

INTRODUCTION OF THE MASTER TEACHER ACT OF 2004

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Master Teacher Act of 2004.

Qualified, experienced, dedicated teachers are our most valuable resources for educating the nation's children. Under the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLBA), states are required to recruit highly qualified teachers, yet rural schools and schools in low-income areas often have difficulty attracting and retaining faculty. The Master Teacher Act of 2004 will help improve these schools' ability to attract the best teachers.

The real tragedy in our education system is that so many schools are failing to meet adequate yearly progress (AYP) performance standards. As currently designated by NCLBA, one hundred percent of our nation's public school students must meet AYP standards in reading, math, and science by the 2013-14 school year. This seems an insurmountable task for many underfunded school districts. In my home state of Maryland, more than one-third of public schools are now considered failing. This is not acceptable.

To improve educational achievement for all our students, we must ensure that underperforming public schools can attract and keep qualified teachers who will serve as a catalyst for change. The Master Teacher Act of 2004 will encourage teachers to work in those schools by offering tax incentives that will reward them financially for taking on such a challenge.

"Master teachers" are defined as faculty who hold a master's degree, have at least five years teaching experience in a public elementary or secondary school, meet the "highly qualified" standard as defined by the NCLBA, and have obtained advanced certification in their state licensing system. My legislation would reward "master teachers" who agree to teach in an underperforming school by exempting 25 percent of their gross income from federal taxes. They would be eligible for this exemption for up to four years. For the purposes of this legislation, underperforming schools are those that fail to meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) standards as defined by NCLBA.

Mr. Speaker, good teachers are essential to a successful education system. They are the profession responsible for educating all other professionals, and therefore they are essential to our success as a nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation and giving all our children access to the best teachers possible.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 29, 2004, I was unavoidably absent for rollcall vote 94, on passage of H.R. 3917, and rollcall vote 95, on passage of H.R. 2584. Had

I been present I would have voted "yes" on rollcall votes 94 and 95.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NA- TIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, at the request of the Honorable Norman Mineta, Secretary of Transportation and distinguished former member of this House, I am pleased to introduce the Administration's requested legislation reauthorizing the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration. I include with this statement a copy of the letter transmitting this legislation to Speaker HASTERT by the Secretary.

I particularly want to commend the Administrator, Dr. Jeff Runge, for his fine leadership of the Agency.

I have concerns with some aspects of this proposal, but I believe it deserves a fair hearing.

I believe that provisions in the legislation facilitating the President's hydrogen initiative, provisions promoting international harmonization of safety standards, and provisions to encourage the development of crash avoidance technologies are particularly meritorious.

THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION,

Washington, DC, March 12, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,

Speaker of the House of Representatives,

Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I am pleased to transmit to you for introduction and referral to the appropriate committee a proposed bill: To authorize appropriations for the motor vehicle safety and information and cost savings programs of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for fiscal years 2005-2007, and for other purposes.

The bill includes two titles. Title I, "Motor Vehicle Safety," contains an authorization of appropriations for the motor vehicle safety law (chapter 301 of title 49, United States Code) administered by the Department's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and seven additional sections that would amend that law. Title II, "Motor Vehicle Information and Cost Savings," contains an authorization of appropriations for the motor vehicle information and cost savings law (part C of subchapter VI of title 49, United States Code) administered by NHTSA and five additional sections that would amend that law.

Highway and motor vehicle safety programs and enforcement have succeeded in reducing the highway fatality rate despite significant increases in the number of vehicles and the number of vehicle miles traveled. Our most recent data show a rate of 1.5 fatalities per 100 million miles traveled, nearly half the rate of 20 years ago. The bill's proposed authorizations would provide the resources needed to continue this record of success for fiscal years 2005-2007.

Title I ("Motor Vehicle Safety") would authorize appropriations for NHTSA's motor vehicle safety programs of \$125,221,000 in fiscal year 2005, and such sums as may be necessary in fiscal years 2006 and 2007.

Title II ("Motor Vehicle Information and Cost Savings") would authorize appropriations for NHTSA's motor vehicle information and cost savings programs of \$14,080,000 in fiscal year 2005, and such sums as may be necessary in fiscal years 2006 and 2007.

