

requires more effective use of local funds by limiting the options of public school choice and supplemental services only to those students within the subgroup that failed to meet their AYP targets in the same subject for two or more years—not all the students in the school.

The bill would also remove restrictions from the current law that prohibit local school districts from providing supplemental services solely because the school district did not make AYP or is in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring status. However, the state would have to grant such authority to local school districts.

Restructuring. With respect to requiring schools or school districts to implement certain broad restructuring provisions, the total number of students not scoring proficient or above would have to exceed 35% of the enrollment, and Congress would be required to appropriate an increase for Title I of at least \$2.5 billion over the previous year, and appropriate at the authorized levels contained in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004.

State Flexibility. The bill would grant authority to the Secretary of Education to (1) approve state accountability plans that vary from the federal framework to align with effective state accountability systems, (2) grant statutory and regulatory waivers that are unnecessarily burdensome or duplicative of state requirements, and (3) make public any approved amendments to state accountability plans. Further, the bill would require that any waivers of the state's plan approved by the Secretary would be available to any state on a case-by-case determination provided the state or agency meets any requirements issued by the Secretary applicable to such waivers.

Non-Public Schools. The bill authorizes students enrolled in non-public schools who receive Title I services to be given the same assessments as public school students; and gives states the option to withhold Title I support to the non-public schools if their Title I students do not make AYP and perform at lower levels than their counterparts in the area's public schools for three years or more.

I am pleased to be working with the National School Boards Association and am looking forward to pushing this important legislation through the House and Senate. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support the No Child Left Behind Improvements Act of 2006.

SENIOR INDEPENDENCE ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5293, the "Senior Independence Act of 2006," reauthorizing the Older Americans Act. This is an important measure for our Nation's seniors in delivering nutrition services, supportive services, and caregiver services. I am particularly appreciative of the bipartisan manner in which this measure was crafted by Chairman TIBERI and Ranking Member HINOJOSA, and thank them specifically for improvements in the law which would help to target individuals with limited English proficiency.

Though the bill offers valuable resources for our Nation's seniors, one area where I believe we can continue to make strides is in capitalizing on the experience older Americans can share with their communities. I have introduced legislation to establish a "Silver Scholarship" program—H.R. 5275—based on President Bush's 2001 proposal to reward seniors for their volunteer service. The Silver Scholarship program would provide an educational award to any senior, age 55 and older, who dedicates a set number of hours each year to volunteering in their communities. The educational award, or "Silver Scholarship," would be fully transferable to a family member or any other deserving individual to help them pursue postsecondary education.

The first of the 77 million baby boomers turn 60 this year. This new "senior" population is the largest, healthiest, best educated population of older Americans in our history. Baby boomers are pioneers in a new stage spanning the decades between middle and late life, and represent an extraordinary pool of social and human capital. This initiative would foster senior service and invest in the education of the next generation of America's workforce.

While I understand this provision was not included in the reported version of H.R. 5293, I look forward to working with my colleagues as the process moves forward in the hopes that this worthy bipartisan initiative be promoted through our efforts.

RECOGNIZING JUSTIN SMITH FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Justin Smith, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 98, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Justin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Justin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Justin Smith for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATIONS TO RYAN MILLER

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Ryan Miller of Arlington, Virginia, on being awarded the Air Force Association's DW Steele Chapter "Teacher of the Year Award."

Mr. Miller teaches Astronomy and International Baccalaureate-level Environmental

Science at Washington-Lee High School in Arlington. Mr. Miller opens up the often demanding field of math and the sciences through his challenging, but innovative, lab experiments and lessons. Furthermore, his expertise and exuberance for science has significantly contributed to an improved curriculum for Earth and Space Sciences, as well as the enrollment of more students into his science classes. Also as part of his responsibilities, Mr. Miller assists students in science fair competitions at Washington-Lee and in regional competitions.

Ryan's selfless dedication to public service plays a significant role in shaping our future economy. The United States is facing increasing competition in the workplace from foreign nations that are investing heavily in math and science studies. Science and technology related jobs are among the fastest growing fields in our economy, and studies have indicated that our Nation is falling behind compared to the investment of foreign nations. Mr. Miller's use of the latest technology available to students, his interesting and motivating experiences, and his passion for science have genuinely assisted in helping our Nation narrow this gap.

When he is not dedicating his time to improving the minds of his students, Mr. Miller is spending his spare time on his own education. He is currently enrolled at George Washington University, taking classes for his doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction.

Mr. Miller is truly an asset to the students he inspires and the lives he shapes in the 8th District of Virginia. I congratulate him on being awarded this great honor.

TRIBUTE TO REV. THOMAS BYRON COLLINS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rev. Thomas Byron Collins, who recently passed away on June 17, 2006. He was an instrumental part of Georgetown University, and was involved in a number of projects that helped raise the fundraising prowess of the university in securing funds for campus projects.

Father Byron Collins was born in the town of Bradford in the State of Pennsylvania on August 16, 1920. He attended Holy Cross College in Worcester, Massachusetts, until the death of his father in 1938. He then returned back to Bradford where he entered the Society of Jesus at the Novitiate of St. Isaac Jogues in Wernersville, Pennsylvania. This was the start of a lifetime service as a Jesuit priest. Father Collins was appointed to Georgetown University in 1954, and in his first five years, he was the plant administrator, which included responsibility for construction on three campuses of the university. His ability in securing funds for these important projects and seeing them through was legendary. He was then appointed vice-president for business management in 1959. Georgetown University in the next 15 years saw an unprecedented rise in various campus construction projects than it had in the previous years. Georgetown became a pioneer among institutions of high

education in securing federal legislation shaped to meet its needs due to the tireless efforts of Father Collins.

