

The Bush administration has been asleep at the switch throughout our economic recovery efforts. They have failed to monitor the actions of the companies and banks that have received Federal support through TARP; they have failed to place real caps on the excessive pay of corporate CEOs who take taxpayer money; and they have failed to ensure taxpayer-lent funds are being wisely spent.

Starting today our efforts to put our Nation's economy back on the right track will be taken in a new direction. With consideration of H.R. 384 and the start of the Obama administration, accountability and oversight will now govern TARP. After 8 years it is a new beginning for our country, and it couldn't have come at a better time, on the same day the Bank of America is seeking billions more in Federal assistance.

Reform is what the American people deserve because it is their money on the line.

WELCOMING THE IOWA NATIONAL GUARD TO WASHINGTON, DC FOR THE INAUGURATION

(Mr. LOEBSACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LOEBSACK. Madam Speaker, today, I would like to highlight the special role the Iowa National Guard will play in the historic inauguration of President-elect Barack Obama.

Approximately 1,000 Iowa National Guard troops, including 140 from my district, will join 6,000 other National Guardsmen and women from seven States to assist in the inaugural events. This historic trip to Washington, DC marks the first time in its 170-year history that the Iowa National Guard has participated in a presidential inauguration.

I have had the honor of meeting many of Iowa's citizen shoulders both at home when they have responded to natural disasters such as last summer's floods and abroad in Iraq and Afghanistan. They are some of Iowa's finest citizens and some of the finest troops in our military services.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to my fellow Iowans as they arrive in Washington. I am deeply proud of the role they will play in this historic event.

□ 1430

FEDERAL TAX CREDITS FOR STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, since the broad outlines of economic recovery legislation were first announced, Representative TOM PERRIELLO and I have been working with our colleagues to see that that legislation was strengthened to include

additional assistance for students and their families, students who deserve all the education that they are willing to work for.

Today we are pleased to announce success. The legislation that will be filed to improve and strengthen our economy at this time of economic downturn will include about \$12.5 billion in new federal assistance over the next 2 years in the form of federal tax credits. These tax credits will be expanded to include textbooks and course materials. They will help now so that every family that is spending a dollar on higher education this year will know they will get that dollar back, up to \$2,500 next year when they pay their tax return.

For the first time in history, this will be a refundable credit, as we proposed it, so that families making less than \$40,000 a year, who did not qualify for the full credit in the past, will now be entitled to get up to \$1,000 of their expenses. At a time of economic downturn, this is the time to support our students and their families. Help them and help rebuild our economy.

NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY FOR 2009—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 111-7)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committees on Armed Services, Education and Labor, Energy and Commerce, Foreign Affairs, Homeland Security, Judiciary, Natural Resources, Oversight and Government Reform, Small Business, Transportation and Infrastructure, Veterans' Affairs and Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit the 2009 National Drug Control Strategy, consistent with the provisions of section 201 of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2006.

My Administration released its first National Drug Control Strategy in 2002 with the commitment to turn the tide against a problem that truly threatens everything that is good about our country. As we prepare to pass this noble charge to a new team of leaders, we can look back with satisfaction on what we have achieved together as a Nation. From community coalitions to our international partnerships, we pursued a balanced strategy that emphasized stopping initiation, reducing drug abuse and addiction, and disrupting drug markets.

The results of our efforts are clear. Together we have helped reduce teenage drug use by 25 percent since 2001. This means 900,000 fewer American teens are using drugs. The Access to Recovery program alone has extended treatment services to more than 260,000 Americans. Through law enforcement

cooperation and international partnerships, the United States has caused serious disruptions in the availability of drugs such as cocaine and methamphetamine, reducing the threat such drugs pose to the American people, while also denying profits to drug traffickers and terrorists.

Our work is by no means complete—we must build on these efforts both to further reduce drug use and to rise to new challenges. I thank the Congress for its support and ask that it continue to support this critical endeavor.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, January 15, 2009.

CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN TERRORISTS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 111-8)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the emergency declared with respect to foreign terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process is to continue in effect beyond January 23, 2009.

The crisis with respect to the grave acts of violence committed by foreign terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process that led to the declaration of a national emergency on January 23, 1995, as expanded on August 20, 1998, has not been resolved. Terrorist groups continue to engage in activities that have the purpose or effect of threatening the Middle East peace process and that are hostile to United States interests in the region. Such actions constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to foreign terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process and to maintain in force the economic sanctions against them to respond to this threat.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, January 15, 2009.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, 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 Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

ATTAIN ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Achievement Through Technology and Innovation Act of 2009.

The 111th Congress begins in an era of continued shrinking school budgets, overcrowded schools, and overextended teachers. On an individual and on a national level, these factors have dire consequences. The individual consequence is that millions of American children may never realize their full potential or the promise of the American dream.

