

authorities to establish a school nutrition policy, I would suggest by July of 2005, that, at a minimum, gives the school food director operational responsibility for foods sold on campus. We should request that the Institute of Medicine at the National Academy of Sciences recommend to the Secretary nutritional standards for school foods. The Food and Nutrition Service should be required to place a greater emphasis on fruits and vegetables in the commodities programs and school meals.

Mr. Speaker, we need to pass a reauthorization that expands the current fruit and vegetable pilot programs so they reach more students. We must authorize grants to nonprofits and local school districts for farm-to-cafeteria projects which include nutritional education activities, which incorporate the participation of school children in farm and agricultural education projects.

In addition, we must eliminate the reduced price category of meals to allow children and families up to 185 percent of poverty to receive a free meal. The children that are designated in this reduced-price category are really between a rock and a hard place when it comes to eating at school. These are children that are both hungry and in many cases embarrassed because their parents are often not able to send the money to school to pay for their meals. It would be better if this category were removed and all children eligible would be treated the same in the nutrition programs.

Mr. Speaker, as we reauthorize the Child Nutrition Act, I hope my concerns are addressed and we can ensure healthy meals for our children in school; and with that, I do support H.R. 3232.

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

Mr. Speaker, just as a final thought, children are about 25 percent of our population. They are 100 percent of the future of this Nation, and what they eat really will equate to what our future will be. We must make sure that we do the best job we can for every child in this country.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I have listened intently to the speakers here today. We are all concerned about getting the reauthorization of these programs done correctly, and that is going to take some final work, but all of us, I am sure, are in total agreement of the significance and importance of the programs, and, hopefully, when all is said and done, in 6 months we will be able to do that. For now, it is essential that we pass H.R. 3232.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support for H.R. 3232, which would extend the authorization for the expiring portions of child nutrition legislation for an additional six months. This bill, which was introduced by my colleague Mr. CASTLE, is also cosponsored by

the Ranking Member of the Committee, Mr. MILLER, and Ms. WOOLSEY, Ranking Member on the Education Reform Subcommittee. I thank all of them for their support.

The Child Nutrition programs include the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs; the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (or WIC); the Child and Adult Care Food Program; the After School Snack Program; and the Summer Food Service Program.

These invaluable programs—which are responsible for providing nutritious meals to millions of children and adults every day—are due for reauthorization this year. In order to ensure that the Committee has the opportunity to consider the reauthorization process carefully, we are seeking to extend the current authorization an additional six months.

This bill contains one provision of particular importance to our nation's soldiers, sailors and airmen. If this legislation is not approved, the children of Armed Forces members who live in privatized military housing and who are eligible for free and reduced-price lunch will lose their school meal subsidies. This would be an insult to these parents who work every day to secure our nation's freedom.

In addition, this legislation contains a provision that allow for-profit child care centers to continue to participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and to continue to provide meals and snacks to centers where at least 25 percent of the children enrolled meet the income eligibility requirements for free and reduced-price lunch.

Parents will always bear primary responsibility for their children's health and nutrition, but this bill provides assistance for those who are having trouble making ends meet. The overall goal of all of the child nutrition programs is to make sure that low-income children and families have access to low-cost meals and snacks that are safe and nutritious. The reauthorization process is a chance for us to look at the current system and see how well it is meeting those goals. We must take into account a number of actors, including efficiency, nutrition, cost-effectiveness, and protecting school revenue. We would like to take this additional six months to be sure that we address all of these issues to the best of our ability.

This bipartisan bill is a simple, straightforward tool to make sure that we are serving the millions of low-income children who depend upon the programs contained in the Child Nutrition and Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Acts. I hope you will join me and my colleagues in voting "yes" on H.R. 3232.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3232, legislation to reauthorize certain school lunch and child nutrition programs.

The federal child nutrition programs continue to be a great success story. The National School Lunch program, enacted in 1946 as a measure of national security, currently serves more than 28 million children each day.

