

Unfortunately, this provision of the tax code is set to expire at the end of 2003. At a minimum, Congress must extend this provision for several more years. A better approach, however, an approach supported by the Bush administration in fact, would be enactment of the Weller-Becerra-Johnson legislation which would make this common-sense tax incentive a permanent part of the federal tax code. In addition, the bill would modify current law by amending the recapture provision and modestly expanding the class of substances that can be expensed to include petroleum, a contaminant commonly found at brownfields sites.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation. Its passage will ensure the continued availability of this valuable tool for improving the livability and economic prospects of blighted, decaying communities and reclaiming idle land for more productive uses.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FUGETSU-DO AND THE KITO FAMILY

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fugetsu-Do, a family-run bakery in my Congressional District, who this year celebrates its 100th anniversary.

In 1903, Seiichi Kito and his family began working in a small shop to produce batches of mochi, manju, and other Japanese sweets. This burgeoning business, however, was unexpectedly closed in 1942 when Executive Order 9066 forced the Kito family to relocate to an internment camp in Heart Mountain, Wyoming.

Like countless other Japanese American families, the Kitos endured dehumanizing and often cruel living conditions—including brutally cold and windy winters and scorching summers. Yet despite these hardships, Mr. Kito and his son Roy, a pastry chef, gave comfort to their fellow internees by creating dessert from their meager sugar rations.

At the end of the war, the Kito family returned to Los Angeles where Roy and his wife reopened the doors of Fugetsu-Do, overcoming great financial obstacles.

Today, Brian Kito—youngest son of Roy and Kazuko Kito and grandson of Seiichi—continues the legacy of Fugetsu-Do as head of the family business. Brian continues his family's tradition of community loyalty as an active member of the Little Tokyo community. Several times a year, he demonstrates to youngsters in the community how to make the tasty treats sold in his shop and he coordinates a citizen safety patrol in Little Tokyo with the Los Angeles Police Department.

As part of Fugetsu-Do's 100th anniversary celebration, more than 150 members of the Kito family will come together for a family reunion in Little Tokyo from August 7th through the 12th. It is my pleasure to welcome them to my congressional district and to express my best wishes for a successful reunion.

For a century, the Kito family's dedication to the values of hard work and meticulous care in confectionary production has led Fugetsu-Do to much success.

Mr. Speaker, the 100th anniversary of Fugetsu-Do is yet another milestone in the rich history of the Kito family, the Little Tokyo community, and the City of Los Angeles and I join them in celebrating this wonderful legacy.

MEDICARE PAYMENT UPDATE FOR CERTIFIED-NURSE MIDWIVES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, there are approximately 2 million women with disabilities in the Medicare program. The Agency for Healthcare Policy and Research reported that these women are without appropriate access to primary care services. Their average time between gynecological visits was 10–12 years. They were also less likely than the general population to have received a recent mammogram. Certified Nurse-Midwives and Certified Midwives are qualified through their unique training to deliver the appropriate health services to this population.

Research studies have shown that special populations seek out care from midwives and that their health outcomes are improved. The Medicare program reimburses Certified Nurse-Midwives at 65 percent of the physician fee schedule, resulting in an average payment of only \$14 per annual exam. Midwives who serve these women are forced to subsidize care with their own money or turn away patients because they cannot afford to operate at a financial loss. Like physicians, skyrocketing professional liability premiums for midwives are leaving no monies to subsidize care. Congress has not provided an update in payment of midwifery services since 1988.

The legislation that I have reintroduced today with my colleague, the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. UPTON, increases the level of reimbursement to 95 percent of the physician fee schedule. This amount is based on studies using the relative value methodology. Additionally, Certified Nurse-Midwives serve as faculty members of medical schools. For over 20 years, they have supervised and trained residents. This legislation clarifies the fact that midwives who are medical school faculty members may bill for Medicare Part B services in accordance with CMS residency training regulations. The bill also includes technical corrections that will clarify the reassignment of billing rights for midwives who are employed by others and recognize that Certified Nurse-Midwives and Certified Midwives have hospital admitting privileges. I urge you to support this legislation, which is in the best interest of women with disabilities across this Nation.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO FACILITATE YAVAPAI RANCH LAND EXCHANGE

HON. RICK RENZI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, along with Congressman J. D. HAYWORTH, I rise today to in-

roduce the Northern Arizona National Forest Land Exchange Act of 2003. This legislation facilitates a land exchange in northern Arizona of private land within the Yavapai Ranch for Forest Service land in the northern portion of the state.

