

Treaties, which to this day hold such great importance. It was also President Carter who inaugurated diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. In these difficult diplomatic situations President Carter never backed down because he knew that the price for a lack of international cooperation was far greater than any price he would pay simply for trying. Even today, it is President Jimmy Carter who remains actively committed to promoting peace and democracy abroad, supervising elections in fledgling democracies, and helping to defuse international crises in North Korea, Somalia, and Haiti. There are many men of rhetoric about how the world should be, but there are only a few men like President Carter who take the time to make their noble vision into reality.

I want to conclude my remarks by quoting the words of President Carter when he said:

Globalization, as defined by rich people like us, is a very nice thing . . . you are talking about the Internet, you are talking about cell phones, you are talking about computers. This doesn't affect two-thirds of the people of the world.

This simple statement is a testament to the selflessness that has defined President Carter's life. Time after time when he could have used circumstances for his own advantage, he instead chose to take the more difficult path and use those circumstances to aid the less fortunate. It is that great spirit that defines the noble intentions of our nation and the future we hope to obtain. Again, I wish President Carter a happy 80th birthday and may God bless him in all his future endeavors.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as we conclude this debate on this resolution, I again thank my colleague, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), for introducing the resolution as we honor our native son, a man that the State of Georgia is indeed proud of, our 39th President, and truly wish to President Carter and his family the best wishes of this body.

I urge my colleagues to adopt and support H. Res. 798.

Ms. MAJETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize former President Jimmy Carter who celebrated his 80th birthday last week. President Carter continues to show us by his example and by his spirit of service what it means to be an American and a world citizen.

President Carter served our country as a naval officer; he then served the people of Georgia both in State government and as Governor.

As President, he served this Nation during challenging times. He opened the door of opportunity to women, African Americans and Hispanics by appointing them to many jobs in the Federal Government. He created the Department of Education, worked to improve the environment, and expanded the National Park System protection of the Alaskan wilderness. He worked hard to battle inflation and unemployment during his administration and was able to increase jobs by nearly 8 million and to decrease the budget deficit. During the energy crisis he had a comprehensive energy program.

In foreign affairs, his accomplishments include the Panama Canal treaties, the Camp David Accords, the treaty of peace between Egypt and Israel, the SALT II treaty with the Soviet Union, and the establishment of U.S. diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. He championed human rights throughout the world.

Since leaving the White House, President Carter has dedicated his life to peace, democracy, human rights, and the elimination of human suffering, touching the lives of millions of people around the world. Through his exceptional work at the Carter Center, he has all but eliminated Guinea worm disease in Africa, and has treated millions who suffer from river blindness and trachoma. President Carter was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2002 "for his decades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development."

He is a leader in the fight against poverty nationwide, and particularly in Georgia, through his Atlanta Project, which addresses the many social problems that come with poverty. He and Mrs. Carter are also regular volunteers for Habitat for Humanity, a charitable organization dedicated to ending homelessness.

President Carter is a man of faith and a man who loves his country. He has succeeded in making this world a better place than he found it. He is an inspiration for those of us who serve our communities and our Nation.

I am proud to call him a fellow Georgian and in celebration of his 80th birthday, I extend my thanks and best wishes to President Jimmy Carter and his family.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida.). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 798, 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.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HIGHER EDUCATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2004

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5185) to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5185

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Higher Education Extension Act of 2004".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS.

(a) EXTENSION OF DURATION TO INCLUDE FISCAL YEAR 2005.—The authorization of appropriations for, and the duration of, each program authorized under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) shall be extended through fiscal year 2005.

(b) PERFORMANCE OF REQUIRED AND AUTHORIZED FUNCTIONS.—If the Secretary of Education, a State, an institution of higher education, a guaranty agency, a lender, or another person or entity—

(1) is required, in or for fiscal year 2004, to carry out certain acts or make certain determinations or payments under a program under the Higher Education Act of 1965, such acts, determinations, or payments shall be required to be carried out, made, or continued during the period of the extension under this section; or

(2) is permitted or authorized, in or for fiscal year 2004, to carry out certain acts or make certain determinations or payments under a program under the Higher Education Act of 1965, such acts, determinations, or payments are permitted or authorized to be carried out, made, or continued during the period of the extension under this section.