The need for this program has never been greater. With childhood obesity growing at an alarming rate—especially among low income and minority populations—it has never been more critical that our children have access to high quality, nutritious food choices at school.

The legislation we are considering today is only a temporary reauthorization, since this

program expires and we have not completed the heavy lifting necessary for a full five year authorization.

I urge my colleagues who are working on this issue to make a number of significant improvements to these various childhood tuition programs, including:

Increasing the income limit for those children who qualify for a free lunch from 130% of the federal poverty limit to 185% of the federal poverty limit, thereby eliminating the reduced price category of this program;

Providing the USDA commodities for the School Breakfast Program;

Lowering the area eligibility guideline to 40% for the Child Care, at-risk after school and Summer Foodservice programs; and

Increasing the USDA reimbursement rates for child nutrition, consistent with a USDA analysis of the costs to produce a lunch. In most areas of the country, the cost to produce a school lunch is now greater than the reimbursement rate for a free lunch of \$2.14.

A child who is hungry cannot be expected to learn. A few years back, this Congress enacted legislation that promised no child will be left behind. If we are to keep that promise, we must ensure that all children have a healthy and nutritious lunch.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3232, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to reauthorize certain school lunch and child nutrition programs through March 31, 2004."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING INDEPENDENT 529 PLAN FOR LAUNCHING A PREPAID TUITION PLAN THAT WILL BENEFIT OUR NATION'S FAMILIES WHO WANT TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO PRIVATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 378) recognizing Independent 529 Plan for launching a prepaid tuition plan that will benefit our Nation's families who want to send their children to private colleges and universities, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 378

Whereas postsecondary education is increasingly important to the economic well-being of the United States, and the demand for individuals with postsecondary education continues to grow;

Whereas according to the United States Census Bureau, in 2001 a person with a bachelor's degree earned nearly 90 percent more, on average, than a person with only a high school diploma;

Whereas tuition at independent colleges and universities continues to grow at alarming rates and families need options for financing the high cost of a child's postsecondary education;

Whereas tuition and fees for the academic year 2003-2004 at independent colleges and universities in the United States averaged over \$18,000, and therefore postsecondary education is one of the most significant investments a family will make; and

Whereas prepaid tuition plans can make attendance at independent colleges and universities more affordable for thousands of our Nation's families by allowing them to lock in current tuition rates for future use: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes the more than 200 independent colleges and universities that together have addressed the need to help families pay for the increasing cost of attending college by creating the first nationwide prepaid tuition plan.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. McKEON) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. McKEON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. McKEON. 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. 378.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of H. Res. 378 which recognizes independent colleges and universities that participate in prepaid tuition planning.

□ 1430

I want to thank the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) for sponsoring this resolution that highlights the benefits of prepaid college tuition plans and the independent colleges and universities that participate in such plans.

Mr. Speaker, everyone in this Chamber clearly understands the benefits of a postsecondary education and that it expands career opportunities and increases earnings potential. As the resolution states, in 2001 a person with a bachelor's degree earned almost 90 percent more than a person with only a high school diploma. This resolution recognizes those that make completion of a postsecondary education and its benefits a bit more attainable.

This Congress, the Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness, which I chair, is focused on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. One of my primary concerns throughout the process is to ensure that the dream of a college education is available and indeed affordable to all those who strive for it. This is why I am pleased to support H. Res. 378, a measure that recognizes those colleges and universities that participate in programs that can help put college within reach.

H. Res. 378 draws attention to prepaid tuition plans, which allow families to prepare for the cost of a postsecondary

education. These plans originated in 1996 and were expanded in 2001 to allow for independent education institutions to establish their own prepaid tuition plans. During this time, both public and private institutions have begun participating in these prepaid tuition plans. While the specifics of these plans vary, at the heart of the plans is the ability of families to pay for academic periods or course units at current prices for a child who will attend college in the future.

