

taxpayer funds to localities without the benefit of a merit-based process, resulting in fewer resources for national priorities or unnecessary spending above the requested level.

I urge the Congress to send me a fiscally responsible bill that sets priorities. Americans sent us to Washington to achieve results and be good stewards of their hard-earned tax dollars. Because the legislation violates that commitment, I must veto this bill.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, November 13, 2007.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The objections of the President will be spread at large upon the Journal, and the veto message and the bill will be printed as a House document.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that further consideration of the veto message and the bill, H.R. 3043, be postponed until November 15, 2007.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, further consideration of the veto message and the bill will be postponed until Thursday, November 15, 2007.

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the remaining motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later in the week.

HBCU CAPITAL FINANCING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4154) to increase the insurance limitations on Federal insurance for bonds issued by the designated bonding authority for Historically Black Colleges and Universities capital financing.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4154

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. LIMITATIONS ON FEDERAL INSURANCE FOR BONDS ISSUED BY THE DESIGNATED BONDING AUTHORITY.

Section 344(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1066c(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “\$375,000,000” and inserting “\$1,100,000,000”;

(2) by striking “\$250,000,000” and inserting “\$733,333,333”; and

(3) by striking “\$125,000,000” and inserting “\$366,666,666”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may insert material relevant to H.R. 4154 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), the majority whip of the House, who has worked and moved all might here to get this legislation to the floor.

Mr. CLYBURN. I want to thank Chairman MILLER for yielding the time to me, and I want to thank Speaker PELOSI, Majority Leader HOYER, Chairman MILLER, Messrs. MCKEON and KELLER, Leader BOEHNER, Minority Whip BLUNT and all the other committee members on both sides of the aisle for bringing the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Capital Financing Improvement Act to the floor, and I rise in strong support of this legislation.

As a proud graduate of an HBCU, South Carolina State University, I understand the important role that HBCUs play in the development of our country. It is essential that this congressional body do all that we can to support these institutions and the students they serve.

Our Nation's historically black colleges and universities have produced some of America's brightest stars and most principled leaders, many of whom serve in this body.

I requested the introduction of this bill because many of the builders and buildings and facilities at some of these fine colleges and universities are deteriorating as we speak. This bill goes a long way toward making it possible for many of these schools to refurbish their infrastructure and to better serve the needs of their faculties and student bodies.

This legislation provides increased lending authority for bonds issued to support capital financing projects at HBCUs. Funds authorized through this bill will be used for the repair, renovation and the construction of facilities used for instruction, research and housing.

Mr. Speaker, institutions of higher learning are only as good as what they produce, and, in my opinion, no other set of institutions has a more impressive alumni role than our Nation's HBCUs. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4154, a bill to increase the limit placed on the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Capital Financing Program. This worthy program provides

Federal insurance for bonds issued to support capital financing projects at HBCUs. Generally, the funds are used for repair and renovation.

This program includes important safeguards to protect taxpayers while making funds available to HBCUs. Under current law, the total outstanding principal and interest payments on loans made under this program cannot exceed \$375 million. During fiscal year 2006, the Department of Education made 24 loans from this program. Since the last Congress, at least four institutions have submitted applications to the Department of Education to obtain funds from this program. Another seven schools have expressed an interest in the program, according to the Department. Without expanding this cap, none of these schools would have access to these critical funds.

Historically black colleges and universities are integral to the fabric of our Nation's higher education system. HBCUs serve many low-income and first-generation college students that would not otherwise have the opportunity to attend college. Students attending these institutions should have access to safe, up-to-date facilities.

With so many institutions in need of assistance, this bill will increase the overall limit on this program from \$375 million to \$1.1 billion. With this new cap, the Department of Education will be able to make over \$400 million in loans to deserving public and private institutions. Through the HBCU Capital Financing Program, we can help these institutions to help themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill and vote “yes” on H.R. 4154.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), a member of the committee.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, historically black colleges and universities play a pivotal role in America's higher education system and continue to educate many black American students as well as students of other races every year.

Today, we have over 100 historically black colleges and universities in the Nation, 5 percent of our colleges and universities; yet these institutions award almost 30 percent of all college degrees obtained by African Americans. In some areas of science, math and engineering, these colleges account for almost half or more of such degrees awarded to African Americans. HBCUs are also responsible for a large number of graduate and professional degrees earned by African Americans.

This bill will provide the necessary capital that will ensure that HBCUs have all of the options available to them in order to maintain their excellent standard of education.

This bill is supported by the Department of Education and three historically black college and university advocacy groups; the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, or NAPEO; Thurgood Marshall College Fund; and the United Negro College Fund.

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I would like to thank the majority whip, Mr. CLYBURN, and particularly thank the chairman of the Education and Labor Committee, Mr. MILLER, as well as their staffs who worked so hard to address this issue in a timely manner. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COOPER).

