

This Congressional neglect—again, 9 years since the last increase—is the longest since the minimum wage was created. The results have been devastating.

A full-time minimum wage worker earns only \$10,712 per year—almost \$6,000 under the poverty line for a family of three.

Furthermore, this low wage is often the only wage of the house—nearly half of all minimum wage workers are the sole breadwinner in their households.

Today, we will change that and millions of workers will benefit. This extra money—nearly \$4,000 for a full-time minimum wage earner—means that they won't have to choose between buying drugs for their children, and putting food on the family dinner table.

It is unacceptable for a person working a full-time job in the richest country in the world to live in poverty.

Mr. Speaker, it is high time that we pay American workers what they deserve: a fair day's wage for a day's work.

Raising the minimum wage is the right thing to do, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

THE STANDARDS TO PROVIDE
EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT
FOR ALL KIDS (SPEAK) ACT (H.R.
325)

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Standards to Provide Educational Achievement for All Kids (SPEAK) Act, H.R. 325.

It has been no secret that I strongly believe that we need to improve our nation's math and science education. High quality math and science education at the K–12 levels is extremely important to ensure that our future workforce is ready to compete in the global economy. We are sacrificing our future and our children's, if we are not investing in today's children.

I have been so concerned about the quality of math and science education in this country, and the limited number of young people who are pursuing math and science-related degrees, that I founded the House STEM Education Caucus with my Democratic colleague MARK UDALL of Colorado in 2004. As you probably know, STEM stands for "Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics."

A resounding bipartisan chorus of business leaders, educators, Nobel laureates and other luminaries has called for improvements in our nation's math and science education, as evidenced by the Business Roundtable's Tapping America's Potential and the National Academies' Rising Above the Gathering Storm reports, as well as President Bush's American Competitiveness Initiative.

While the last Congress was unable to pass comprehensive legislation to improve math and science education, we now have a new opportunity to work in a bipartisan and bicameral fashion: the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 is up for reauthorization this year.

NCLB has made important strides toward strengthening standards-based education and holding states and schools accountable for ensuring that our students are learning. However, with more than 50 different sets of academic standards, state assessments and definitions of proficiency, there is tremendous vari-

ability across our nation in the subject matter our students are learning.

I might add that there also is considerable variation across states and even school districts in the sequencing of math and science courses, which is problematic for our increasingly mobile student population. Our students could lack instruction in certain basic science or math concepts if they transfer between schools with completely different sequences of courses.

Despite NCLB and all of our other efforts, the condition of our state standards is not well. In 2006, the Fordham Foundation reported that two-thirds of U.S. kids attend school in states with academic standards in the C, D, and F range. My own state of Michigan was given a C in math and a D in science despite the fact that Michigan was one of the pioneers in the standards movement. (Michigan adopted science guidelines in 1991). Recently, Michigan adopted the Michigan Merit Curriculum, which describes what students should know at each grade level, and is linked to tougher statewide graduation requirements that, for the first time, mandate 3 years of high school science.

States like Michigan are making substantial improvements, but our Nation as a whole needs to redouble its efforts to ensure that we have all students prepared for the jobs of the future, and must improve the quality of our educational standards from the current average or failing grades to excellent or A plus grades.

The SPEAK Act creates, adopts and recommends rigorous voluntary American education content standards in math and science in grades K–12. The bill tasks the National Assessment Governing Board, in consultation with relevant organizations, to review existing standards and to review the issue of course sequencing as it relates to student achievement.

The SPEAK Act authorizes the American Standards Incentive Fund to incentivize states to adopt excellent math and science standards. It offers an "If You Build It, They Will Come Approach." Let me emphasize that this bill does not establish a national curriculum or national standards. Participation by states is strictly voluntary. I have always felt that the "carrot" is more effective than the "stick" in leading reform. It is my hope that all states will feel the overwhelming responsibility to bolster their state standards in science and math and will step up to the plate.

I am very pleased that 38 organizations listed below have endorsed the SPEAK Act, including national organizations such as the National Education Association, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and the National Science Teachers Association. In addition, organizations in my congressional district and elsewhere in Michigan have endorsed the SPEAK Act, including the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce; the University of Michigan; Michigan State University; the Regional Math and Science Center at Grand Valley State University; Steelcase, Inc.; RoMan Manufacturing, Inc.; Cascade Engineering; and the Michigan Science Teachers Association.

