

The role of school psychologists is diverse. School psychologists may help deliver mental health services as well as academic support. These individuals may also help to assess students to determine what learning barriers they face and how best to address those barriers.

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The theme of this year's National School Psychology Week is "today is a good day to shine." This theme focuses on highlighting the positive work school psychologists do to promote students' academic and personal success. We recognize National School Psychology Week to show our support for the efforts school psychologists make to create a healthy, safe, and positive learning environment. I stand in support of this resolution.

Mr. LOEBACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1645, designating the week of November 8th as National School Psychology Week. I introduced this Resolution in support of National School Psychology Week because, were it not for caring adults in my school and my community, I would not be where I am today. I know from my own childhood how circumstances outside school can affect a student's performance in the classroom, so I believe it is extremely important that our schools have professionals trained to meet students' nonacademic needs.

School psychologists perform a myriad of functions within schools. They work with students to improve social, emotional, and behavioral problems that may affect their ability to succeed in school, assess barriers to learning, and design and implement behavioral interventions that help teachers create positive classroom environments.

That is why I would like to take this opportunity to honor and recognize the professionals that work so hard for our children and grandchildren in schools across the country. Your efforts on behalf of our nation's students are appreciated.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the actions of the House of Representatives in honoring and recognizing the contributions of school psychologists by designating the week of November 8, 2010 as National School Psychology Week. I proudly support H. Res. 1645 and urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

During the week of November 8, 2010, we will celebrate the critical role that school psychologists have in our nation's education system. It is imperative that our nation's children receive a complete education. While it is essential that our children take reading, writing, and arithmetic, a complete education includes proper social, emotional, and mental development. School psychologists ensure that our nation's children are receiving the mental health and psychological development they need to prosper in this world. School psychologists work with teachers, coaches, and guidance counselors to educate the whole child. School psychologists play a vital role in the lives of our nation's children as they are often the first and only mental health professionals with which our children come in contact.

School psychologists are highly trained individuals that work directly with students, teach-

ers, and families to form collaborations that meet the educational needs of our children. The National Association of School Psychologists establishes and maintains high standards for training, practice, and school psychologist credentialing. School psychologists play a special role in promoting child development, motivating students, and forming collaborations between teachers, families, and administrators.

I take this time to especially thank the school psychologists in my home state of Georgia for all of their hard work and dedication. I encourage all of my constituents in the Fourth District to join in recognizing school psychologists and the vital role they have in educating our children.

I join the Chairman in urging my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would once again urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 1645. It takes many people to enable a child to succeed, and school psychologists are definitely among those.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1645.

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.

AMERICAN MANUFACTURING EFFICIENCY AND RETRAINING INVESTMENT COLLABORATION ACHIEVEMENT WORKS ACT

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4072) to require that certain Federal job training and career education programs give priority to programs that provide a national industry-recognized and portable credential, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4072

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 "American Manufacturing Efficiency and Retraining Investment Collaboration Achievement Works Act" or the "AMERICA Works Act".

SEC. 2. INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED AND NATIONALLY PORTABLE CREDENTIALS FOR JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS.

(a) WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT OF 1998.—

(1) GENERAL EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—Section 134(d)(4)(F) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864(d)(4)(F)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(iv) PRIORITY FOR PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE AN INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED AND NATIONALLY PORTABLE CREDENTIAL.—In selecting and approving training services, or programs of training services, under this section, a one-stop operator and employees of a one-stop center referred to in subsection (c) shall give

priority consideration to services and programs (approved by the appropriate State agency and local board in conjunction with section 122) that lead to a credential that is in high demand in the local area served and listed in the registry described in section 3(b) of the AMERICA Works Act."

