

#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

couldn't maintain her composure, an wept with the women. She wept because she felt helpless. She wept for the victims of the terrorist attack.

The following day, she was back at her office at the Immigrants' Assistance Center, advocating for immigrants' rights with the same energy she always carried, even if the woes were now almost insurmountable.

Those who know Ms. Marques say she is the kind of woman: one who easily gets involved in the suffering of those she helps, but also one who can be a non-nonsense advocate and diplomat, businesswoman and lobbyist.

Ms. Marques, 42, picked up an agency in tatters when she took over the helm in 1996, led it through its greatest growth, and is now fighting on several fronts to maintain the level of service she helped create.

For all she has done since 1996, Ms. Marques is *The Standard-Times'* 2002 SouthCoast Woman of the Year.

Ms. Marques, a mother of one from Acushnet, with a bachelor's degree in business administration, started her job with IAC as a secretary more than 20 years ago, when the agency had only four employees and a small budget.

She rose through the ranks and in 1996 became the executive director of the now much bigger 31-year-old agency.

Coincidence or not, the year 1996 would forever be engraved in the history of IAC and of immigrant rights in America.

The agency was placed on probation by the United Way due to administrative shortcomings and it had also suffered severe cuts in funding from the state and federal governments.

Nationally, immigrants were losing welfare benefits and a new, stiffer deportation law was quietly coming into effect, which would soon devastate many area families.

"When I got promoted to this position it was at a time things were the worst," Ms. Marques said. "The worst year anybody can take over an agency."

Nevertheless, Ms. Marques, one of seven Madeiran immigrant children and the product of the New Bedford public schools, persisted.

She rolled up her sleeves and got to work. In four years, Ms. Marques tripled IAC's size, turning it from a struggling agency into a major immigrant services and advocacy group. New programs sprung up during the time and the agency opened two branch offices, including one in Taunton.

Some of the programs Ms. Marques helped create include the native language citizenship classes, educational in-jail programs for individuals facing deportation and citizenship programs in schools. Additionally, she helped form the Women Immigrants Support Hub for family members of deportees.

The agency also expanded beyond the Portuguese community and started serving other immigrant groups in the city.

One major effort included raising national and international attention to the effects of the 1996 deportation laws, which locally have resulted in the deportation of more than 400 Portuguese nationals and more than 100 Cape Verdean nationals.

The plight of those immigrants struck a chord because many were being deported for seemingly minor crimes after living most of their lives in the United States.

Ms. Marques took the cause wholeheartedly.

As a deportation fighter, sometimes she stood in the rain with WISH members, holding signs in front of District Attorney Paul F. Walsh Jr.'s office to stop a local deportation program. She also shared hugs at community events and personally talked with anyone who wished to speak with her.

Other times she traveled to Washington to bring the local message to politicians or ap-

peared on television and radio shows to spread the word.

She also became a well-known person in the community, befriending Sofia Milos, the star of the yet-unreleased romantic comedy "Passionada."

What's surprising, or not, is that she has played all the roles well, say those who know her.

"What I'm struck by in Helena is how she is so committed but careful," said congressman Barney Frank, D-Mass., who has consulted Ms. Marques on several pieces of legislation. "It's easy to be a diplomat if you don't care. It's very difficult to find someone that is both a zealot and a diplomat. She doesn't allow her passion to impair her judgment."

Rep. Frank said he met Ms. Marques around the time she took over IAC. He said his office has worked with her since that time.

I think she does a great job representing the immigrant community," Rep. Frank said.

Ms. Marques says that what she does comes naturally.

"A lot of times, the immigrant populations are in fear of speaking about issues that are important to them," she said. "Being an immigrant myself, seeing what my parents have gone through, I can relate.

"Not too many people have jobs that they feel they're helping out the community. At the end of the day I know that I've made a difference. To me it's a very humble job," she said.

Ms. Marques works behind her desk at the Crapo Street IAC offices; dinners with politicians and her networking efforts have helped turn IAC into a \$450,000 agency, but it's her advocacy work that has made her visible in the community.

