

Funds could be used to train workers to build roads, bridges, levees, and clean mass transit systems such as electric bus and metro rail cars.

The bill would provide cities and states with the needed funding to pay unemployed inner city youth and adults to rebuild our nation's crumbling and dilapidated schools, housing, and neighborhoods.

There are so many youth whose lives are needlessly ruined, because they cannot envision a future that includes dignified work. I truly believe young people could be steered away from costly lives of crime if they believe they will be able to have a meaningful career. We need more jobs, not jails.

Think about all the unemployed people in America who could be employed in the field of child care, working as preschool teachers, or assisting our nation's seniors and disabled in their own homes.

Under the Humphrey-Hawkins 21st Century Full Employment and Training Act of 2013, there would be a significant increase in funding for job training programs funded under the Workforce Investment Act. Funds would go towards successful programs like the Job Corps, which would be expanded to provide additional job training and job placement opportunities.

Funds would automatically continue to be disbursed from the Act's Full Employment and Training Trust Fund to cities and states, until every American worker who wants a job can find one. Additionally, the act will be fully funded by a tax on Wall Street speculation, and will not add a dime to the federal debt.

I respectfully urge my fellow colleagues on both sides of the aisle to consider supporting the Humphrey-Hawkins 21st Century Full Employment and Training Act of 2013. The American people need jobs now.

HONORING LOIS M. SAHYOUN

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2013

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor San Joaquin County Clerk to the Board of Supervisors Ms. Lois M. Sahyoun, who is retiring after more than 33 years of outstanding service to our county.

Ms. Sahyoun graduated from Edison High School and San Joaquin Delta College. She continued her education at the University of the Pacific, earning a Certificate of Completion for Public Management in Changing Environment. She also completed the San Joaquin County Human Resources Leadership Academy.

In 1966, she began her career in county service as a Clerk Typist with the Department of Public Assistance, where she was promoted to Clerk Stenographer in Administration and worked for the Assistant Director. Lois was then hired by the Board of Supervisors and promoted to Board Secretary/Office Manager.

In 1979, Lois took a job with Representative Norman D. Shumway and worked as his District Coordinator for nine years. She returned to the Board of Supervisors in 1991 as an Administrative Manager. In 1993, she was appointed by the Board of Supervisors as Clerk of the Board.

The San Joaquin County Committees on which Ms. Sahyoun has served include the San Joaquin County-Wide Internet Security Committee, San Joaquin County Equal Employment Opportunity Coordinator, Department Head Retreat Committee, Diversity Luncheon Committee, San Joaquin County Mentor-Mentee Partnership Program, County Content Management System Committee, and the San Joaquin County Green Committee. Ms. Sahyoun is also currently in her fourth four-year term as a Commissioner with the San Joaquin County Parks and Recreation Commission.

Additionally, Lois served on the City of Stockton Planning Commission, the Board of Directors of the Central Valley Asian-American Chamber of Commerce, and was the former President and District Commissioner of the Little League and Babe Ruth Sports Programs in Stockton, California. On the Statewide California Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Association, she served as Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President, and President. She has dedicated her time as Editor of the Capstone Publication and her efforts to the Education Committee, Nomination Committee, Mentor Committee, New Clerks Institute, and the New Supervisors Institute.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending Ms. Lois M. Sahyoun for her numerous years of selfless service to the betterment of our community.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE UNIVERSAL PREKINDERGARTEN AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ACT OF 2013

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I am re-introducing a bill similar to a bill I have introduced since the 109th Congress, the Universal Prekindergarten and Early Childhood Education Act of 2013 (Universal Pre-K), to begin the process of providing universal public prekindergarten education in public and public charter schools. Although I have consistently introduced a bill in the past, this year it is particularly ripe in light of President Obama's call for early education for all children in his recent State of the Union speech. My bill is meant to fill a hole in the "No Child Left Behind Act," which addresses elementary and secondary education but ignores the prekindergarten years, perhaps the most critical years for children's brain development. The President's proposal has not been committed to legislation yet, but his cost-sharing model is similar to my bill. My bill seeks a breakthrough in public elementary school education by providing the initial funding for states to encourage local school districts to add prekindergarten for children four years of age, as kindergarten programs were for five-year-olds that are now routinely available in public schools. The bill would eliminate some of the major shortcomings of unevenly available commercial daycare and, importantly, would ensure access to qualified teachers and the safe facilities of public schools. Unless early education becomes a necessary part of a child's education, I believe that it will continue to be un-

available to the majority of families with children.

