

by 30 to 37 percentile points across all subjects on nationally standardized achievement exams. Home schooling parents spend thousands of dollars annually, in addition to the wages forgone by the spouse who forgoes outside employment, in order to educate their children in the loving environment of the home.

Ultimately, Mr. Speaker, this bill is about freedom. Parental control of child rearing, especially education, is one of the bulwarks of liberty. No nation can remain free when the state has greater influence over the knowledge and values transmitted to children than the family.

By moving to restore the primacy of parents to education, the Family Education Freedom Act will not only improve America's education, it will restore a parent's right to choose how best to educate one's own child, a fundamental freedom that has been eroded by the increase in federal education expenditures and the corresponding decrease in the ability of parents to provide for their children's education out of their own pockets. I call on all my colleagues to join me in allowing parents to devote more of their resources to their children's education and less to feed the wasteful Washington bureaucracy by supporting the Family Education Freedom Act.

TWO WEEKS CONTINUING RESOLUTION

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, just last week, Congress passed a two-week Continuing Resolution to cut spending and keep the government running. Now, in all my years as an elected official I have never seen a CR (Continuing Resolution) last as little as two weeks!

I clearly see that on Capitol Hill these days it is only the big dogs that get to eat at the table! The Republican Party, while slamming through tax cuts for the rich last December is leading the charge for tens of billions of dollars in budget cuts for job training programs, environmental protection, disease control, programs to assist homeless veterans; transportation and infrastructure (including cuts to high speed rail and Amtrak), crime protection, education programs and dozens of other critical Extension of Remarks areas for our country.

As always, if these cuts do pass, they will fall on the shoulders on the working poor and middle class. It is obvious that Republican lawmakers in the House remain indifferent to the suffering the cuts could bring to the American people. Moreover, as shown in a study conducted by Moody's Analytics, their budget plan also jeopardizes American jobs and our country's economic future by rolling back investments that would help the private sector to grow and put people back to work!

RECOGNIZING YVONNE AUSTIN

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Yvonne Austin of Grove City, Ohio. Yvonne has been selected as a 2010 Great Comebacks Award recipient for the Central Region. Each year, Great Comebacks presents regional awards to 12 individuals throughout the United States who have struggled with a chronic intestinal condition and have exhibited extraordinary strength and courage for managing to live full and productive lives despite daily struggles.

An 18-year-old freshman in college, Yvonne was balancing two jobs with her education, while secretly struggling with symptoms she could not explain. A year later, she finally sought medical advice and was diagnosed with Crohn's disease. Despite this diagnosis Yvonne was determined not to let the disease hinder her tenacious work ethic or interrupt her active lifestyle.

With a great desire for travel, Yvonne set out to explore the world. Her adventurous spirit led her to the Great Barrier Reef, spending her time scuba diving, swimming with sharks, and even taking up waterskiing. However, Crohn's disease continued to invade her life with painful flare-ups and numerous hospitalizations. After 15 years of managing her symptoms with medications, Yvonne consented to a temporary ileostomy in 2002 and opted for a permanent ileostomy in 2004.

Three friends nominated Yvonne for the Great Comebacks Award, describing her as a confident and inspirational woman who radiates positive energy and goes the extra mile for her family and friends. Yvonne's friends also recalled how she quickly rushed to the aid of a friend's mother who had received an emergency ostomy.

Today, Yvonne is a successful mortgage banker, and led by her adventurous spirit has for the past three years been a nationally-ranked competitive water skier. She is also an avid golfer, fundraises for the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation, and volunteers at a local children's hospital to provide support to parents and children who are living with an intestinal disease and/or an ostomy. Yvonne believes faith, humor and a positive attitude can overcome any adversity.

MAKE COLLEGE AFFORDABLE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to help millions of Americans afford higher education by introducing the Make College Affordable Act of 2011, which makes college tuition tax deductible. Today the average cost of a college education is over 30 thousand dollars per year! These high costs have left many middle class American families struggling to afford college for their children, who are often ineligible for financial aid. Therefore, middle class students have no choice but to obtain student loans, and thus leave college saddled with massive debt.

Even families who plan and save well in advance for their children's education may have a difficult time because their savings are eroded by taxation and inflation. The Make College Affordable Act will help these middle class students by allowing them, or their parents or guardians who claim them as dependents, to deduct the cost of college tuition as well as the cost of student loan repayments.

The Make College Affordable Act will also help older or nontraditional students looking to improve their job skills or prepare for a career change, by pursuing higher education. In today's economy, the average American worker can expect to change jobs, and even careers, several times during his or her working life, making it more important than ever that working Americans be able to devote their resources to continuing their educations.

