

balance caregiving with full-time jobs, raising children, and managing their own health.

They deserve our support and recognition, which is why I am proud to support legislation like the Lowering Costs for Caregivers Act to help ensure these caregivers have the financial resources to continue providing care for their loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, let this month be a reminder of our shared responsibility to support these caregivers who give so much to others. By showing our appreciation and lending a hand where we can, we can honor the work that they do every day.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MARIE FLICKINGER

(Ms. GARCIA of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Marie Flickinger, a remarkable woman who passed away this week after leading a life of excellence.

A journalist and publisher by trade, Marie is perhaps best known for her work in her newspaper, the Leader, where she exposed the impact of toxic waste from a Pasadena plant at the Brio Superfund site, earning her the title of South Belt's own Erin Brockovich.

Fighting for the people didn't stop in the pages of the Leader. She also became the first woman elected to the San Jacinto College District Board of Trustees. Marie served for three decades, transforming the college into a place where students felt supported and where education was accessible to all.

Marie led a life of honesty, integrity, and service, and despite her humble demeanor, she left an enormous legacy.

Mr. Speaker, our hearts go out to the entire Flickinger family. May she rest in peace.

HONORING THE LIFE OF A LONG-TIME PILLAR OF SOUTHEAST HOUSTON, MARIE FLICKINGER

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

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a longtime pillar of the southeast Houston community, Marie Flickinger, who passed away on November 11, 2024.

After becoming the first woman elected to the San Jacinto College District Board of Trustees in 1995, Marie served as chair from 2007 to 2013 and again from 2017 until her retirement on November 4, 2024.

She spent these nearly 30 years devoted to ensuring the institution's success, achieving numerous awards along the way. Many have referred to Marie as the honorary mayor of the South Belt, due to her involvement in practically every aspect of the community,

an extensive list that includes the founding of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, the local newspaper, and Saint Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church as well as the organization of countless community events. She was a friend, and a friend of mine.

As a cofounder and publisher of the South Belt-Ellington Leader, Marie became known for her work shedding light on the impact of the Brio Superfund site in the 1980s, which eventually led to its remediation.

Marie also delved into the political arena, serving on two mayoral transition committees for the great city of Houston, Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that Marie's legacy will be long remembered and my prayers are with her family, her San Jacinto College family, and the South Belt community during this difficult time.

49 MILLION AMERICANS TURN TO FOOD BANKS FOR ASSISTANCE

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the work done by our food banks, food pantries, and other community-based organizations in Orange County and across the country.

In recent years, almost 49 million Americans have turned to food banks for assistance. Back home in Orange County, over 300,000 of our neighbors don't know where their next meal is going to come from, and over 20 percent are children.

Every day during the holiday season, I joined with my community to make sure that these individuals have a meal.

Today, I am proud to be leading a bipartisan resolution with over 50 of our Members acknowledging the essential work these groups do throughout our great country. They deserve the support of Congress, and I call on Members of this Congress to join us in cosponsoring this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the food banks and pantries and other community-based organizations across the country for their good work. They are appreciated.

THE UNITED STATES' EXISTENTIAL THREAT REPRESENTED BY \$36 TRILLION IN NATIONAL DEBT

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

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I must bring attention, once again, to our Nation's existential threat represented by \$36 trillion in national debt and another \$2 trillion deficit this year.

Yet in this very Chamber just a couple of days ago, every Democrat joined two-thirds of Republicans in adding \$200 billion in new mandatory spending.

So is our debt and our spending just campaign talking points?

Is it just a slogan, or does it really matter?

Do we really care about it?

I will commend Senator RAND PAUL from Kentucky who just yesterday had the courage to stand alone and block emergency spending because he said it needs to be paid for. What a concept, that we would pay for the new spending on top of the layers and layers of debt that is causing so much inflation, higher interest rates, and threatening the financial future of our kids and our grandkids.

Why not cut the expansion of the IRS?

Why not cut a trillion dollars in climate credits?

Why not cut the tens of billions of dollars of COVID funds that are still not covered for?

Why not cut the spending for the U.N. or UNRWA or the WHO?

Mr. Speaker, there is so much low-hanging fruit. I am so thankful that we will have Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy looking at that in the new administration.

CONGRATULATING DR. BRITTNEY F. MOBLEY NAMED THE 2024 NATIONAL DISTINGUISHED PRINCIPAL OF GEORGIA

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Brittney F. Mobley, who was named the 2024 National Distinguished Principal of Georgia.

This award was administered by the National Association of Elementary School Principals' National Distinguished Principals program, an annual award that honors the exemplary leadership of principals across each State.

In 2020, while educators across the country were facing challenges with remote teaching due to the pandemic, Ms. Mobley was working to open the county's newest elementary school, Frances Meeks Elementary School. Frances Meeks is in Richmond Hill, Georgia, and serves its students with unique learning experiences, such as the elementary agriculture program that provides students with hands-on learning experiences pertaining to agriculture and creates longstanding community partnerships.

