

credit unions and responsible financial institutions. But we must not do so at the expense of children receiving court-ordered child support and college students who are targeted by lures of easy credit and already facing thousands of dollars in student financial aid debt.

COLLEGIATE HOUSING AND
INFRASTRUCTURE ACT OF 2003

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2003

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation, along with my colleague Congressman BEN CARDIN, that would allow charitable and educational organizations to make grants to fraternities, sororities, and other collegiate organizations to provide housing and student facilities to the same extent that tax-exempt colleges and universities may provide such facilities for students.

By way of background, taxpayers may generally deduct contributions to non-profit educational organizations (i.e., educational organizations described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code ("Code")) such as colleges or universities. These colleges and universities may expend their funds (including donated funds) on student facilities such as dormitories, dining halls, study areas, libraries, computers, laundry facilities, physical fitness facilities, and social or recreational areas without jeopardizing their tax-exempt status.

State and private colleges and universities do not, and cannot, provide all of the housing and related student facilities necessary for their student bodies. Collegiate organizations such as fraternities, sororities, and other student associations (e.g., Muslim Students Association, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Hillel) fill a large part of the collegiate housing gap. Fraternities and sororities alone provide housing for more than 250,000 students each year. These student associations take on significant financial burdens in order to provide student housing without cost to affiliated colleges and universities.

Fraternities, sororities, and student associations provide collegiate housing through tax-exempt organizations, but their exemption comes under Code section 501(c)(7), with the result that direct contributions to these organizations are not deductible. However, educational organizations established to benefit these fraternities, sororities, and other student associations may qualify under Code section 501(c)(3) to receive deductible contributions.

The current IRS position is that it will not give a tax-exemption ruling to these educational organizations unless they limit student facility grants to those that are solely for educational use (with exceptions for minor social or recreational use). According to this IRS position, a fraternity foundation, for example, may make grants to a fraternity for the construction (or for annual operating expenses) in a fraternity house of a library, study area, computer area, or instructional area. The fraternity foundation may also make grants, for computers, computer desks, and chairs, if similar to what is provided by the specific college with which the fraternity is associated, and for internet wiring, if the specific college also provides internet wiring. However, the

IRS says that fraternity foundations may not make student facility grants for the construction or operation of sleeping quarters, dining areas, laundry facilities, or dedicated social or recreational areas (such as physical fitness facilities or equipment), or hallways or rooms used for both educational and other purposes.

Under the current IRS position, a charitable organization could not make a grant to a section 501(c)(7) collegiate housing organization (or to an affiliated section 501(c)(2) or (c)(7) organization) to provide fire safety upgrades unless those upgrades were limited to areas that are solely for educational use. However, fire safety upgrades will not provide necessary protection unless they are made throughout an entire building. It has been estimated that just the cost of installing sprinklers in fraternity and sorority housing is over \$300 million nationwide.

There is no policy reason for distinguishing between the types of student facilities that may be provided by a tax-exempt college and those that may be provided by another tax-exempt charitable or educational organization to a collegiate organization for the benefit of individuals who are full-time college students. The current IRS position, which we believe is an incorrect interpretation of the law, puts collegiate organizations at a significant disadvantage in obtaining the funds necessary to provide or maintain housing and infrastructure, including the funds necessary to provide fire safety upgrades.

I believe that clarifying that tax-exempt charitable or educational organizations may make collegiate housing and infrastructure grants will encourage private sector contributions to address student housing needs, thus relieving a burden that would otherwise fall on financially strapped colleges and universities. Accordingly, this bill provides that charitable and educational organizations may make grants to collegiate housing organizations (including affiliate organizations holding title to property) for the construction or operation of collegiate housing and infrastructure facilities that are of the type tax-exempt colleges are permitted to provide for their students, including, but not limited to, sleeping quarters, fire safety equipment and upgrades, dining areas, social and recreational areas, study areas, libraries, and computers and related furniture and wiring.

I urge our colleagues to support this worthy legislation.

HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF VOLUNTEERS FOR OUTDOOR COLORADO

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, and to congratulate VOC for its two decades of working to enhance the beauty, accessibility and integrity of Colorado's parks, greenways and public lands.

The work of VOC and its countless volunteers has benefited the entire state. Through countless thousands of hours of strenuous yet rewarding work, trails have been repaired, wheelchair ramps installed, trees planted and

facilities constructed. The results have enhanced the outdoor experiences of visitors to Colorado's public lands splendor.

