

the opportunity to go to college by eliminating the "tuition sensitivity provision." This provision prohibits maximum Pell grant awards to students attending low-tuition institutions of higher education even if their income is low enough to otherwise qualify for the maximum award.

As implemented by the U.S. Department of Education, "tuition sensitivity" is intended to reduce the Pell grant for low-income students who attend very low tuition schools as a cost-saving measure. Unfortunately, the students most negatively impacted by this policy are the poorest students who still cannot afford the lowest tuition.

As I have been saying throughout my district this past week, education is an investment not an expenditure. We must invest in our students now or be forced to pay more later. We can start this investment by passing the Pell Grant Equity Act, allowing approximately 96,000 of our poorest students to receive the financial assistance they need in the upcoming academic year.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 990—The Pell Grant Equity Act of 2007. This legislation is a simple measure to reduce the real and perceived barriers to a higher education for many low-income families across the United States.

Community colleges and other low-cost institutions offer life-changing educational opportunities for motivated students. Pell grant recipients are by definition motivated.

The Pell grant program works as a contract between the Federal Government and the individual. The Government says, "we will provide you with the means to get a higher education if you desire to invest in yourself."

Removing the tuition sensitivity provision of the Higher Education Act will help students cover the full cost of attending college, which is significantly higher than tuition alone.

For over 30 years, Congress has consistently increased funding available to the Pell grant program and increased the maximum grant that each student can receive. Why? Because the program works. Pell grant recipients regularly go on to succeed in jobs with career potential and upward mobility.

Increased access to higher education is an important goal for the Congress because having an educated workforce is essential to our country's future. As former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan once said to me, "if our people are educated there isn't a problem we can't solve. If they aren't, there isn't one that we can." Eliminating tuition sensitivity from the Pell grant program is a positive step towards making college education available to everyone who wants one, and there isn't a higher goal than that.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 990, which will provide all low-income students with the same opportunity to receive a Pell grant by eliminating the "tuition sensitivity" provision in the Pell grant program. The Federal Pell grant is need-based aid that serves as the foundation of a student's financial aid package. In fiscal year 2006, more than 5 million undergraduate students received the Pell grant scholarship, with 74 percent of these recipients having a combined family income below \$30,000.

Mr. Speaker, under current law Pell grants are awarded to students based on the difference between the appropriated maximum

Pell grant award and the student's expected family contribution, which is a measure of the student's and their family's ability to pay for education expenses.

The "tuition sensitivity" provision of the Pell grant comes into effect when the appropriated award is above \$2,700.00. The provision then reduces the Pell grant scholarship, received by the poorest students attending institutions with the lowest tuition. As a result of this provision, two students with the same low-income background and family expenses could be awarded different amounts for the Pell grant although they are both entitled to receive the maximum amount.

Although both students share the same economic hardships, the student attending the college with the lower tuition would receive a smaller Pell grant, thus requiring their expected personal and family expenses to the institution to rise. However, if these same two students attended universities with matching tuition expenses, the award amounts would be equal.

Just because a student attends a school with low tuition, that does not mean that he or she can expend more from their personal and family income. A needy student should receive the same amount regardless of their institution's tuition.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 990, which would provide all low-income students with the same opportunity to receive a Pell grant by eliminating the tuition sensitivity provision in the Pell grant. Every student in our Nation who plans to further their education, whether at our Nation's most expensive or least expensive schools, deserves that opportunity. Our Federal Government has made the provisions to financially assist students, especially those from low-income families, in their quest to attend college and we must ensure that every student has this opportunity.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support for H.R. 990, the Pell Grant Equity Act.

This important piece of legislation would amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide all low-income students with the same opportunity to receive a Pell grant by eliminating the tuition sensitivity provision in the Pell grant program.

Current law prohibits maximum Pell grant awards to students attending low-tuition higher education institutions even if their income is low enough to otherwise qualify for the maximum award.

As the husband of a retired high-school teacher, I have always been a strong advocate for education.

Unfortunately, the high costs of a college education prohibit many low-income students from receiving a higher degree.

Pell grants provide low-income students with their best opportunity to attend college, and we must support financial aid programs like this in order to help as many students as possible succeed and receive a college degree.

Higher education is the best way to ensure our children and grandchildren have a promising future regardless of socio-economic status.

I thank my colleagues for supporting this bill.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join Chairman MILLER and Ranking Members MCKEON and KELLER in cosponsoring the Pell Grant Equity Act. I would like to thank

them for their leadership in bringing this bill forward without delay.

