

Forest Service's authority also needs clarifying and strengthening.

The bill would provide new authority, in order to increase public awareness, deter violations, and help cover the costs of enforcement and damages to affected lands.

What the bill would do:

Allow Increased Fines: The bill would authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to assess fines of up to \$10,000 or the costs of restoration, whichever is greater, for violation of ORV regulations. The current provisions for imprisonment of 12 months in jail is retained.

Apply Fines to Enforcement and the Area Damaged: The bill would authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to apply any funds acquired from recreational off-road vehicle violations to the costs of enforcing off-road violations, increasing public awareness of the problem, and to repair damages to lands affected by such violations.

What the bill would not do:

Increase Closures of Public Lands: The bill would not require that any particular lands be "off limits" to recreational off-road vehicle use. Decisions about which roads or trails will remain open to such use would continue to be made by the land-management agency.

Apply to Other Uses: The bill would not impose increased fines for violation of any regulations other than those applicable to use of vehicles.

Eliminate Fines for Other Violations: The bill would not affect the current ability of the federal public land agencies from assessing existing fines and penalties for other activities that violate management, use and protection requirements. Such fines would continue to apply to violations of other regulations.

HONORING MUNIR H. ABBASY, M.D.

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into the RECORD today these remarks to honor the accomplishments and life of Munir H. Abbasy, M.D., who died in a single engine airplane crash that he was piloting on July 29, 2001.

Dr. Abbasy graduated from Liaquat Medical College in Pakistan in 1969, and completed his internship at Cook County Hospital in Chicago. Abbasy followed his internship with a position as a general surgeon at Northwestern University Medical Center in Chicago, and a neurosurgical residency at the University of Pittsburgh. After moving to Massachusetts in 1976, Dr. Abbasy joined the Neurosurgical and Neurological Group Inc. in Springfield. Additionally, he was on the medical staff of the area hospitals, including Baystate Medical Center, Mercy Medical Center, and Holyoke Hospital. Abbasy served as the Chief of Neurosurgery at Mercy Medical Center from 1988–1993, and extended his services to Baystate Medical Center from 1993–2001. Also, Dr. Abbasy was the assistant clinical professor in the neurosurgery department at Tufts University.

Dr. Abbasy was an established neurosurgeon who was commended on his extreme precision during surgery. Accordingly, Abbasy was the first neurosurgeon in Western Massachusetts to perform a "Jannetta Procedure," which is a microvascular decompression of a

cranial nerve for those who suffer from a tic douloureux and hemifacial spasm. Dr. Abbasy pioneered the practice of lumbar microdissectomies as an outpatient service at Baystate Medical Center in 1996, which reduced recovery time and created savings for the hospital.

As a resident of Longmeadow, MA, Dr. Abbasy was extremely involved in his community. He was a member of the Hampden District Medical Society, the American Medical Association, the New England Neurological Society, the Pediatric Section of AANS/CNS, and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons. Furthermore, he was a director of the Longmeadow Montessori School.

According to his colleagues, friends, and family, Dr. Abbasy was a remarkable, bright, and extremely dedicated surgeon. He brought passion to his practice and always wanted to better the institutions and process of healthcare. He is survived by his wife, the former Ann O'Connor, a son, Jamil, and a daughter, Shareen Abbasy.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Abbasy was a valued member of the community and an amazing individual. He served the medical community for 25 years and his work will be remembered and appreciated. He will be missed by all who had the opportunity to know him.

TRIBUTE TO THE ELDER HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, on the blustery, frigid evening of November 30, 2002, the Elder High School football team made their championship dreams a reality. On a snow-covered field, the Elder Panthers overcame the weather, a four-hour bus ride, and a spirited Warren Harding team to return the Ohio state football championship to Cincinnati for the first time since Princeton High School won in 1987.

