

consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act because it will increase our deficit, but not help Americans with the expense of college. This bill is just one more area where the President and his party's leadership in the House are seeking to take over private industry. This is yet another one-size-fits-all government program intended to cripple the private sector and force additional financial risk on the American taxpayer.

In the last few months, we have watched the national debt level grow at an unprecedented rate. We spent billions of dollars bailing out the automobile industry. We have thrown good money after bad to prop up portions of the financial sector that we are told are "too big to fail." We've bailed out Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, only to watch the housing industry continue to flounder. We have spent more than \$780 billion on a stimulus package that has left us with higher unemployment than we had before the bill. And in the next few weeks, we will need to raise the debt ceiling again.

Claims that this bill will save the nation billions of dollars look like a budget gimmick to pay for new government programs. Government has grown enough in recent years. We need to be looking for ways to save money and reduce our deficit, not spend "projected savings" on new, duplicative programs.

Furthermore, the money that supporters claim will be made available by these budget gimmicks is only expected to cover the first five years of these new programs. After that, Congress will be forced to find alternative sources of funding for them, or eliminate them. This is as productive as a credit card offering no payments for six months. This is a very poor way to manage the finances of the nation.

A second big problem I see with H.R. 3221 is the federalization of the student loan industry. If we run out of money for this program in the future, what happens to the students? With no private lenders, the students are left without any other source of funding for their education.

Fifteen years ago, when the federal government first got involved in the business of providing student loans, Congress was told that this was not an attempt for the federal government to take over the student loan industry, but simply a way to improve the system, and provide "competition" to the private sector. Yet, fifteen years later, here we are, debating a bill that would force private lenders out of the industry.

Does this argument sound familiar? It should. These are the same explanations being offered today by the President and by Democrat leaders in the House and Senate on health care. We are told that the bill will not lead to a government takeover of health care. Proponents say that a "government option" will simply compete, not replace, private health insurance plans. But I wonder, if the health care bill were to pass, how long would it be before this body is having a similar vote to eliminate private health insurance plans.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against this bill. This is a big government takeover of a private industry that will saddle taxpayers with the risk of billions in additional

debt, while shrinking access to resources for future generations of students. In short, Madam Speaker, if it ain't broke, don't fix it.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST.
JAMES EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF JEWETT, OHIO

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, Whereas, the dedicated people of St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church celebrate the church's 150th anniversary with great joy; and

Whereas, this milestone is the result of what a tempered people began in 1859; and

Whereas, occasions such as these illustrate to us that love mixed with grace and trust will stand the test of time; and

Whereas, it is the fond wish of this body that you will continue to present this work as an example to congregations and faith communities everywhere; and

Whereas, you have demonstrated excellence in your calling as a church, as anything less would have left you bereaved of such a jubilant occasion, and we are proud to have you as sons and daughters in the great state of Ohio and of our nation; be it

Resolved that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the congregation for your unwavering labor and commitment, recognizing that all great achievements come with extraordinary effort. With great appreciation and respect, we wish you continued abundant grace as you continue to labor for your community and your faith.

TO RECOGNIZE THOMAS JEFFERSON
HIGH SCHOOL FOR SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY FOR BEING
NAMED A 2009 NATIONAL BLUE
RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology for being designated a 2009 National Blue Ribbon School. In 2009, 314 schools from 47 states were named National Blue Ribbon Schools. Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology is one of only two high schools from Virginia so honored for 2009 and in fact, is the only public high school in the Commonwealth to receive this prestigious designation.

The National Blue Ribbon School Program began in 1982 as part of a larger Department of Education effort to identify and disseminate knowledge about best school leadership and teaching practices. Since the program's inception, over 6,150 American schools have received this coveted award. This award honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools that are either academically superior or have made dramatic gains in student

achievement and helped close gaps in achievement among minority and disadvantaged students.

