

My bill encourages public elementary and secondary schools to enhance student understanding of Native Americans. We need more classroom instruction to focus on the history, culture and achievements and traditions of Native Americans.

Native Americans and their ancestors have played a critical role in the establishment of the freest country in the world. They have fought with valor and have died in every American war dating back to the Revolutionary War to the current wars. We in Congress must encourage greater awareness of the significant roles they have played in our national history.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I'm honored that Native Americans will be honored on this day.

Mr. KUHLMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Joint Resolution 62, to honor the achievements and contributions of Native Americans to the United States and for other purposes.

The strength of our Nation comes from its people; and as the early inhabitants of this great land, the native peoples of North America played a unique role in shaping our Nation's history and culture.

Native Americans are the descendants of the indigenous native people who were the original inhabitants and governors of the lands that now constitute the United States of America. It was their tribal governments that developed the fundamental principles of freedom of speech and separation of powers. They're a model for those that formed the foundation of the United States Constitution.

The Founding Fathers based the provision of the Constitution on the unique system of democracy of the six nations of the Iroquois Confederacy. The Iroquois divided powers amongst the branches of government and provided for a system of checks and balances.

Native Americans have made a distinct and significant contribution to the United States and to the rest of the world in many fields, including agriculture, medicine, music, language, art, among other things. And Native Americans have distinguished themselves, as my friend Mr. BACA has noted, as inventors, as entrepreneurs, as spiritual leaders and scholars, among a few.

Their unique spiritual, artistic and literary contributions, together with their vibrant customs and celebrations, enliven and enrich our land today. As we move into the 21st century, Native Americans will play a vital role in maintaining our Nation's strength and prosperity.

Almost half of America's Native American tribal leaders have served in the United States Armed Forces, following in the footsteps of their forebears, who distinguished themselves

during the world wars and the conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf.

Native Americans should be recognized for the contributions they have made to the fabric of our American society. This recognition will afford an opportunity for all Americans to demonstrate their respect and admiration of Native Americans for their important contributions to the political, the cultural, and the economic life of the United States.

The designation of Native American Heritage Day will encourage public elementary and secondary schools in the United States to enhance Americans by providing curricula and classroom instruction focusing on the achievements and contributions of Native Americans to the Nation, and the designation of the Friday following Thanksgiving of each year as Native American Heritage Day will underscore the government-to-government relationship between the United States of America and Native American governments.

On this day we should call on all Americans to learn more about the history and the heritage of the native peoples of this great land. Such actions reaffirm our appreciation and most certainly our respect for their traditions and their way of life, and can help to preserve an important part of our culture for generations yet to come.

Mr. Speaker, I join my friend and colleague, Representative BACA, in supporting the resolution and ask my colleagues to do the same.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire of my colleague from New York if he has any additional speakers.

Mr. KUHLMAN of New York. We have no further speakers. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. I also yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 62.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the joint resolution was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COLLEGE COST REDUCTION AND ACCESS ACT TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS OF 2007

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4153) to make certain technical corrections and transition amendments to the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4153

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 "College Cost Reduction and Access Act Technical Amendments of 2007".

SEC. 2. FEDERAL PELL GRANTS.

(a) CORRECTION OF DESIGNATION.—

(1) CCRAA AMENDMENT.—Section 101(a)(2) of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (Public Law 110-84) is amended by striking "paragraphs (4) through (9) as paragraphs (3) through (8)" and inserting "paragraphs (4) through (8) as paragraphs (3) through (7)".

(2) REDESIGNATION.—Paragraph (9) of section 401(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a(b)(9)), as added by section 102(b) of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (Public Law 110-84), is redesignated as paragraph (8).

(b) REVISION OF AVAILABILITY RULE.—Paragraph (8) of section 401(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (as redesignated by subsection (a)(2) of this section) is amended by striking subparagraph (F) and inserting the following:

"(F) USE OF FISCAL YEAR FUNDS FOR AWARD YEARS.—The amounts made available by subparagraph (A) for any fiscal year shall remain available for the fiscal year succeeding the fiscal year for which such amounts are made available."

SEC. 3. DEFINITION OF UNTAXED INCOME AND BENEFITS.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Section 480(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087vv(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

"(2) The term 'untaxed income and benefits' shall not include—

"(A) the amount of additional child tax credit claimed for Federal income tax purposes;

"(B) welfare benefits, including assistance under a State program funded under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act and aid to dependent children;

"(C) the amount of earned income credit claimed for Federal income tax purposes;

"(D) the amount of credit for Federal tax on special fuels claimed for Federal income tax purposes;

"(E) the amount of foreign income excluded for purposes of Federal income taxes; or

"(F) untaxed social security benefits."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amendment made by this section shall take effect on July 1, 2009.

SEC. 4. DEFINITION OF INDEPENDENT STUDENT.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Section 480(d)(1) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087vv(d)(1)) is amended by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

"(B) is an orphan, in foster care, or a ward of the court, or was an orphan, in foster care, or a ward of the court at any time when the individual was 13 years of age or older;"

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amendment made by this section shall take effect on July 1, 2009.

SEC. 5. INCOME-BASED REPAYMENT FOR MARRIED BORROWERS FILING SEPARATELY.