My bill provides federal funds to states, which must be matched by at least 20 percent of state funds, to create universal, voluntary prekindergarten in public and public charter schools for four-year-olds, regardless of income. The classes, which would be full-day and run throughout the entire school year, must be taught by teachers who possess equivalent or similar qualifications to those in other grades in the school. The funds would supplement, not supplant, other federal funds for early childhood education. The unique aspect of my bill is that it uses the existing public school infrastructure and trained teachers to make early childhood education available to all.

The success of Head Start and other pre-kindergarten programs, combined with new scientific evidence concerning the importance of brain development in early childhood, virtually mandate the expansion of early childhood education to all children today. However, early learning programs have been available only to the affluent, who can afford them, and to low-income families in programs such as Head Start, which would be unaffected by my bill. My bill provides a practical way to gradually move to universal public preschool education. The goal of the bill is to afford the great majority of the American working poor, lower-middle-class, and middle-class families, most of whom have been left out, the benefits of early childhood education.

We cannot afford to continue to allow the most fertile years for childhood development to pass, only to later wonder why we cannot teach Johnny to read. The bill responds both to the great needs of parents who seek early childhood education, as well as today's brain science, which shows that a child's brain development begins much earlier than previously understood. However, many parents are unable to afford the stimulating education necessary to ensure optimal brain development.

Considering the staggering cost of daycare, the inaccessibility of early childhood education, and the opportunity that early education offers to improve a child's chances of success, schooling for four-year-olds is overdue. The absence of viable options for working families demands our immediate attention.

My bill reflects what jurisdictions increasingly are trying to accomplish. The District of Columbia, for example, has achieved an extensive integration of early childhood education as part of a larger effort to improve the D.C. public schools. A recent report highlighted the economic benefits of early childhood education, emphasizing its role in expanding job opportunities and in decreasing the amount of money spent on programs to address teen pregnancy, crime, and the like.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

COMMENDING TIME WARNER CABLE FOR THEIR CONNECT A MILLION MINDS PROGRAM

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2013

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Time Warner Cable for its Connect a

Million Minds (CAMM) initiative designed to inspire the next generation of problem solvers by connecting young people to the wonders of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) outside of the classroom.

Time Warner Cable's campaign includes original public service announcements and programming, millions of dollars in grants to support non-profit organizations that introduce students to STEM in fun and informal settings and the creation of "The Connector," a one-of-a-kind resource that allows parents to find kid-centric STEM learning opportunities in their own backyard. CAMM also encourages Time Warner Cable employees to volunteer at science fairs, robotics competitions and local Connect a Million Minds events.

In this time of increased global competition and rapid technological change, STEM fields have become increasingly important for the development and maintenance of America's high standard of living. Unfortunately U.S. students' performance in STEM subjects has fallen behind their international peers. As of 2009, the average math literacy score for a 15-year old in the United States is lower than 17 other Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) member countries, and is lower than 12 other OECD countries on science literacy. Perhaps most troubling, data found that only one out of every five households had access to STEM extracurricular activities. Meanwhile, even in school, students today spend less time studying science than they did just 15–20 years ago.

Today, employers report that they are having a difficult time finding qualified applicants for STEM jobs, which, on average, pay \$77,880, versus an average of only \$43,460 for non-STEM jobs. This is a problem which will only worsen without serious effort and focus, as it is estimated that jobs in STEM fields will grow 17 percent by 2018, almost double the rate of non-STEM jobs. Given these figures, it is difficult to understate the importance of STEM education for both our nation's collective economic future and the future of our nation's students.