(c) EXTENSION AT CURRENT LEVELS.—The amount authorized to be appropriated for a program described in subsection (a) during the period of extension under this section shall be the amount authorized to be appropriated for such program for fiscal year 2004, or the amount appropriated for such program for such fiscal year, whichever is greater. Except as provided in any amendment to the Higher Education Act of 1965 enacted during fiscal year 2005, the amount of any payment required or authorized under subsection (b) in or for fiscal year 2005 shall be determined in the same manner as the amount of the corresponding payment required or authorized in or for fiscal year 2004.

(d) ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND OTHER ENTITIES CONTINUED.—Any advisory committee, interagency organization, or other entity that was, during fiscal year 2004, authorized or required to perform any function under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), or in relation to programs under that Act, shall continue to exist and is authorized or required, respectively, to perform such function during fiscal year 2005.

(e) ADDITIONAL EXTENSION NOT PERMITTED.—Section 422 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1226a) shall not apply to further extend the authorization of appropriations for any program described in subsection (a) on the basis of the extension of such program under this section.

(f) EXCEPTION.—The programs described in subsection (a) for which the authorization of appropriations, or the duration of which, is extended by this section include provisions applicable to institutions in, and students in or from, the Freely Associated States, except that those provisions shall be applicable with respect to institutions in, and students in or from, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands only to the extent specified in Public Law 108-188.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOEHNER. 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.R. 5185.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, each year millions of Americans, young and old, participate in higher education programs at this Nation's colleges and universities. Higher education has become more important than ever, with a changing marketplace and increasing international competition. That is why the Federal investment in the Higher Education Act is so important.

For 2 years, my colleagues and I have been working to strengthen and renew the Higher Education Act so that we can better serve the millions of low and middle income students aspiring for college education. We have made great progress, but, unfortunately, we were not able to complete our work.

Today I stand in support of the Higher Education Extension Act so we can ensure these vital programs continue to serve American students. Yet I regret we were not able to accomplish a full reauthorization.

In May, the gentleman from California (Mr. McKEON) and I introduced the College Access and Opportunity Act to complete the Higher Education Act reauthorization. That bill was the final piece of our comprehensive effort to expand the college access by focusing on fairness, accountability, affordability, and quality. That bill contained a number of reforms that I had hoped would be enacted by today.

The College Access and Opportunity Act would have realigned our student aid programs to place first priority back where it belongs, on the millions of low and middle income students who have not yet received a higher education.

□ 2320

The bill would have strengthened Pell grants, college access programs, and campus-based student aid. It would have broken down barriers and eliminated outdated regulations that are preventing nontraditional students from achieving their higher education goals. It would have significantly realigned the multibillion dollar student loan programs to extend access for current and future students, and restore fairness so that all student borrowers could be treated equally. Consumer protections for borrowers would have been strengthened, and red tape would have been reduced. And because accountability is the cornerstone of education reform, colleges and universities would have been held more accountable to the students, parents, and taxpayers they serve through increased sunshine and transparency.

Yet, none of these reforms will be enacted today because partisan politics got in the way of student-focused reforms. The bill before us is critically important. We cannot allow programs under the Higher Education Act to expire. Too many students depend on this assistance as they strive for a higher education. Yet, it is equally important that we remain committed to com-

prehensive reforms that will build upon these programs, strengthening them to expand college access.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the extension of the Higher Education Act. Millions of American students depend on these programs, and we must not let our commitment to higher education lapse. But it is equally important that we remain focused on the ultimate goal of enacting comprehensive reforms that will strengthen and renew the Higher Education Act so we can meet the needs of current and future students. I encourage my colleagues to support this bill and work with us in the coming year to complete a comprehensive reform package so that we can better serve American students pursuing the dream of a college education.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill extends our higher education program for one year. We need to do this because Congress has not completed its work in reauthorizing the Higher Education Act this session.

While I support this legislation, it represents a missed opportunity. Students are facing some of the worst tuition increases in decades. Families have struggled to find ways to pay for college. Unfortunately, the bipartisan cooperation has not been as helpful as it was back in 1998, and the administration has neglected its role.

The Congress and the Bush administration have frozen the maximum Pell grant over the last 3 years. Indeed, Republican higher education legislation which failed to move would have jeopardized college affordability for millions of students by eliminating the ability of students to lock in low, fixed interest rates when they consolidate their student loans, by reducing student choice in how they can repay their student loans, and by increasing the ability of students to go further into debt.