I hear so often from constituents that college costs are increasing tremendously and parents are concerned that they will not be able to afford a postsecondary education for their children. We must work together to prevent students and families from being priced out of the higher education market and being priced out of their dreams. I believe that prepaid tuition plans offer parents important options for dealing with the college cost crisis, and we must encourage efforts to make college affordable and attainable. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution that recognizes the schools that participate in these plans.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 378 and second many of the remarks of my colleague from California. Prepaid tuition plans that have been set up by States have not provided options for students seeking to go to private universities. These plans typically allow a contributing individual to receive a guarantee that their tuition will be paid when they attend a public university in their State. This resolution before us identifies a plan that now provides students seeking to attend a private university with a prepaid tuition option. Those involved in the development of this plan should be congratulated for pushing to make this a reality.

Unfortunately, many existing State prepaid tuition plans have not fared well in our present economy. While unemployment has risen, the Bush administration has forced the reduction of options students and families have to pay for college. Twenty States have set up prepaid tuition plans but nearly all of them are in trouble. Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, Texas and Colorado have all suspended their plans. States are shutting the doors on these plans because the failed Bush economy has driven up college costs and reduced their investment options to essentially nothing.

In discussing the issue of how students and families pay for college, we cannot ignore the point raised by the gentleman from California, referring to his proposal to institute Federal price controls on college tuition. It has some immediate appeal until you think about it. This proposal would bar universities who have seen their budgets cut due to the sour economy from re-

ceiving Federal aid, including work-study opportunities for needy students. In other words, we would cut funds to them until they shape up. Worse yet, Historically Black Colleges and Hispanic Serving Institutions would be barred from receiving institutional aid or other aid. This loss of aid would hamper the mission of those institutions and would remove the opportunities for postsecondary education for some of our neediest students.

This proposal would also have serious unintended consequences. Colleges that are forced to cap their tuition increases will simply decrease the amount of need-based grant aid. This will result in students experiencing perhaps lower tuition levels but higher out-of-pocket costs. In addition, as labor and health care costs increase, institutions will be forced to sacrifice quality. Clearly, that is not in the public interest. This will be done through the hiring of adjunct professors rather than maintaining, for example, seasoned tenured faculty. Is this the cost-control measure we want our universities to implement?

Rather than creating new problems to solve an existing one, Congress should be considering what is the appropriate response to rising tuition costs. We should provide incentives to colleges and universities to hold down costs. The current Federal system of higher education financing does not incentivize schools to hold down their level of tuition increases. The Higher Education Act should not punish students and institutions through heavy-handed Federal price controls. Price controls rarely work. Rather, institutions should hold down tuition costs while increasing need-based grant aid, and they should be rewarded.

In addition, States should be required to maintain their level of effort on higher education spending. In years in which Congress increases student aid, those increases should benefit students, not be gobbled up by the need to balance State budgets. The cost of higher education is a complicated one. It is an important one. It is in the national interest to make college affordable and available for all qualified students. This resolution before us today points to a good way to manage the rising costs of college tuition. However, the other proposal advanced by the gentleman from California would be the wrong way to go.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to reiterate my support for the resolution we are presently considering.

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

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

We are here today to discuss H. Res. 378, but my good friend on the other side of the aisle has brought up some points of a bill that I introduced a week ago, and I would like to just correct a couple of things on the record. HBCs and HSIs are not addressed in the bill. Any funding cuts based on colleges

continuing to raise their tuition and fees at better than twice the rate of inflation would only have an effect on title IV funding. Also, he referred to cost controls. I lived through cost controls. I was a retailer in the 1970s when President Nixon imposed price controls. Let me explain the way price controls work. One day we were able to sell jeans at a certain price. When price controls took effect, we no longer could sell those jeans at any other price other than what the government set. The only way that we could ever increase our prices at a retail or wholesale level was if we went before a bureaucratic board set up by the government and explained our costs and they finally maybe granted us the ability to increase our prices.

That is not what I propose in my bill. What I propose in the bill is encouragement for the schools to keep their tuition and fees down. For the last 20 years, they have been raising them at four times the rate of people's ability to pay those college costs. We tell the schools, if they want to keep charging more, they can; but we do not have to keep giving them some of that \$65 billion of Federal aid that goes to the schools, not to the students.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER), the author of the resolution that is before us, H. Res. 378.

