

greater role by the Federal government to help the District maintain fiscal balance," according to the GAO.

The bill I introduce today is based on these three GAO findings. The bill offsets part, though not all, of the annual structural imbalance, by providing for an annual federal contribution of \$800 million. These funds are to be deposited into a D.C. infrastructure support fund that cannot be used for operating expenses but only for the specifically stated infrastructure purposes.

The bill removes some of the harm to the District's investment bond rating and the resulting high interest payments by requiring that federal contribution funds go only to the District Infrastructure Fund to be used exclusively for infrastructure and for debt service, most of which is debt from infrastructure costs. The focus on infrastructure is deliberate because the District's infrastructure is used by the entire region, where 80% of the vehicles originate and includes Metro, used overwhelmingly by regional residents. Regional complaints about the District's roads, bridges and tunnels are justified, but there is no reasonable hope of repair and maintenance if the District's taxpayer-raised budget is the only source. The focus on debt service is calculated to reduce the District's debt, the highest per capita in the country. With some relief from the structural imbalance through a federal contribution, the District will gradually be able not only to reduce its debt but also to lower the high tax rates that the imbalance forces on D.C. residents and businesses. This bill also takes into account past federal contribution failures. This bill does not allow the contribution to wither away by a failure to increase gradually with inflation but provides for annual increases tied to the Consumer Price Index.

In 1995 Congress came to grips with the reality that a city whose structure assumes it is a state although it lacks a broad tax base can no longer be responsible for the full set of costs shouldered by states. However, Congress relieved the District of the cost of some but not all state functions and left the unique federal structural impediments described in the GAO report. The District has made remarkable progress by maintaining balanced budgets and surpluses every year despite adverse national economic conditions and by improving city services. It would be tragic for Congress to allow this progress to be retracted because of uncompensated federal burdens. This bill allows the District to avoid great risks and to continue to build fiscal strength.

RECOGNIZING RANDAL G. HOBBS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Randall G. Hobbs, Senior Auditor for the United States Department of Agriculture, the Great Plains Region, in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. Hobbs has been responsible to the Inspector General for development of policies and for providing leadership, supervision, and coordination of audit activities relating to the Department's programs and operations. The Regional Inspector General for Audit plans, di-

rects, and supervises the performance of all auditing activities. Senior Auditor Hobbs has played a major role in all of these activities.

Mr. Hobbs began Federal service with the Internal Revenue Service in January 1979. He then accepted a position as a regulatory auditor with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission in March 1979 and worked there until September 1983. In April 1984, Randall Hobbs began his career with OIG as an auditor in the Great Plains Region in Kansas City, Missouri.

During his career, he was recognized for using advanced audit techniques, pioneering efforts in controls over automated systems, and in leading audits in various USDA agencies. Mr. Hobbs, who became a Certified Public Accountant in the State of Missouri in 1984, was invaluable as OIG began to become heavily involved in financial statement audits in the early 1990s. Mr. Hobbs worked on financial statements audits of the Farmer's Home Administration (now part of Rural Development).

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Mr. Hobbs for his outstanding career and wishing him well in retirement.

HONORING THE WORK OF THE PLEASANT VIEW RELIEF SOCIETY AND THEIR GROUP VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP AWARD

HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of a group of women from Utah's Third Congressional District for their dedication to helping children that have been victims of abuse. On Wednesday, May 5, 2004, the Pleasant View Relief Society will be honored at the National Children's Alliance annual luncheon with the Volunteer Group Leadership Award of 2004.

Working with the Utah County Children's Justice Center, this group, now affectionately known as the "Teddy Bear Ladies," has created over 10,000 handmade teddy bears for distribution to children receiving social services as a result of severe abuse. What started as a simple service project has now turned into a labor of love for these giving women. Not only do the Teddy Bear Ladies donate their time and money to this worthy project, but they also help give these children a fresh start after years of abuse.

What is remarkable about these ladies is not just their work, but also the ladies themselves. These dedicated volunteers range in age from the early 20s to mid 90s. Some of the younger volunteers thread needles for the older members of the group. Not even illness can stop the Teddy Bear Ladies from their work. One woman continued to sew teddy bears while suffering from severe headaches as a result from a brain tumor.