The national consequence is that our country loses the benefits of our children's talents and their potential to become our Nation's next generation of leaders in education, science, law, research, economics, engineering and all the key disciplines that have helped to make our Nation the greatest in the world.

While there is no easy or single answer to the complex problems of education in our country, there are steps we can take now to put us on the path toward a quality education for all our children. One such step is to make technology literacy a priority and an integral part of every educational system in the country.

From credible studies, we know technology can have a tremendous positive impact on student learning. This is especially evident in low income and minority communities where students are vulnerable to falling behind and learning 21st century skills critical to individual success and to America's success in today's world economy.

Whether preparing for college or going directly into the workforce, students are increasingly required to have the high-tech skills employers and the world market continue to demand.

Therefore, it is a tragedy that in the United States today we have high dropout rates that exceed 50 percent and school districts that cannot keep up with the technology needs of their students. Passage of the ATTAIN Act will help us to address these serious problems.

For example, at the School for Global Studies in my district, I had the oppor-

tunity to see firsthand the benefits and the life-changing impact teaching with technology has on a child's life.

While touring the school, I met some of the students who confided that if it were not for the meaningful technology program at Global Studies, they probably would have dropped out of school and ended up in some serious trouble. Instead, these students are excited about learning and excited about their future.

The excitement and the hope students feel at Global Studies is what every child in our country deserves to feel about their education and the promise of their future. The ATTAIN Act will help to make that possibility a reality for all our children.

The ATTAIN Act would amend the Enhancing Education Through Technology program and the No Child Left Behind Act. Currently, the No Child Left Behind Act allocates 50 percent of technology education funds to schools with disadvantaged students through formula grants. The ATTAIN Act would increase that percentage to 60 percent. This funding would be used to purchase new technology and train teachers on how to effectively use these new tools.

The remaining 40 percent of ATTAIN funds would be distributed through competitive grants that encourage schools to undertake comprehensive, technology based, reform initiatives that have been proven to increase student achievement.

Madam Speaker, we know that when teachers are properly trained and schools are properly equipped with technology, students are engaged, eager to learn, and ultimately better prepared to address and to lead our country to meet the challenges of the 21st century. We have already lost the untapped talents of thousands of our young people.

Passage of the ATTAIN Act will help to reverse this tremendous loss of unrealized potential.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the ATTAIN Act and help with its passage.

BAILOUTS, TARP AND STIMULUS PACKAGES

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

Mr. CAMPBELL. Madam Speaker, there is a lot of talk these days about rescue plans and bailouts and TARP and stimulus packages. Let's take a minute to reflect on what has happened. Back in October we passed, and the President signed, a rescue plan which created the Troubled Asset Recovery Plan, so-called TARP.

There are those here on both sides of the aisle who believe that that didn't help, that that didn't do anything. Well, you know, you never get credit for bad things that don't happen.

Let me assure you, Madam Speaker, that the financial system of this coun-

try was on the verge of collapse, and we averted that collapse because of two things, because of the unprecedented and aggressive monetary action of the Federal Reserve, but also because of the rescue plan and the TARP that we passed and deployed back last October.

Now, you say, however, you averted financial collapse, but what's going on now? Look at unemployment, look at the economy.

What we were trying to avoid then was literally the collapse or the lack of function of our financial system and our financial structure. It was about to implode and to stop working at all.

It is still working, not as well as it should, not normally, but it is still working, and it gets a little better every day.

But we knew at the time, and said at the time, that the damage that had been inflicted at that point was going to start to affect employment and start to affect economic growth, and, in fact, it has.

We now know that millions of people have lost their jobs, lost their homes, or lost their businesses. More people are losing their jobs, their homes and their businesses every day.

The economy continues to sink and we don't know where the bottom will be. We can't see it at this point.

So what are we doing now? What is the purpose of all this economic discussion we are having now? Just one thing, we can't stop the recession, it has already happened, we are already in it. We can't retroactively go back and get the homes and the jobs in the businesses that have already been lost.

But what we do want to do is to make this recession as short and as shallow as we can. If we do nothing, the recession will end at some point, as all recessions do.

But if we can have it end sooner and save millions of people their jobs, their homes or their businesses, then we should do so.

□ 1445

So I believe we should act, and the first thing we should do is to continue the successful TARP program.

Now, some people say, well, it wasn't successful, because, look, we invested all this money in banks and they haven't started lending. In fact, much of the reason that they haven't started lending is because the financial condition of the banks is much worse than we all thought they were back last October. The money the banks got from the Federal Government merely enabled many of them to keep their current functions, but not to expand lending.

The additional money, which I think should be leveraged with private capital, in other words, a bank should only get future Federal Government TARP money if they go out and raise a matching amount of private capital so that we get more and more money in the financial system, such that they can have the capital from which they can begin to lend again.