Thousands of Elder faithful braved the cold and snow flocking to Fawcett Stadium to urge the Panthers to victory. Those who couldn't make the cross-state trip sat glued to their TVs hanging on every play. From the opening kickoff to the three critical touchdown drives led by Rob Florian to the game-saving incompleteness forced by Kevin Harnist on Warren Harding's tying two-point conversion attempt, fans were thrilled by the championship effort and heart displayed by the young men from Elder.

After capturing the state championship, Elder garnered well-deserved team and individual honors. The Panthers were ranked ninth in the national high school football rankings released by USA Today. Individually, Coach Doug Ramsey was named Ohio Tri-Coach of the Year, and Senior LB Tony Carvitti was selected as Ohio Tri-Defense Player of the Year. Other All-Ohio honorees include: First Team selection Bill Poland; Second Team selection Tom Anevski; and Special Mention selection Bradley Glatthaar.

Throughout their triumphant season, Elder's young men labored and sacrificed to forge a championship team. Elder's hard-fought and inspiring victory has brought pride and honor

to Price Hill and our entire community. Football fans throughout the Cincinnati area congratulate the Panthers and share in their celebration.

Mr. Speaker, to appropriately honor these young men and coaches, I'd like to submit for the RECORD the roster of the 2002 Elder Panthers and a copy of their schedule and game results.

ELDER HIGH SCHOOL, 2002 OHIO HIGH SCHOOL STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS, FINAL RECORD: 14-1

REGULAR SEASON

Game 1, August 24, 2002: Elder 42—Dixie Heights 7.

Game 2, August 31, 2002: Louisville Trinity 44—Elder 20.

Game 3, September 6, 2002: Elder 42—Western Hills 8.

Game 4, September 13, 2002: Elder 45—Indianapolis Roncalli 7.

Game 5, September 21, 2002: Elder 45—Cleveland St. Ignatius 35.

Game 6, September 27, 2002: Elder 21—St. Xavier 17.

Game 7, October 5, 2002: Elder 47—Moeller 21.

Game 8, October 11, 2002: Elder 29—LaSalle 19.

Game 9, October 18, 2002: Elder 45—Indianapolis Cathedral 30.

Game 10, October 25, 2002: Elder 35—Oak Hills 8.

PLAYOFFS

Round 1, November 2, 2002: Elder 20—St. Xavier 14.

Round 2, November 9, 2002: Elder 31—Huber Heights Wayne 3.

Regional Championship, November 16, 2002: Elder 28—Colerain 21.

State Semi-Final, November 23, 2002: Elder 34—Findlay 31.

State Championship, November 30, 2002: Elder 21—Warren Harding 19.

2002 ELDER PANTHERS VARSITY FOOTBALL ROSTER

Head Coach: Doug Ramsey.

Assistant Coaches: Ken Lanzillotta; Ray Heidorn; Mike Kraemer; Craig James; Tim Schira; Matt Eisele; and Pat Good.

Seniors: #78 Tom Anevski; #44 Tony Arszman; #6 Bob Asman; #3 Greg Bachman; #35 Mike Barone; #86 John Bauer; #73 Marty Bauer; #7 Nick Brandhorst; #36 Kyle Brunzman; #76 Digger Bujnoch; #4 Dan Byrne; #97 Tony Carvitti; #33 Chris Chambers; and #98 Pat Christman.

#77 Conrad Cross; #15 Brian Crowley; #8 Nick Daut; #2 Craig Davis; #40 Mike Eagan; #1 Eric Hamberg; #26 Kevin Harnist; #32 Frank Hilvers; #21 Cody King; #81 Dan Kloefer; #64 Anthony Louderback; #38 Dan McDonald; #89 Bryan McKiddy; and #49 Jake Paff.

#37 Bill Poland; #95 Mike Riga; #79 Alex Robinson; #9 Chris Rothwell; #25 Dan Scherrer; #50 Nick Schwander; #5 Scott Spitznagel; #63 Brian Stall; #51 Ben Sprengard; #56 Todd Turner; #80 Kevin Vater; #93 Brandon Wittwer; and #75 John Wolff.

