

center infrastructure, with no assurances that people with disabilities or other target populations would continue to benefit from the funds. One-stop centers, while effective in certain populations, are not programmatically—or in many cases, physically—accessible for people with disabilities.

In this time of state budget constraints, 37 state VR agencies are operating under such limited resources that they have instituted an “order of selection” policy, serving people with the most severe disabilities first. They are being forced to leave behind increasing numbers of eligible individuals who want to work. H.R. 1261 would exacerbate this situation, by taking funds from the successful VR programs to fund programs that cannot reach their target population. In light of the unemployment crisis faced by our Nation and staggering 70 percent unemployment rate in the disability community, it is critical that we preserve the funding stream for VR programs.

Please vote against H.R. 1261.

HONORING DR. JANIS LYNN
PAUSHTER UPON HER RETIRE-
MENT

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud supporter of the excellent Fairfax County, Virginia, Public School System to recognize one of its shining lights. Dr. Janis Lynn Paushter, a 26-year contributor to our nationally recognized school system and principal of Fairhill Elementary School since 1991, is retiring at the end of this year's term.

The common sentiment of parents, teachers and students at Fairhill School on learning of her decision to retire is disappointment. Dr. Paushter is loved and respected throughout the Fairhill community for her leadership qualities, her excellence as a role model, her talents as a fair and trusted administrator and her genuine love for her students, associates and her position.

Dr. Paushter earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Syracuse University, her Master's degree from Columbia University, and conducted additional post-graduate studies at George Mason University. She has been honored with numerous educational awards and has been invited to lecture on educational matters at Oxford University in England, Korea, and China.

Later this year, she will be relocating to Florida to establish a horse ranch with help from her two Jack Russell terriers and her German shepherd. Thanks to her talents as a mentor, her shining light will not be extinguished as she leaves, but illuminated more brightly through her associates and students.

I ask her colleagues to join me today in recognizing and commending Dr. Janis Paushter for her untiring support of thousands of Fairfax County students and in thanking her for all she has accomplished for education during her illustrious career.

WORKFORCE REINVESTMENT AND
ADULT EDUCATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1261) to enhance the workforce investment system of the Nation by strengthening one-stop career centers; providing for more effective governance arrangements, promoting access to a more comprehensive array of employment, training, and related services, establishing a targeted approach to serving youth, and improving performance accountability, and for other purposes:

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to urge all of my colleagues to vote against H.R. 1261, the Workforce Investment and Adult Education Act (WIA). WIA authorizes and funds employment, training, literacy, and vocational rehabilitation programs for adults and dislocated workers, as well as activities for disadvantaged and low-income youth.

I have numerous concerns with the legislation before this House. However, I want to briefly discuss just two of the reasons that make this bill flawed.

H.R. 1261 would jeopardize the quality of training provided to workers. This bill fails to help the thousands of Americans who are looking for work or in need of additional job training. H.R. 1261 takes away dedicated funding for vulnerable workers by consolidating funding for Employment Services and service to adults and dislocated workers into block grants. Mr. Speaker, given that unemployment numbers for the month of April rose to 6 percent, a four-month high, it does not make sense that this vital program would lose funding.

But most troubling is the fact that H.R. 1261 would permit faith-based organizations that receive WIA funds to hire or fire employees based on religion. This reverses the federal government's stance of fighting against federally-funded discrimination by exempting religious organizations from anti-discrimination requirements. It also reverses the policy that until now has been supported on a bipartisan basis—because it is the only right and sensible policy. It is the only true American policy.

I ask my colleagues to reject this bill. Provisions in H.R. 1261 would undermine programs designed to aid dislocated workers and public policy aimed at protecting workers from discrimination. American workers need and deserve better.

WORKFORCE REINVESTMENT AND
ADULT EDUCATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1261) to enhance the workforce investment system of the Nation by strengthening one-stop career centers, providing for more effective governance

arrangements, promoting access to a more comprehensive array of employment, training, and related services, establishing a targeted approach to serving youth, and improving performance accountability, and for other purposes:

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Chairman, last week, the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced that the unemployment rate rose to 6 percent. In my home state of Wisconsin, we had the fourth highest number of massive layoffs in the country behind much larger states like California and Texas. Sadly, it seems like many here in Washington have gotten used to these grim statistics; after all, under the economic stewardship of President Bush we've lost close to more than 2.7 million jobs since he took office. We have been losing 73,000 jobs a month, which accounts for President Bush having the worst jobs creation record of any President in U.S. history.

We can't count on the stewardship of the Bush administration to get America back to work. It has become clear that this Congress needs to step up and put the task squarely upon its shoulders. This week we have a chance to do this as we take up the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and the proposed tax cut. Both of these bills are important in how we not only help people find and maintain jobs, but how we will create new ones. However, I believe we may miss our opportunity to accomplish these goals unless both bills are torn up and rewritten. Today, I would like to specifically talk about the WIA.

The WIA was signed into law in 1998 with the intent of cementing the Federal government's commitment in helping states improve their employment, training, literacy, and vocational rehabilitation programs. Before the act was signed into law, states had a fragmented and duplicative number of programs that were meant to help prepare workers for jobs and to assist them in their searches.