The bill contains a number of amendments to the motor vehicle safety and information and cost savings laws, including provisions to (i) authorize the Secretary to participate and cooperate in international activities that enhance motor vehicle and traffic safety, (ii) authorize \$5 million a year to support the President's Hydrogen Fuel Initiative and the FreedomCAR Program by a safety research initiative for alternate fuel vehicles that includes risk-assessment studies of hydrogen-fueled and other alternatively fueled vehicles, the development of test and evaluation procedures and performance criteria to assess the likelihood of potential failures that could indicate unsafe conditions, and the development of suitable countermeasures; and (iii) authorize \$10 million a year for research into vehicle-based driver-assistance technologies such as electronic stability control, telematics, radar braking and similar vehicle advances, and to develop safety standards and consumer education programs, to ensure that appropriate safety benefits are derived from these technologies. Additional details describing these and other amendments are provided in the enclosed analysis.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that it has no objection, from the standpoint of the Administration's program, to the submission of this proposed legislation to Congress, and that its enactment would be in accord with the program of the President.

Sincerely yours,

NORMAN Y. MINETA.

HONORING KENNY TABB FOR HEROIC RESCUE

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay long overdue public tribute to a remarkable individual from my home state of Kentucky. Kenny Tabb, Hardin County Court Clerk and longtime community leader in Elizabethtown, KY, was nominated 46 years ago for a Young American Bravery National Medal following his rescue of an 11-year-old boy drowning in a swimming pool. Mr. Tabb never received word concerning the status of the 1958 award or appropriate recognition for his heroism.

On a summer day in 1958, Tabb, then 13, encountered a young mother screaming for help beside a hotel swimming pool. The woman's 11-year-old son, who could not swim, was struggling in the eight foot deep water, twice sinking below water. A young Kenny Tabb instinctively jumped into the pool, fully clothed, saving the boy from a near drowning.

On August 27, 1958, Representative Frank Chelf recommended to Attorney General William Rogers that a Young American Medal for Bravery be awarded to Kenny Tabb. The nomination was sent to a committee composed of F.B.I. Director J. Edgar Hoover, the Attorney General and the Solicitor General. President Dwight Eisenhower later awarded two youth medals to earlier nominees and no Federal recognition was made to honor Tabb for his valor.

Kenny Tabb demonstrated unusual courage and a selfless instinct to help others on that summer day in the prime of his youth. His action in saving a young life was an early indication of his character, qualities that have made

him a brilliant public servant in the 46 years that have followed. Prior to his present post as clerk, Mr. Tabb served as Magistrate on the Hardin County Fiscal Court, as Assistant Principal at East Hardin High School and Principal at Sonora Elementary.

Today, I would like to correct a four-decade old administrative oversight and finally recognize Mr. Tabb, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for his childhood heroism and for his dutiful service to the Elizabethtown, KY, community in the years since. His efforts, then and now, make him an outstanding American, worthy of our collective respect and honor.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ON CONGRESSIONAL SUCCESSION

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I have just introduced a constitutional amendment on congressional succession. Much has been said over the last couple years about the need to make sure we have a functioning Congress that is perceived as legitimate in the case of a national disaster that kills or incapacitates a large proportion of Members of Congress. So far, none of the proposals that have been introduced have been able to appeal to a broad, bipartisan cross-section of Congress. I believe the constitutional amendment I have introduced today addresses the major criticisms that have been leveled against the "continuity of Congress" constitutional amendments that have been introduced so far.

Under my proposal, each general election candidate for the House or Senate would be authorized to publicly appoint, in ranked order, 3 to 5 potential temporary successors. The legitimacy of a successor designated in this way temporarily succeeding a deceased or incapacitated Representative or Senator is similar to that of a Vice President succeeding a deceased or incapacitated President—not separately elected, but chosen by the principal and known well in advance of the election.

The problem faced by other proposals of how to determine when sufficient members have died or been incapacitated to trigger emergency procedures is avoided in my proposal because no such determination is necessary. If a congressional continuity solution is good enough to use when 110 Representatives are killed or disabled, it should be good enough to use when 50 or 20 or even one Representative dies or becomes unable to discharge his or her duties. Continuity of Congress is certainly important, but so is continuity of representation. Death or incapacity of Representatives and Senators (as in the case of the late Senator Paul Wellstone) should not change the control of either House of Congress or the outcome of votes. Also, the legitimacy of a congressional succession plan is more likely to be accepted in a national emergency if it has previously worked in smaller tragedies.