Ms. GRANGER. I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, Mark Twain once said, "Out of our schools grows the greatness of our Nation." Today I want to introduce you to the greatness of our Nation. I want you to meet Logan Granger. Yes, that is right, Granger. Logan is my grandchild. He is one of the loves of my life. I actually have two grandchildren, I have Logan and Jack, but today we are going to focus on Logan. When I look at Logan's big brown eyes, I absolutely melt and I want him to have the very best in the world. I want him to have the best education, the best job, the best family life. I want him to have everything. And I know the right place to start with making sure that Logan has it all is to make sure that Logan has the best education available.

Today, the finest education is marked by a college degree. When I taught, a high school certificate was a mark of success. Today, a college degree is a must. In the past 5 years, jobs requiring a college degree have increased almost nine times more than jobs requiring a high school diploma. The fact is that the college degree is a must-have for today's students. I believe little Logan should have the opportunity to have that college diploma. Logan should be able to attend the public or the private school of his dreams. In other words, he should have choice. But his family should also have affordability.

Unfortunately, we all know the cost of a college education can send any

parent or grandparent into financial hiding. Today at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, a college degree will cost about \$19,000 a year and students come from all over the world to attend there. When Logan is ready to go to TCU, or whatever school he chooses, schools like TCU could cost as much as \$45,000 a year. Yes, a year. It is sticker shock for all of us, but it is something we need to face. But before we decide the situation is futile, we need to recognize that with proper planning, a college education can be affordable.

For several years now, public schools have joined together in co-ops that work together to set up one prepaid plan for parents to pay into. Then when the young one is all grown up and is ready to go to college, the family can choose from a list of schools that participate in that plan. The result is choice and affordability in public education.

Today I am here to praise the expansion of the prepaid tuition plans. I introduced legislation that was signed into law 2 years ago that would allow private schools to join together and offer similar choice and affordability in education. Today I am here to congratulate the more than 200 private colleges and universities in the recent launch of their prepaid tuition plans. Together, the plans are known collectively as the independent 529 plan and many of the schools in Texas, including Texas Christian University and Southwestern University in Georgetown, are participants in this plan. The creation of this plan means that Logan's parents can save around \$100,000 in total private education. That is right. If Logan's parents buy into the independent 529 plan today, they can save around \$100,000. We are literally talking about tomorrow's education at today's price. The 529 plans are all about choice and affordability in private schools. Choice for Logan and affordability for his parents.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be the sponsor of House Resolution 378, which congratulates private colleges and universities for their ongoing commitment to make a college education affordable and accessible to thousands of families. This will mean more opportunity for more young people and more universities. That is a small price to pay for Logan or Jack or any other child for something as worthy as a college education.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I would just reply to my colleague from California that in describing his experience with price controls, his personal experience, I think he made a very good case against his proposal, and I think made it clear that the colleges and universities that are in the tightest financial straits, such as Historically Black Colleges and Hispanic Serving Institutions, those with a large number of work-study students, would be the ones that would be hurt most by that proposal.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), my colleague on the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

□ 1445

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 378, recognizing Independent 529 plans for launching a prepaid tuition plan. These plans allow families to lower the cost of a private college or university education by locking in current tuition rates for future use at any of the participating private colleges and universities.

We all believe that every young person who would like to attend college should be able to do so. The benefits of receiving a college degree are continuous, not only strengthening the self-esteem of a person, but also allowing that individual to have a better and more secure lifestyle.

According to the United States Census Bureau, a person with a Bachelor's Degree will earn nearly 90 percent more on average than a person with only a high school diploma. Not only is the pay significantly better, but it is also more likely that occupations held by a person with a Bachelor's Degree will have additional benefits, such as health care and employer pension plans.