(2) YOUTH ACTIVITIES.—Section 129(c)(1)(C) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2854(c)(1)(C)) is amended—

(A) by redesignating clauses (ii) through (iv) as clauses (iii) through (v), respectively; and

(B) inserting after clause (i) the following:

"(ii) training (with priority consideration given to programs that lead to a credential that is in high demand in the local area served and listed in the registry described in section 3(b) of the AMERICA Works Act, if the local board determines that such programs are available and appropriate);"

(b) CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.—

(1) STATE PLAN.—Section 122(c)(1)(B) of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2342(c)(1)(B)) is amended by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting the following: "and, with respect to programs of study leading to an industry-recognized credential or certificate, will give priority consideration to programs of study that—

"(i) lead to an appropriate (as determined by the eligible agency) skills credential (which may be a certificate) that is in high demand in the area served and listed in the registry described in section 3(b) of the AMERICA Works Act; and

"(ii) may provide a basis for additional credentials, certificates, or degrees;"

(2) USE OF LOCAL FUNDS.—Section 134(b) of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2354(b)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (11), by striking "and" and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (12)(B), by striking the period and inserting "and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(13) describe the career and technical education activities supporting the attainment of industry-recognized credentials or certificates, and how the eligible recipient, in selecting such activities, gave priority consideration to activities supporting high-demand registry skill credentials described in section 122(c)(1)(B)(i)."

(3) TECH-PREP PROGRAMS.—Section 203(c)(2)(E) of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2373(c)(2)(E)) is amended by striking "industry-recognized credential, a certificate," and inserting "industry-recognized credential or certificate (such as a high-demand registry skill credential described in section 122(c)(1)(B)(i))."

SEC. 3. SKILL CREDENTIAL REGISTRY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED PROVISION.—The term "covered provision" means any of sections 129 and 134 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2854, 2864) and section 122(c)(1)(B) of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2342(c)(1)(B)).

(2) INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED.—The term "industry-recognized", used with respect to a credential, means a credential that—

(A) is sought or accepted by companies within the industry sector involved as recognized, preferred, or required for recruitment, screening, or hiring; and

(B) is endorsed by a nationally recognized trade association or organization representing a significant part of the industry sector.

(3) NATIONALLY PORTABLE.—The term "nationally portable", used with respect to a credential, means a credential that is sought

or accepted by companies within the industry sector involved, across multiple States, as recognized, preferred, or required for recruitment, screening, or hiring.

(4) **WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES.**—The term “workforce investment activities” has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801).

(b) **REGISTRY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall create a registry of skill credentials (which may be certificates), for purposes of enabling programs that lead to such a credential to receive priority under a covered provision.

(2) **REGISTRY.**—The Secretary shall—

(A) list the credential in the registry if the credential is required by Federal or State law for an occupation (such as a credential required by a State law regarding qualifications for a health care occupation);

(B) list the credential in the registry if the credential is a credential from the Manufacturing Institute-Endorsed Manufacturing Skills Certification System; and

(C) list the credential, and list an updated credential, in the registry if the credential involved is an industry-recognized, nationally portable credential that is consistent with the Secretary’s established industry competency models and is consistently updated through third party validation to reflect changing industry competencies.

(c) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to require an entity with responsibility for selecting or approving an education, training, or workforce investment activities program with regard to a covered provision, to select a program with a credential listed in the registry described in subsection (b).

SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, take effect 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Hawaii.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on H.R. 4072 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Hawaii?

There was no objection.

Ms. HIRONO. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4072, the American Manufacturing Efficiency and Retraining Investment Collaboration Act, or AMERICA Works Act. This bill would direct the use of the Workforce Investment Act funds for programs that provide a national industry-recognized and portable credential certificate or degree.

It would also encourage industry-recognized credentials that are nationally recognized and portable under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act.

Since May, the jobless rate has stayed about the same and economists predict unem-

ployment will remain high for months to come. Despite current unemployment, employers continue to report a skills gap. Manufacturing, healthcare, and energy sectors in particular are finding it difficult to match workers with skills and industry-recognized credentials with employers that have job openings. As the economic outlook continues to stabilize, we must continue to take measures to bring about a full recovery, including investments in strengthening our Nation’s workforce.

