

INTEREST RATE REDUCTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2012

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 4628, which places partisan politics ahead of America's students and the health of Minnesota communities.

If Congress does not act by July 1, interest rates on student loans will double for 7 million American students. This is a financial crisis for these students and their families, who will be forced to pay an additional \$1000 this year in loan repayment costs. America's college students are already graduating with an average debt burden of \$25,000—higher than any time in our nation's history. President Obama and Democrats in Congress are committed to lowering the costs of college and have introduced legislation to block this impending rate increase.

For months, Republicans in Congress have completely ignored this problem. The fiscal year 2013 budget that House Republicans adopted in March did not include a fix for skyrocketing student loan rate increase, but it did provide millionaires and billionaires an average tax cut of \$400,000. The Republican Chairman of the House Education and Workforce Committee—my colleague from Minnesota—opposed extending the current low interest rate as recently as last week. On April 20, The New York Times reported Chairman KLINE saying a fix would be “too costly” and that “we must choose between allowing interest rates to rise or piling billions of dollars on the backs of taxpayers.”

Thankfully, House Republicans ended their opposition to lower student loan rates this week under pressure from President Obama and millions of American students. The majority introduced H.R. 4628 to extend the current 3.4 percent interest rate on federal Stafford loans for an additional year at a cost of \$6.3 billion. Unfortunately, House Republicans are cynically choosing to offset the costs of H.R. 4628 by repealing the Prevention and Public Health Fund created by the new health care reform law. Cutting health care for millions of Americans to prevent rising student loan rates is an unacceptable and unnecessary choice.

Minnesota communities rely on this Fund to pay for cancer detection, childhood immunizations, newborn screening and other critical health care services that help to keep our communities healthy and save our country billions in long-term health care costs. Women in Minnesota will be disproportionately impacted due to the loss of access to services such as breast and cervical cancer screening. Nearly 800 community organizations across the country oppose H.R. 4628 because of these damaging cuts, including the American Lung Association, American Heart Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, the Association of Maternal and Child Health, and the National Association of County and City Health Officials. The White House opposes H.R. 4628 and told the House Republican majority to expect a veto from President Obama. This partisan legislation will only further delay a solution for students.

Democrats in Congress have a plan to protect students against rising loan costs without

adding to deficits or harming communities. I am a co-sponsor of H.R. 4816, which prevents the doubling of interest rates on student loans and offsets the costs by eliminating wasteful taxpayer subsidies for the five biggest oil corporations that are making record profits. This legislation is a win for students and a win for American taxpayers. H.R. 4816 reflects the priorities of the American people and creates a path for bipartisan consensus.

I urge my colleges to reject H.R. 4628 and, instead, pass the common-sense alternative offered by House Democrats.

WILLIAM DIGIGLIO

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate William Digiglio who scored a one hundred percent on the 2012 National Financial Capabilities Challenge.

The National Financial Capabilities Challenge is annually administered by the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the U.S. Department of Education. The challenge is designed to increase the financial knowledge and capability of high school students across the United States.

This year, 80,024 students took the test and Pennsylvania had the highest number of participating schools and educators. In addition, Pennsylvania had the highest number of students who scored in the top 20th percentile in the nation and ranked as the fourth highest state with students who scored a one hundred percent on the test.

Mr. Speaker, financial capability empowers individuals to make informed choices, avoid pitfalls and take other actions to improve their present and long-term financial well-being. Today, I commend William Digiglio for his hard work and dedication to taking control of his financial future, which is evident in his accomplishment.

IN CELEBRATION OF ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY,
2012

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Day 2012 and to celebrate the many cultural and societal contributions of the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities throughout Northeast Ohio.

Asian/Pacific American Heritage Day provides us with an opportunity to celebrate the numerous achievements of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders throughout Northeast Ohio and across the nation. Cultural diversity is a foundation of our community and it has allowed our residents to experience traditions from around the world.

The heritage of Asian Americans has been preserved and reflected by each generation. It shows the spirit, hope and courage of all of our ancestors who braved treacherous jour-

neys along the road to freedom and opportunity in America.