If we did reauthorize the Higher Education Act, we could have addressed the critical needs of students, including allowing student borrowers to refinance their consolidation loans and lock in today's low interest rates. This increases the long-term affordability of college. We could have provided incentives to help colleges hold down increases in tuition. Recent tuition increases have hit American families and students especially hard. We could have allowed working students to keep more of the funding they earn than having it used to calculate their student aid. Unfortunately, today, we are not going to be improving our student aid programs. Instead, we are keeping the status quo.

While this bill is necessary, we have lost an opportunity. I look forward to working with my colleagues as we did in 1998, hopefully in a bipartisan fashion in the next Congress, to improve our higher education programs.

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. McKEON), the chairman of the Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness.

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me this time. I appreciate the opportunity.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 5185, the Higher Education Extension Act of 2004. This legislation will provide for the continuation of all of the programs authorized within the Higher Education Act for a period of 1 year. This extension will allow Congress to finish its work on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act to provide more streamlined, flexible, cost-effective, and student-friendly programs for the future.

The House has done a great deal of work to move forward on the Higher Education Act reauthorization. We passed four bills from this chamber that unfortunately received no further consideration in the other body. There have been bills introduced by my friends on the other side of the aisle, and the majority has also introduced several other bills, including H.R. 4283, the College Access and Opportunity Act. This most recent comprehensive legislative package provides for a great many benefits for current students, while holding institutions of higher education, accrediting agencies, and participants in the student loan programs more accountable. The bill maintains two student loan programs and equal benefits for all student loan borrowers, regardless of the program in which their school participates. Unfortunately, both the calendar and election-year politics stood in the way of the legislative process moving forward in its entirety.

This extension will allow all programs to run without interruption and ensure student financial aid will be available to all eligible students. It is a clean, straight-line extension, meaning that this bill has not been weighed down with other amendments, but does strictly what it was intended to do, extend all current programs.

The majority has continued to attempt to work with our colleagues on several pieces of legislation. However, many of those attempts failed. Now there is a deadline approaching. No one in this chamber wants to see these programs expire, nor do we want to instill any sort of concern on the part of students, institutions, or student loan providers. It is time to put politics aside, pass this legislation and get it to the President for his immediate signature.

I have every confidence that the Committee on Education and the Workforce will come together early in the 109th session and move quickly to enact a comprehensive, bipartisan higher education reauthorization bill. I

look forward to working with my colleagues to do so, and I urge the passage of H.R. 5185 today.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, while I support this temporary extension of the Higher Education Act, I am very disappointed that we have not passed the full Higher Education Act reauthorization.

The committee chair is correct. Higher education is more important than ever to ensure America's economic prosperity, security, and health. Just as college has become essential to both individuals and society's success, college tuition has risen dramatically, causing students to take on high loan debt, \$17,000, on average; to work long hours that interfere with academic success sometimes; or to forgo college altogether. Yet, Congress has failed to pass the Higher Education Act.

Now, one party controls the White House, the Senate, and the House; the same party. Yet, they have failed to pass a Higher Education Act. Where are the priorities? Congress seems to have no trouble passing tax cuts for the wealthy, but to provide opportunities for students to attend college does not seem to be a priority.

Mr. Speaker, the failure of the House to pass a higher education reauthorization is emblematic of this ineffective Congress. In past years, the Higher Education Act was one of the easiest to pass, one of the most bipartisan, a bill we could count on. And with this temporary extension, we have missed many opportunities today. We could have increased the Pell grant and provided it year-round. We could have significantly increased aid to minority-serving institutions. We could have increased assistance to low-income and first-generation college students. We could have increased loan forgiveness. We could have eliminated origination fees on student loans. We could have provided child care for parents who are attempting to go back to college. We could have changed the student aid formulas for working students. But, today, we pass a temporary extension. We have failed to do any of those things, and American college students and their parents are paying for Congress' failure.

□ 2330

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Let me thank my colleague on the other side of the aisle. We have been locked in a really difficult situation trying to come to an agreement on the reauthorization of this bill. But it is not just here. I think we could have overcome our differences, but clearly there was no action in the other body,

and we have no choice but to extend the Higher Education Act, which the underlying bill here today does.

