

care services for the people in this country who are uninsured or underinsured. It eliminates the Healthy Communities Access Program, which helps health centers and public hospitals provide care for the uninsured. The bill cuts rural health care program funding almost in half, and it wipes out almost all of the Title VII health profession training programs that institutions like the CU Health Sciences Center need in order to provide critical training and education for medical students and residents who aim to practice in rural, low-income, and under-served areas.

And while the bill eliminates or cuts funding for several programs, it also fails to adequately fund others. The bill virtually provides no new funding for community health centers to cover rising health care costs at existing centers or to expand care for the uninsured even though the president called for a doubling of these centers. The National Institutes of Health, which works to find cures for many diseases, gets a paltry .5 percent increase in funding, the smallest percentage increase in 36 years which is not even enough to keep up with inflation in research costs. State and local health departments will be hobbled in protecting the public against infectious and other diseases because the bill cuts the Preventive Health Block Grant by 24 percent. Further, grants that help health departments improve their preparedness against bioterrorism and other public health emergencies are cut, and the Ryan White AIDS programs funding is frozen, even though the number of people living with HIV/AIDS has been rising by more than 6 percent each year.

Many of the education provisions are equally as troubling. The Republican majority has imposed a decline in funding for the Department of Education while requiring local school districts to implement federal mandates under the No Child Left Behind Act. Though I am pleased to see some of the programs such as vocational programs that were cut in the President's budget were restored in this bill, I am concerned by the low levels of funding for several education programs.

Our Nation has seen a decreased number of students in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics, STEM, disciplines, and in turn fewer Americans are seeking careers in STEM fields. The Math and Science Partnership provides grants to recruit STEM majors into teaching, and links current teachers with state agencies or universities to improve teaching skills. This program, coupled with its counterpart at the National Science Foundation, works to improve the quality of teaching in math and sciences that will excite students to study these disciplines. I am disappointed to see only \$184 million for this program. Unless we make a serious investment in these programs we will continue to see the decline in the number of STEM majors and those seeking these careers.

I am also concerned by the funding levels provided for Part B state grants under IDEA. Last Congress we passed an authorization for IDEA that sought to reach full funding of the program by 2011. This Conference Report provides the smallest increase in funding for IDEA in a decade and actually decreases the federal contribution from 18.6%, already far below the 40 percent full funding would provide, to \$18 percent. It is clear through these numbers that we are not doing enough to help states provide adequate education for disabled students.

This bill is another example of the Republican majority's misplaced priorities. In fact, Republicans will spend more on tax cuts this week, \$70 billion, than they will on all education and labor programs over the entire coming year, \$68 billion. The conference report is only the most recent evidence that Republicans are out of touch with the priorities of the American people. It cannot support it.

TRIBUTE TO KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Kalamazoo Public Schools' recently announced scholarship program: The Kalamazoo Promise. In a single word this program is tremendous. It is difficult to comprehend, but through the extreme generosity of an anonymous donor, or group of donors, every student enrolled in Kalamazoo Public Schools will now have the opportunity of receiving scholarship funding to attend one of Michigan's many superb public colleges.

The Kalamazoo Promise will cover 100 percent of tuition and mandatory fees for graduates who have been enrolled in KPS since kindergarten and whose parents live in the school district. A partial scholarship of between 65 and 95 percent will be given to students who enter after kindergarten and before 10th grade.

This is such terrific news for the folks of the Kalamazoo community. This remarkable scholarship program will promote a better educated work force, a friendly place to do business, and an unprecedented boom to business and economic development.

A college education is the dream of our youngsters, and this great program will turn dreams into reality for literally thousands of students. With the ever rising costs of higher education, the Kalamazoo Promise sets a new incentive for our students to work hard and earn good grades so that they can attend a college of their choice.

I would especially like to thank the donors whose generosity will not only bring the dream of a college education to the future of our students, but will also continue to make Kalamazoo a great place to live. I would like to also congratulate KPS Superintendent Janice Brown on this wonderful gift.

