

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 23, 2003.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 23, 2003 at 3:17 p.m.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2185.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. Res. 51.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 23, 2003.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 23, 2003 at 12:10 p.m.

That the Senate agreed to conference report H.R. 2.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair desires to announce that pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the Speaker pro tempore TOM DAVIS of Virginia signed the following enrolled bills and joint resolution on Friday, May 23, 2003:

H.R. 2, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201 of the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2004;

H.R. 2185, to extend the Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 2002; and

H.J. Res. 51, increasing the statutory limit on the public debt.

MONUMENTAL DEFECT IN TAX BILL

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, as the ink is now drying on the tax bill of 2 weeks ago, and as the President and the Republican Party were looting the Treasury and the Social Security System of this Nation on behalf of the wealthiest people

in this Nation, we now see there is a monumental defect in this bill in terms of its unfairness and its greed, and that is that millions of working families making wages between \$10,500 a year and \$26,000 a year will not get to participate in the increase and in the child tax credit. That means they will not get their \$400 increase this summer that families with children are entitled to get under the tax bill.

Why? Because Republicans simply decided that these people were not worthy of that tax cut, as though it was less expensive to raise their children or their children were not equal to the children of people making over \$30,000 a year. An incredible act. An incredible act of greed. An incredible act of unfairness to hard-working families in this country.

TAX BILL CREATES NEW JOBS

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I just want to speak and say a few positive things about the tax bill that was so heavily attacked a moment ago. I had the opportunity in North Carolina over the past weekend to speak to a group concerning the positive aspects of this thing, the job-creation part of it.

As many of my colleagues in this body recognize, I own a small manufacturing company in Hickory, North Carolina; and the tax benefits in this program, with the increased appreciation, makes decisions much more likely to be made, at least as far as my own little company is concerned.

With that 50 percent tax break and depreciation allowance the first year, we have made a decision that we made today, before I left home, that we will purchase a machine that costs \$150,000. That machine, the moment it is delivered to our company, will create six jobs.

I do not know what else anybody else knows about this tax bill, I know there is a whole bunch of discussion about taxes for the rich and taxes for the poor, but this idea of creating new jobs by our tax bill is first class, and I want to say I greatly appreciate it.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 2003

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair

will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

EXPRESSING PROFOUND SORROW ON THE OCCASION OF THE DEATH OF IRMA RANGEL

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 159) expressing profound sorrow on the occasion of the death of Irma Rangel.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 159

Whereas Irma Rangel, in 1977, became the first Mexican-American woman ever elected to the Texas House of Representatives;

Whereas Irma Rangel served the great State of Texas and the people of Kingsville with honor and distinction for 26 years as a Member of the Texas House of Representatives;

Whereas Irma Rangel was Chairwoman of the Texas House of Representatives Committee on Higher Education and was a tireless advocate of educational opportunities for all students;

Whereas Irma Rangel recognized the value of higher education for all young people of Texas and introduced the 10 percent rule legislation that entitled all highly motivated and successful Texas high school students who graduated in the top 10 percent of their high school class to be admitted into Texas institutions of higher education, marking a shift in college admissions;

Whereas Irma Rangel recognized the importance of creating a professional school of pharmacy in South Texas and worked diligently to realize that vision;

Whereas Irma Rangel was a staunch supporter of Texas Grant 1 and Texas Grant 2, which provided tuition and fees for students who graduated under the recommended plan and extended those opportunities to community college students;

Whereas Irma Rangel dedicated her life to make Texas better for all its citizenry, improve the quality of life for the people she served, and especially expand educational opportunities for the young people of Texas;

Whereas the life and legacy of Irma Rangel serve as an inspiration for the young people of Texas and for the poor and powerless for whom she fought so passionately;

Whereas Irma Rangel was a role model for young Hispanic female students in achieving success;

Whereas Irma Rangel placed high value on self-empowerment, which enabled individuals to access opportunities to achieve their goals; and

Whereas Irma Rangel will forever be remembered for her signature phrase, "Will this hurt or help?" when addressing pending legislation before the Texas House of Representatives: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) has learned with profound sorrow of the death of Irma Rangel on March 18, 2003, and extends condolences to her family;