The Teddy Bear Ladies from Utah County represent what all Americans should strive to be: caring, dedicated, giving and compassionate. Through volunteering their time and talents, they are making a real difference in one Utah community.

HONORING MR. JUAN ARCELLANA

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Juan J. Arcellana (Jay) in recognition of his many years of dedicated service to the State of California. He has served the people of the state for over twenty-five years, and has been with the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board for the last sixteen of those years. I would like to take this time to highlight his many achievements and to extend public recognition and commendations to him for his professional and civic leadership over these many years.

Jay has been the Chief Administrative Law Judge for the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board for eight years, and is currently serving as both its Chief Administrative Law Judge and Executive Director. Jay has served with the utmost distinction as President of the National Association of Unemployment Insurance Appeals Boards.

Jay has spent an entire career dedicated to serving the unemployed and disabled citizens of California. He is particularly proud of his efforts to enhance the accessibility of the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board administrative hearing process, and ensure prompt consideration and action on their appeals.

Jay has received numerous commendations for his professionalism, expertise, hard work, extraordinary effort, and spirit of cooperation over the years, and it is certainly well deserved. Jay has personally touched the lives of many people throughout his career, giving many an employment opportunity allowing them to demonstrate and develop their individual talents.

Jay is married to Betsy Arcellana, and this marriage has been blessed with three sons, Jason, James and Jonathan. Today I call on my colleagues in Congress to join me in thanking Jay Arcellana for his longstanding and continued commitment to the Californians that need his help the most.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise one of the most under appreciated professions in our society: teachers. In doing so, I would like to offer my sincere gratitude for their often thankless, but noble efforts.

To quote Cicero, "What nobler a profession, or more valuable to the state, than that of a man who instructs the rising generation." Teachers, next to parents, are the most influential people in the lives of our children. Like parents, they prepare students for the future. Teachers serve as role models, mentors and friends. They strive to work with parents and guardians so that the full potential of each child may be realized.

Mr. Speaker, teaching has never been an easy job, and it hasn't gotten easier in recent years. Currently, the people to whom we entrust our children must teach in classes so

large many of us would find it impossible to maintain order, let alone create an atmosphere conducive to learning. Many teachers must work in dilapidated buildings where heating, plumbing and cooling systems are insufficient. At a time when many of us would find it impossible to function without a computer, teachers are confronted with the task of preparing kids to work in an increasingly technological society without the use of this most basic piece of equipment. Not only do teachers deserve our thanks, they also deserve access to the best tools possible. Our nation's future is, after all, in their hands.

The Bush Administration introduced the No Child Left Behind Act with the promise of reforming and improving education in our country. My colleagues have claimed that "education reform costs money, and this Administration is willing to spend it." However, this has proven to be yet another empty promise. This Administration has been unwilling to fund their own education bill, providing \$9.4 billion less for education reform next year than was promised in the No Child Left Behind Act. Rather than fund their education program, the Republican budget has found room for over a trillion dollars in tax cuts for their fat cat friends.

Furthermore, the proposed Republican budget provides only \$2.9 billion for teacher quality programs, \$234 million less than what the No Child Left Behind Act authorized. This means 56,000 teachers will not receive the extra training they need. Cutting extra training for our teachers not only hurts the quality of our education, but also hurts our ability to recruit and retain these teachers.

Mr. Speaker, under-funding education not only affects our children, it affects working families. To compensate for the loss in funding, local communities have been forced to raise taxes to pay for textbooks and teacher's salaries. Budget cuts have also resulted in more than two million children failing to receive tutoring in reading and math and more than one million children being denied access to after-school programs.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle, Mr. Speaker, not only under-fund education, they attack our public school teachers. In fact, Department of Education Secretary Rod Paige called the National Education Association a "terrorist organization", arguing that the NEA was against school standards and accountability. Instead of fostering resentment, this Administration needs to promote unity; education needs to be a cooperative, nonpartisan effort and we need to honor teachers, not demonize them.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that many of my colleagues and our nation's governors, acting either in haste, desperation or philosophical zeal, have continually tried to undermine real education reform by grasping at "revolutionary schemes" such as vouchers, which have proved to be destructive to public schools as well as ineffective in raising student performance. They have attempted to privatize public schools, where 90 percent of America's children are educated. In an attempt to highlight the problems faced by public schools, they have used teachers and schools alike as punching bags to further their own risky, underhanded schemes that only divert education money away from where it's most needed. I stand before you today to say we should not tolerate this rascality any longer.