This year's celebration will take place at Cleveland City Hall Rotunda and feature Mayor Frank Jackson, Ms. Margaret W. Wong, and Mr. Blaine A. Griffin, the Director of Community Relations Board.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebrating Asian/Pacific American Heritage Day and honoring the contributions of all Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in our Greater Cleveland community.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR FLIGHT
NORTHERN COLORADO

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise on the occasion of Honor Flight Northern Colorado's eighth flight to Washington, D.C. bringing Veterans of WWII, Korea, and Vietnam to see their memorials. On behalf of a grateful delegation, state, and country, we welcome these heroes.

The 122 Veterans on this flight include 48 from the Korea conflict, and 8 Purple Heart recipients from the Vietnam War. The Honor Flight program, founded in 2005, was intended to first honor all WWII Veterans that could make the trips, but then to afford the same to those from the Korea and Vietnam eras. We are, this day, honoring those Veterans from Korea (the Forgotten War) and Vietnam, our longest conflict in modern times, as they get to see their memorials. These trips are provided to our Veterans at no cost to them or their families.

The fact that these soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen would uproot themselves from their homes and families and put themselves in harm's way for our country is very humbling. The sacrifices they—and the families they left behind—made are truly incredible. The debt of gratitude we owe them can never be repaid, for without their honor, courage, commitment, and above all—sacrifice we would not be able to enjoy the freedoms we have today.

Please join me in thanking Charles Agnew, Lewis Ashcraft, Robert Barnd, Eugene Bonkiewicz, Carson Bright, Frank Brown, Wayne Bullock, William Castor, Lowell Dart, Donald Draxler, Robert Duntsch, Jose Duran, Joseph Edwards, George Emerick, Jack Endacott, Marvin Fowler, Robert Gillham, Warren Garst, Joseph Graham, William Hampton, Walter Hayword, Roland Kaiser, Willis Kramer, Victor Lazar, David Leon, Verne Lewellen, Harry Livingston, Mary Livingston, Gilbert Lopez, Russell Mam, W. Dennis McHenry, Raymond Mega, Gerald Monroe, Donald Morrison, Bernard Nettesheim, Reynolds Olson, Homer Phillips Jr., Richard Porter, Marion Raines, James Rauenbuehler, Frederick Reck, Gilbert Rohde, Walter Sapp, Henry Schmitt Jr., John Shedd, Alan Schultes, Bill Shupe, Waldo Smith, Charles Smoot, Fredrick Stein, William Stromberg Sr., Gene Thorson, Clyde Treadway, Theodore Wahler, Arthur Wartburg, Crowell Werner, James White, Robert Williams, Evans Woodhouse, Darryl Anderson, Raymond Anderson, Donald Armagost, James Ball, Eugene Ball, Harry Ball, Leslie Brumley,

Orlis Charboneau, Dale Crist, Robert Cupp, Timothy Daley, Bobbie Desmond, Edward Eson, Clarence Ehrlich, Alvin Eurich, Francis Fleming Jr., James Flynn, Leslie Fraley Jr., George Frysinger III, Richard Gero, John Goad, Virgil Hanson, Roman Herrmann, John Hess, Billy Hettinger, Donald Hoffner, Marguerite Ingram, Robert Kramer, Robert Kruger, Lindy Leifheit, Chester McCoy, Chester McGuire, William Miller, Raymond Nuss, James Ochsner, Louis Peterson, Marshall Petring, Arnold Piel, Wayne Pimple, Richard Reagan, Gerald Rice, Harry Rieger, Edward Roebuck, Gerald Ross, Alan Seaman, Dick Sears, Joseph Sellers, William Shirey, Norris Slechts, Robert Stanley, Elizabeth Strahan, Clarence Strahan Jr., William Striffler, Darrell Viegut, Sam Warner, Doyle Biggs, Paul Delgado, Edward Fast, Dennis Henneberg, Donald Hess, Daniel Menzies, Jack Roberts and Steven White for their dedication, commitment, and service to this great nation.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF
MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th Anniversary of Marymount Manhattan College. Since opening its doors in 1936, Marymount Manhattan has evolved from a two-year Catholic women's college, founded by the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, into a four-year nonsectarian liberal arts college of 2,095 students who can choose from 18 individual majors and 40 minors.

Faithful to the vision of its founders, Marymount Manhattan has a long history of reaching out to diverse populations in need of higher education. Over the years, Marymount Manhattan's mission as an urban, independent, coeducational liberal arts college has expanded to include a greater variety of students, including men, nontraditional students, and students from a variety of ethnic and geographic backgrounds. A record number of 130 international students from 60 countries were part of the student body in the fall of 2011. The College's growth has also resulted in a greater diversity of academic opportunities in the Fine and Performing Arts, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, Accounting and Business Management, and the Humanities and its commitment to intellectual excellence and community service in my home state of New York deserves to be recognized and applauded.