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology has a long history of academic excellence. It has fielded more National Merit Semifinalists than any other high school in America for most of the 1990s and 2000s. From 2000 to 2005, it fielded more United States of America Mathematical Olympiad qualifiers than any other high school in America and has a distinguished history of U.S. Physics Olympiad Team members and medal winners. In 2007 the school had more Intel Science Talent Search Semifinalists (14) than any other school and in 2009, this feat was repeated with 15 semifinalists.

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology was ranked as the top high school in the nation by PrepReview in 2004. In that same year, it had the highest average SAT score among all American high schools, both public and private.

It was also ranked number 1 among "America's Best High Schools" in a study by U.S. News and World Report in 2007 and again in 2008. For schools with more than 800 students in grades 10–12, TJHSST was cited as having the highest-performing AP Calculus BC, AP Chemistry, AP French Language, AP Government and Politics: U.S., and AP U.S. History courses among all schools worldwide.

It is fitting that Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology can now add its designation as a National Blue Ribbon School to their extensive list of other extraordinary achievements.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology on receiving this honor. I also ask my colleagues to join me in thanking the principal, Dr. Evan Glazer along with the entire staff, student body and their families for their commitment to excellence in education.

STUDENT AID AND FISCAL
RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Chair, I rise today in strong support of the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act. Today's bill provides access to education and builds a strong 21st Century workforce.

It provides access to college by ensuring that students have a reliable source of affordable federal loans. It simplifies the FAFSA to make it easier to apply for assistance. And it guarantees the Pell grant as a key to college affordability by indexing the maximum award to the Consumer Price Index plus one percent.

SAFRA will also help students stay in college with a new federal emphasis on college completion. As increasing numbers of Americans turn to community college for job training, this bill invests \$3 billion to fund programs to retain and graduate students.

SAFRA provides access to quality early childhood education by making new investments in innovative birth through five programs. The bill ensures that every child enters kindergarten ready to succeed by transforming early education standards and building our early childhood workforce.

And finally, it provides access to safe places to learn with funds to repair crumbling schools and make energy-efficiency improvements to save money over the long term.

Importantly, SAFRA makes these vital investments without adding a single penny to the federal deficit. In fact, it would return \$10 billion in savings to the Treasury.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and ensure that every child has access to a high quality education, from birth to graduation day.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF UNITED STATES ARMY SPECIALIST NATHAN SPANGENBERG

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Army Specialist Nathan Spangenberg, who died from an illness at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii on September 8, 2009 following his last deployment. He leaves behind his mother, Lois, his brother, Colin, sister, Megan and a niece and nephew.

Born in Tucson, Nathan attended Mountain View High School from 2004 to 2006, then transferred to Mountain Rose Academy charter school before joining the Army in 2007. SPC Spangenberg was an infantryman with the 2nd Stryker Brigade, 25th Infantry Division headquartered in Hawaii.

He and his unit returned there in February after a 15-month tour in Iraq. The Warrior Brigade, as they are known, was responsible for securing an 800 square mile area North of Baghdad that remains one of the most dangerous places for U.S. forces.

Appropriately, Nathan was a warrior. He survived his extended tour in Iraq only to be taken from us too soon.

We remember SPC Spangenberg and offer our deepest condolences and sincerest prayers to his mother, brother, sister, niece and nephew. My words cannot effectively convey the feeling of great loss nor can they offer adequate consolation. However, it is my hope that in future days, his family may take some comfort in knowing that Nathan's legacy reaches beyond the desolate landscape of Iraq and the barracks of Hawaii and into the hearts of a grateful nation.

This body and this country owe Nathan and his family a debt of gratitude and it is vital that we remember him and his fellow servicemembers who have paid the ultimate price.

Nathan is a hero both to his country and to his wonderful family. We salute his selfless service and bravery. May he not be forgotten and may his mission continue in the work of this body and the hearts of all Americans.

DR. ROBERT H. KNAPP

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Dr. Robert H. Knapp who passed away suddenly on July 13, 2009. I extend my condolences to Dr. Knapp's wife of 31 years, Judy, and his daughters Megan and Sarah, as well as his extended family.