Most funding that colleges and universities receive has been reduced due to the extreme economic state of most States in our Nation and the debt of the Federal Government. However, to remain vital in competition, colleges and universities must pay for the best professors, keep technology current and keep buildings maintained. Unfortunately, these costs are now being passed down to the students. The Independent 529 plans serve as one way to help with this rising cost.

Currently over 200 private colleges and universities throughout the country have agreed to participate in these plans. Of the six participating colleges and universities in Illinois, I am proud and pleased that the Illinois Institute of Technology, which is in my district, is one of the 529 plan participants.

I believe that although the Independent 529 plans will not help all families achieve the dream of going to college, it will help a good number of families who dream of sending their children to private colleges and universities, and, for that reason, I support this legislation and urge its passage.

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY), an outstanding new member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me time.

I rise very much in support of H. Res. 378, and I commend the author, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER), for bringing this bill forward. If I

did not know anything about the bill, after seeing that beautiful grandchild, Logan, in that portrait, I think I would be supportive of this effort. It is very, very persuasive, and I commend the gentlewoman for that.

But, seriously, this bill is a great bill. I have a private college in my 11th District of Georgia, Berry College, a wonderful private college in Rome, Georgia, that is part of these 200 private colleges and universities participating in this plan. As has been pointed out by the previous speakers, the cost of college has been rising so much, since 2001 something like \$16,000 a year on average to go to a private college or university.

This opportunity for our families that want to send their children to these schools to go ahead and invest and save that money at a tax advantage and lock in that tuition so it is not rising at double the rate of inflation, I think is a very important thing to do.

I commend the gentlewoman for this bill and give it my strong support. I urge all of my colleagues to support this great resolution.

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

Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could show some pictures of my grandchildren. I commend the gentlewoman from Texas and the gentleman from California for advancing this legislation. Anything that will improve the accessibility and affordability of college for qualified American students is to be encouraged.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, according to the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, cost factors, with the rate of tuition and fee increases over the last 20 years, show that 48 percent of our lower-income young people that that graduate from high school prepared for college are not able to go to a college or university of their choice, and 22 percent of them cannot even go to a community college. I think anything we can do to make it possible for these young people to attend school is vitally important.

I have 25 grandchildren and one on the way. When I saw that picture of the grandson of the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER), Logan, that was a great selling tool, and I really appreciate what she is doing to help young people and help their families to put money aside to send them to school. I urge all of us to support this bill.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 378—Recognizing the Independent 529 Plan for Launching a Prepaid Tuition Plan That Will Benefit Our Nation's Families Who Want to Send Their Children to Private Colleges and Universities.

Higher education today is among the most prominent barometers of success in adult life. Compared to high school diploma recipients those who earn a college degree have a much higher rate of employment and greater earning

potential. The economic implications of a student's failure to earn a college degree are astounding, especially as our economy becomes more dependent on information industries. Nearly 2 out of the 3 new jobs that will be created over the next 7 years will require some post-high school training.

Unfortunately, despite all the indicators many low income and middle-income students and their families are struggling to meet the soaring costs of attending college. These students are taking loans and working long hours to meet the increasing costs of college.

Over the past decade student loan debt has nearly doubled to \$17,000 and about one-fifth of full-time students work 35 or more hours a week.

According to the College Board's annual survey of tuition and student aid on college campuses, in 2003 tuition and fees increased at colleges and universities nationwide. Tuition increased by 14.1 percent at four-year public institutions, 13.8 percent at two-year public institutions, and 6.0 percent at four-year private institutions.

While 70 percent of all students pay \$8,000 or less in tuition each year, low-income students continue to fall far behind in accessing a college education. The ratio of a low-income family's earnings used to pay for tuition increased to 71 percent, while this ratio held steady for middle-income families at 17 percent and 6 percent for those with the highest incomes.

I support the Independent 529 plan because I know that the future of this nation depends on the academic preparation of our children. The Independent 529 Plan is a prepaid tuition plan that enables families to lock in the future tuition costs at less than today's prices. Through the Plan, certificates are purchased that can be used to pay future tuition costs. When the student is later accepted at a member college, the certificate can be used to pay the percentage of tuition pre-purchased.