Mr. COOPER. I thank the gentleman from California, my friend from Virginia, and the gentleman from South Carolina for the prompt consideration of this vitally important measure.

I have the privilege of representing not only Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, but also Meharry Medical College, as well as Tennessee State University and American Baptist College. But Fisk and Meharry are two private institutions that are in urgent need of funds such as these.

People should be more aware of the historic role these institutions have played in American history. At one point Meharry Medical College alone had supplied literally half of the African American physicians practicing medicine in the United States of America. This country would be completely different without the legacy and the bright, bright future of Meharry Medical College.

Equally prominent is Fisk University, what some people have called the Harvard of the historically black colleges and universities world. Currently led by Hazel O'Leary, many have heard of the Fisk Jubilee Singers, a group that is literally famous worldwide. But they should also know about the science, the liberal arts, and the incredible education that is going on at Fisk University every day.

These are vitally important institutions, and I am thankful that even the administration has seen that we need to increase this loan fund. We need to offer help to these vitally important institutions so they can continue their historic mission of educating not only African American youth, but people of all colors and persuasions to live up to their full God-given potential.

Fisk and Meharry are two vital institutions in my district. But as the gentleman noted, there are hundreds of other institutions spread nationwide. These are very important institutions to support, and I am grateful that the House leadership, with Republican cooperation, has brought this bill forward. We must pass this important legislation.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS).

Mr. CUMMINGS. I want to thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, as a graduate of Howard University and first-generation graduate of college, to see my daughter graduate from Howard University, too, and then to sit on the board of Morgan State University, this bill is very, very important.

I have had an opportunity to visit a lot of historically black colleges and universities. I have often said if they did not exist, we would have to invent them because they have touched so many people. But so often when we go to campuses, we see buildings that are in very bad shape. Sometimes it almost brings tears to your eyes to think that students will come from far away and so often when they get there, so often they are disappointed. But the fact is that they still learn.

But it is nice to know that extending this bonding authority will be helpful to them in getting these buildings built and renovated. It is so very, very important. So I want to congratulate Mr. MILLER and the committee, and certainly Mr. CLYBURN.

I have often said that our children are the living messages we send to a future we will never see. I think if we are going to send a powerful message, our children must be educated and they must be educated in the best facilities. They must be educated with the best faculties. So as one who also represents Morgan State and Coppin, as well as Sojourner-Douglass in my district, I think this bill is so very, very important; and I think it says a lot about this body that we would even be doing this.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. SCOTT and Mr. COOPER who have worked diligently to get this legislation to the floor. And I want to thank Mr. KELLER and Mr. MCKEON on the Republican side, and our House leadership and the Republican leadership for facilitating this.

The Historically Black Colleges and Universities Capital Financing Program was established by Congress in 1992 to help these schools fund capital projects to construct, rehabilitate, or renovate existing and new campus facilities.

Under current law, the HBCU Capital Financing Program has a legislative cap or limit to the total amount of bonds that the Secretary of Education may guarantee to provide loans to these schools to undertake their capital projects.

In dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the Secretary exceeded, with congressional approval, the original cap that Congress imposed on the amount of bonds the Secretary could guarantee. Given the cap on such bonds was reached during the tragic

events caused by Hurricane Katrina, the program is now unable to provide any loans to other schools.

The bill we are considering under suspension today will simply increase the lending authority of the Secretary and establish a new cap to ensure other HBCUs in the pipeline for consideration of such loans will receive those loans. This is a short-term solution to the capital needs of these schools, and we will continue to address the reauthorization in the Higher Education Act the Education and Labor Committee is currently considering.

So I want to thank all of those who participated in this legislation.

I also want to take a moment, as we are talking about historically black colleges, to remember a pioneer that we lost this last weekend, former Congressman Gus Hawkins, who is a former Chair of the Education and Labor Committee and a member of the California delegation.

He was a wonderful politician who had a great vision for this country on behalf of its students and workers. He fought every day of his public life to make their lives better in this country. He was a trailblazer in so many aspects, including advancing legislation that barred employment discrimination and increasing the minimum wage and access to colleges.

I had the honor of serving on the committee while Gus was the Chair and can attest to his passion and dedication to the issues that affect America's students and workers.

As a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus and the first African American to represent California in the Congress, he led the way for many legislators who are here today.

Gus was also the author of legislation which established the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which continues to combat employment discrimination. Throughout his career, Gus Hawkins authored more than 300 pieces of State and Federal legislation, a feat that few can claim.

After retiring, he served as director of the Hawkins Family Memorial Foundation for Education, Research and Development, where Gus continued helping many young people find a path to college.

His voice is going to be missed, and I know my thoughts and thoughts of all of our colleagues are with the Hawkins family today.

I also want to say that Gus Hawkins was a wonderful friend of my mother and father when Gus and my father served together in the California legislature where they fought many of these same fights on the State level. They were a remarkable group of people who blazed these trails for justice, economic and social justice, in this country. Gus Hawkins set the bar and the standard very high for all of us, and I think it is fitting that we are also addressing the needs of the historically black colleges here on the day we

choose to remember him and the delegation will have an hour of remembrance and testimony to Gus and his great accomplishments tomorrow.