I look forward to working with Senator DODD, other Members and the education and business community in a bipartisan and bicameral fashion to pass the SPEAK Act into law. It will greatly improve our Nation's math and science education. New America Foundation, Thomas B. Fordham Institute, National

Education Association, Alliance for Excellent Education, Council of the Great City Schools, American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, National Science Teachers Association, International Reading Association, American Association for the Advancement of Science, The American Chemical Society, Healthcare Leadership Council, SAE International, Math for America, Education Industry Association, National Education Knowledge Industry Association (NEKIA), Eli Broad, Philanthropist/Businessman, The Campaign for Educational Equity, Teachers College, Columbia University, Chicago Science Group, Jacob Ludes, III, Executive Director/CEO, New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), National Center for Technological Literacy, Project Lead the Way, Museum of Science, Boston, Junior Engineering Technical Society (JETS), National Society of Black Engineers, International Technology Education Association, ASME Center for Public Awareness, Building Engineering and Science Talent, San Diego, CA.

Connecticut-Based Organizations: The University of Connecticut, Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges, Connecticut Federation of School Administrators, Connecticut Principals' Center, Connecticut Association of Schools.

Michigan-Based Organizations: Grand Rapids, MI, Area Chamber of Commerce, Michigan Science Teachers Association, Michigan State University, Cascade Engineering, MI, RoMan Manufacturing, Inc., MI, Regional Math and Science Center, Grand Valley State University, MI Steelcase, Inc.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Mr. NORWOOD. Madam Speaker, on roll-call No. 18, on passage—H.R. 2, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

MOURNING THE PASSING OF
PRESIDENT GERALD RUDOLPH
FORD

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H. Res. 15, a resolution honoring the life of President Gerald R. Ford. As America remembers President Ford's leadership and service to the American people, I offer my condolences to the Ford family.

While attending former President Ford's funeral, I had the opportunity to converse with Dr. David Mathews, a community leader in my district. Dr. Mathews served as Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare under President Ford and shared with my office some personal stories of the President's legacy. Dr. Mathews recalled:

Ford was a reconciler. While there was a great balance in Ford, he was also tough as nails. He did what he believed the country needed and was never motivated by polls.

In 1976 one U.S. soldier stationed at Fort Dix died of the swine flu. There was some concern that the potential for an epidemic existed. A panel of the best and brightest scientists of the day was convened. That panel included Doctors Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin, who did much of his research at the University of Cincinnati. Both were pioneers in developing polio vaccines. Some of the panelists counseled the president to quickly begin creating vaccine and getting the word out to the nation. Others thought it prudent not to risk a panic, and wait. President Ford was decisive and unwilling to risk an epidemic, giving the order to produce the vaccine. To emphasize the point President Ford and I received the first and second doses of the vaccine.

The working relationship and personal friendship between President Ford and I continued after the Ford administration. In the early 1980s, when I became president of the Kettering Foundation, I suggested to Ford that he invite former president Jimmy Carter to the first conference at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library. That conference addressed the public's reaction to proposals to strengthen the Nation's Social Security program. The meeting was based on results from a citizens' briefing book prepared for the National Issues Forums.

Characteristically, President Ford agreed, not just begrudgingly, or acquiescing, he was enthusiastic about inviting Carter . . . That was the first project Presidents Ford and Carter did together. It resulted in a life-long friendship.

I am pleased to join my colleagues in supporting H. Res. 15 and honoring the life of President Ford.

TRIBUTE TO ROBBIE & JIM
HEINTZMAN

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Mr. McKEON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to say farewell to two very special people, Robbie & Jim Heintzman. Robbie began working as a caseworker for me when I started my first term of office and her husband, Jim, was a helicopter pilot for many years with the Los Angeles Police Department. Now, they have decided to retire and will soon move to Prescott, Arizona to begin a new chapter in their new lives.

Robbie has been a true asset to me and I value her loyalty, dedication and expertise. Her compassionate and cheerful presence will be sorely missed in my office, and I know the loss of Jim's expertise and dedicated service will create a void at the police department as well.

Robbie's very interesting life prepared her well for the job in my office. She was born in Japan and was the only child of an Air Force dad and a mom who was the Administrative Assistant to the Chief Justice of the Japanese War Crimes Trial. Living in many places throughout the world, Robbie has always loved traveling and hopes that retirement will afford her the opportunity to finally satisfy her wanderlust.