Dr. Knapp attended Wayne State University Medical School in Detroit, Michigan and was a long-time pathologist in the Grand Rapids, Michigan area practicing at Spectrum Health and most recently Grandville Pathology Laboratory.

Dr. Knapp began his service to medicine at the local level. He served as President and Trustee of the Michigan Society of Pathologists and was a member of the Kent County Medical Society and the Michigan State Medical Society.

Dr. Knapp's leadership in pathology allowed him to demonstrate outstanding service to the profession of medicine and his community by serving as an advocate for the important role that pathologists play in improving the quality of health care for Americans.

In fact, Dr. Knapp was very active in advocacy efforts on behalf of both the College of American Pathologists and the American Society of Cytopathology. He visited with me and my staff numerous times over the past few years and hosted me for a laboratory tour at his facility last fall.

In addition to his professional career, Dr. Knapp was an avid cheesemaker and lover of opera.

Dr. Knapp was a dedicated, knowledgeable advocate and respected pathologist. He deserves to be remembered kindly for his legacy of service to the Grand Rapids community and to the medical profession.

STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Chair, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act. For far too long private lenders have saddled our students with thousands of dollars of debt, all so they could make a profit. Today Congress puts an end to this ensuring that all students who desire a higher education can do so in an affordable manner.

When I was growing up I was told that in order to have a good job you must graduate from grade school, and then it was high school and now it is college. Unfortunately the reality is that all too often, many of our brightest and best are not pursuing college because they cannot afford to do so. I hear time and

time again from my young constituents who are working two or three part-time jobs all so they can take a class or two a semester. We cannot allow our brightest minds to burn out before they can complete their degree. Higher education should be an opportunity and not a burden.

H.R. 3221 will change this by ensuring that the students are the focus of our higher education system once again. This legislation will change the way the student loan system functions by ensuring all new loans are operated through the Direct Loan program, saving the taxpayers \$87 billion and guaranteeing our students have access to low-cost, reliable federal loans.

The savings from this change will be directed towards increasing government grant loan assistance for tuition payments. Pell grants, which serve nearly seven million students, will be increased to \$5,550 in 2010 and to \$6,900 by 2019. To ensure that these grants continue to keep up with the rising costs of tuition, beginning in 2011 the grants will be linked to the Consumer Price Index.

In my district more than 13,000 students rely on the Pell grant to help pay for their schooling. This increase of funding would be critical for each one of these students and would increase the total amount of Pell grant awards in the 15th District from \$34 million to over \$85 million.

This legislation will also simplify the FAFSA, making it easier for families to apply for financial aid. By permitting families to use information from their tax returns, the FAFSA process will be more streamlined and effective for our students. This is critical for families in the 15th District who submitted nearly 38,000 applications last year and are anticipated to submit 56,000 in the 2012 school year.

H.R. 3221 also lowers the interest rates on government-subsidized loans helping to lower college debt after graduation, which will be critical to the nearly 334,000 students in Michigan who rely on these loans.

Increased funding will also be directed to our community colleges, many of whom in Michigan are overwhelmed with trying to serve the thousands of dislocated workers who are looking to start their second career. I have always believed that our community colleges and universities deserve equal treatment; however, this recession has made demonstrated the many different types of students our community colleges serve. This legislation will help these colleges to work more closely with our business community, the state and job training programs and adult education programs to ensure our adult learners have access to the support they need to complete their degree or certificate. And for the over 177,000 students currently enrolled in Michigan community colleges, we must ensure that they have safe, quality facilities in which to learn. Under H.R. 3221 Michigan will receive nearly \$88 million to help finance projects to repair or construct new community college facilities.

Overall this legislation makes unprecedented and much-needed reforms to our student aid system, however, we must also ensure that our colleges and universities have the resources and the support they need to implement this bill. I know for the colleges and universities in my district, they are already struggling with reduced financial assistance from the state, therefore, we must ensure that the consideration of any financial match is