"She's deeply committed to the work that she does, and she's deeply rooted in the community," said Nancy Lee Wood, a sociologist who helped form the WISH group with Ms. Marques. "She has a deep sense of compassion and caring about what happened to her people."

Ms. Wood has accompanied Ms. Marques on vigils, meetings with public safety officials and politicians and has helped organize WISH meetings and other programs.

Ms. Marques' enthusiasm has impressed her.

"I think she has worked very hard to build up the IAC. That takes a lot of energy, a lot of faith in the future," she said. "It just takes a lot of courage to just forge ahead and implement a lot of programs."

Ms. Marques became the executive director of IAC at a time when the agency was under scrutiny and executive directors changed with the tide.

Today, the members of the board of directors of the organization think they made the right choice when they decided to name Ms. Marques executive director.

"She totally believes in what the center stands for. We have complete trust in her," said Edward Macedo, president of the board. "She deals with the board very well, she knows where the board is coming from. We work very closely together."

Mr. Macedo has been president of the board at IAC for three years, but has been a member at least since Ms. Marques took the job. He said that during that time he has seen her go beyond her obligations.

"She goes way beyond," he said. "She gives of herself beyond her time also."

Ms. Marques, who is currently working hard to secure \$150,000 in lost state funds, said she is as committed as ever in her job, despite the difficulties.

"I'm looking anywhere and everywhere for money," she said. "Now, more than ever, I

feel I need to do what I'm doing. When the immigrant population is being targeted like it is right now, people like me need to be vocal."

Ms. Marques' dedication started when she first stepped into IAC as a secretary.

"Because (IAC) was so small I did everything," she said. "I was like a sponge. I wanted to learn as much as I could about the agency."

Ms. Marques said at times, when the job seems to be too much to handle, the gratification from helping others has kept her going.

"I do feel with so much tragedy coming in, I see it on a daily basis, that I feel lucky," she said. "I don't take anything for granted because of what I see here."

TRIBUTE TO INEZ WILLIAMS BROWN

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a native South Carolinian whose love of family and faith in God have blessed her with a rich and full life. On February 20, 2003, Mrs. Inez Williams Brown will celebrate her 90th birthday, and in marking this important occasion, I believe it is important to highlight a few of the contributions she has made.

Mrs. Brown, the granddaughter of slaves, was born on the Blake Plantation in Colleton County. Her father, Burton, was the youngest of five children born to Sally Prince. At an early age, he married Mamie Daily, and they had five children. Inez, the youngest, was born on February 20, 1913. Before she reached her first birthday, Inez's mother died in childbirth. Her father attended South Carolina Normal Institute. He was an ordained Baptist minister and also taught school.

Inez met and married Willie Williams, also a minister. They began their lives together in Hendersonville, South Carolina, and later spent four years in Georgia. They settled in Charleston, South Carolina in 1940. They had eleven children. After the death of Reverend Williams, Mrs. Williams raised 10 children by herself with the help of her eldest son, Alfred Williams and a brother-in-law, Elijah Williams. Her dedication to her family is reflective of the strong commitment exhibited by many African-American mothers.

After all but two of her children were adults, Inez Williams married Mr. Ed Gadsden, who died two years later. And in 1981, she married Robert Brown, who passed away in 2000.

Mrs. Brown's legacy is in the family she raised nearly on her own. Her eldest son, Alfred, is the Pastor of Canaan Baptist Church with a membership of over 800 parishioners. Mozell Myers is a retired schoolteacher, and a leader among ministers' wives in the A.M.E. Church. Luethel McNeil is an insurance professional and an ordained minister in New Jersey. Mildred Williams is a schoolteacher and writer in Oakland, California. Lelia Mae Daniels is in law enforcement in El Paso, Texas. Isaac "Ike" Williams, is a former S.C. Field Director of the N.A.A.C.P. and presently serves on my District Staff. Ike's twin, Rebecca Small, is a speech therapist in Newark, New Jersey. Bessie Simmons is an Executive Assistant and Director of Quality Assurance for