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

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 4154. This is going to help many worthy historically black colleges to rebuild and renovate after the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina, and it is worthy of support of colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I urge them to vote "yes" on this legislation.

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 California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4154.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING ADRIANNE KARANUSIC

(Mr. KLEIN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. I rise today to honor Adrienne Karanusic, a registered nurse at Broward General Medical Center, for receiving the Florida Hospital Association's 2007 Hospital Hero of the Year Award.

A nurse of 18 years, Adrienne showed amazing compassion and dedication to a Croatian patient who spoke no English and fell critically ill from cancer while working on a cruise ship. Adrienne, who speaks Croatian, made herself available as an interpreter and would even call the patient's family in Croatia from her personal cell phone to keep them up to date.

But Adrienne's support and overwhelming compassion for her patient did not end there. Concerned with his mounting bills, she contacted Croatian churches in New York and California, ultimately raising over \$10,000 for his medical expenses. She even took a week off to accompany them back so she could explain his clinical ailments.

Adrienne's incredible kindness and dedication is the epitome of a "Hospital Hero," and I am proud to honor her today on the floor of the United States Congress.

CORPORAL STEVEN SHULZ, TEXAS MARINE

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, Steven Shulz joined the United States Marine Corps after 9/11 and wanted, as he said, "to strengthen the United States military."

He did two tours of duty in Iraq, and in 2005 he was wounded by an IED in Fallujah. He had traumatic brain injury and was given up for dead.

Mr. Speaker, last rites were actually given for him. But Corporal Shulz refused to die, even though he has permanent brain injury, a weak left side, and is blind in one eye. No one ever expected Steven to even walk; but he continues to go through rehab, and his recovery is remarkable due to awesome medical personnel.

At a ceremony at the Baylor College of Medicine on Veterans Day, Corporal Shulz was presented with keys to a new home, especially designed and built for him, thanks to Houston area Rotary Clubs and benefactors in the Houston area.

It was a thrill for me and other Members of Congress to be present to see this young American hero. I was so impressed by his positive attitude and his love for America. He told me he would go back to Iraq and do it all over again if necessary.

Amazing men, these young guns of the United States Marine Corps.

And that's just the way it is.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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SECOND CHANCE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the House on the passage of H.R. 1593, the Second Chance Act. I congratulate my colleague from Illinois, Mr. Danny Davis, who has worked so long and so hard on this legislation.

I am also proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation because so many of our citizens who have been led off course deserve a second chance.

While the Nation's crime rates have fallen over the last decade, there has been an unprecedented explosion in prison and jail populations, of which 650,000 men and women are released from State and Federal prisons each year, and an even larger number of people are being released from our local jails.

These individuals are arriving on the doorsteps of my neighborhood in Balti-

more and in neighborhoods across this great country. Unfortunately, we are failing to integrate far too many of these returning neighbors into the economic and social life of our communities. And, as a result, they are returning to crime and, before long, returning to prison.

Nearly two-thirds of released prisoners are expected to be rearrested for felony or serious misdemeanor within 3 years of release. Such high recidivism rates translate into thousands of new crimes each year, at least half of which can be averted through improved prisoner reentry efforts.

For me, these statistics are not nameless and faceless people. They are very real. I live in the inner city of Baltimore, where approximately 700 to 800 former prisoners are reentering our neighborhoods from prison every month.

A lot of good work is being done in the City of Baltimore to move these individuals on the path to productive citizenship; however, we can do much more and we can do better.

The Second Chance Act will do just that by addressing critical breakdowns in the services provided. The legislation will strengthen overall efforts to reduce recidivism, increase public safety, and help States and cities to better address the growing population of ex-offenders returning to our communities.

The bill focuses on development and support of programs that provide alternatives to incarceration, expand the availability of substance abuse treatment, strengthen families, and expand comprehensive reentry services.

We must end the vicious cycle of recidivism for the benefit of our communities and, indeed, our country. This is an issue that touches many of the problems that our society faces every day. Take, for example, the scourge of illicit drugs; 70 to 80 percent of offenders reentering the community have histories of substance abuse. And if the treatment they need is not sought or available upon release, relapse is likely.

Prison reentry programs are on the front lines of our national war on drugs, and they are desperately needed in communities like Baltimore City where this war has become increasingly violent. Ex-offenders need help to make a smooth transition into civilian life. Once they make that transition, they have the potential to serve as critical resources to our communities, acting as mentors to our young people and working to unravel the same criminal network to which they once belonged.

Reentry programs produce successful outcomes for our communities and our citizens, but they are also cost effective. Taxpayer dollars that could go to providing education, health care, or other vitally important services are instead going to support the costly criminal justice system. According to