To further legitimize temporary successors, my proposal would repeal the current power state governors have to appointment temporary Senators. Since the adoption of the 17th Amendment, the American people have

expected that the members of both Houses of Congress should be democratically elected. When a more democratic solution is available, we don't need to perpetuate the practice of a governor of another party being able to change the composition and control of the Senate just because a Senator tragically dies or is incapacitated.

My proposal would allow governors to appoint temporary Senators and Representatives only if the elected Senator or Representative has not submitted a list of successors or if none of the listed successors is able to serve. This backup appointment authority provides an incentive for Senators and Representatives (and potential Senators and Representatives) to make sure their "political will" is in order, since otherwise their governor could appoint someone they may not like. The backup authority of course also provides a further assurance of congressional continuity.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that my congressional succession constitutional amendment would solve the continuity of Congress problem in a way that would appeal to both sides of the aisle. I ask my colleagues for their support.

WELCOMING THE ACCESSION OF BULGARIA, ESTONIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, ROMANIA, SLO- VAKIA, AND SOLVENIA TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY OR- GANIZATION

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to this resolution. I do so because further expansion of NATO, an outdated alliance, is not in our national interest and may well constitute a threat to our national security in the future.

More than 50 years ago the North Atlantic Treaty Organization was formed to defend Western Europe and the United States against attack from the communist nations of Eastern Europe. It was an alliance of sovereign nations bound together in common purpose—for mutual defense. The deterrence value of NATO helped kept the peace throughout the Cold War. In short, NATO achieved its stated mission. With the fall of the Soviet system and the accompanying disappearance of the threat of attack, in 1989–1991, NATO's reason to exist ceased. Unfortunately, as with most bureaucracies, the end of NATO's mission did not mean the end of NATO. Instead, heads of NATO member states gathered in 1999 desperately attempting to devise new missions for the outdated and adrift alliance. This is where NATO moved from being a defensive alliance respecting the sovereignty of its members to an offensive and interventionist organization, concerned now with "economic, social and political difficulties . . . ethnic and religious rivalries, territorial disputes, inadequate or failed efforts at reform, the abuse of human rights, and the dissolution of states," in the words of the Washington 1999 Summit.

And we saw the fruits of this new NATO mission in the former Yugoslavia, where the US, through NATO, attacked a sovereign state

that threatened neither the United States nor its own neighbors. In Yugoslavia, NATO abandoned the claim it once had to the moral high ground. The result of the illegal and immoral NATO intervention in the Balkans speaks for itself: NATO troops will occupy the Balkans for the foreseeable future. No peace has been attained, merely the cessation of hostilities and a permanent dependency on US foreign aid.

The further expansion of NATO is in reality a cover for increased US interventionism in Europe and beyond. It will be a conduit for more unconstitutional US foreign aid and US interference in the internal politics of member nations, especially the new members from the former East.

It will also mean more corporate welfare at home. As we know, NATO membership demands a minimum level of military spending of its member states. For NATO's new members, the burden of significantly increased military spending when there are no longer external threats is hard to meet. Unfortunately, this is where the US government steps in, offering aid and subsidized loans to these members so they can purchase more unneeded and unnecessary military equipment. In short, it is nothing more than corporate welfare for the US military industrial complex.

The expansion of NATO to these seven countries, we have heard, will open them up to the further expansion of US military bases, right up to the border of the former Soviet Union. Does no one worry that this continued provocation of Russia might have negative effects in the future? Is it necessary?

Further, this legislation encourages the accession of Albania, Macedonia, and Croatia—nations that not long ago were mired in civil and regional wars. The promise of US military assistance if any of these states are attacked is obviously a foolhardy one. What will the mutual defense obligations we are entering into mean if two Balkan NATO members begin hostilities against each other (again)?

In conclusion, we should not be wasting US tax money and taking on more military obligations expanding NATO. The alliance is a relic of the Cold War, a hold-over from another time, an anachronism. It should be disbanded, the sooner the better.

YOU CAN BE A PART OF BUILDING SAFETY WEEK

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Building Safety Week, observed April 4–10. Building safety affects many aspects of American life. Because of building safety code enforcement, we enjoy the comfort of structures that are safe and sound. Building safety and fire prevention officials work with citizens to address building safety and fire prevention concerns everyday.

The dedicated members of the International Code Council, including building safety and fire prevention officials, architects, engineers, and others in the construction industry, develop and enforce the codes that safeguard Americans in the buildings where we live, work, play and learn. The International Codes, the most widely adopted building safety and