One of the best ways to prepare today’s workforce for today’s fast-paced changing global economy is to offer training in industry recognized skills. This bill invests in training towards industry-recognized portable credentials, to help students build the skill sets needed to fill specialized in-demand jobs.

Industry-recognized credentials exist in many sectors of our economy. In manufacturing, industry leaders all across this sector have endorsed a system of skills certification for entry level workers. According to the president of the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank, addressing the current skills mismatch could reduce national unemployment from 9.6 percent to as low as 6.5 percent. This bill complements current sector approaches that modernize our workforce system, aligning job training strategies that help individuals improve their skills to find good jobs and employers hire skilled workers.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Representative MINNICK and the cosponsors of H.R. 4072 for bringing this bill forward. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4072, the American Manufacturing Efficiency and Retraining Investment Collaboration Act, or the AMERICA Works Act.

H.R. 4072 amends provisions in the Workforce Investment Act, or WIA, and in the Perkins Career and Technical Education Act to highlight industry-recognized credentialing, especially those in high-demand professions.

This bill would require One-Stop Career Centers to give priority to training programs that result in participants receiving an industry-recognized credential for a high-demand profession in the locality these centers serve. This bill also requires schools to include in their career and technical education plans a description of how the Career and Technical Education Program will assist students in earning an industry-recognized credential or certification.

This bill makes some positive steps towards encouraging students and job seekers to pursue training that leads to industry-recognized credentials which could increase participants’ chances of obtaining a job in a given profession.

However, H.R. 4072 amends only a very small portion of the Workforce Investment Act, which is 8 years overdue for reauthorization. This bill would amend a provision without reauthorizing other important aspects of the law. Considering these changes within

the context of a larger reauthorization discussion is important to ensuring the future of the American workforce. We need to take a comprehensive approach to workforce development and not approach these problems in a piecemeal fashion.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. MINNICK).

Mr. MINNICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4072, the AMERICA Works Act. This is a bill that would direct the use of already-appropriated funds within the Carl Perkins Vocational Technical Education Act to prepare American workers with the skills necessary to qualify for the increasingly high-tech jobs available in the 21st century. It would do so by making available Federal funds from these programs to obtain nationally recognized industry credentials acceptable anywhere in the country.

Under this bill, training would continue to be done by technical schools, universities, and union-sponsored journeyman programs in coordination with companies and business groups. A welder trained in a junior college in Maryland would have a certificate qualifying him to work in a machine shop in Idaho. An AmeriCorps trained diesel mechanic in my State could get an auto mechanic’s job in yours.

American workers are the best in the world. They are resilient, innovative and hardworking, but they must be properly trained and have widely accepted and understood credentials making them employable anywhere. This bill will ensure that Federal job training is used to provide hardworking Americans desiring training with the certificates, degrees, and credentials American industry needs to fill the sophisticated technical jobs available in today’s business world.

I thank my colleague from Louisiana for his support and the gentlewoman from Hawaii for her leadership, and urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan commonsense legislation.

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

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would once again urge my colleagues to support the AMERICA Works Act. At a time when unemployment is high, we need to do everything we can to enable our workers not only to be trained, but to be able to utilize that training anywhere in our country.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4072, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3839) to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3839

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

SECTION 1. ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAMS UNDER THE SMALL BUSINESS ACT AND THE SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to extend temporarily certain authorities of the Small Business Administration”, approved October 10, 2006 (Public Law 109-316; 120 Stat. 1742), as most recently amended by section 1 of Public Law 111-214 (124 Stat. 2346), is amended by striking “September 30, 2010” each place it appears and inserting “January 31, 2011”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on September 29, 2010.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the role of small businesses in moving the economy forward has never been more important. Making up over 99 percent of all U.S. firms, they are critical to innovation, wealth creation, and, most importantly, employment gains.