Father Collins also was well-regarded in the Georgetown University community for his deep respect for all religions. He used to say that all major religions had "a beauty and a truth." He never wanted religion to be a source of conflict but as a means of bringing people together. He has left behind a remarkable legacy, and without that legacy, Georgetown University would not have had the infrastructure needed to make it into one of the Nation's most prestigious centers of higher education.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the legacy of Father Thomas Byron Collins at Georgetown University.

FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express my concerns about the Flood Insurance Reform Modernization Act that the House passed today.

I support the goals of this legislation, which are to provide the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) with the resources it needs to pay its claims to the victims of Hurricane Katrina, and to reform the NFIP to place it on sustainable long-term footing, but I believe that goal cannot be done at the expense of communities and homeowners who should not be in the flood maps. Several provisions of the bill will have such a negative impact on the Western New York communities that I represent, that I am unable to lend my support to the bill.

I would have welcomed the opportunity to vote solely on the provision to increase the funding that the Federal Emergency Management Agency can borrow in order to ensure that Katrina victims receive the funds they are owed. Indeed, I have supported several efforts since Katrina to increase FEMA's borrowing authority for this purpose. I have also supported tremendous increases in community development funding for Katrina-impacted areas, and I fought hard against the Administration's ill-conceived proposal to deny workers in the reconstruction effort the benefit of federal wage protection law.

Yet Mr. Chairman for all that was right in this bill, it fails to address some of the most pressing and problematic aspects of the NFIP, such as the extent to which some areas served by the program which seldom flood and seldom receive benefits must subsidize other areas which more frequently flood and more frequently receive benefits. Additionally, I am concerned that this does nothing to cushion the blow of mandatory flood insurance premiums to low income senior citizens or other, similarly situated persons. Additionally, when floods very often hit areas which had not been designated as having significant flood hazards, and while areas which have the 100-year flood designation have never been inundated, I have serious concerns about the accuracy of current flood mapping processes and procedures. While this bill would increase funding to

increase the quantity of flood mapping, it would not sufficiently improve the science to increase the quality of flood mapping.

Specific to the Buffalo-area communities in my district, I am strongly opposed to the provision directing the Comptroller General to study a mandatory purchase requirement for the natural 100-year floodplain. In the City of Buffalo, in the neighborhoods of South Buffalo and Kaisertown, an area has been designated as a 100-year floodplain by FEMA. This area is now protected by a number of man-made improvements designed expressly to protect against 100-year floods, so I am working toward the goal of having FEMA remove the 100-year floodplain designation from these areas, and with it, the concomitant burden of mandatory flood insurance premiums. In fact, in 1972 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said "the area would be protected from a flood stage having a recurrence interval of 100 years," yet this bill would not only keep the area under 100-year designation, but would also allow the cost to no-risk homeowners to rise. For me to vote to advance legislation including the area in the 100-year floodplain designation would be inconsistent with my efforts to have the designation removed in light of the flood prevention work that has been done there.

I am further concerned with provisions in this bill which would raise the maximum amount of coverage. This provision would cause insured homeowners in low-cost housing markets, such as Buffalo, to subsidize homeowners in high-cost housing markets. This provision is regressive and contrary to the interests of my constituency.

Mr. Chairman I agree that the NFIP needs to be reformed so that those truly at risk bear the cost of flood insurance. However, by including communities that are at no or little risk of flooding, the bill has the unintended consequence of forcing struggling communities, like the one I represent, to subsidize the cost of flood insurance across the country. That is not a just outcome, and it is one I will continue to oppose until NFIP flood maps represent what really goes on in a community and until low risk communities are not forced to subsidize high risk communities.

RECOGNIZING STEVEN GLASBRENNER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Steven Glasbrenner a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 98, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Steven has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Steven has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Steven Glasbrenner for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of Amer-

ica and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN HONOR OF DENICE DEE
DENTON

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and my colleagues, Representatives MICHAEL HONDA and ANNA ESHOO, I rise today to note, sadly, the tragic passing of Denice Dee Denton, Chancellor of the University of California, Santa Cruz, UCSC. We have lost a colleague of immeasurable creativity and intellect. Our hearts go out to her family and loved ones in this incomprehensible time. In her memory, we stand today to pay homage to her commitment and sacrifice and pledge to further her legacy of equity, diversity and academic excellence.

Chancellor Denton dedicated her professional and personal energy to increasing the presence of women and minorities in typically male-dominated academic fields. While pursuing four advanced degrees from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, including a Ph.D., she often encountered and fought against prevailing attitudes that were quietly or openly hostile to women in science. Remarkably, her academic career was just beginning to blossom. She held academic appointments at the University of Massachusetts, the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she worked from 1987, leaving as professor in the Departments of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Chemistry. Beginning in 1996, Chancellor Denton was appointed Dean of the College of Engineering and Professor of Electrical Engineering at the University of Washington, the first woman to hold the position at a National Research Council-designated Research One university.

On December 14, 2004, Denice Denton was appointed by the University of California Regents as the ninth Chancellor of UCSC. While Chancellor, Denice incorporated the philosophy of achieving excellence through diversity in her agenda. She championed causes on an international level to engage the academic community in a dialogue pursuing equity and advancement in science, math and engineering. Also, as the university's first openly gay Chancellor, Denice embraced her identity and empowered young people and professionals across many disciplines to do the same. Mr. Speaker, it is with great regret that we speak in memory of a life so full of promise and future achievement. But we do so secure in the knowledge of a life already lived so full of accomplishment. Denice Denton was just 46 years old at the time of her death. But in that short time she paved the way for so many to follow.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to the memorial service for PFC. Kristian Menchaca in my