Independent 529 Plan is the first 529 plan sponsored by private ("independent") colleges, and Program certificates can be redeemed for tuition at a broad array of independent colleges nationwide. Many of these colleges are in the state of Texas: Abilene Christian University, Austin College, Baylor University, Dallas Baptist University, Hardin-Simmons University, Lubbock Christian University, Rice University, St. Edward's University, St. Mary's University, Southern Methodist University, Southwestern University, Texas Christian University, Trinity University, University of Dallas, and University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.

I am confident that the list of member colleges will grow to include Historically Black Colleges across the country.

Sadly, low income and working class families are struggling to get their students a quality education while Republicans have forgotten them and instead focused on budget cuts and tax breaks for the wealthy. The weakened economy, tax and budget cuts and other federal policies that increase national and state debt have led states to increase tuition and place the burden of increased costs for college on families who cannot afford it.

As I stand here, the doors to higher education institutions and to greater opportunity for our young people are closing at an alarming rate. When major federal higher education grant programs are eliminated and federal aid

to colleges are cut, minority students and disadvantaged students are shut out of a college education—a vehicle that is critical to a better future. The Independent 529 plan will help alleviate the burden of cost placed on families who desperately want to secure a quality college education for their children.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to offer my support for H. Res. 378. This resolution recognizes independent colleges and universities that participate in prepaid tuition plans that give families options when paying for the cost of postsecondary education. I thank Representative GRANGER for sponsoring this resolution that calls our attention to the need to give families and students these payment options and to the independent colleges and universities that participate in these prepaid tuition plans.

Our economy is changing. The manufacturing economy of the 20th century is being replaced with a knowledge- and information-based economy in the 21st century, and our workforce must adapt accordingly. The demand for individuals with at least some postsecondary education has been growing, and is expected to continue growing more rapidly than the demand for individuals with only a high school diploma.

When coupled with our current college cost crisis, it is clear that in order to meet this demand we must make a postsecondary education more affordable for more individuals. Our economy is increasingly dependent on the availability of skilled, well-educated workers, and the need to increase access to higher education is a critical part of that equation. This resolution recognizes those that make postsecondary education more attainable.

H. Res. 378 draws attention to prepaid tuition plans. These plans allow families to prepare for the cost of a postsecondary education by planning ahead, saving wisely, and reducing the tax burden on such academic savings that will be used to send students to college in the future.

The Committee on Education and the Workforce, and specifically Representatives McKEON's subcommittee, is in the midst of the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. Members are carefully examining a range of issues, including dramatic tuition increases, the need to expand access—particularly for non-traditional college students—and what appears to be a troubling lack of transparency in higher education.

Often, I expect, we hear from concerned parents that college costs are out of hand and that they will not be able to afford a postsecondary education for their children. Keeping college affordable is no simple task, and finding solutions will not be easy. However, I believe that prepaid tuition plans offer parents some options for dealing with the college cost crises. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution that recognizes the schools that participate in these plans.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. McKEON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 378, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title of the resolution was amended so as to read: "A resolution recognizing the more than 200 independent colleges and universities that together have addressed the need to help families pay for the increasing cost of attending college by creating the first nationwide prepaid tuition plan."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF CHEMISTRY AND SUPPORTING GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 395) recognizing the importance of chemistry to our everyday lives and supporting the goals and ideals of National Chemistry Week.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 395

Whereas chemistry is at the core of every technology we enjoy today;

Whereas the power of the chemical sciences is what they create as a whole: an enabling infrastructure that delivers the foods, fuels, medicines, and materials that are the hallmarks of modern life;

Whereas the contributions of chemical scientists and engineers are central to technological progress and the health of many industries, including the chemical, pharmaceutical, electronics, agriculture, automobile, and aerospace sectors, and these contributions create new jobs, boost economic growth, and improve our health and standard of living;

Whereas the American Chemical Society, the world's largest scientific society, founded National Chemistry Week in 1987 to educate the public about the role of chemistry in society and to enhance students' appreciation of the chemical sciences;