Mr. Speaker, in the past few months, I have received many letters and phone calls in support and in opposition to this exchange. I have visited and toured the Yavapai Ranch and witnessed first hand the beauty of this unique property. Bringing the Yavapai Ranch into federal ownership is in the best interest of the public, and the Forest Service has indicated that it would otherwise be unable to afford to acquire these parcels.

This legislation accomplishes many goals in northern Arizona. First, it provides the City of Flagstaff with the opportunity to acquire land to expand and improve Pulliam Airport. In addition, this legislation will allow the City of Flagstaff to develop a new city park and recreational areas and obtain ownership of land near their water treatment plant. This is critical to the City of Flagstaff's future by providing economic development and affordable housing.

The Northern Arizona National Forest Land Exchange Act will also allow the City of Williams to acquire land for its well sites, water storage tanks and wastewater facility and drinking water treatment plants. In addition, this will provide Williams with the opportunity to expand their airport, the municipal golf course and the town park.

In the Verde Valley, this bill provides Camp Verde with a unique opportunity to acquire land for open space to protect their view shed. The Camp Verde Fire District will be provided with land adjacent to Interstate 17 for an emergency response and urgent care facility for faster response. A planned development along Interstate 17 will provide Camp Verde with additional tax base and job opportunities.

A residential development in Clarkdale and Cottonwood will diversify the housing market and provide new lands to their tax base. I have ensured that language in this legislation ensures that water conservation and water use restrictions must be met for any future development.

Finally, this legislation ensures that five summer camps have the opportunity to acquire the land and benefit from full ownership and management of this land. Included in this exchange are Young Life Lost Canyon Camp, Friendly Pines Camp, YMCA Sky Y Camp, Temple Beth Israel's Camp Charles Pearlstein and the Roman Catholic Church of Phoenix Patterdell Pines Camp.

Mr. Speaker, I have held several town halls and town meetings in the district to discuss the many issues clouding this exchange. First, this exchange provides Camp Verde with land for open space for their view shed, but it is my understanding that plans are already underway to construct an interchange that would affect the view shed in the Verde Valley.

Second, this legislation addresses the water concerns associated with this exchange. Language is included to ensure that developments comply with water use and water conservation requirements. Covenants will limit the amount of water use to sustain the current zoning at 2 houses per acres. In addition, any development must comply with the State of Arizona's surface and groundwater laws.

Finally, this legislation addresses the issue of federal permittees that may be affected by

this exchange. Under the Federal Land Policy Management Act, a permittee shall receive a "reasonable" compensation from the federal government if an action by the federal government, including disposal, cancels the permit. My goal in including this language is to properly address the possible hardship and injustice that could occur as a result of this exchange.

Mr. Speaker, my intent in introducing this legislation is to assist communities in northern Arizona in providing affordable housing and economic opportunities, while preserving the pristine areas of our forests for wildlife and recreation. The introduction of this legislation today represents another step in the legislative process. As a whole, this exchange will benefit the public, the many communities and camps in northern Arizona that will receive opportunities for future economic development, and the natural beauty of the Yavapai Ranch.

HONORING THE GROUNDBREAKING
FOR THE NEW CLARK COUNTY
REGIONAL CANCER CENTER

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a very positive development in health care for the residents of Springfield and Clark County, which are in the 7th Congressional District of Ohio. Federal, state and local officials and representatives from our two local hospitals are set to break ground on a new outpatient regional cancer center.

For years, I had heard from local health care providers and residents about how frustrating it was not having a local modern facility to perform outpatient cancer treatments.

With two outstanding health care centers already available in Springfield, it seemed strange to many people who needed basic oncology services to have to drive to Dayton, Columbus or even Cincinnati.

Traveling long distances to receive cancer treatment can be burdensome for a patient and his or her family, especially if they are elderly or have mobility problems.

I was able to work with my good friend Congressman RALPH REGULA of Navarre, who is the Chairman of the Labor/Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee, to secure \$1 million in federal funds for the establishment of this outpatient regional cancer center.

This funding helped to lay the groundwork for the construction of this new facility to improve the level of health care for the citizens of Springfield and Clark County.

