

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

21st century technology and high-quality programming to teachers, students, and parents both inside and outside the classroom. It is remarkable to see how teachers like Bryan DeBates can use this technology to make this possible.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to honor Bryan DeBates. It is the perseverance and dedication of teachers like him that will lead our youth to a brighter future.

#### SCHOOL READINESS ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN**

OF MAINE

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. ALLEN. Mr. Chairman, nearly 4 decades ago, a program was introduced that would forever change the lives of more than 20 million American disadvantaged children and their families. The achievements of Head Start have become so legendary that I thought it was secure. I was wrong.

Instead of directly funding community-based Head Start programs, the School Readiness Act would allow some states to receive "block grant" funding. States could then use their own untested standards, avoid federal quality oversight, diminish services, weaken the role of parents, and shift money to shore up sagging state budgets.

I have seen examples of the positive impact of Head Start throughout Maine. At a meeting earlier this year, for example, a Head Start father movingly told of his struggle with illness and unemployment; he firmly believes that his children are thriving despite this hardship primarily because of their enrollment in Head Start.

At the same meeting, a graduate of Head Start credited her own success—being the first in her family to gain an advanced degree—to the program.

Another Mainer wrote to me about her son, whose many medical problems at birth led his doctor to predict he would be severely mentally disabled. Enrollment in Early Head Start provided the early intervention that vastly improved his prospects.

National studies confirm that Head Start works: the gap is narrowed significantly between Head Start children and other children in vocabulary and writing skills; once in kindergarten, they continue to make substantial progress in language and math skills. Head Start graduates are less likely than similarly situated children to repeat a grade, require special education, or be charged or convicted with a crime. They are more likely to complete high school and college and earn more as adults than those who did not have the benefit of this program.

Head Start benefits all Americans in the long term. Numerous studies show that for every dollar spent on Head Start, taxpayers save \$4 to \$7 in the future due to lower education, crime and welfare expenses. Yet, the President's budget for Head Start does not

even keep up with the rate of inflation, let alone provide enough funding to serve all eligible children.

If it ain't broke, why does the Administration want to "fix" it? The track record of Head Start and those who benefit from its services are evidence that there is no need to restructure the program. We should instead address its real financial needs: to fully fund this program to provide the greatest assistance for low-income children and their families.

I urge my colleagues to vote for the Democratic substitute which will expand access to the program for more eligible children, improve teacher and program quality and strengthen the overall program. H.R. 2210 would simply undermine a program which has been a major success.

#### OFFSET OF FEDERAL TAX REFUND FOR STATE AND LOCAL TAX DEBTS

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 25, 2003*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to be introducing legislation that would establish a federal tax refund offset program for state and local governments. Specifically, this program would require the federal government to withhold refunds from those individuals and corporations that still owe state or local government tax obligations.

Today, the reverse situation exists. A number of states allow their own state agencies, local governments and the Internal Revenue Service to submit a list of delinquent taxpayers. The state then matches these delinquent accounts against taxpayers who may qualify for a state tax refund. If a match is found, the state reduces the refund by the amount of the delinquency and remits the funds to the claimant. These programs have proven to be low-cost and highly effective. Congress recognized the effectiveness of these programs and directed the Internal Revenue Service to establish a similar program to cover claims by other federal agencies, as well as for past-due child support obligations. In 2000, Congress expanded the program by directing the Treasury Department to accept claims by states for income tax obligations.

The legislation I am introducing today builds on these successful programs by permitting local governments to participate. The local governments could submit their outstanding tax debts to the Department of the Treasury for an offset against any federal tax refund, just as federal agencies and states do now. This legislation would also permit a claim to be made for any legally enforceable tax obligation owed to the state or local government.

In an era of tight state and local government budgets, it is patently unfair to have the taxpayer citizenry bear the costs and burdens of those who do not pay their fair share. As President Kennedy recognized, "[t]o the extent that some people are dishonest or careless in their dealings with the government, the majority is forced to carry a heavier tax burden." (April 20, 1961) The legislation that I am introducing today will provide a means to help distribute that burden more equitably.

I urge my colleagues to support it.

#### REGARDING THE MIDDLE RIO GRANDE EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY STABILIZATION ACT OF 2003

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 25, 2003*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. I rise today to introduce the "Middle Rio Grande Emergency Water Supply Stabilization Act of 2003," a bill amending the Flood Control Act of 1948 with respect to the Middle Rio Grande Project to authorize programs for water conservation and control of phreatic vegetation, and for other purposes.

On June 12, 2003, the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the Federal District Court's opinion determining that the Bureau of Reclamation "has the discretion to reduce deliveries of water . . . comply with the Endangered Species Act."

This lawsuit affirmation rekindled the passionate debate about how we use our water resources, about the sustainability of our current water practices, and whether we are using our water wisely.

This is a very difficult situation for everyone involved. Some have painted the situation as a crisis, as a people versus fish issue. Others state that this "crisis" should be taken as an indication that it is time to recognize the bottomline of the matter: water is a scarce commodity in New Mexico and should be treated accordingly.

In an effort to find a common-sense approach to sustainable water management in New Mexico and the west, I engaged in extensive discussions with the major stakeholders in the San Juan/Chama water dispute, and shared my concerns directly with United States Department of Interior Secretary Gale Norton, the person ultimately responsible for enforcing the 10th Circuit ruling.

As a result of these conversations, I am introducing legislation today that will address our outmoded water principles and practices.

First, the bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to contribute to a long-term solution for the Middle Rio Grande River in the State of New Mexico by preventing, reducing, or eliminating wasteful depletion of waters. This would entail the establishment of a water supply stabilization program at the local level. Under this program, the Secretary would provide financial and technical assistance to promote and encourage the adoption and implementation of water conservation measures within the Rio Grande Basin in New Mexico.

To accomplish this, the Secretary would enter into cost sharing and other agreements with the State and other entities including organizations, municipalities, Indian Tribes and Pueblos, and individuals, who use agricultural or municipal and industrial water from the Rio Grande River and its tributaries in New Mexico, including water supplied directly or indirectly from the Middle Rio Grande Project or the San Juan-Chama Project. These collaborative agreements will result in localized decisions regarding sustainable water management along the Rio Grande.

Second, the bill encourages the implementation of water conservation measures that will improve water quantity and water quality conditions needed to support a sustainable, living