Currently low-income students who attend low-cost institutions have their Pell Grants reduced because of the provision called "tuition sensitivity" in current law. It is contrary to common sense and our shared goals of providing access to higher education for low-income students to systematically reduce the grant aid for the neediest students who often attend low-cost institutions because they are more affordable.

According to the Congressional Research Service, our action today will benefit 96,000 low-income students and increase their Pell grant by an average of \$108. When you are a low-income student, every penny counts and this increase will make a real difference.

The colleges in my congressional district serve some of the lowest income students and families in the Nation. They work very hard to keep tuition low and limit increases to a minimum. This legislation will ensure that their efforts to contain costs are not undone by aid policy that reduces the Pell Grant because the institution charges low tuition.

The Pell Grant Equity Act will immediately lift tuition sensitivity for the upcoming academic year. As we move towards the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, we will make this repeal permanent and put all low-income students on an equal footing in the Pell grant program.

I look forward to continuing this spirit of bipartisanship as we consider the rest of the Higher Education Act and thank my colleagues for treating this issue with the sense of urgency it deserves.

I strongly encourage all my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. 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. 990, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "To provide all low-income students with the same opportunity to receive a Pell Grant by suspending the tuition sensitivity provision in the Pell Grant program."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TROJAN FOOTBALL TEAM FOR ITS VICTORY IN THE 2007 ROSE BOWL

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 126) commending the University of Southern California Trojan football team for its victory in the 2007 Rose Bowl.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 126

Whereas the University of Southern California (USC) Trojan football team achieved many historic accomplishments during the 2006 season;

Whereas the USC Trojan football team achieved its fifth consecutive Associated Press (AP) Top 4 finish;

Whereas USC was invited to make an unprecedented fifth consecutive Bowl Championship Series bowl appearance;

Whereas USC won an unprecedented fifth consecutive Pacific-10 Conference championship;

Whereas USC achieved its fifth consecutive season of at least 11 victories, an achievement equaled by only 3 other Division I schools in the history of National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) football;

Whereas USC accomplished these feats while playing the second most difficult schedule in the Nation;

Whereas USC boasts a 33-game winning streak for all home games, as well as a 23-game winning streak for Pac-10 home games;

Whereas USC has maintained a top 10 ranking in the Associated Press College Football Poll for the past 56 editions;

Whereas USC has won 56 of its last 60 games;

Whereas during the 2006 season, USC featured 5 All-American first team players (wide receivers Dwayne Jarrett and Steve Smith, center Ryan Kalil, offensive tackle Sam Baker, and defensive tackle Sedrick Ellis);

Whereas USC head football coach Pete Carroll has the best winning percentage of any current NCAA Division I football coach with at least 5 years of experience;

Whereas the annual Rose Bowl is the oldest of all college bowl games, and its history and prestige have earned it the title "The Granddaddy of Them All";

Whereas USC has played in the Rose Bowl on 31 occasions and won 22 times, both records exceeding any other collegiate football program;

Whereas during the 2007 Rose Bowl game, USC featured a second half offensive explosion behind a game record-tying 4 touchdown passes from quarterback John David Booty;

Whereas during the 2007 Rose Bowl game, wide receiver Dwayne Jarrett caught 2 touchdown passes, was named Offensive Most Valuable Player for the game, and became USC's career receptions leader with 11 catches for 205 yards;

Whereas during the 2007 Rose Bowl game, linebacker Brian Cushing made 7 tackles, 4 tackles for losses, 2.5 sacks, and forced a fumble, and he was named the Defensive Most Valuable Player for the game; and

Whereas, under the leadership of USC's 10th president, Steven B. Sample, USC has established itself as a world-class research university, known for its leadership in the fields of communication, media, the sciences, and the arts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the University of Southern California Trojan football team and USC President Steven B. Sample for USC's victory in the 2007 Rose Bowl; and

(2) recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, students, alumni, and staff who were instrumental in helping the University of Southern California win the Rose Bowl.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. McKEON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that each

Member would have 5 days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

I want to congratulate the University of Southern California for their victory in the 2007 Rose Bowl.

On New Year's Day, college football fans, student athletes and the Nation were treated to an exceptional college bowl game. And no matter what team you support, it is always a thrill to watch the Rose Bowl.

The University of Southern California made history by appearing in its fifth consecutive Bowl Championship Series game and defeated the Michigan Wolverines by a score of 32-18.