The faculty at Marymount Manhattan College is passionate about their work and their academic integrity is reflective of their talent as educators. Marymount Manhattan College's size offers the luxury of individual attention and allows for ease in cross-disciplinary studies to provide a well-rounded academic experience.

Marymount Manhattan College's commitment to community service is best exemplified by its Bedford Hills College Program, which successfully transforms and rehabilitates women incarcerated through educational and intellectual pursuits. The Bedford Hills College Program graduates many students summa

cum laude and is a proven success, elevating the quality of these women's lives and improving our society.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Marymount Manhattan College's commitment to providing its students with a robust intellectual atmosphere, fostering a diverse student body, and serving the community. I commend their 75 years of success and I am sure this is only an indication of continued growth and achievement for many more years to come.

HONORING BRENT HODSON

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Brent Hodson, a resident of Fremont, California, who is being honored at the Friends of Scouting Community Leadership Breakfast in Newark, California, on May 18, 2012.

Mr. Hodson and his wife of forty-five years, RaeDene, have lived in Fremont since 1975. He was an employee of the Washington Hospital Healthcare System for over 35 years, retiring in February 2012, as the Chief of Community Support Services. He has served in a variety of positions at Washington Hospital Healthcare System and has provided exemplary leadership.

Mr. Hodson holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Weber State College in Ogden, Utah, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Therapy from the University of California, San Francisco.

Mr. Hodson has been a community activist for many years. He served for nine years on the Fremont Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, including one year as Board Chair. He has been a strong advocate and closely associated with Fremont Chamber of Commerce Leadership program, serving on the steering committee since 1997. Mr. Hodson currently serves as a member of the Board of the Newark Chamber of Commerce and is a past president of the Fremont Rotary Club. He is currently the President of the Fremont, California Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ-Latter Day Saints.

The honor Mr. Hodson is receiving at the Friends of Scouting Community Leadership Breakfast is well deserved. The breakfast will benefit the Mission Peak District Boy Scouts of America.

Mr. Hodson participated in Boy Scouts as a youth and he has been the Scout Master of Troop 160 and the Centerville Ward Institutional Representative for Boy Scouts of America. He has also served as a troop and post committee member for all Centerville Ward units and for the Washington Hospital Medical Explorer Post, as well as serving as Young Men's President, teacher and advisor. Mr. Hodson has also chaired several Friends of Scouting fundraising campaigns.

I join in thanking Mr. Hodson for his commitment and dedication to Scouting and for serving as a model of community leadership.

NATIONAL TEACHER DAY

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of National Teacher Day, I want to thank the teachers around this country for giving so generously of themselves to their students, their communities and their schools. Teachers make a difference in young people's lives every day and in myriad ways. I know personally the positive change they made in my life. Teachers educate our young people not just in math and English, but in more difficult subjects such as sharing, expressing themselves and solving differences. The value they add to students cannot be measured. I also want to single out the teachers in the District I represent, Washington's 8th, because I've had the pleasure of visiting and interacting with so many there. Every single time I visit a school, I see students responding positively to teachers' guidance and encouragement.

Our teachers never stop working. They work both in and outside the walls of their classrooms. They help coach athletes. They inspire students in the community. Our teachers act as positive role models for children that may not otherwise have them. They spend weekends and evenings grading papers and tests. They brighten their classrooms with inspirational and thoughtful artwork. They engage young people in the kind of conversations necessary to be leaders in future generations. They help supply students with the everyday life skills that they need to succeed.

That is why I sponsored the Teacher Tax Relief Act, a bill increasing the maximum tax deduction available to teachers for out of pocket expenses from \$250-\$500 and a bill making professional development costs an eligible expense—in that way, teachers can continue to their own educations and continue to be effective in the classroom.

Today, Mr. Speaker, on National Teacher Day, I thank all teachers for their service to America's future generations. All of our teachers deserve the respect and support of students, parents and their communities. My pledge today is to support teachers in this House as much as possible.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE,
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5326) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to support the amendment by Congressman DAVIS to H.R. 5326, the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Fiscal Year 2013 Appropriations bill to provide the U.S. Department of Justice