Juniors: #34 Eric Andriacco; #54 Steve Baum; #58 Kenny Berling; #62 Ryan Brinck; #20 Michael Brown; #68 Alec Burkhardt; #23 Mark Byrne; #42 Steve Haverkos; #70 Chris Heaton; #82 Nick Klaserner; #17 Danny Kraft; #48 Joe Lind; #47 Pat Lysaght; and #53 Corey McKenna.

#65 Nick Rellar; #14 Jake Richmond; #91 Tony Stegeman; #88 Ian Steidel; #22 Mike Stoecklin; #45 Tim Teague; #24 John Tiemeier; #19 Sean Carroll; #18 Charlie Coffaro; #71 Justin Crone; #29 Brett Currin; #12 Rob Florian; #84 Kurt Gindling; #11 Bradley Glatthaar; and #99 Alex Harbin.

#60 Mike Meese; #92 Tim Mercurio; #30 Drew Metz; #72 Mark Naltner; #28 Alex Niehaus; #43 Billy Phelan; #31 Seth Priestle; #90 Matt Umberg; #10 Jeff Vogel; #16 Eric Welch; #74 John Wellbrock; #87 Mike Windt; #55 Eric Wood; and #94 Mike Zielasko.

Sophomores: Craig Carey; D.J. Hueneman; Eric Kenkel; Rick Stautberg; and Nick Williams.

Managers: Kyle Miller and T.J. Weil.

INTEREST-FREE FUNDS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND MODERNIZATION PROJECTS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would provide \$25.2 billion in interest-free funds over the next two years for public school construction and modernization projects.

Currently, our public school system has extraordinary unmet needs for funds to construct and modernize schools. Consider the following facts:

The average age of a public school in the United States is 42 years.

One-third of all public schools in the United States are in need of extensive repair or replacement.

Three and a half million students attend schools that need major repair or replacement.

According to a recent report from the National Education Association, it will cost \$332 billion to bring the existing public schools into overall good condition. Billions more will be required to construct new schools to meet expanding student enrollments.

President Bush's education program places strong emphasis on raising standards in America's classrooms, but does not provide promised Federal help for the cost of additional testing and services required to reach that goal. His program also ignores the fact that school facilities are an important part of raising student performance. Inferior facilities make teaching more difficult. They also send a clear message to the student that this nation does not value their education. The President's program seems to be designed to fail.

My legislation will provide funds for school modernization projects through a federal tax credit. The tax credit will, in effect, pay the interest on \$25.2 billion of school modernization bonds. All decisions relating to how those funds would be used would continue to be made at the local level.

My legislation is based on a successful model, the Qualified Academy Bond (QZAB) program enacted in 1997. A California local school official described that program as a "local school district's dream" after having successfully participated in a bond offering subsidized under that program. U.S. Education Secretary Rodney Page endorsed a similar proposal in 1999 when he was Superintendent of the Houston schools. In a statement submitted to the the Committee on Ways and Means, he said that school modernization bonds "represent the approach to Federal aid that will have a truly consequential impact on meeting the infrastructure needs of Houston and other large urban high poverty districts."

Mr. Speaker, I regret that I am introducing this bill today without the broad bipartisan sup-

port that it has received in the past. The lack of bipartisan support is due to the fact that the bill is fundamentally inconsistent with the President's dividend exemption proposal. I am hopeful that the Congress will reject or substantially modify the President's dividend proposal and, therefore, make it possible to pursue this bill with its former bipartisan support. Attached is a brief description of the bill and a table showing how the funds will be allocated among the States.

SUMMARY

The bill would subsidize \$25.2 billion in zero-interest school modernization bonds. The federal government would provide tax credits for the interest normally paid on a bond. Funds that would have gone to pay bond interest would be freed for other education needs. For each \$1000 of school bonds, the net benefit of the program to State or local school districts would be approximately \$500.