Since its inception, thousands of displaced workers, veterans, and young adults have taken part in—and relied on—programs implemented by the WIA. The “one-stop” system created by WIA has provided them with consolidated services, such as job retraining classes, to get them out of unemployment lines and back onto the payrolls. Title II of the Act has played a critical role in helping adults with low-literacy, basic skill levels and limited English proficiency, by providing them with the training, tools and skills necessary to compete in today's knowledge-driven workforce.

The bill before us today takes the progress made over the last four years and stops it in its tracks. The WIA was custom designed to be effective in an economic downturn like the one we are experiencing now. American workers need the WIA strengthened, not scaled back, but that's exactly what the House Republicans want to do.

Those who have are unemployed will run out of unemployment insurance benefits in 23 days. The last time we extended unemployment benefits was shortly after Christmas and the holidays—when many people had already run out of benefits. For many families, the restoration of benefits was too little, too late. By not including the extension of unemployment benefits in this bill, we will in all likelihood delay helping workers who need it most. Not only does this diminish the original intent of this legislation, but it's also a slap in the face

to the unemployed moms and dads who will to worry if they will be able to pay their mortgage and put food on the table. This is just wrong.

The bill today also block grants adult, dislocated worker, and employment service funding streams. In doing so, the bill would eliminate the funding focus for dislocated workers and terminates the existence of the employment service—the very service which connects individuals to jobs. By block granting the money, it also permits Governors to take funds from partner programs such as Adult Education, and Veterans Reemployment and job training programs for individuals with disabilities to fund other state workforce programs or other administrative costs. Governors would be allowed to take any amount of funding from any of these programs. Given the fact that 45 states have budget deficits, I believe the opportunity to use these funds for other purposes will be too tempting of a fruit for Governors not to pick.

To make matters worse, the bill removes a civil-rights protection that bans employment discrimination based on religious affiliation. This bill allows organizations receiving funds—taxpayers dollars—through WIA to discriminate in hiring based on religion. I believe this provision only serves to politicize the debate surrounding this bill and takes away from the debate we should be having, which is that we should be doing everything we can to help any unemployed worker find a job, not making it easier to discriminate against someone because of what they believe.

The WIA has played a critical role in coordinating state efforts to find people jobs and provide essential services to some of our most vulnerable citizens. At a time when our President's economic plan continues to fail in creating jobs and putting our economy back on the right track, now is not the time to weaken the WIA. I urge my colleagues to vote "NO" on H.R. 1261 and to bring a better bill—one that reflects Congress' commitment to putting Americans back to work—to the floor.

**WORKFORCE REINVESTMENT AND
ADULT EDUCATION ACT OF 2003**

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

The House in Committee of the
Whole House on the State of the Union

had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1261) to enhance the workforce investment system of the Nation by strengthening one-stop career centers, providing for more effective governance arrangements, promoting access to a more comprehensive array of employment, training, and related services, establishing a targeted approach to serving youth, and improving performance accountability, and for other purposes:

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 1261, especially in regard to the provisions in Section 123, which allows discrimination when a faith-based group runs job-training programs.

This provision sets a bad precedent for our Nation and I believe it does not belong in this bill. We should honor the separation between church and state set-forth by the Constitution. One of the most important rights we treasure in this country is the right to religious freedom. That's why I believe religion should continue to be a matter of personal choice and not something that is supported or dictated by the Federal Government.

Mr. Chairman, I am concerned that this provision inappropriately blurs the separation between church and state by subsidizing faith-based groups without requiring them to comply with federal non-discrimination laws. This means they could allow refuse to hire people who disagree with the organizations religious views. Employers could use religion to make promotional decisions or as a litmus test for hiring and firing. We would be allowing federal dollars to fund discrimination and that is wrong!

While proponents of this provision argue that they would be expanding opportunities for faith-based organizations, they would really be destroying a basic civil right protection that has existed in federal job training for 21 years. Religiously affiliated organizations currently participate in Federal job training programs with the non-discrimination clause in place. Yet, lifting the discrimination prohibitions will do nothing more than encourage discriminatory practices within these organizations.

Mr. Chairman, I am strongly against these Section 123 provisions and I encourage my colleagues to join me in opposing this flawed legislation.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE WALCK
FAMILY**

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to congratulate the inspirational cattle-ranching Walck family of Plateau Valley, Colorado. The Walcks have labored morning to night for generations in this difficult but important occupation. Their efforts truly embody the American Spirit and our shared Western heritage. The Walcks serve as an example of the hard work and dedication that has made our nation great. It is an honor to pay tribute to their success before this body of Congress and this nation. Through their labors together, they serve also as an inspiration to families everywhere.

Until they retired in the mid 1990's, Dean, Roylee, Scott and Betty raised over three hundred cattle, with dedication and professionalism. They have been actively involved in numerous organizations dedicated to the improvement of the American cattle industry, including the Colorado Cattlemen's Association, the Colorado Hereford Association, the Simmental Association, the Mesa County Stockgrowers and the Plateau County Stockgrowers. Roylee also served with distinction as the state president of the Colorado Cowbells, and with Betty, has long been an active member of the Plateau Valley Cattlewomen. For their service and dedication, the Plateau Valley Cattlewomen will honor them soon at their Stockgrower's Banquet and Ball.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege for me to recognize Dean, Roylee, Scott and Betty Walck before this body of Congress and this nation. Their contributions to Plateau Valley and the heritage of the West is appreciated, and I am happy to bring them to the attention of my colleagues here today. They are a strong family who care much for Colorado and our Country. I wish them all the best.