Over the years, Robbie has held many different jobs including bartender, cocktail wait-

ress, newspaper/radio advertising consultant, secretary, saleslady and mother to sons, Sean and Colin Donohue. The three major careers in her life have been as a singer, sailor and as solver of problems for my constituents. She also found time to be a travel coordinator/consultant and now is looking forward to having the time to lead tours to exotic locales.

Robbie's singing career started in Hawaii in 1974. In 1975, she went to Tokyo to sing as the house vocalist for Club El Morocco, which at the time was rated the premier nightclub in Japan. After returning to the United States, she formed "Just Us," her own Country-Pop group, in Kingman, Arizona and sang professionally until 1983.

While cruising the waters around Hawaii on the *S.S. Independence* and *S.S. Constitution* from 1983-1985, and on the waters around Tahiti on the *S.S. Liberte* in 1986, Robbie held the positions of Bartender, Junior Assistant Purser, Cashier, Yeoman and Senior Purser. She served the last four positions as a commissioned Staff Officer in the U.S. Merchant Marine. In February 1986, she was promoted to Cruise Hostess and resumed singing with the orchestra as part of her duties.

Eventually leaving Tahiti for the United States, she started her career as a Staff Assistant/Caseworker with California Senator Ed Davis in 1989 and after I was elected to Congress, Robbie began working for me in January of 1993. Always kind, attentive and sympathetic, she delighted in solving constituent problems and loved helping to make a difference in their lives.

About the time that Robbie began her singing career, Jim started his law enforcement career in his hometown of Bloomington-Normal, Illinois. However, sunny California soon beckoned and he moved west to pursue a career with the Los Angeles Police Department.

Jim entered the LAPD Academy on January 22, 1973 and after six grueling months of training, he graduated second in his class. Jim's first assignment was the Hollywood Patrol where he walked the Hollywood Boulevard Foot Beat for 2½ years. He went on to serve in Hollywood Vice, Metro Division and SWAT. He was promoted to Sergeant in 1982 and continued his career at Pacific Division. In August 1983, Jim joined the elite Air Support Division and received his Command Pilot wings in January, 1984. He was promoted to Sgt. II in 1992. Air Support Division has been his home for the past 23 years and he has over 5,000 flight hours under his belt. Some of Jim's more interesting adventures included Pope Paul's visit to Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Summer Olympics, the 1992 Riots, the 1994 Northridge earthquake and the 2000 Democratic National Convention. Jim is most proud though, of his day-to-day patrol over the streets of LA and his ability to be the ground officers' "eye in the sky" which greatly enhanced their safety.

Robbie and Jim are active volunteers in the Santa Clarita Valley and participate in many organizations. Although California's loss will be Arizona's gain, they plan to quickly resume volunteer activities in their new community. In addition, Jim hopes to continue his flying career in some capacity. Very soon, there will be more time for golf, visiting and other leisure activities. But more importantly, there will be enough time to pursue Robbie's passion for travel because there is more of the world to see and many new people to meet.

As Robbie and Jim begin those pleasant, well-deserved years of retirement, I would like to thank them for their many years of dedicated service. I ask my colleagues to join me and extend our best wishes to the Heintzmans for a healthy and happy future filled with success.

RECOGNIZING JARRETT LOWE FOR
ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jarrett Lowe, 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 495, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jarrett Lowe for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Jarrett in the United States House of Representatives.

HIGHEST SIKH RELIGIOUS AU-
THORITY SEEMS TO BE UNDER
HINDUTVA CONTROL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, the Council of Khalistan recently sent a letter to Joginder Singh Vedanti, the Jathedar of the Akal Takht, who has been promoting a piece of flim-flam known as the Dasam Granth, in which several writers took a snippet of the writing of the last Sikh guru, Guru Gobind Singh, and added other items, some pornographic, trying to pass it off as the genuine work of Guru Gobind Singh in order to damage the Sikh religion. Jathedar Vedanti's endorsement of the Dasam Granth makes him a participant in this effort to undermine the Sikh culture and religion.

The Council of Khalistan urged the Jathedar to stop diverting the attention of the Sikhs to this severely altered book and instead to focus on the issue of freedom for Khalistan. He noted that on the two occasions last year when Sikh leaders were arrested for making speeches in support of Khalistan and raising a Khalistani flag, there was no protest from Jathedar Vedanti.

It is time for us to support the legitimate aspirations of the Sikhs and all the minorities of India who are seeking their freedom by stopping our aid to India, suspending our trade with that country and by supporting the right to self-determination for all the minority nations of the subcontinent. Self-determination is the