(2) expresses its deep gratitude to Irma Rangel and her family for the service that she rendered to the State of Texas;

(3) recognizes with appreciation and respect Irma Rangel's exemplary commitment to public service and her constituents; and

(4) esteems Irma Rangel as a role model for generations to come in South Texas and the entire Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 159, the resolution now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 159, introduced by my distinguished colleague from the State of Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA), expresses profound sorrow on the occasion of the death of Irma Rangel.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is a fitting tribute to the life and career of a remarkable public servant who passed away in March. Irma Rangel was the first Mexican American woman elected to the Texas State House of Representatives, and she was every bit as trailblazing as this distinction might suggest.

First elected in 1976, Representative Rangel was best known for her outspoken work on educational issues, largely because she was a schoolteacher and principal prior to her career in government. She rose to the Chair of the House Higher Education Committee in 1995 in Texas. Her political career was as well known for her humility as it was for her many accomplishments, as she delighted only in improving the lives of her Texas constituents.

Irma Rangel sadly lost her valiant struggle against cancer on March 18, 2003. The Texas Governor ordered all State office building flags to be flown at half mast on the day she passed away.

All Texans, and indeed all Americans, will miss Irma Rangel for her unrelenting passion and devotion to all people. Therefore, I urge all Members to support the adoption of House Resolution 159 that honors Representative Irma Rangel, and I thank my colleague from Texas for introducing this important measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA), who is the originator of this bill.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for yielding me this time. I also want to thank the chairman of the committee, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM

DAVIS); the ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN); our minority leader, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI); and the Republican leadership for bringing this legislation to the floor today.

I rise today as the original sponsor of House Resolution 159 expressing profound sorrow on the occasion of the death of Irma Rangel, a courageous legislator and a great Texan.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to honor a true Texas legend. Irma Rangel was the first Mexican American woman elected to the Texas House of Representatives, where she served her South Texas constituents for 26 years. She served on the Higher Education Committee for most of her career and became chairwoman in 1995, a leadership position she held until Republicans won control of the House this year. She stayed on as vice chair of the committee until she passed away.

Her legacy includes over 25 years of working to improve minority access to higher education. During her 26-year tenure in the Texas House, Ms. Rangel devoted her efforts to increasing the educational attainment of Hispanics, bringing economic development to Texas, and empowering Texas youth with the tools they needed for success.

It was Irma Rangel's landmark legislation that ensured that all Texas high school seniors who graduate in the top 10 percent of their class would be able to attend any public university in the State of Texas, including the University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University at College Station.

Representative Rangel was always ready to engage her colleagues, not only on the pressing issues of the day, but she also sought to raise issues that had been forgotten or ignored yet were important to average working families.

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Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Rangel was famous for her quote, "Will it help or hurt?" She was also known to say, "Why not here? Why not in Kingsville?" And after dialogue, she took action. She fought for her constituents to ensure their needs were addressed by the Texas legislature.

Her relentless efforts to help establish a school of pharmacy at Texas A&M University, Kingsville, the first professional school in South Texas, has emerged as one of her greatest contributions as a State representative.

Not only was Representative Rangel a great State leader, she was an exceptional and courageous example of how to live with cancer. She has survived two bouts of cancer before valiantly battling brain cancer, which ultimately took her life. Irma was a positive force in educating women who faced the same adversities. Her straight talk, get-it-done demeanor, helped open the dialogue on the issue of cancer and treatments.

Irma Rangel was preceded in death by her parents, Herminia L. Rangel and

P.M. Rangel and her sister Olga Rangel Lumley. She is survived by her sister Minnie Rangel Henderson and her brother-in-law Howard A. Henderson, nieces Debbie Henderson and Margo Hoover and nephews Dino Henderson and Marc Lumley.

I hope my colleagues will join me in extending the condolences of this Congress to these surviving family members, expressing its deep gratitude to Irma Rangel and her family for the service that she rendered to the great State of Texas, recognizing with appreciation and respect her exemplary commitment to public service and to her constituents, and esteeming Irma Rangel as a role model for generations to come in South Texas and the entire Nation.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Texas will miss Irma's unique style and engaging dialogue. She will be remembered for her great contributions in making Texas a better State for all of its people.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for authoring this legislation. I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I will simply indicate that I am pleased to join with the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) and the gentleman from Texas in extolling the virtues of this pioneer who has contributed greatly to the development of pride and to education in her native Texas. She is indeed a role model, and I join with both my colleagues in extending condolences to her family.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to former Texas State Representative, Irma Rangel, who passed away after a long battle with cancer on March 18, 2003, at the age of 71.

Throughout her career, Irma Rangel was a trailblazer among Mexican-American women. Born in Kingsville, TX, in 1931, Irma was a pioneer advocating for women, minorities, and the poor, ensuring a voice for those who might otherwise remain voiceless. Continuing on her path of breaking down barriers, Irma became one of the first Hispanic female law clerks for Federal District Judge Adrian Spears.

In 1976, after 14 years of teaching in Texas and graduated from St. Mary's Law School, Irma became the first Mexican American woman to serve in the Texas House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, this great leader spent much of her time in the Texas state house fighting for equal opportunity in education. In her fourth term, Irma joined the House Higher Education Committee, focusing on higher education because it was not guaranteed by the Texas Constitution. She once said her proudest moment was passing legislation in 2001, to establish a pharmacy school at Texas A&M University-Kingsville. In 1997, after the controversial Hopwood decision, the case that struck down affirmative action in college admission at the University of Texas, Irma passed legislation to allow all students in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating

class automatic admission to any of the State's colleges or universities.

Mr. Speaker, Irma fought tirelessly to the end of her life for improved education. Despite her illness, she waited an hour and a half to testify before a House Appropriations Committee hearing over proposed funding cuts for South Texas universities and community colleges.

I would like to especially thank my colleague and fellow Texan RUBÉN HINOJOSA for leading a special order in honor of Irma Rangel. Irma Rangel was a trailblazer and champion of Texas. Irma was not just a leader in Texas politics but also inspiration to all of us in the Texas delegation. I am certainly proud to have had an opportunity to serve with her and learn from her example. Irma was absolutely delightful, which made our working relationship so wonderful. I will miss her bubbly and cheerful spirit. The people of Texas and her constituents in Kingsville will miss her and her colleagues will fondly remember her courage, determination, humility, and devotion to public service.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my Texas colleague's resolution expressing profound sorrow on the occasion of the death of State Representative Irma Rangel. On March 18, 2003, the Nation lost a leader, Texas lost a hero, and I lost a friend.

Irma was a veterans of the Texas House of Representatives, having been first elected in 1976. She was the first Mexican-American woman elected to the House and I was privileged to work and serve with Irma for almost 10 years.

She was a vocal proponent of higher education and services for the poor. During her 13 sessions in the House, Rangel spent most of her time and energy on minority and educational issues. She knew her issues, and she knew how to overcome any obstacle.

In response to the Hopwood v. Texas decision, which ended affirmative action at all Texas state colleges and universities, Irma sponsored the 10 percent law, which grants admission to State colleges and universities to students who graduate in the top 10 percent of their high school class.

Irma grew up in Kingsville. She was the daughter of a man who picked cotton, learned to read and write on his own and later owned two barbershops and several other businesses.

She taught for 14 years in schools in Robstown and Alice, in Venezuela and in Menlo Park, CA. In the later 1960s, Irma decided to pursue her lifelong dream of becoming an attorney. She received her law degree from St Mary's University School of Law and was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1969.

Irma worked as a law clerk for U.S. District Judge Adrian A Spears of San Antonio, who was the chief justice for the Western District of Texas.

She also worked as an assistant district attorney in Corpus Christi before returning to her hometown in 1973 to open her own law practice.

Irma was inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame in 1994. She also received the Legislator of the Year award from the Mexican American Bar Association of Texas, the Women's Political Caucus' Texas Mexican-American Woman of the Year in 1979, the Unsung Heroines Award in 1991 from the Women's Advocacy Project, the Latina Lawyer of the

Year from the Hispanic National Bar Association and the Texas Woman of the Century from the Women's Chamber of Commerce of Texas.

She the first Hispanic in the state to receive the Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award from the American Bar Association's Commission on Women in the profession.

Irma touched the lives of all those who were fortunate enough to know her. Her absence leaves a big hole in the Texas Legislature and in our hearts.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her sister, Herminia Rangel Henderson of Kingsville.

I would like to conclude my remarks by quoting from an editorial in the Houston Chronicle shortly after the announcement of her death: "Irma Rangel was small in stature, but she was always a large force in the Legislature for all those underserved by government and needing help. She was a trailblazer with a strong voice for many in Texas who had been unheard."

Irma was a trailblazer. The State of Texas is a much better place because of her work. She will be missed.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute today to my fellow Texan Irma Rangel, who passed away in March at age 71. Rangel was the first Hispanic woman to serve in the Texas legislature and, more importantly, worked tirelessly and courageously on behalf of the next generation of Texans, by vigorously supporting education and expanding economic opportunities for our youth.

Irma Rangel, who spent 26 years in the Texas House of Representatives and was Chairwoman of its Committee on Higher Education, is probably best known today for introducing the 10 percent rule legislation that entitled all highly motivated and successful Texas high school students who graduated in the top 10 percent of their class to be admitted into public institutions of higher education throughout Texas.

I urge all my colleagues to remember Irma Rangel and support House Resolution 159, which expresses the profound sorrow of this House on the occasion of her death. I would also like to thank my colleague, Congressman RUBÉN HINOJOSA, for offering this very appropriate resolution.

Irma Rangel was an inspiration to us all, in her commitment to helping working families, in her bravery as she faced cancer and in her dedication to public service.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, the State of Texas has lost one of its great voices, a leader with passion and energy working to improve the lives of the people she represented. We mourn the death of Texas Representative Irma Rangel who served nobly in the Texas Legislature for more than 25 years. She was a trailblazer as the first Hispanic woman to be elected to the Texas House of Representatives and the first woman to serve as chair of the Mexican American Legislative Caucus. We will miss her strength, courage, vision, and her straight talk.

A close friend, an advocate for poor families and women in South Texas, Representative Rangel consistently fought to improve the quality and accessibility of education for her constituents. Her advocacy helped create the school of pharmacy at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, the first professional school in South Texas. She also was a driving force in

securing passage of the 10 percent plan, which makes the top 10 percent of students in every high school eligible for admission to any state college or university, in the wake of the devastating Hopwood decision.

Her commitment to the people and families of South Texas, especially in improving access to higher education, has left a lasting legacy. Irma Rangel will be remembered as a woman who, through her lifetime of work and service, demonstrated her commitment to community. We will all miss her.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support of H. Res. 159, expressing this Congress's sorrow at the passing of Texas State Representative Irma Rangel. Representative Rangel was a fighter for the rights of the economically disadvantaged in Texas and it is fitting that this Congress recognizes her contribution to our country.

In 1977 Irma became the first Mexican-American woman elected to the Texas Legislature. She served for 26 years the people of Kingsville in South Texas. She was a strong advocate for increasing access to education for the people of South Texas as well as for all Texans and she served as Chairwoman of the Texas House of Representatives Committee on Higher Education. Her relentless energy resulted in significant increases in higher education funding in South Texas, the expansion of the state's community college efforts and the creation of a much needed pharmacy school in her District.

Mr. Speaker, Irma Rangel was a Texas pioneer. Her tireless commitment to her job inspired many others, especially Hispanic women in Texas, to pursue a career in public service. I thank Congressman HINOJOSA for introducing this legislation and I yield back my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 159.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, on that, I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CONGRATULATING SAMMY SOSA OF CHICAGO CUBS FOR HITTING 500 MAJOR LEAGUE HOME RUNS

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 195) congratulating Sammy Sosa of the Chicago Cubs for hitting 500 major league home runs.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 195

Whereas Sammy Sosa of the Chicago Cubs hit a home run in the seventh inning on Friday, April 3, 2003, against the Cincinnati Reds at the Great American Ball Park;