Poll after poll shows that Americans believe that environmental protection and quality of life are high priorities. And just as many people believe themselves to be "environmentalists." But too often, people lack a way to give practical expression to these views. VOC provides that opportunity.

Participating in VOC activities is fun, easy and user-friendly. You don't need to be an expert, you don't need to know how to drive a tractor or a backhoe. All you need is a passion for the beauty and health of our surroundings—urban, suburban, in the mountains or on the plains—to participate. That, and a healthy willingness to get your hands and feet dirty.

I am especially appreciative of VOC's legacy of active volunteerism because the values it engenders are needed now more than ever.

Since I was first elected to Congress, I have visited high schools throughout Colorado's Second Congressional District. What I've heard from the young people I've met on these visits has reinforced my conviction that we need to provide them with opportunities to develop self-respect and a sense of accomplishment—because those experiences can be antidotes to much of the anger and alienation that can erupt into violence.

Before entering public life, I headed the Colorado Outward Bound school. It provides challenging adventures, such as rappelling down a mountain, fording a rushing river and surviving alone in the wilderness. Outward Bound, not unlike Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, aims at teaching people to take care of themselves and then to work together. This allows each individual to develop self-reliance and in turn enables each team to accomplish their collective goals.

I think these time-tested principles are very relevant to our search for ways to help our young people and our society. They aren't new—ask any good coach, teacher or VOC project leader—but they do work.

Along those lines, I think we should try to afford more young people the chance to confront challenges, tap into personal reservoirs of resourcefulness, and pull together as a group. And in the West as nowhere else we have a way to provide those experiences—outdoors, on the public lands.

That's why VOC and its projects benefit not only our young people, but people of all ages to get closer to the land and develop stronger ties to their communities, their families and themselves. That's also a major reason why I am a strong supporter of VOC and also why I have introduced legislation in the Congress to promote more volunteerism like the work of VOC—especially on our public lands.

In just a couple of weeks, we will be celebrating Earth Day. VOC, and the work it does every day, demonstrates the very principles that Earth Day was designed to celebrate and encourage. Earth Day gives us a chance to take stock of where we are and where we are going in our relationship with this planet. In this spirit and in recognizing the continuing work of VOC and all its participants, I'd like to read something that was written by my uncle, Stewart Udall.

As many of you know, Stewart was Secretary of the Interior under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. His book, *The Quiet Crisis*, was considered by many to be a precursor to

the environmental beliefs that lead to the creation of the first Earth Day over 30 years ago. His book, like the work of VOC, opened the eyes of many as to what we are doing to the environment that sustains and enriches our lives. One passage that I think applies to the values of VOC reads:

Each generation has its own rendezvous with the land, for despite our fee titles and claims of ownership, we are all brief tenants on this planet. By choice, or by default, we will carve out a land legacy for our heirs. We can misuse the land and diminish the usefulness of resources, or we can create a world in which physical affluence and affluence of the spirit go hand in hand.

These words reflect the ethic that VOC invokes everyday—and I can think of no better way to mark its 20th anniversary. I wish VOC continued success for the next 20 years and beyond.

CONGRATULATIONS WOODBURY
ROYALS' GIRLS BASKETBALL
TEAM

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2003

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Woodbury Royals' Girls Basketball team on their Class 4A Minnesota State High School Girl's Basketball championship. The Royals finished a perfect 29–0 with their 61–42 victory over the Eastview Lightning, in a game that showcased the number 1 and number 2 ranked teams in the State. This is the first State girls basketball title for the Royals in their 10th trip to the tournament. Coached by Dave Preller, the Royals capitalized on their scoring opportunities, sinking 25 of 29 free throws. Woodbury placed four players on the all tournament team: Sophomore Amanda Nisleit, junior Katie Tacheny and seniors Lacy Gram and Katie Kirley. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the fine students and coaches from Woodbury High School on their championship season. I know the citizens of Woodbury and all of Minnesota are proud of their accomplishment.

PIKE WINS INDIANA STATE BOYS
BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2003

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Pike High School, Indianapolis, IN, on winning the Indiana State Boys Basketball Championship (Class 4A). Pike's Red Devils defeated the DeKalb Barons 65–52, to claim the championship and end the season with a perfect record of 29–0.

Congratulations to Coach Larry Bullington and the Pike Red Devils players: David Barlow, Dominic Collins, Michael Russell, Adrian Rosales, Torrian Bluit, Robert Vaden, Darren Yates, Courtney Lee, Devin Thomas, Michael McCoy, Sydney McDaniel, Keith Davney, Justin Cage, and Parnell Smith.