Helping the American people use their own money to ensure every qualified American can receive a college education is one of the best investments this Congress can make in the future. I therefore urge my colleagues to help strengthen America by ensuring more Americans can obtain college educations by co-sponsoring the Make College Affordable Act.

RECOGNIZING GREG SEGHEZZI

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Greg Seghezzi of Grass Valley, California.

Greg was well-known in the Grass Valley community, and it would be hard to find many who didn't know and care for him. He was a member of the Grass Valley Rotary Club, the Chamber of Commerce and an active member of the men's ministry at Twin Cities Church. Greg had an uncompromising and uncommon work ethic: having owned a wine store and catering business as well as working as a realtor in Nevada County. He was the quintessential example of the American entrepreneur and innovator. Going far beyond being a successful businessman, Greg was also a dedicated servant to his community: donating food, supplies and hundreds of hours in the kitchen cooking for local fundraisers and special events.

For all of his success in the public arena, the single greatest joy in Greg's life was his family. Greg and Angie, his wife of 26 years, raised four outstanding children: Antonio, Gianna, Roman and Dominica. Whether it was driving across the state chasing volleyball matches and diving meets, or providing a strong and guiding example of hard work and fine values, Greg's largest investment of his time and energy went to loving and caring for his family in every way possible.

Mr. Speaker, men like Greg Seghezzi don't quickly fade from memory, nor can they ever be replaced. Whether through his professional life, or his personal dedication to his family and community, Greg touched many lives in our community; lives that he undoubtedly changed for the better and it is my honor to rise in his memory today.

THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF TAIWAN'S STRAITS EXCHANGE FOUNDATION

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, on March 9, 2011, we celebrate the 20th anniversary of Taiwan's Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF). This Foundation was established as a vehicle to allow Taiwan and mainland China to work together on business matters, and other related issues.

Twenty years ago, when the Straits Exchange Foundation was formed, there was a great deal of tension between China and Taiwan. Flash forward to present day and the relationship between the two neighbors across the Taiwan Strait has improved dramatically.

These improved relations since President Ma Ying-jeou took office are most evident in The Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) that was signed between China and Taiwan in 2010, and allows for greater trade and commercial exchanges between the two countries.

Other significant agreements signed between Taiwan and China include: Direct Air and Sea Transport Agreements, which facilitate the free flow of people, goods and trade; Judicial Cooperation Agreement, by which the two sides agree to exchange law enforcement information to combat crime; Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Protection and Cooperation Agreement, which allows for better enforcement of IPR laws; plus an agreement to allow tourists from China to visit Taiwan. All these agreements and measures have resulted in increased trade flow, more cultural and tourism exchanges, and most of all, reduced tension along the Taiwan Strait.

While the Straits Exchange Foundation has improved the means of communication between Taipei and Beijing, I remain concerned

about the excessive Chinese military build-up off the coast of Taiwan. For the dialogue between China and Taiwan to have its intended effect—to promote peaceful and productive relations—then militarization of the region is not helpful.

Nevertheless, my colleagues and I are very encouraged to see the efforts between Taiwan and China to maintain peace and stability in East Asia. On the 20th Anniversary of the Straits Exchange Foundation, we congratulate the SEF on its achievement in promoting exchanges and better understanding across the Taiwan Strait.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,186,168,803,680.47.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$3,547,743,057,386.60 since then.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

THE TEACHER TAX CUT ACT AND THE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS TAX RELIEF ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce two pieces of legislation that raise the

pay of teachers and other educators by cutting their taxes. I am sure that all my colleagues agree that it is long past time to begin treating those who have dedicated their lives to educating America's children with the respect they deserve. Compared to other professionals, educators are under-appreciated and under-paid. This must change if America is to have the finest education system in the world!

Quality education is impossible without quality teaching. If we continue to undervalue educators, it will become harder to attract, and keep, good people in the education profession. While educators' pay is primarily a local issue, Congress can, and should, help raise educators' take home pay by reducing educators' taxes.

This is why I am introducing the Teachers Tax Cut Act. This legislation provides every teacher in America with a \$3,000 tax credit. I am also introducing the Professional Educators Tax Relief Act, which extends the \$3,000 tax credit to counselors, librarians, and all school personnel involved in any aspect of the K-12 academic program.

The Teacher Tax Cut Act and the Professional Educators Tax Relief Act increase the salaries of teachers and other education professionals without raising federal expenditures. By raising the take-home pay of professional educators, these bills encourage highly qualified people to enter, and remain in, education. These bills also let America's professional educators know that the American people and the Congress respect their work.

I hope all my colleagues join me in supporting our nation's teachers and other professional educators by cosponsoring the Teacher Tax Cut Act and the Professional Educators Tax Relief Act.