

continue recognizing African Americans from throughout Georgia's 11th Congressional District who have had a major impact on their community. Today, I rise to recognize Shelia Robinson of Marietta, Georgia.

Between active duty and service in the Georgia Army National Guard, Shelia spent more than 22 years serving our country and the State of Georgia. From 1995–2005 while in the Guard as a Master Sergeant, she worked in the Counterdrug Program and helped manage an annual budget of \$3 million.

Upon retiring from Active Federal military service, Ms. Robinson worked as the Administrative Assistant for the Director of Georgia's Office of Homeland Security where she gained the respect of numerous state agency heads for her professionalism, courtesy, and overall knowledge.

After three years with Homeland Security, Ms. Robinson returned to the Georgia National Guard in the capacity of Office Manager for the Adjutant General of Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in thanking Shelia Robinson for her service to our nation and the people of Cobb County.

IN OPPOSITION TO THE QUAYLE-BROUN AMENDMENT (#224) TO H.R. 1 AND IN SUPPORT OF DAVIS-BACON PREVAILING WAGE PROTECTION

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Quayle-Broun amendment.

This amendment would strip away Davis-Bacon wage protections in Hawaii and nationwide.

Enacted in 1931, the Davis-Bacon Act ensures that workers on federal construction contracts receive at least the prevailing wage for construction jobs.

The Davis-Bacon Act ensures projects are built by skilled and experienced workers who know what they're doing. Prevailing wages and higher-skilled worker result in greater productivity and lower cost.

In industries without Davis-Bacon protections, we have seen unscrupulous contractors engage in a "race to the bottom," trying to undercut each other to perform shoddy work, with less-skilled workers, at sub-par wages. These projects often end up costing more in the long-run due to repairs, revisions, and delays.

Some claim that Davis-Bacon costs the federal government more. On the contrary, studies show that higher-wage workers are more productive, saving hundreds of millions of dollars in the long run.

Construction workers who build highways, homes, or buildings should be able to earn enough to feed their families, put a roof over their heads, and send their kids to college. Beyond just helping workers and their families, prevailing wages improve local economies. Workers spend their income in local businesses and pay local taxes.

Workers participate in building trades training programs and health care programs and are not dependent on benefits from other social programs. One study found that local prevailing wage law generated 2.4 times the economic benefit of the cost of the construction project.

I strongly support Davis-Bacon protections and oppose this misguided amendment. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

IN OPPOSITION TO AMENDMENT 450 TO H.R. 1, CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the C.R. put forward by my Republican colleagues, and specifically to Amendment 450, offered by Mr. MACK of Florida. This amendment and the C.R. would eliminate funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service and all of the programs it supports.

As Americans, we share a common belief that volunteerism and community service make our country stronger. But we cannot be a leader in the world, if we are not leaders in our own communities.

And as we speak, tens of thousands of Americans are involved in service projects across the country through one of several AmeriCorps programs. These volunteers are building houses, helping young people learn to read, collecting food and clothing, and much, much more.

Through programs such as Learn and Serve, VISTA, Teach for America, Experience Corps, Youth Build, Habitat for Humanity, City Year, and Jumpstart, volunteers are using evidence-based research to make a tremendous impact in their communities.

But federal funding for each one of these programs would be shut down if Amendment 450 and this C.R. were to be enacted.

In my district of Sacramento, California—home to the NCCC Pacific Region—300 AmeriCorps*NCCC volunteers would be sent home. Although these volunteers have already committed to a year of service—and they have all already been deployed—this amendment would require the Corporation for National and Community Service to buy their plane tickets home. That process alone would make this a deficient program, and leave the federal government liable for the costs.

Put simply: Amendment 450 and the cuts for AmeriCorps in the C.R. are ill-conceived.

We see an enormous return in our investments in our national service programs. For every volunteer we help to support, we recruit another 10 volunteers. And for every dollar the federal government invests, the organizations are able to leverage a matching dollar through local and private funding.

IN SUPPORT OF AMENDMENT 132 TO H.R. 1, CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. I rise today in opposition to the CR put forward by my Republican colleagues, and in support of the amendment offered by Ms. CHU of California, which would restore full funding to the Pell Grant program.

H.R. 1 makes severe cuts to student aid programs in a time of tuition increases and tough economic standings. These cuts will impose an even heavier burden on many students and families. Specifically, this bill makes the largest cut the Pell Grant program, more than 15 percent.

The Federal Pell Grant program provides much needed financial support for more than nine million students nationwide and makes. This amendment would specifically maintain the maximum award level for Pell Grants at \$5,550.

Pell Grant are solely based on an individual's financial needs and are not required to be paid back. They are an effective mechanism to help students offset the expensive costs of text books, room and board, and school supplies.

For many, this grant makes the difference between attending college or dropping out because they don't have the money to afford tuition or books. Yet we know that access to higher education is critical to our nation's economic competitiveness.

We need to do be more to encourage students to pursue education. Unfortunately, this legislation will only set us backwards.

This funding is crucial for students in my district and these drastic cuts will have an adverse affect on our nation's ability to be an economic leader. Maintaining access to quality and affordable education is a vital priority.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this amendment and against this C.R.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I inadvertently voted "no" on the Price Amendment (#514) to H.R. 1. I meant to vote "yes" for the amendment, which continues waiver provisions enacted for FY2009 and 2010 that enable local communities impacted by the economic downturn to use SAFER grant funds to maintain existing firefighters, re-hire laid off firefighters, and eliminate the local match requirement. I am grateful that it passed by a strong margin despite my error.