTIVE WAR IN IRAQ

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 7, 2003*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, on Monday night, literally on the eve of our swearing in as members of the 108th Congress, I spoke in Wellesley, Massachusetts at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Wellesley Hills at the invitation of that society. The topic they asked me to address was the potential war in Iraq, and I spoke to a crowd of several hundred people expressing my reasons for opposing a war in Iraq at this time. I was struck by the extremely large turnout—overflowing the hall—on a weeknight, and on a day when there had been a significant snowstorm, leaving the roads in difficult condition.

At the conclusion of the question and answer period, a representative of the society presented me with the attached statement, signed by approximately 160 people in the group. (I should note that the attendance at the meeting was much larger because not everyone who attended had been previously solicited to sign the statement.)

Mr. Speaker, given the grave nature of the question of whether or not to go to war, and the strong interest expressed by these citizens, I welcome their contribution to our debate and I ask that the Statement Against A Preventive War In Iraq presented by Members and Friends of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Wellesley Hills be printed here.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE PUSH  
POLL DISCLOSURE ACT OF 2003

**HON. THOMAS E. PETRI**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 7, 2003*

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation to increase the disclosure requirements for telephone "push polls." As many candidates for public office have learned through personal experience, these push polls are not legitimate telephone surveys, but campaign devices designed to smear a candidate under the guise of a standard opinion poll.

Imagine a voter, who has been identified as a supporter of candidate X, being asked in a

survey if this support would continue if it was learned that candidate X was guilty of a terrible indiscretion or an outright crime. It doesn't matter whether the allegations are true because the idea that candidate X is somehow unfit for office has been planted successfully. This is a telephone push poll.

My legislation, the Push Poll Disclosure Act of 2003, requires that each participant in a poll conducted for a candidate for a Federal office seeking the opinion of more than 1,200 households be told the identity of the survey's sponsor. It also requires further disclosures when a survey's results are not to be released to the public. In this case, the cost of the poll and the sources of its funding must be reported to the Federal Election Commission, along with a count of the households contacted and a transcript of the questions asked.

The Push Poll Disclosure Act of 2003 is a simple bill. It will not hinder the traditional use of polling, nor will it burden polling firms with excessive regulations. What this bill does do, however, is regulate push polls for what they are—campaign activities, and questionable ones at that. This legislation is noncontroversial and should be bipartisan, and its passage will make campaigns for Federal office a little bit cleaner.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE FED UP  
HIGHER EDUCATION TECHNICAL  
AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2003

**HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 7, 2003*

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to join my colleague from California, the Chairman of the 21st Century Competitiveness Subcommittee, Representative HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON, in reintroducing the FED UP Higher Education Technical Amendments Act. This bipartisan bill, cosponsored by Education & the Workforce Democrat committee members CAROLYN MCCARTHY (D-NY) and DAVID WU (D-OR), provides for technical amendments to the Higher Education Act, which will be up for reauthorization later this year.

Representative MCKEON, a leader in the House on higher education issues, along with the late Representative Patsy Mink (D-HI), initiated the FED UP process to make it easier for Hispanic-Serving Institutions to receive Federal aid, help college students avoid defaulting on their student loans, clarify that Federal scholarship aid can go to low-income and minority students for law school, and improve higher education access in other ways recommended by the higher education community.

The FED UP project is a unique effort, utilizing the Internet to get input directly from those most affected by current Federal higher education regulations—students and school officials themselves. The project solicited comments from student aid professionals from across the country in an effort to pinpoint unnecessary Federal rules and red tape that could be streamlined without jeopardizing the integrity of America's student financial assistance programs.

The response was phenomenal, both in terms of the number of comments received and in the reaction from the higher education

community. Many of those responding commented that this is the first time Congress has put forward an effort to hear directly from those on the front lines of assisting students. Another said this is the way government should work, Congress listening to the experts and getting input, rather than just dictating a course of action. This bill is intended to address noncontroversial, budget neutral changes to the Higher Education Act that will assist in reducing red tape. It also clears the decks of clerical and technical problems within the act to set the stage for the Committee to begin the reauthorization process later this year.

This year I hope we can move this legislation through the floor in a swift manner. As part of an ongoing election-year effort to disrupt proceedings in the House, Democrat leaders in July 2002 blocked floor passage of the noncontroversial, bipartisan FED UP initiative. Twenty-seven House Democrats, including the late Representative Patsy Mink, broke with the Democratic leadership and joined Republicans in voting "yes" on the measure, which is also strongly backed by the higher education community.

This legislation was created in an effort to do what is right for students, institutions and others involved in providing higher education. The FED UP measure will help to untie the hands of students and institutions through a series of common-sense steps that will make a difference while paving the way for the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act in the 108th Congress.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE FED UP  
HIGHER EDUCATION TECHNICAL  
AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2003

**HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 7, 2003*

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to join my colleague, the Chairman of the House Education and the Workforce Committee, John Boehner, in introducing the FED UP Higher Education Technical Amendments Act of 2003. This legislation is the result of a great deal of effort to improve the efficiencies and effectiveness of the Title IV student aid programs through the review of overly burdensome and outdated regulations.

During the 107th Congress, the House Education and the Workforce Committee launched the FED UP project (short for "Upping the Effectiveness of our Federal Student Aid Programs) to identify and simplify burdensome regulations in the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA) that work against college students and personnel. The initiative, which was started to bring some sense to the regulations that students and the higher education community must deal with on a daily basis, received over 3,000 responses from college officials, administrators and other personnel who operate America's institutions of higher learning. After all of the responses were catalogued, the Department of Education initiated a negotiated rulemaking process to consider the regulatory changes included in the project, and have since published final regulations implementing many of the FED UP proposals.

These proposed amendments to the Higher Education Act of 1965 continue this effort to