I would like to extend my congratulations to the coaching staff, administration, and most of all to the student athletes and fans for winning the Rose Bowl.

I also want to extend my congratulations to the Michigan Wolverines and their student athletes for a great season. Winning the Rose Bowl has brought national acclaim to a university that already has a rich history as the oldest private research university in the West. USC also lays claim as the birthplace of important Internet technologies and has the only marching band in the United States of America that has earned a platinum record.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I congratulate the University of Southern California for their success in winning the Rose Bowl, and also for their great educational tradition. I urge passage of this resolution.

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

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 126. This resolution recognizes the University of Southern California football team for yet another great season, winning the PAC-10 conference as well as their dominating 32-18 victory over the University of Michigan in the granddaddy of them all, the Rose Bowl.

USC has put together one of the best coaching staffs in the country, and this game was proof. Early in the second half, Michigan had made it clear to USC that they could not establish the run. Now, former USC offensive coordinator Lane Kiffin said, "We're not running the ball for another play." And for the next 30 plays USC took to the air, rushing the ball only twice.

The ability of Coach Carroll and his coaching staff to change the game plan mid-game and make personnel adjustments is what separates USC from the rest of the country every year, and led them to their Rose Bowl victory.

Today, when you hear about USC winning the Rose Bowl and finishing the season as the fourth best team in

the country, it doesn't sound like too much of an accomplishment, that is until you look at this team and see that they lost two Heisman trophy winners, six key pieces in their offense in the first three rounds of the NFL draft, and lost 11 players overall to the NFL before the season began.

I extend my congratulations to Head Coach Pete Carroll, his coaching staff, and every one of the dedicated players, the fans, and to the University of Southern California.

I am happy to join in honoring this exceptional team and also of its accomplishments and wish all involved continued success.

I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as she might consume to the gentle lady from California, Representative DIANE WATSON.

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Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to commend the University of Southern California, located in my district, Trojan football team for its victory in the 2007 Rose Bowl. The Trojans' Rose Bowl victory puts an exclamation mark on a successful 2006-2007 season as well as years of unparalleled Trojan football excellence. Let me cite just a few examples of the football team's long list of accomplishments:

The USC Trojan football team achieved its fifth consecutive AP top 4 finish. Its appearance in the 2007 Rose Bowl marked an unprecedented fifth consecutive Bowl Championship Series bid. The team won an unprecedented fifth consecutive PAC-10 Conference championship. It maintained a top 10 ranking in the AP College Football Poll for the past 56 editions. And the football team won 56 of its last 60 games.

It is noteworthy that the USC Trojan football team accomplished these feats while playing the second most difficult schedule in the Nation.

The victory of the USC Trojan football team also exemplifies the excellence of the University of Southern California as not only an athletic powerhouse but also an academic institution of higher learning. USC has established itself as a leader in the fields of communications, media, the sciences, as well as the arts. It is home to one of the best, if not the best, schools of film in the United States. It also boasts a world-renowned school of music.

USC is the oldest private research university in the West and is a critical part of the 33rd Congressional District of California. It is home to 33,000 students, 3,100 faculty, and 7,900 employees. It is the largest private employer in the City of Los Angeles. Its physicians serve more than 1 million patients a year. Its Educational Opportunity Programs Center has provided academic enrichment and support services to thousands of neighborhood residents.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I commend both the University of Southern California's football team for its victory in the 2007 Rose Bowl; its coach, Pete Carroll; its athletic director, Mike Garrett; as well as the coaches, students, alumni, and staff who were instrumental in USC's Rose Bowl victory.

And I just need to add this: I want to also commend the University of Southern California and its president, Steven B. Sample, for taking in 130 students from New Orleans when their university had flooded. And they not only allowed them to come there and admitted them, but they gave them room and board at a time of great need.

So USC and its president have played a major role in the continuous success of the University of Southern California; the City of Los Angeles; and the people of the Golden State, California.

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I am happy that Ms. WATSON talked about all the other accomplishments of SC while I just talked about the football team. The football team was great, but it is nice to see that they are doing all of these other wonderful things, and I commend them for it. I urge our colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the ranking member. It does sound like Ms. WATSON is quite proud of the University of Southern California. As a matter of fact, I want to take this opportunity also to thank her and the University of Southern California for hosting one of our State of the African American Male conferences that I had the opportunity to attend with her.

It is indeed a great institution, not only in terms of its athletic prowess but also in terms of its scholarship and academic tradition. I urge support for this resolution.