Funding: The bill divides the interest-free funds for public school construction and modernization as follows:

\$22 billion over two years for zero-interest school modernization bonds (\$11 billion in both 2004 and 2005). The bill would allocate 60 percent of the \$22 billion in bonds to states based on school-age population. The State education agency has the authority to allocate the State's share among the schools districts in the State with no restrictions as to what schools can qualify. The remaining 40 percent of these bonds would be directly allocated to the 125 school districts with the largest number of low-income students based on ESEA Title I funding (poverty-based distribution).

\$400 million in school modernization bonds for Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) schools.

\$2.8 billion for expansion of the existing Qualified Zone Academy Bond program (QZAB). This amount is allocated among the States based upon the number or poor students. The State education agency has the authority to allocate the State's share among the school districts in the State; except that amount may be allocated only to schools with at least 35% poor students—those schools located in Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Communities or which have at least 35 percent of their students eligible for free or reduced price school lunch.

Federal Role: The federal government would provide a tax credit to the bond purchaser equal to the interest that would otherwise be paid on a school construction bond. No new federal bureaucracy would be created.

Cost: The five-year cost to the Federal government is approximately \$1.7 billion and the ten-year cost is approximately \$6.8 billion.

The following table shows the estimated allocations under the bill.

Estimated state bond allocations

Alabama	\$354,922
Alaska	53,398
Arizona	337,448
Arkansas	183,516
California	3,109,598
Colorado	296,358
Connecticut	292,085
Delaware	49,070
District of Columbia	88,904
Florida	1,188,467
Georgia	654,051
Hawaii	77,438
Idaho	93,409
Illinois	1,221,868
Indiana	459,436
Iowa	196,453
Kansas	196,866
Kentucky	295,249
Louisiana	473,051

Estimated state bond allocations—Continued

Maine	84,355
Maryland	395,270
Massachusetts	467,254
Michigan	1,006,867
Minnesota	378,952
Mississippi	237,537
Missouri	452,673
Montana	65,077
Nebraska	131,275
Nevada	92,951
New Hampshire	80,802
New Jersey	660,175
New Mexico	157,627
New York	2,476,435
North Carolina	488,119
North Dakota	46,596
Ohio	1,019,626
Oklahoma	277,839
Oregon	235,626
Pennsylvania	1,044,126
Puerto Rico	378,751
Rhode Island	90,648
South Carolina	284,932
South Dakota	56,180
Tennessee	421,577
Texas	1,998,390
Utah	175,947
Vermont	42,022
Virginia	422,902
Washington	402,308
West Virginia	123,951
Wisconsin	491,648
Wyoming	38,712
Outlying Areas	51,263
BIA Schools	400,000
Total	25,200,000

HELENA MARQUES—SOUTHCOAST WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, one of the most difficult issues that we have been dealing with in these past years has been that of immigration. Sadly, it has become politically popular to blame immigrants for a wide variety of problems for which they are not, in fact responsible, and people have increasingly overlooked the important cultural and economic contributions immigration continues to play in our Nation of immigrants.

In my efforts to provide fair treatment for immigrants, both as a matter of equity and as a matter of correctly assessing our national interest in a sensible immigration policy, I have benefited enormously from the counsel, advocacy and commitment of Helena Marques. She has been an extraordinary asset to all of us who are charged with helping to make national policy on this matter, and she has been a beacon of strength for those in the immigrant community and their families who have been affected by our policies. I concur wholeheartedly with the decision of the New Bedford Standard Times to designate her the south coast woman of the Year, and I ask that the article describing her work from the Standard times be printed here, because I believe our colleagues will benefit from reading about her important work on the immigration issue.

After Sept. 11, 2001, Helena Marques had bad news for the mothers of area residents deported from the area to Portugal.

As she delivered the news during a meeting in a South End Holy Ghost club, she