This is important to millions of low- and middle-income American students who depend on Pell grants and student loans to achieve their dream of a college education. I ask my colleagues to support the bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5185, 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.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TAXPAYER-TEACHER PROTECTION ACT OF 2004

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5186) to reduce certain special allowance payments and provide additional teacher loan forgiveness on Federal student loans, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5186

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Taxpayer-Teacher Protection Act of 2004".

SEC. 2. REDUCTION OF SPECIAL ALLOWANCE PAYMENTS FOR LOANS FROM THE PROCEEDS OF TAX EXEMPT ISSUES.

Section 438(b)(2)(B) (20 U.S.C. 1087-1(b)(2)(B)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking "this division" and inserting "this clause";

(2) in clause (ii), by striking "division (i) of this subparagraph" and inserting "clause (i) of this subparagraph";

(3) in clause (iv), by inserting "or refunded after September 30, 2004, and before January 1, 2006," after "October 1, 1993,"; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new clause:

"(v) Notwithstanding clauses (i) and (ii), the quarterly rate of the special allowance shall be the rate determined under subparagraph (A), (E), (F), (G), (H), or (I) of this paragraph, or paragraph (4), as the case may be, for a holder of loans that—

"(I) were made or purchased with funds—

"(aa) obtained from the issuance of obligations the income from which is excluded from gross income under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and which obligations were originally issued before October 1, 1993; or

"(bb) obtained from collections or default reimbursements on, or interest or other income pertaining to, eligible loans made or purchased with funds described in division (aa), or from income on the investment of such funds; and

"(II) are—

"(aa) financed by such an obligation that, after September 30, 2004, and before January 1, 2006, has matured or been retired or defeased;

"(bb) refinanced after September 30, 2004, and before January 1, 2006, with funds ob-

tained from a source other than funds described in subclause (I) of this clause; or

"(cc) sold or transferred to any other holder after September 30, 2004, and before January 1, 2006."

SEC. 3. LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR TEACHERS.

(a) IMPLEMENTING HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHER REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) AMENDMENTS.—

(A) FFEL LOANS.—Section 428J(b)(1) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1078-10(b)(1)) is amended—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting "and" after the semicolon; and

(ii) by striking subparagraphs (B) and (C) and inserting the following:

"(B) if employed as an elementary school or secondary school teacher, is highly qualified as defined in section 9101 of the Elementary Secondary Education Act of 1965; and".

(B) DIRECT LOANS.—Section 460(b)(1)(A) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1087j(b)(1)(A)) is amended—

(i) in clause (i), by inserting "and" after the semicolon; and

(ii) by striking clauses (ii) and (iii) and inserting the following:

"(ii) if employed as an elementary school or secondary school teacher, is highly qualified as defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; and".

(2) TRANSITION RULE.—

(A) RULE.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) of this subsection to sections 428J(b)(1) and 460(b)(1)(A) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 shall not be applied to disqualify any individual who, before the date of enactment of this Act, commenced service that met and continues to meet the requirements of such sections as such sections were in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) RULE NOT APPLICABLE TO INCREASED QUALIFIED LOAN AMOUNTS.—Subparagraph (A) of this paragraph shall not apply for purposes of obtaining increased qualified loan amounts under sections 428J(c)(3) and 460(c)(3) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 as added by subsection (b) of this section.

(b) ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS ELIGIBLE TO BE REPAYED.—

(1) FFEL LOANS.—Section 428J(c) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1078-10(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(3) ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS FOR TEACHERS IN MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, OR SPECIAL EDUCATION.—Notwithstanding the amount specified in paragraph (1), the aggregate amount that the Secretary shall repay under this section shall be not more than \$17,500 in the case of—

"(A) a secondary school teacher—

"(i) who meets the requirements of subsection (b); and

"(ii) whose qualifying employment for purposes of such subsection is teaching mathematics or science on a full-time basis; and

"(B) an elementary school or secondary school teacher—

"(i) who meets the requirements of subsection (b);

"(ii) whose qualifying employment for purposes of such subsection is as a special education teacher whose primary responsibility is to provide special education to children with disabilities (as those terms are defined in section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act); and

"(iii) who, as certified by the chief administrative officer of the public or non-profit private elementary school or secondary school in which the borrower is employed, is teaching children with disabilities that correspond with the borrower's special education training and has demonstrated knowledge and teaching skills in the content areas