

basis early this year based on agreements reached during the last session between all interested parties.

THE MILITARY RECRUITER
CAMPUS ACCESS ACT

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Military Recruiter Campus Access Act, which would deny all Federal funds to educational institutions that bar or impair military recruiting. As you know, this phenomenon has proliferated across the country in recent years.

This has outraged me for years, Mr. Speaker. Simply justice demands that we not give taxpayer dollars to institutions which are interfering with the Federal Government's constitutionally mandated function of raising a military. Further, with the defense drawdown, recruiting the most highly qualified candidates from around the country has become even more important.

Last year, we began to deal with this injustice with the overwhelming passage of my amendment to the fiscal year 1995 DOD authorization bill which, with the support of Senator NICKLES, became law on October 1. That law, which denies any DOD funds from going to colleges and universities which are discriminating against recruiters, has already begun to have some positive effect. I am told by the Pentagon that schools across the country are getting the message and preparing to accommodate recruiters rather than lose their precious funding.

But to pick up the stragglers who are still not complying, further action is necessary. We have additional leverage, Mr. Speaker. My amendment last year covered only DOD funds, which amount to roughly \$3 billion annually. But the Federal Government provides an additional \$8 billion annually in grant and contract funding to colleges and universities through other departments and agencies such as HHS, Agriculture, and the National Science Foundation.

Barring military recruiters is an intrusion on Federal prerogatives, a slap in the face to our Nation's fine military personnel, and an impediment to sound national security policy. We should draw the line on this in the 104th Congress, Mr. Speaker, I urge bipartisan support for the bill.

INTRODUCTION OF PREPAYMENT
OF LIFE INSURANCE BENEFITS
BILL

HON. BARBARA B. KENNELLY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which has had strong bipartisan support in the past, legislation to provide for the prepayment of death benefits on life insurance contracts for the terminally ill.

I first introduced this legislation in the 101st Congress. It had over 100 bipartisan cospon-

sors in the 102d Congress. I subsequently worked closely with the Bush administration in its attempt to accomplish this important goal by regulation. The regulations, however, were not final when the Clinton administration took office and have not been finalized. The Clinton administration included this provision in the President's Health Care plan and it was subsequently included in both the Ways and Means Committee and Mitchell Health Care bills. A version of this legislation is also included in the Republican contract.

This legislation would allow individuals who are certified by a physician to have a terminal illness or injury which can reasonably be expected to result in death within 12 months, to receive the proceeds of their life insurance contracts on a tax free basis.

I believe that access to these assets will make the lives of the terminally ill significantly easier with little cost to the Federal Government.

Under current law, life insurance proceeds payable on death are generally tax free. This legislation, therefore, should have only a minor revenue impact in that the only change would be one of timing—tax free receipt of life insurance proceeds one year earlier than otherwise would be the case.

In addition, access to these assets is critical to those many terminally ill individuals, who have no health insurance. To the extent that these individuals tap their life insurance policies to pay their final health care costs, Federal dollars will be saved.

ENGLISH IS OUR COMMON THREAD

HON. BILL EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, many times before I have taken to the floor to speak about the importance of the English language. For decades, English has been the de facto language of the United States. In recent years, 19 States have designated English as their official language. Support for these efforts has been overwhelming. I strongly believe that English should be the official language of the United States Government. I have been a persistent sponsor of such legislation, and I will again today introduce the Language of Government Act.

At the same time, however, I want to recognize the important contributions of other languages through a sense-of-the-Congress resolution. In an increasingly global world, foreign languages are key to international communication. I strongly encourage those who already speak English to learn foreign languages.

As a nation of immigrants, America is comprised of people of all races, nationalities, and languages. These differences make our Nation the wonderful place it is. While being different, all of these people can find a common means of communication in the English language. English is the common thread that connects every citizen in our great Nation.

MAKING THE POSTAL SERVICE
MORE COMPETITIVE

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, remember that lame old excuse, "the check is in the mail." In days gone by, those who heard it hoped and prayed it was true. For if it was, they knew that they would soon be getting their money.

Not so today. As far too many people have found out, putting the check in the mail gives neither the sender nor the would-be recipient any assurance whatsoever that it will actually arrive at its intended destination. Or that it will get there in time to avoid late charges or black marks on one's credit rating.

Over and over this past year, we heard stories about mail being dumped, burned or stashed by mail carriers or hidden away in warehouses by postal managers not wanting to admit how far behind their delivery efforts had fallen. At least a half dozen of these instances occurred in the Chicago area alone.

On top of that, reports of slow mail delivery have been too numerous to mention. As a result, people have lost confidence in the Postal Service and remedies such as a new \$7 million logo or a 3-cent increase in the cost of first class postage have done nothing to restore it.

To be fair, the U.S. Postal Service [USPS] has made repeated efforts in recent months to improve the quality and timeliness of its service. But this is not the first time questions have been raised about the USPS's performance or that attempts to improve it have been made. To the contrary, there has been enough past efforts, the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 being the most prominent, to suggest that a whole new approach is needed.

Generally speaking, most USPS employees are conscientious, hard working individuals who want to do a good job. For the most part, the problem is not so much with them as it is with the system in which they operate. Put simply, that system lacks the incentives necessary to bring about the gains in productivity and customer service that are essential if the USPS is to live up to the public's expectations. For one thing, the USPS is insulated against competition in the delivery of first class mail which means customers need not be won over but can be taken for granted. For another, it is subsidized by the Federal Government, which means there is less pressure to be efficient. For a third, it does not have the bottom line incentives—such as the profit motive and profit-sharing arrangements—which make many private companies so productive.

A quick look at the parcel delivery business bears out this assessment. Thirty years ago, most all parcels were delivered by the Postal Service. Today, competitors like FED-EX, UPS, and DHL handle a vast majority of packages shipped around the country, despite the built-in advantages enjoyed by the USPS. Also, the growing movement towards corporate competition in, or the privatization of, postal services in other countries reinforces that hypothesis. New Zealand, for instance, converted its postal service from a government department to a state owned but decontrolled corporation in the late 1980's and has