HONORING DR. W.A. HAYDEN SCHILLING, 2005 PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Dr. W.A. Hayden Schilling, a professor from the College of Wooster, who was selected as a national winner of the U.S. Professors of the Year award. As a former educator, I know how important education is to the success of our future.

This is the only national award that recognizes college and university professors for ex-

cellence in undergraduate teaching and mentoring. I am pleased to say that Dr. Schilling was one of four national winners to receive this honor.

After receiving his bachelors degree in history from Southern Methodist University, Dr. Schilling earned both his masters and Ph.D. in history from Vanderbilt University. I should also point out that he is a Fulbright Scholar.

Dr. Schilling is a model educator who has spent his career dedicated to the success of our Nation's students. In fact, he was chosen over 300 other candidates for the Professor of the Year award. Wooster President R. Stanton Hales summed up Dr. Schilling's achievements when he said, "Besides being a superb lecturer and professor, Dr. Schilling gives generously of his personal time for students. There's no way you can try to calculate the hours that he does this. I have seen no one more passionate about student success in all my 27 years in higher education."

Helping the youth in the community excel has always been a passion of Dr. Schilling. He founded, directed and taught in the Wooster-Youngstown Early Intervention program which brings students together to improve their proficiency in math, science and language skills. His program has been a tremendous success, as many of the participants have successfully enrolled in college and it now serves as a model for several area colleges.

Lou Gerstner, former chairman of IBM said, "If we don't step up to the challenge of finding the best teachers, we'll undermine everything else we are trying to do to improve our schools. That's a conscious decision that would threaten our economic strength, political fabric, and stability as a nation. It's exactly that clear cut." Dr. Schilling is an example of the type of teachers that Mr. Gerstner speaks of and this award serves as a testament to Dr. Schilling's outstanding career in education.

I appreciate all that Dr. Schilling has done to improve the lives of students and extend my congratulations to him as a 2005 U.S. Professor of the Year.

IN MEMORY OF JAMES BRANYAN

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of James Branyan, a pillar of the Camden, Arkansas community for nearly a half century. Mr. Branyan died on November 3, 2005 at the age of 72 in Camden.

James Branyan was born in Glendale, Arkansas on January 15, 1933. A 1950 Glendale High School graduate, Mr. Branyan played basketball for Henderson State University. Following graduation, he moved to Camden in 1956 to manage the Black and White Store. Throughout his impressive career, Mr. Branyan went on to own the Credit Shop, the Downtown Antique Mall, the Starr Fashion Shop, Banks Jewelry, A & H Ready to Wear, Stephens Department Store, Packard's Office Supply, Data Service Center Computer Service, KJWH Radio Station, Robertson Feed Store, Walker and Associates Advertising and Public Relations, and the Good Times Travel Agency.

Mr. Branyan had a deep love for the place he called home; he truly believed Camden was “paradise.” Mr. Branyan’s commitment went far beyond the business community; he was passionate about giving back through community service. Mr. Branyan served as President of the PTA, President of the Ouachita County Red Cross, Chairman of the United Fund Drive, Chairman of the Camden Water Commission, Vice-President of the Chamber of Commerce, and this is simply the tip of Mr. Branyan’s exhaustive list of involvement which kept him involved in every aspect of the Camden community.

Perhaps Mr. Branyan will be most remembered for his decade of service to the Arkansas Highway Commission from 1973–1983, a prestigious commission which he chaired from 1981–1983.

In 1962, Mr. Branyan was named Camden’s Young Man of the Year, an award bestowed upon young men for their dedication to community service, and today that award is named in his honor. In 1971, he was named Camden’s Man of the Year and in 1991 Arkansas’s Retail Merchant of the Year. Mr. Branyan was also an active member of Maul Road Church

of Christ, where he served as an elder, Bible school teacher and song leader.

Mr. Branyan was a tremendous businessman and led a life dedicated to the betterment of his “paradise.” Camden has lost a true friend and economic ambassador. I am honored to have known him and counted him as a friend. Mr. Branyan will be deeply missed, but his spirit and legacy will live on for generations to come throughout the Camden community. My heartfelt condolences go out to his wife, Shirley; their daughters, Cherel Chilton and Rhonda Stuart; and their grandchildren, Lance and James.