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.

BIGGERT) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER) for cosponsoring the bill and for their support, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER) himself being a research-trained chemist.

Indeed, chemistry is not something that occurs just in the laboratory, it is everywhere, and this resolution is intended to emphasize that point, the importance of chemistry in our everyday lives.

Today's scientists are working to understand global climate change and to develop cleaner energy sources. Our cars have more computing power than the Apollo spacecraft. In many ways, science permeates our lives, and we certainly should do all we can to recognize that and see that youngsters, as well as oldsters, integrate their understanding of science in their lives.

Following the launch of Sputnik in 1957, major steps were taken in the United States to improve the resources going into science. The goal was to produce a superior technical workforce so that we would be second to none in engineering and science. There was increased funding for school laboratories, revision of math and science curricula and new university scholarships for future scientists. Indeed, this initiative produced a generation of scientists and engineers who have contributed greatly to our economic and technical accomplishments and to the quality of life of people around the world.

□ 1500

I was a product of that revolution. Today, as a policy maker, I see the shortcomings of our earlier revolution in science and mathematics education.

Too often the push for improving public competence in science and mathematics is justified on the grounds of economics, national security, and an informed citizenry. There is no question that these are vitally important reasons, but we should not forget the reason of personal well-being. Understanding sciences like chemistry brings order, harmony, and balance to our lives. They teach us that the world is intelligible and not capricious. They give us the skills for lifelong learning, for creating progress itself.

In setting up the science programs following the launch of Sputnik, we focused on developing scientists and engineers and tend to have left behind the other 80 or 90 percent of our society who should understand science, should integrate it into their lives, even if they are not to become professional scientists. That is why I am proud to see this House recognizing in this legislation the importance of chemistry and the goals and the ideals of National Chemistry Week.

I thank the Speaker for bringing this resolution to the floor. I thank my colleague, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON), for yielding me the time to speak.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, but I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to present this resolution supporting the ideals of National Chemistry Week. And I want to commend the co-authors, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT), the Ph.D. physicists, for bringing this bill forward.

So this Member who has a bachelor of science, a meager bachelor of science degree in chemistry, is humbled in their presence, but this is a wonderful bill, and I am very, very supportive of it.

Mr. Speaker, I think I have got a little bit of time left, and I see that the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS), of whom I just spoke, the distinguished gentleman from Michigan, that Ph.D., one of those Ph.D. physicists of which I just spoke, has just arrived.

Mr. Speaker, I am very happy at this time to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS).

(Mr. EHLERS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks, and include extraneous material.)

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I am sorry but I am a bit late and out of breath. My plane was an hour and a half late. I believe I ran all the way from the airport.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to speak on this resolution. We have often heard the phrase ''better living through chemistry,'' and that is very true. And I find it strange that today many people regard chemistry as a danger because they worry about things such as pesticides. In fact, I recall speaking to a person once who said that she really did not dare to eat anything now unless it was natural because of the chemicals. And I said, ''Well, do you like oranges?'' ''Oh, yes, they are wonderful.'' she replied. I said, ''In spite of the fact that they are filled with chemicals, chemicals such as vitamin C?'' And I went on to name other chemical components.

Chemicals can be either good or bad. And they are certainly a part of everyday life, but what I appreciate is the many good things that chemistry has brought us. And I also appreciate the American Chemical Society, which has established the National Chemistry Week which we are celebrating here. This year the theme is Earth's Atmosphere and Beyond, in an effort to honor the 100th anniversary of Orville and Wilbur Wright's flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

But there is so much more to chemistry activities that we do not realize. What I appreciate about the American Chemical Society, also, is their interest in education.

In my efforts to improve math and science education in this Nation, I have worked very closely with the American Chemical Society over the past few years. And they have been outstanding in their efforts to assist in improving math and science education, and National Chemistry Week is part of that.

I just received this morning an e-mail from Michelle DeWitt from Michigan who is one of the organizers of the National Chemistry Week in Michigan. And she talked a little bit about what they did last week.

Let me read portions of her letter. ''Our National Chemistry Week event at Westshore Mall was a huge success. We had our largest amount of volunteers ever, with nearly 100 people helping out, including students from Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids Community College, Aquinas College, some local high school and younger students with parents. This was very fortunate because we had the largest turnout with about 3,000 people stopping by between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 18th.

''We had six demonstrations by area chemists and about ten activity tables, where area chemists and college students engaged in hands-on activities with kids of all ages. There was a constant stream of rockets shooting off. Some even hit the ceiling. Making slime is always one of the kids' favorite activities.''

''We gave away about 1,300 balloons to kids. I heard one boy walking into the mall with his dad saying, 'Look, Dad, a party.' and I thought it was great to have kids think of science as a party. The newspaper reporter who spent most of the day with us commented on how much fun everyone was having and said there were so many fun things going on it was like a ten-ring circus.''

Then she goes on and talks about the volunteers and the great things they did. Mr. Speaker, at this point I will insert the entire text of the letter.

To: Laura G. Kolton, American Chemical Society

Our NCW event at Westshore Mall was a huge success. We had our largest amount of volunteers ever with nearly a hundred people helping out, including students from Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids Community College, Aquinas College, some local high school and younger students with parents. This was very fortunate because, due to advertising in both the Grand Rapids Press and the Holland Sentinel, we had the largest turn out with about 3000 people stopping by between 10 am and 4 pm on Saturday October 18th.