The Indiana State Boys Basketball Championship was played at Conseco Fieldhouse in

Indianapolis, IN. This is the third title the Red Devils have won in the past six years.

It has been an outstanding year for the Red Devils whose hardwork and dedication has led the team to a victorious season. Although the Red Devils were runner's up during last years State Finals, their perseverance and desire to win has allowed them ultimate success in 2003.

Again, an outstanding example of perfect teamwork.

Congratulations to the Red Devils! Job well done. You've made us proud!

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. HELEN
WISE SCOTT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to a friend of the Sixth District of New Jersey. Mrs. Helen Wise Scott, is an outstanding individual, who is being honored by the National Association of Negro & Professional Women's Club of Central New Jersey for her unselfish service to others and community involvement.

Mrs. Scott is this year's Recipient of the Sojourner Truth Award, which is presented annually to an individual whose life is devoted to community enrichment, active involvement to improve social and economic conditions, and a strong courageous character. Mrs. Helen Scott's life truly parallels the life of Sojourner Truth, as evidenced by her commitment to helping those less fortunate.

Helen Scott is the youngest daughter of the late Louis and Annabelle Wise of Cape May, N.J. Helen Scott's commitment to education was evident early on. She graduated from Cape May High School and went on to receive her bachelor's degree from Combs College of Music in Philadelphia. Later she attended Monmouth University where she was awarded a Master's in Education. Afterwards, Mrs. Scott felt the need to share her joy of learning with those around her and accepted a position with the Asbury Park School District to teach music. She was the first African American music teacher to be hired in the district. It was there that she presented numerous musicals and choral programs, exposing many African American youths to music and the theatre.

As a child advocate Mrs. Scott has been actively involved with many organizations and boards that are concerned with the education and welfare of children. She has served on the Board of Monmouth Day Care Center for over three decades and is presently on its Advisory Board. Mrs. Scott was a member of the Community Coordinated Child Care Committee of Monmouth County for several years. Most recently, she was appointed to serve on the Presidential Roundtable by President George W. Bush.

Mrs. Scott's other community service activities have been wide and varied even though she is a child advocate at heart. You may see her, along with her daughter, delivering bagels to the homeless shelter in Fort Monmouth or to the Mercy Center in Asbury Park. Mrs. Scott is also a longtime member of St. Augustine's Episcopal Church in Asbury Park where she formally served as choir director.

Recently, she was elected to the vestry, which is the governing body of the church.

Through her tireless efforts Helen Scott has fostered a sense of community in her area and strived to help those less fortunate than herself. Mrs. Scott, like Sojourner Truth, is an extraordinary individual who is dedicated to enriching the lives of those around her. On this day I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the distinguished Helen Wise Scott.

COMMENDING MR. DON NOVEY

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2003

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to commend and thank Mr. Don Novey who recently retired as president of the California Correctional Peace Officers Association (CCPOA) for his many years of dedication to improving public safety in the State of California.

A sixth-generation Californian born in Sacramento, Don Novey earned an Associate of Arts degree from American River College. After concluding counterintelligence service with the U.S. Army in 1971, Don followed in his father's footsteps by becoming a correctional officer at Folsom State Prison. This decision was one that not only shaped his own future, but eventually resulted in dramatic changes for the entire profession in California. Although he was promoted to sergeant in 1977 and became a lieutenant in 1984, Don's most significant professional advancement took place within the leadership ranks of CCPOA.

Because of his discouragement over the generally negative perception and portrayal of "prison guards" at the time, Don ran to become the union's statewide vice president in 1979. Although unsuccessful in that bid, he was elected to the state presidency in 1980, thus beginning a 22-year tenure at the organization's helm. During that time, he transformed the CCPOA from a union with little political clout to one that today is arguably the most powerful and influential organization involved in state government policymaking. Under his leadership, the level of public respect for correctional officers increased substantially. At the same time, he succeeded in winning broad support from state leaders to improve training, safety, compensation, and working conditions for his colleagues.

While helping his association's membership, Don was equally responsible for helping to shape a wide array of policies dealing with public safety that have greatly benefited the people of California. Due in part to his efforts, the state strengthened its penalties for criminal behavior, especially violent crime. Don and his colleagues encouraged the California State Legislature and the governor to enact non-sense laws to address criminal recidivism, namely the "Three Strikes, You're Out" law.

It is important to note that Don's firm sense of justice is matched by his deep compassion for those who suffer injustice. In 1992, he helped establish the Crime Victims United of California; an organization which has aided those victimized by criminal behavior and their families. The group has elevated their plight in