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 126, as authored by my fellow Californian, Mrs. WATSON.

As an alumnus of the University of Southern California, I've had the pleasure of watching our football teams compete against some of the best teams in the country over the years. The recent record of success is undeniable, which is why I'm happy to offer my support of my alma matter and this Resolution.

This year's Rose Bowl included USC playing against a University of Michigan football team that was nationally ranked at number three in the country. The Wolverines, though laden with their own star-power, were simply unable to match the combined efforts of the Trojans on New Year's Day in January.

The players on offense for USC displayed one reason why the Trojans were ranked so highly at the end of the season, even while playing what was one of the most difficult schedules of any collegiate team in the country. Our offense was led by the tandem of John Booty and Dwayne Jarrett, who helped the Trojans to a second-half burst that was exciting for any USC supporter, young or old.

But they were not the only reason for an impressive 32-18 victory; the Trojans defense

held the University of Michigan offense to just 14 yards of total rushing, which is no simple feat given the running backs for the Wolverines.

The Trojans' win in January was part of a recent string of impressive marks, from winning a fifth consecutive Pac-10 Conference Championship to the team winning 56 of its last 60 games. Winning the 2007 Rose Bowl was an excellent way to end the team's season and should remain a motivating factor when this fall rolls around.

I'm hopeful all of our Members, and yes, even those who attended the University of Michigan, can offer their support of today's resolution that commends USC on its victory. And here's to hoping we can support a similar such Resolution next year.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. 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 Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 126.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING THE MOUNT UNION COLLEGE PURPLE RAIDERS FOR WINNING THE 2006 NCAA DIVISION III FOOTBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 103) congratulating the Mount Union College Purple Raiders for winning the 2006 NCAA Division III Football National Championship.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 103

Whereas on December 16, 2006, the Mount Union College Purple Raiders of Alliance, Ohio, won the 2006 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III Football National Championship by defeating the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Warhawks by a score of 35-16 in the Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl;

Whereas while there are currently 231 schools playing NCAA Division III college football, during the last 14 years the Purple Raiders have won an unprecedented 9 NCAA Division III Football National Championships;

Whereas Mount Union College currently has the second longest winning streak in all of college football with 23 consecutive victories;

Whereas the Purple Raiders have won 62 consecutive games on the road;

Whereas the Purple Raiders hold college football's two longest winning streaks—55 consecutive games won from 2000 to 2003 and 54 consecutive wins from 1996 to 1999;

Whereas in winning the 2006 National Championship, Mount Union College Football Head Coach Larry Kehres completed his 21st season as head coach of the Purple Raiders;

Whereas Coach Kehres has compiled a phenomenal 246-20-3 record at Mount Union College and the best career winning percentage (.920) for a head coach—at any division level—in the history of college football;

Whereas Coach Kehres has led the Purple Raiders to all 9 of their National Championships, 17 Ohio Athletic Conference titles, and 15 undefeated regular seasons;

Whereas Coach Kehres was named the American Football Coaches Association Division III Coach of the Year for a record eighth time in 2006;

Whereas the Purple Raiders finished the 2006 season ranked first nationally in Division III football in total offense, first in scoring, first in passing efficiency, second in rushing, second in total team defense, second in scoring defense, second in rush defense, and eighth in pass efficiency defense; and

Whereas Mount Union College graduates approximately 98 percent of the student-athletes who remain in the football program for a full four years: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the Mount Union College Purple Raiders for winning the 2006 NCAA Division III Football National Championship; and

(2) recognizes all the players, coaches, and support staff who were instrumental in this achievement.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that each Member would have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate another college for their accomplishments. Mount Union College, located in Alliance, Ohio, is not only known as one of the top liberal arts colleges in the Midwest but also more recently for winning the NCAA Division III Football National Championship.

On December 16 of last year, the Mount Union College Purple Raiders captured their ninth NCAA Division III Football National Championship by defeating the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Warhawks.

We know that such accomplishments are achieved through a group effort. I applaud the Purple Raiders coaching staff; the administration; student athletes; and, of course, the fans for a championship season.

I also want to extend my congratulations to the Wisconsin-Whitewater Warhawks for a well-played game and a successful season.

The Purple Raiders, whose purple parrot mascot is well known in northeastern Ohio, have achieved some notable athletic accomplishments, including nine national championships in the past 14 years, along with two of the longest winning streaks in college football.

Mr. Speaker, once again I commend and congratulate Mount Union College