Our teachers, our kids and our nation's future deserve better.

Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that we can work together, write quality legislation, help our schools and thank our teachers for their efforts by showing them we know how important educating our children—and their role in this mission—is to America's future.

CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPENING OF THE TIBURCIO VASQUEZ HEALTH CENTER CLINIC IN HAYWARD, CA

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the grand opening of the new Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center, TVHC, Hayward Clinic. TVHC has been providing health care services to Hayward, California, residents since 1990. With a patient volume of more than 14,000 encounters annually, TVHC outgrew its previous clinic. To meet the growing demand for its community based health care services, TVHC embarked on a Hayward Clinic Relocation and Expansion Project, culminating in the grand opening of its new and expanded Hayward Clinic.

As one of the leaders in delivering multicultural and linguistically appropriate health care services in southern Alameda County, Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center, Inc., is part of a centralized, effective system of licensed medical providers, community health education, social work and nutrition services. TVHC has been providing comprehensive primary care and supportive services to the medically indigent, low-income, primarily Latino population in southern Alameda County since 1971.

TVHC has repeatedly been recognized for its achievements in outreach and education that incorporates members of the clinic and surrounding community to govern, direct and participate in all aspects of the clinic operation to insure the quality and success of its service delivery and myriad of programs. They include a nationally recognized Women, Infants and Children, WIC, program out of three sites serving over 5,000 southern Alameda County clients and a comprehensive Family Support Service program through partnerships with the Every Child County/First Five Commission, the California Maternal and Child Health Branch Adolescent Family Life Program and the Alameda County Cal-Learn Program.

TVHC clinic sites are certified California Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program Providers. Comprehensive sick and well child-care, adolescent care, adult care, and care of chronic and acute illness associated with aging are also provided as well as HIV/AIDS education and prevention and case management services.

TVHC's award-winning community health programs, include the Nuestro Salud Nuestro Futuro chronic disease education program and Vide con Esperanza, a breast cancer support group for Spanish speaking Latinas and their families.

A comprehensive staff of over 135 health professionals is expert at providing culturally competent services to people of all ages, races, lifestyles and backgrounds. As a feder-

ally qualified health center, TVHC, Inc., as the parent nonprofit corporate entity, operates three primary medical clinic sites, Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center in Union City, the Miranda Health Center in Hayward, and the Logan Health Center, located at the James Logan High School in Union City.

The new Hayward Clinic will have a capacity to provide health care services for 28,000 patient encounters and will attract 3,000 new primary care users. Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center is a model for community-based health care. Its mission reflects its commitment: Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center is dedicated to promoting the health and well being of its community by providing accessible, high quality care. Our organizational and individual commitment is to ensure this human right through quality service, advocacy and community empowerment.

I applaud Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center, Inc.'s commitment to excellence. I offer my heartfelt congratulations on the opening of its newest clinic in Hayward, California to be dedicated on May 20, 2004.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, on April 27 and 28, 2004, I was unavoidably detained in my district and was not able to vote on rollcall votes numbered 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, and 138. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcalls 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, and 138. I would have voted "nay" on rollcalls 136 and 137.

HONORING THE RHODE ISLAND SMALL BUSINESS PERSONS OF THE YEAR

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Ian Hardman, David Fowlkes, and Henry Seemore, who were all recently honored as the 2004 Rhode Island Small Business Persons of the Year by the United States Small Business Administration. Mr. Hardman, Mr. Fowlkes, and Mr. Seemore are the founders of Davin Wheels, an automobile wheel company based in Providence, RI.

It was David Fowlkes' design that made Davin Wheels so popular. While attending the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Fowlkes created a stylish wheel composed of the base wheel and a spinner. After the car stops moving, the spinner continues to rotate, giving the appearance that the car's wheels are still in motion. Today, with 12 years of experience in the engineering and manufacturing industries, Fowlkes still puts his creative touch on all the products of Davin Wheels, where he currently serves as the President and Chief Operating Officer.

Ian Hardman, the Chief Executive Officer of Davin, met Fowlkes while they were both working at Reebok. Ian worked in marketing