As the economy continues to show signs of resurgence, we need to make certain that entrepreneurs have the right tools to make the most out of the recovery. The legislation before us extends the authorization of the several important Small Business Administration programs which are key to supporting entrepreneurs across the country. Through the agency's initiatives, entrepreneurs are able to get a loan,

secure a federal contact, and receive expert technical assistance.

The SBA is unique in that many of its programs work through resource partners. These partners, including training centers and community banks, are essential to the delivery of the agency's services to the small business community.

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Through this public-private network, entrepreneurs are able to gain access to resources nationwide with the knowledge that the SBA stands behind these tools and services. This combination is a powerful one for small businesses, and it is the reason we need to extend the agency.

In the House, we have passed 14 bills since the beginning of the 111th Congress. However, because we have not completed work with the Senate on these matters, we must extend the SBA's programs. This legislation will make certain that the SBA keeps operating. We cannot afford any of these services to lapse just as our recovery is getting off the ground.

I urge my colleagues to vote “yes,” and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CASSIDY. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the chairwoman's request to suspend the rules and pass S. 3839. The legislation provides a 4-month extension of all of these Small Business Administration's programs until January 31, 2011. This is a necessary measure as the extension we passed last July expires September 30.

America's small businesses are struggling in this tough economy. Employers are having a tough time accurately predicting costs and revenues, making them hesitant to hire new workers or to take steps to expand their businesses.

It is time to show our small business owners that we recognize and support the essential roles that they play in our economy. We can do so by approving this temporary extension of SBA programs, and then we must continue our work by crafting and implementing a more thoughtful and complete reauthorization of these critical programs.

Again, I support the chairwoman's request to pass S. 3839, and I urge all Members to vote for the measure.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3839.

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.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL WATERWAYS CONFERENCE ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. SCHAUER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1639) recognizing the contributions of the National Waterways Conference on the occasion of its 50th anniversary, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1639

Whereas the Corps of Engineers (Corps) is the Nation's premier water resources agency, charged by the Congress with responsibility over its 3 principal mission areas of navigation, flood damage reduction, and environmental restoration;

Whereas the Corps is responsible for the maintenance of more than 11,000 miles of channels in 41 States for commercial navigation, the operation of locks at 230 individual sites, the maintenance of over 300 deep-draft commercial harbors and over 600 shallow-draft, coastal, and inland harbors, and the maintenance of over 8,500 miles of flood damage reduction structures, including levees;

Whereas the vast array of navigation and flood damage reduction infrastructure is important to the security and vitality of the Nation's economy and overall prosperity;

Whereas the Corps' environmental restoration mission seeks to achieve environmental sustainability, to promote balance and synergy among human development activities and natural systems, and to maintain a healthy, diverse, and sustainable condition necessary to support life;

Whereas the authorization for critical navigation, flood damage reduction, environmental restoration, and other water-related projects and studies carried out by the Corps is typically included in a water resources development act;

Whereas throughout the Corps' history, water resources development acts have provided the Corps with the authority to carry out nationally significant projects that have improved the economic prosperity of the Nation, have protected its citizenry from the threat of flooding and coastal storms, and have put in place environmental restoration efforts for many of the Nation's national treasures;

Whereas it is the tradition of the House of Representatives to consider a water resources development act in every Congress to address current and future needs for water-related projects and policy changes, including the historic override of a Presidential veto of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-114);

Whereas continued and increased investment in the Nation's water-related infrastructure is essential for meeting the critical navigation, flood damage reduction, environmental restoration, and other water-related needs of the Nation, as well as to ensure the economic security and quality of life of American families;

Whereas the National Waterways Conference was established in 1960 to advocate before the Congress for “common-sense water resources policies that maximize the economic and environmental value” of the Nation's inland, coastal, and Great Lakes waterways;

Whereas the Conference supports continued congressional attention in meeting the Nation's water-related needs, including navigation, flood damage reduction and risk management, environmental protection and