Section 493C of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1098e) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(d) SPECIAL RULE FOR MARRIED BORROWERS FILING SEPARATELY.—In the case of a married borrower who files a separate Federal income tax return, the Secretary shall calculate the amount of the borrower's income-based repayment under this section solely on the basis of the borrower's student loan debt and adjusted gross income."

SEC. 6. DEFERRAL OF LOAN REPAYMENT FOLLOWING ACTIVE DUTY.

Section 493D(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1098f(a)) is amended by

inserting "or full-time National Guard duty" after "is called or ordered to active duty".

SEC. 7. TEACH GRANTS.

Subpart 9 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070g et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 420L(1)(B), by striking "sound" and inserting "responsible";

(2) in section 420M—

(A) by striking "academic year" each place it appears in subsections (a)(1) and (c)(1) and inserting "year"; and

(B) in subsection (c)(2)—

(i) by striking "other student assistance" and inserting "other assistance the student may receive"; and

(ii) by striking the second sentence.

SEC. 8. REDESIGNATION AND RELOCATION.

The Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) is further amended—

(1) by redesignating part J of title IV (as added by section 802 of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (Public Law 110-84)) as part G of title III of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and moving such part from the end of title IV to the end of title III of such Act; and

(2) by redesignating section 499A (as added by such section 802) as section 399A.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may insert material relevant to H.R. 4153 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 4153, the College Cost Reduction and Access Act Technical Amendments, makes a number of technical changes to the College Cost Reduction and Access Act in order to ensure that the Department of Education and other relevant stakeholders reflect congressional intent when implementing the law.

Mr. Speaker, during this Congress we have made significant commitments to our Nation's students and families by putting resources in the hands of those who need them most. The College Cost Reduction and Access Act, as passed and signed by the President, does more to help Americans pay for college than any effort since the GI Bill, at no new cost to taxpayers.

Specifically, the legislation provided a landmark investment of \$20 billion in additional funding for Pell Grants, reductions in the interest rate on student loans, and the creation of programs to help students manage debt, as well as encourage individuals to pursue public service. Providing this critical funding is a large part of our efforts to increase access and affordability to higher education.

Our work on reforming and strengthening higher education is not finished

for this Congress. I look forward to working with Chairman MILLER and the rest of the Education and Labor Committee on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, which we are set to mark up in committee tomorrow.

The technical amendments contained in this bill include: ensuring that the mandatory Pell funding is available for the full award year, which is the current fiscal year and the following fiscal year, to match the availability of discretionary Pell funding.

It clarifies the definition of untaxed income and benefits to ensure that it does not include those items in the calculations that were removed from the list under the College Cost Reduction Act.

It clarifies that students who were in foster care anytime after age 13 are independent for purposes of calculating eligibility for Federal student aid.

It clarifies that married borrowers' income-based repayment payments shall be determined solely on the individual borrower's loan information and the individual's income without considering spouse's income or any loan debt they may have if the married borrower files taxes separately.

It ensures that members of the National Guard who are serving full-time are considered active duty for purposes of student loan deferment benefits.

It conforms language in the TEACH grant program to ensure appropriate implementation.

And it moves the funds provided to HBCUs and MSIs to title III of the Higher Education Act.

Mr. Speaker, swift passage of H.R. 4153 will ensure that students and families will fully benefit from the program's funding and intent provided in the College Cost Reduction and Access Act.

I urge my colleagues to support this provision.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as the former chairman of the Higher Education Subcommittee, and now the ranking member, I rise in support of H.R. 4153, a bill which provides for technical changes to the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007.

I was honored to be with President Bush on September 27, 2007, at the White House when he signed this important legislation into law. Joining me at that time was Chairman GEORGE MILLER of the Education Committee, and the budget chairman, JOHN SPRATT. It was a special time to be there as the only Republican in Congress at that time seeing this historic legislation signed into law. It has been referred to by my colleagues as the most important piece of higher education legislation since the GI Bill in 1944.

That legislation dramatically increased Pell Grant funding and cut student loan interest rates in half. For example, Pell Grant funding went from \$4,310 up to \$5,400 over a period of

years. And the student loan interest rate for undergraduates was cut from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent.

Well, what are we doing here today? As a follow-up to that important legislation, today we are making some necessary technical clarifications and corrections to ensure that the act is implemented just as Congress intended. For example, this piece of technical legislation will clarify that members of the Armed Forces reserves are eligible for student loan deferments when they return home after serving abroad.

This legislation will ensure that students whose loan applications were submitted prior to the law's effective date are not unnecessarily subjected to higher rates or deprived of important student loan benefits.

This package of technical corrections will improve our financial aid programs by clarifying the intent of the recently enacted College Cost Reduction and Access Act. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join us today in supporting this important measure and voting "yes" on H.R. 4153.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4153, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1830

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAM RAYBURN LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 709) recognizing and honoring the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum on October 9, 2007, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 709

Whereas Samuel Taliaferro Rayburn, affectionately known as "Mr. Sam", held the position of Speaker of the House of Representatives for a record seventeen and a half years; and

Whereas the legendary former Speaker of the House served twenty-four consecutive terms as United States Representative of the Fourth District of Texas, until his death in 1961: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes and honors the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum on October 9, 2007, as