Thanks to Dr. Mobley, the school boasts a 95 percent curriculum mastery rate and a growing number of students qualifying for its gifted programs.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Dr. Mobley on this award, and we greatly appreciate the work she has dedicated to the students of Georgia's First Congressional District.

□ 0915

COMMUNICATION FROM THE
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 14, 2024.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 14, 2024, at 4:20 p.m.

That the Senate passed S. 1316.

That the Senate passed S. 4716.

That the Senate passed S. 5314.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5464.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5861.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6324.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 7333.

Appointments:

The National Council on Disability

United States Semiquincentennial Commission

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk.

FAFSA DEADLINE ACT

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1568, I call up the bill (H.R. 8932) to establish an earlier application processing cycle for the FAFSA, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1568, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce, printed in the bill, is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 8932

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 “FAFSA Deadline Act”.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF EARLIER APPLICATION PROCESSING CYCLE.

Section 483(d)(4) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1090(d)(4)) is amended by striking “not later than January 1 of the applicant’s planned year of enrollment, to the maximum extent practicable, on or around October 1 prior to the applicant’s planned year of enrollment” and inserting “not later than October 1 prior to the applicant’s planned year of enrollment”.

SEC. 3. CERTIFICATION AND TESTIMONY REQUIREMENTS.

Section 483(d)(4) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1090(d)(4)) is further amended—

(1) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and
(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) CERTIFICATION AND TESTIMONY REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall, with respect to each application processing cycle, prior to the initiation of such processing cycle—

“(i) on a date that is not later than September 1—

“(I) certify to the authorizing committees that the Department will meet the October 1 deadline specified in subparagraph (A) for such processing cycle; or

“(II) certify to such committees that the Department will not meet such deadline; and

“(ii) in the case of a certification described in clause (i)(II), on a date that is not later than September 30, testify before the authorizing committees on—

“(I) the anticipated failure to meet such deadline; and

“(II) the financial impact such failure will have on students and families.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member on the Committee on Education and the Workforce or their respective designees.

The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 8932.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 8932, the FAFSA Deadline Act, and I start by highlighting the critical role the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, plays in the lives of many American students and families. For them, FAFSA isn’t just a form, it is a path to postsecondary education.

In recent years, bipartisan efforts were made to simplify this complex, daunting process. The FAFSA Simplification Act, passed in 2020, was intended to make applying for financial aid more accessible and less overwhelming. That is what this country needs, an effective, user-friendly system that lowers barriers to education and increases access for students of all backgrounds.

Unfortunately, we are here because the Biden-Harris administration is failing to provide this vital tool to the very students and families it was designed to help. Instead of the smooth rollout we planned, the Biden-Harris administration’s execution of the new simplified FAFSA has led to widespread frustration, delays, and costly errors.

Imagine being a high school senior working hard to qualify for scholar-

ships and planning your future, only to be met with glitches, incomplete forms, and endless processing errors. That was the reality for too many students.

Last year, the Department of Education delayed the FAFSA release until late December, 3 full months after its recommended October 1 release date, due to administrative incompetence.

The soft launch that followed was chaotic, resulting in millions of errors and little clarity regarding the form’s actual functionality. Delays in the Department’s failure to communicate effectively left families in a state of uncertainty, scrambling to understand what aid they would receive, or even if they would receive aid at all.

As we sit here, the FAFSA is delayed for a second straight year, and some capabilities are still unavailable, forcing students, schools, and State agencies to wait again.

The FAFSA Deadline Act introduced by Representative ERIN HOUGHIN is the answer. This legislation seeks to hold the Department of Education accountable by requiring the FAFSA to be available by October 1 each year, and it does so with broad, bipartisan support. The bill passed through committee 34-6, sending a clear signal that both sides of the aisle believe families deserve better.

In short, today’s conversation is about restoring the promise of FAFSA, fulfilling our obligation to students, and making sure the Department’s failure is not a new normal.

It is our job to ensure that the Department of Education rolls out FAFSA each year with clear timelines and accurate data so American families can rely on this process.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a “yes” vote on the FAFSA Deadline Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 8932, the FAFSA Deadline Act, which would set a firm October 1 deadline for the Department of Education to roll out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, form starting in 2025. This bill will help millions of students and families access Federal financial aid in a timely manner.

We know that higher education is a pathway to opportunity, but the rising cost of college has made it out of reach for a lot of students. Federal student aid, including Pell grants and student loans, is essential to making college affordable.

That is why in 2020, I worked with Senator Lamar Alexander to pass the FAFSA Simplification Act, to make Federal student aid easier to access.

Regrettably, last year, technical problems with the newly redesigned FAFSA form delayed the students’ access to this vital aid, and as a result, too many students could not submit their applications on time, and many