This effort is a true public-private partnership that has brought together Mercy Health Partners, The Community Hospital, the Ohio EPA and the federal EPA.

Until that great day when there is a simple and affordable cure for the scourge known as cancer, it is vitally important that communities like Springfield have the best possible infrastructure to provide care.

This new cancer center will have a key role to play in our health care community and I was pleased to be able to support this worthwhile effort in Congress.

As the Congressman who represents Springfield and Clark County in the U.S.

House of Representatives, I offer my sincere congratulations on this great achievement and look forward to the day when we will be able to dedicate the finished facility.

SCHOOL READINESS ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2210) to authorize the Head Start Act to improve the school readiness of disadvantaged children, and for other purposes:

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Chairman, Head Start works just fine the way it is. Why the Republicans want to change something that has been proven to work, just to put their name on it, is just ridiculous. Head Start works fine just the way it is. One of my constituents, Eddie Moore, and all of his brothers went on to college after being in Head Start. He also went on to play professional football and now he is an extremely successful business man.

Head Start is one of the most important education programs for low income children, and it is tragic that the House Republican leadership is set on dismantling it. The plan is not just to completely underfund the program, but to block grant the funding!

You know, Head Start kids are very prepared and do better in school than low-income children who don't receive Head Start. It's been proven that Head Start narrows the readiness gap between Head Start kids and children from the more affluent side of the tracks. Head Start should help children arrive at school more ready to learn—and it does just that—very successfully.

My best advice to the Republican leadership is: if it ain't broken, don't fix it, and more importantly, don't brake it! I strongly urge a "no" vote on this bill.

SCHOOL READINESS ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2210) to authorize the Head Start Act to improve the school readiness of disadvantaged children, and for other purposes:

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2210, the Majority's plan to reauthorize the Head Start program. While this bill makes a number of bipartisan improvements to the program, I am gravely concerned that the block grant pilot project included in this plan is the first step toward dismantling the successful Head Start program that we know today.

Over the last few months, I have traveled throughout North Dakota and heard compelling stories from Head Start teachers, volun-

teers and parents attesting to the success of this program in my state. More than just teaching children valuable early literacy skills, the program also encourages self-confidence, spontaneity, curiosity and self-discipline in its young pupils. In addition, Head Start recognizes the important role of parents and families in a child's empowerment by focusing on the educational, vocational and material needs of the entire family. While these aspects of the program are not easily quantified, they greatly enhance future learning potential, as well as overall development.

The plan before us today gravely endangers these comprehensive services that are—in my view—key to Head Start's success. Block granting Head Start to the states would result in a patchwork of untested state preschool programs across the country, many of which may lower educational standards, minimize comprehensive services, and provide less oversight and accountability. As it stands now, there is not a single state preschool program in the country that provides comprehensive services in accordance with Head Start standards. Equally alarming, states that are struggling with their own budget crises right now may be tempted to divert scarce Head Start dollars toward other programs once placed in their hands.

Mr. Speaker, I am convinced that we have a real opportunity with this reauthorization process to effect some positive changes for this exceptional program. We should concentrate on proposals that improve and build upon this tried-and-true program—like increasing access or enhancing teacher qualifications. I urge my colleagues to join me in taking steps to ensure the integrity of this program as the reauthorization process moves forward.

TRIBUTE TO MR. BRYAN DE-
BATES—TIME WARNER CABLE
CRYSTAL APPLE TEACHER
AWARD

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bryan DeBates, an inspirational and loving teacher in San Antonio, Texas. As a 5th grade teacher at Timberwilde Elementary School, Bryan DeBates dedicates his life to the success and education of his students. His outstanding work in the classroom was recognized by Time Warner Cable and given the Crystal Apple Teacher Award.

Each year, Time Warner Cable honors 20 classroom projects and the teachers who develop them with the Crystal Apple Teacher Award. This award recognizes outstanding teachers who create learning experiences using cable technology. Mr. DeBates' project involved a space experiment that used electrical circuits to repair and operate a space station. Thanks to the innovation and creativity of Mr. Bryan DeBates many 5th grade students learned how electrical circuits work within the confines of a space station.

Time Warner Cable seeks ways to support the educators and institutions that help shape our nation. Time Warner Cable strives to enhance the level of education in the classroom by expanding the power of cable television's