In one program in New York, beginning in early February of this year, students will have a chance to see professionals at the BluePearl Veterinary Partners working in the field and help them using real equipment. Through their many programs they give students from low income families the chance to learn science through scuba diving, receiving tutoring, and going on field trips with STEM professionals. I am looking forward to working with them on programs in my Congressional District.

The CAMM program has not only focused resources in New York City, but also in cities, towns and states. With increased attention and support from community figures and lead-

ers in the industries that will someday hire students in STEM fields, CAMM looks to be a tremendous success. In closing, I congratulate Time Warner Cable for its CAMM initiative; and I hope my colleagues understand the importance of such initiatives for all of our communities.

RECOGNIZING RANDAL MESSER AS THE 2012–2013 WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA, EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Randal Messer as the 2012–2013 Walton County Educational Support Professional of the Year. I am honored to recognize his achievements and dedication to the students and teachers of Northwest Florida.

Mr. Messer has spent more than 25 years working to help better the lives of Northwest Florida school children, including 22 years at West DeFuniak Elementary, where he currently serves as the School Plant Manager and Technical Contact. In his role at West DeFuniak, Mr. Messer is responsible for ensuring that the students, faculty and staff of the school have a comfortable, clean and safe environment to pursue their work. He is also responsible for maintaining the facilities and technological equipment.

Mr. Messer has an unwavering commitment to carrying out his responsibilities, and he has voluntarily pursued various certifications and additional training to improve the facilities of West DeFuniak Elementary. He has completed comprehensive plant manager training through the Walton County School District, as well as additional training in energy conservation. Mr. Messer also understands the need for proper safety training. He is both CPR and AED certified, has undergone training as part of the Crisis Intervention Team at West DeFuniak, and received FEMA certification for his completion of coursework on Incident Command Systems.

Outside of his work responsibilities, Mr. Messer is also a committed and integral community leader. In 2012, he was recognized by a local radio station, WZEP, and earned the Good Neighbor Award. Mr. Mercer also has a firm commitment to serving the Lord, and he has served as a Deacon at the Community Holiness Church of DeFuniak Springs since 2008.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Randal

Messer as the Walton County Educational Support Professional of the Year. His passion for the students of Walton County is laudable and his dedication to his profession is exemplary. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Mr. Messer, and we wish him all the best.

HONORING HEIDI McNALLY-DIAL

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2013

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Ms. Heidi McNally-Dial, Economic Development/Redevelopment Manager for the City of Turlock, who has retired after many years of outstanding service.

Heidi started with the City of Turlock in December of 2006. As part of a Council-approved reorganization to make economic development and redevelopment more visible and active in the community, she had numerous responsibilities. Those responsibilities included implementation of the Westside Industrial Specific Plan (WISP), management of the redevelopment agency, implementation and management of the Turlock Enterprise Zone in cooperation with the Alliance, and acting as the business liaison to assist with expansions, attraction, and retention. In addition, she was asked to represent Turlock on a variety of city and county-wide boards and organizations related to economic development.

Mrs. McNally-Dial has almost 30 years of experience working in local, regional, and state governmental agencies—primarily in the fields of planning, redevelopment, and economic development. Heidi previously worked for Stanislaus County, the City of Modesto, the City of Ceres, and Cal Trans.

Her family moved to Turlock in 1973, when her father chose Castle Air Force Base as his last duty station before retirement. Heidi stayed local and received a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration in 1980 and a Master's of Public Administration in 1983 from California State University, Stanislaus (CSUS).

Heidi has been married for 33 years to Gary Dial, a retired CPA. Together, they have a 25-year-old son, and they enjoy traveling, reading, cooking and brewing beer. Heidi and Gary are also Giants season-ticket holders and sports fans.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending Mrs. Heidi McNally-Dial for her numerous years of selfless service to the betterment of our community.