We had 6 demos by area chemists and about 10 activity tables where area chemists and college students engaged in hands-on activities with kids of all ages. There was a constant stream of rockets (made with vinegar / baking soda / film containers) shooting off. Some even hit the ceiling. Making slime is always one of the kids favorite activities. We also had a poster drawing contest. We will be sending our winning posters in to the National ACS competition.

We gave away about 1300 balloons to kids. I heard one young boy walking into the mall with his dad say ''Look Dad, a party,'' and I thought it was great to have kids think of science as a party. Even the Holland Sentinel reporter who spent most of the day

with us commented on how much fund everyone was having, and said there were so many fun things going on it was like a 10 ring circus.

We had two sixth grade volunteers (Debra Gorden and Shannon Vandenberg) from Blandford school (which is a Grand Rapids Public school for 6th grade students who have excelled in elementary school.) These girls worked a booth giving away tattoos, stickers, magnifying glasses and ChemMatters Magazine, with the help of two chemistry students from GRCC (Grand Rapids Community College). They loved working with the college guys and were smiling all day. The college students were very nice and inspired the young girls into an interest in college and disproved the stereotype of the geeky chemist.

Through this National Chemistry Week thousands of children will learn about the earth's atmosphere and the solar system through hands-on events and demonstrations.

I commend the American Chemical Society for stimulating our children's interest in the chemical sciences so that they will not only be interested, but will consider careers in these fields and potentially discover the innovations of the future.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution recognizing the goals and ideals of National Chemistry Week.

Today, I am pleased that we are considering this resolution recognizing the importance of chemistry to our everyday lives. This resolution supports the goals and ideals of National Chemistry Week. 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 19–25.

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 and the health of many industries.

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 air, the atmosphere and the solar system. The theme in 2003, ''Earth's Atmosphere and Beyond,'' was chosen to honor the 100th anniversary of Orville and Wilbur Wright's flight from Kitty Hawk, NC. 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 of the future.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution recognizing the goals and ideals of National Chemistry Week.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I have no other requests for speakers but, again, in conclusion, let me just say that I commend the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) for bringing forward this resolution. And I urge all of my colleagues to support its adoption.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHROCK). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 395.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE CONGRESSIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 279) recognizing the significance of the anniversary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science Congressional Science and Engineering Fellowship Program, and reaffirming the commitment to support the use of science in governmental decision-making through such Program.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 279

Whereas Congress hosted the American Association for the Advancement of Science's (AAAS) first Congressional Science and Engineering Fellows 30 years ago in 1973;

Whereas the AAAS Congressional Science and Engineering Fellowship Program was the first to provide an opportunity for Ph.D.-level scientists and engineers to learn about the policymaking process while bolstering the technical expertise available to Members of Congress and staff;

Whereas Members of Congress hold the AAAS Congressional Science and Engineering Fellowship Program in high regard for the substantial contributions that Fellows have made, serving both in personal offices and on committee staff;

Whereas the Congress is increasingly involved in public policy issues of a scientific and technical nature and recognizes the need to develop additional in-house expertise in the areas of science and engineering;

Whereas more than 800 individuals have held AAAS Congressional Science and Engineering Fellowships since 1973;

Whereas the AAAS Congressional Science and Engineering Fellows represent the full range of physical, biological, and social sciences, and all fields of engineering;

Whereas the AAAS Congressional Science and Engineering Fellows bring to the Congress new insights and ideas, extensive knowledge, and perspectives from a variety of disciplines;

Whereas the AAAS Congressional Science and Engineering Fellows learn about legislative, oversight, and investigative activities through assignments that offer a wide array of responsibilities;

Whereas AAAS Congressional Science and Engineering Fellowships provide an opportunity for scientists and engineers to transition into careers in government service; and

Whereas many former AAAS Congressional Science and Engineering Fellows return to their disciplines and share knowledge with students and peers to encourage more scientists and engineers to participate in informing government processes: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) recognizes the significance of the anniversary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science Congressional Science and Engineering Fellowship Program;

(2) acknowledges the value of 30 years of participation by the American Association for the Advancement of Science Congressional Science and Engineering Fellows; and

(3) reaffirms its commitment to support the use of science in governmental decision-making through the American Association for the Advancement of Science Congressional Science and Engineering Fellowship Program.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 279, the concurrent resolution now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Today I am pleased that we are considering this resolution recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Congressional Science and Engineering Fellowship Program coordinated by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, better known as AAAS.

This resolution has bipartisan support from 26 cosponsors. It recognizes a truly valuable educational program that gives scientists a wonderful opportunity to step out of the lab and into the political process. By working as legislative assistants in congressional offices, they get a behind-the-scenes look at how our laws are made, writing speeches, developing legislation, and serving as liaisons to committees on which a Member serves. At the same time Members of Congress and other policy makers gain a valuable new resource to help them better understand the scientific and technical issues underpinning complex policy debates.

Six different fellows have served on my staff and each one has used their unique talents and understanding to help shape my legislative agenda. One in particular contributed greatly to this Nation at the time I was rewriting the Nation's science policy at the request of Speaker Gingrich and Chairman SENSENBRENNER. Sharon Hayes played a key role in the preparation of that report, which has been widely used and quoted throughout the scientific community.

After 30 years, this program is still going strong. Over 800 scientists have now served Republican, Democratic, and Independent Members of Congress