Whereas National Chemistry Week is a community-based public awareness campaign conducted by more than 10,000 volunteers in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico;

Whereas National Chemistry Week volunteers from United States industry, government, secondary schools, and institutions of higher education reach and educate millions of children through hands-on science activities in local schools, libraries, and museums;

Whereas the theme of National Chemistry Week in 2003, "Earth's Atmosphere and Beyond!", was chosen to honor the 100th anniversary of Orville and Wilbur Wright's flight from Kitty Hawk, North Carolina; and

Whereas, in recognition of National Chemistry Week, volunteers all across the United States will teach children about air, the atmosphere, our solar system, and the uniqueness of planet Earth during the week beginning October 19, 2003: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes that the important contributions of chemical scientists and engineers to technological progress and the health of many industries have created new jobs, boosted economic growth, and improved the Nation's health and standard of living;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Chemistry Week, as founded by the American Chemical Society; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Chemistry Week with appropriate recognition, ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate the

importance of chemistry to our everyday lives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 395.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased that we are considering this resolution recognizing the importance of chemistry in our everyday lives. This resolution supports the goals and the ideals of National Chemistry Week, and it recognizes the important contributions of chemical scientists and engineers to technological progress and the health of many industries. In addition, it encourages the people of the United States to observe National Chemistry Week, which this year is October 19 through 25. As a graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology with a Bachelor's Degree in chemistry, I enthusiastically support this effort.

The chemical sciences provide an enabling infrastructure that delivers the foods, fuels, medicine and materials that are part of our everyday lives. The contributions of chemical scientists and engineers are central to the technological progress of many areas that affect our everyday lives.

I commend the American Chemical Society for establishing National Chemistry Week in 1987. During National Chemistry Week, volunteers from across the United States will teach children about our air, the atmosphere and the solar system. The theme in 2003, Earth's Atmosphere and Beyond, was chosen to honor the 100 anniversary of Orville and Wilbur Wright's flight from Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

It is important to stimulate children's interest in the chemical sciences so that they will consider careers in these fields and potentially discover the innovations for our future.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution, and thus recognize and support the goals and ideals of National Chemistry Week.

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 395. This bipartisan resolution was introduced by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS). They are

both Ph.D. physicists who appreciate the importance of chemistry. I want to congratulate them for bringing this resolution forward.

Chemistry and chemical engineering contributes to public health through such things as new biomaterials, drug design and drug-delivery technologies and gene therapy. These disciplines help develop new structural and electronic materials and advance technologies that improve energy utilization and transportation systems. In short, chemistry and chemical engineering contribute in critical ways to the economic strength, security and well-being of our Nation.

National Chemistry Week was started as an annual event in 1987 by the American Chemical Society. It sponsors activities to make elementary and secondary school children, and the public in general, more aware of what chemistry is and its importance to their everyday lives.

National Chemistry Week activities are carried out by the local sections of the American Chemical Society, which are found in all parts of the Nation. They work with local industries, schools and museums to design hands-on activities, provide chemical demonstrations and develop exhibits. By these means, the local organizations provide opportunities to stimulate the interests of young people in science and in pursuing scientific careers. And the activities of the National Chemistry Week help advance the important goal of increasing public understanding of science generally.

For 2003, the theme of the National Chemistry Week is Earth's Atmosphere and Beyond. This is very appropriate because it is in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Wright Brothers' first powered flight.

I congratulate the American Chemical Society for their efforts to establish and sustain National Chemistry Week. I support this resolution, and recognize the value of chemistry and the goals of National Chemistry Week. I ask for its adoption by the House.

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the leadership for bringing this bill to the floor, recognizing the importance of chemistry in our everyday lives, and supporting National Chemistry Week. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) has been very helpful as an original cosponsor of this bill and helped move it forward. He and I do this as the two physicists in Congress, with no suggestion of irony that we physicists would be sponsoring National Chemistry Week.

Finally, I would like to thank the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs.