

According to CRS, the average cost of tuition, other fees, and room and board at a public 4-year university exceeds \$48,000. At a private university that figure climbs to almost \$120,000. Predictably, fewer graduates are entering the teaching profession. In fact, more than 50 percent of teacher education program graduates never even enter the teaching profession. More than 50 percent of new teachers leave the profession within their first 5 years in the field. We are also facing a crisis of human capital in the Federal workforce. Approximately half of the Federal workforce is eligible for retirement or early retirement. Federal agencies like the Social Security Administration and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services are bracing for serious worker shortages resulting from attrition. Madam Speaker, these are such important jobs and yet we have done very little to replenish these ranks. Clearly more can be done to provide sufficient incentives to young workers—the next generation of public servants—to join the civil service. But we ought to start by removing the barriers that affirmatively preclude young people from joining.

In 1993, Congress created the income-contingent repayment option to help individuals earning lower salaries deal with the burden of student loans. Under this plan, borrowers' repayment obligations are capped at a percentage of their annual income and any remaining principal is forgiven at the end of 25 years. But because 25 years of repayment seems so daunting to an individual just finishing college, this initiative has not resolved the underlying problem. The Education for Public Service Act of 2007 would modify the current income-contingent repayment program to provide loan forgiveness after 10 years rather than 25 years, so long as the borrower has worked for a government agency or a charitable or tax-exempt organization during the repayment period.

Madam Speaker, the Education for Public Service Act of 2007 will help ensure that service to one's Nation and community will no longer be out of reach for our next generation. In closing, I would like to acknowledge the leadership of Congressman GEORGE MILLER whom I have worked with in developing this legislation. Chairman MILLER has led the Education and Labor Committee with a focus on American families and American students and I am very pleased that he has included the Education for Public Service Act as part of his College Cost Reduction Act of 2007, which will increase support for students and families with no new costs to taxpayers. If we enact this legislation, idealistic students will be able to attend our institutions of higher learning knowing that they will be able to realize their dreams.

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF TITLE IX OF THE EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 1972 AND RECOGNIZING THE NEED TO CONTINUE PURSUING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 406 and the far reaching achievements of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, also known as the Patsy Takemoto Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act. There is no question that women in this country have come a long way in the past 35 years, and there is little doubt that much of that progress is a result of title IX.

Prior to the passage of title IX, it was commonplace for colleges and universities to refuse admission to women simply on the basis of their gender. Of the handful of female college professors, most taught at all-female colleges, received salaries lower than their male counterparts, and very few were ever awarded tenure. Back then, schools could deny women training in fields deemed "inappropriate" such as woodworking or automotive repair, and girls ere discouraged from studying math and science. Only 1 in 27 girls played high school sports, and female college athletes received only 2 percent of overall athletic budgets.

This landmark legislation, passed in 1972, prohibits gender-based discrimination in federally funded education programs and activities. Its effects have been felt far beyond the classroom and athletic field.

Today, women earn undergraduate and graduate degrees at much higher rates, even comprising a majority of undergraduate and graduate school enrollment. Women can no longer be denied access to the vocational courses of their choice, and girls now take upper-level math and science classes at the same rate as boys. Additionally, female participation in intercollegiate athletics has increased by 400 percent over the past 30 years. In high school athletics, female participation has increased by 800 percent.

Title IX's passage has allowed girls and women to see no boundaries to their potential. Today, they can look around and see female doctors, lawyers, astronauts, CEOs of Fortune 500 companies, Nobel laureates and NASCAR drivers. They even have a female Speaker of this House to serve as their role model. Title IX has led to the advancement of women in countless areas of our society. However, the work of title IX is not yet complete.

Still today, women, on average, earn only 75 cents for every \$1 a man earns. Even more, women continue to lag behind men in earning doctoral and professional degrees. In academia, women earn less, hold lower ranking positions and are less likely to be awarded tenure than men. Despite comprising over 50 percent of the student population, women make up only 42 percent of high school and college varsity athletes, and male athletes receive \$137 million more than female athletes in college athletic scholarships. That does not

even take into account the barriers that title IX does not address. Negative stereotypes, subtle discrimination, and workplace practices that indirectly adversely affect women are still pervasive in our society.

Mr. Speaker, even in this great body, which is supposed to be representative of the American people, only 17 percent of our Members are female. Therefore, while we celebrate title IX's accomplishments over the last 35 years, it is necessary to remember that the struggle for gender equity continues.

I proudly commend Congresswoman HIRONO for introducing this resolution which celebrates the far reaching accomplishments of title IX. I look forward to the day that all Americans are able to achieve their promise regardless of their gender.

ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE WAR ON TERROR

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about the continued need for accountability in the war on terror. I support the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, but must register my concerns about the money we pledge to send to Pakistan.

Clear rules and accountability are vital to winning the war on terror. Just as we attach benchmarks and set goals for the money the United States sends to Iraq and Afghanistan, we must do the same for Pakistan—especially if Pakistan is to continue as a true partner in this fight.

While Iraq continues to smolder, Osama bin Laden—the murderer of more than 3,000 innocent Americans is still at large. President Bush said at a press conference 5 years ago, that he "didn't spend much time on him."

Recently, when asked why bin Laden hadn't been brought to justice yet he said: "Why is he still at large? Because we haven't got him yet . . . That's why. And he's hiding, and we're looking, and we will continue to look until we bring him to justice."

This is not good enough.

Meanwhile, the Taliban is resurgent in Afghanistan and American commanders on the ground are asking for more troops to fight terror, hunt down al Qaeda and kill Osama bin Laden.

Madam Speaker, we need to win the war on terror—and that means hunting down bin Laden and al Qaeda wherever they are. That means—above all else—success in Afghanistan.

Our troops over there are doing an amazing job and they deserve our continued support. It is getting harder for them, especially along the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan—and in some of the areas where we believe bin Laden is still at large.

I have always said that we needed to be tough and smart in fighting the war on terror. That means asking tough questions—even of our friends. One question that needs to be asked—especially as we prepare to send them \$300 million dollars—is about Pakistan's President Musharraf.

Right now we can count President Musharraf as an ally but is he doing all he can

to hunt bin Laden? We cannot afford to let a mass murderer slip through our fingers again.

The U.S. has sent \$5.6 billion in military reimbursements to Pakistan for counterterrorism efforts—this is \$80 million a month. We are about to vote to send them even more.

In the early days of the war in Afghanistan, President Bush decided to out-source the hunt for bin Laden in Tora Bora. Now we need to examine—are we relying too much on Pakistan and their accord with tribal warlords near the Afghan border for the same reason?

Why do we, the United States of America, continue to send roughly \$1 billion per year to Pakistan if they are going to slash patrols through the area where al Qaeda and Taliban fighters are most active?

Why, as Senator REED has said, are we reimbursing Pakistan for their efforts instead of, “paying for specific objectives?”

Is it true, as two American analysts and one American soldier reported—that Pakistani security forces fired in direct support of Taliban ground attacks on Afghan Army posts?

Families in the 8th District of Pennsylvania voted me here to ask tough questions and demand accountability.

I hope over the coming weeks and months this Congress gets answers to these vital questions so we can effectively prosecute the war on terror.

We can win the war on terror but after more than 4 years in Iraq and nearly 6 years in Afghanistan, we need to demand more results.

Madam Speaker, by asking the tough questions we can continue to support the troops who are fighting bravely to secure our Nation.

IN HONOR OF MICHAEL RUCKA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of a man who is a true defender of the needs and interests of injured workers. Michael Rucka's long and distinguished career has proven him to be worthy of the Workers Injury Litigation Group Lifetime Achievement Award, which he will receive on June 23, 2007.

As a senior founding partner of the Rucka, O'Boyle, Lombardo & McKenna Attorney practice, Michael proves to be an outstanding and committed leader. Not only does his hard work make him shine as a perfect candidate for the Lifetime Achievement Award, but Michael's pursuit of reform in worker's compensation systems in the United States also highlights his devotion to his career but especially to his clients—the working man and woman.

Madam Speaker, Michael Rucka exemplifies exceptional skill and service to a worthy social cause and I am honored to be able to acknowledge him as one of the most valuable lawyers of our time. The contributions and efforts that he has made and will continue to make are invaluable.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH
BIRTHDAY OF LEO Y. LEE

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the 50th birthday of Mr. Leo Y. Lee, and to honor his past, present, and future contributions to the Asian-American community. We celebrate his first 50 years, his energy, determination, and lifelong service to our diverse communities.

Mr. Lee immigrated to the United States in 1975 from Hong Kong. Mr. Lee attended Vincennes University in Indiana in 1975 and Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art on full tuition scholarships. He became a licensed engineer with a master's degree in mechanical engineering.

Mr. Lee was elected president of the Chinese American Association of the City of New York from 1994 through 1996. This group is a fraternal organization of 4,000 Chinese-American managerial and civil service employees for the city of New York.

In June 1996, Mr. Lee was selected to participate in the Coro Partnership Leadership Enhancement and Networking Program for his demonstrated leadership, commitment, and community involvement.

Since 1996, Mr. Lee has been a member of the Organization of Chinese Americans, OCA—New York Chapter. OCA is a national organization that promotes equal opportunity and equal treatment of Asian Americans. Mr. Lee has served as president of the New York Chapter from 1999 through 2002, during which time he advocated for fair treatment and justice for Dr. Wen Ho Lee, mentored Chinatown youth initiatives, a fledgling leadership organization, and organized candidate forums to address the concerns of the Chinese immigrant community.

He was elected to the OCA National Executive Council in October 2002 on which he served as the vice president of membership. In 2005, he was the recipient of OCA National Unsung Heroes Award. Today, Mr. Lee continues to serve on the board of directors of OCA's New York chapter.

Earlier this year, Mr. Lee was selected to serve on the New York City Council's Discrimination and Harassment Task Force.

Mr. Lee is also a loving father, engaged in his community as a parent. In 2006, Mr. Lee was elected a member-at-large of the Parents' Association of Stuyvesant High School. Finally, Mr. Lee has been elected co-president of the Parents' Association for the fall 2007—spring 2008 school year.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. Lee for his leadership and continued service to the community, and wish him a very happy birthday.

DEDICATED TO PROVIDING QUALITY HEALTH CARE—A TRIBUTE TO BETTY JEAN KERR

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to honor Betty Jean Kerr as she cele-

brates 30 years of successful service as CEO of People's Health Centers, PHC. Under her dedicated leadership, the medically underserved and uninsured receive comprehensive medical treatment daily across the St. Louis Metropolitan Area. The St. Louis community will celebrate Ms. Kerr during a very special Gala Weekend, which includes a historical renaming of PHC to the Betty Jean Kerr People's Health Centers. This is a fitting tribute for an extraordinary woman who has been credited with taking her vision of community health to an international level.

PHC Health Centers, PHC, has a 35 year history of providing essential primary care and prevention health education risk reduction services. Under Kerr's leadership, the PHC campus is now a sprawling community of apartments for the elderly, housing for persons with disabilities, social security services, primary health care, dental services, a pharmacy, affordable homes, small businesses, and school-based sites that provide increased access to health in conjunction with health center locations. All health services are provided by clinicians who are accountable for addressing the personal health needs of the residents in St. Louis. The success of PHC is a true reflection of Kerr's commitment and dedication to ensuring that primary care and prevention services are efficiently provided, regardless of a patient's socioeconomic status.

Kerr has also ventured beyond medical treatment by incorporating medical research into PHC. By partnering with government agencies, teaching institutions, and a host of other participants, PHC is able to conduct clinical research trials in an effort to improve health outcomes for medically underserved persons with chronic diseases. And reduce health disparities. Ms. Kerr has a strong belief that every citizen has the right to a long and healthy life. She continues creating unique programs, such as the Sharing the Care Program, which allows eligible PHC participants to receive life-saving drugs free of charge.

Kerr has recently extended her mission of serving the underserved through the Betty Jean Kerr Scholarship. These College Family Life Assistant Scholarships are awarded to African American students with an interest in higher education in the fields of health and health related professions.

Madam Speaker, it is with great privilege that I recognize Betty Jean Kerr today before Congress. She is not only a local hero, but is indeed a national treasure. Her tireless work to make healthcare affordable and accessible to all makes her more than worthy of this honor. It is with great privilege that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Betty Jean Kerr.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. TOM AND MRS. LOIS MILLER ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the institution of marriage is one of the most effective traditions in civilized society which organizes, holds together and perpetuates continuation of