

Private sector colleges and universities serve 2.8 million students and receive \$32.5 billion in federal student aid. Even more students are enrolled in career training programs at non-profit colleges. These training programs are an important part of our education system and provide a valuable service, particularly to non-traditional students.

Unfortunately, a number of investigations have recently cast light on bad actors in the for-profit sector that have been using deceptive recruiting tactics and inflated job placement and completion rates. All stakeholders in this process—from students seeking a quality education, to citizens insisting their tax dollars are spent responsibly, to the many legitimate programs—have an interest in seeing these abuses stopped.

The Department of Education began a process to define “gainful employment” in 2009 and released a proposed rule in July 2010. The plan has sparked intense debate, with more than 90,000 comments, and I urge the Department to continue to engage with all stakeholders and address legitimate concerns as they refine the rule.

However, this amendment would stop the process altogether, ending the dialogue for the rest of the fiscal year. I am also concerned that this amendment would bar enforcement of new rules that require for-profit schools and non-degree programs to disclose basic program information, like graduation rates, program costs, and median loan debt for graduates, to prospective applicants.

Mr. Chair, if the final rule from the Department of Education does not meet the goal of rooting out bad actors while preserving access to high quality postsecondary education, this body should—and I believe will—step in and make changes. But the Department is attempting to address an important issue: stopping taxpayer funding to sub-par programs that leave students nowhere but deeper in debt. Congress should not cut off that process mid-way through.

INVEST IN OUR VETERANS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I recently learned that the unemployment rate for veterans ages 18–24 in the U.S. is 22 percent, double the rate for civilians, and up from about 14 percent three years ago. This is unacceptable! It is because of this alarming trend that I have recently reintroduced my bill, the Let's Re-Up the Troops-to-Cops Program Act (H.R. 715).

This legislation authorizes grant funds to be used for the Troops-to-Cops Program, a grant program that provides funds to local law enforcement agencies for the hiring of recently separated members of the Armed Forces to serve as law enforcement officers. The Troops-to-Cops program was one of several grant programs available through the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program that was authorized in 1994 under the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 and administered through the U.S. Department of Justice through 1999, when it was disbanded.

Despite an increase in job training programs, employer education efforts and post-9/

11 GI Bill improvements, unemployment for veterans is still too high. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, the root of the problem is lack of experience and ability to effectively translate military skills. Many skills acquired in the military can be transferred to civilian law enforcement and security jobs.

My bill will provide local law enforcement agencies funding to recruit, train and hire honorably discharged members of the Armed Forces to serve as career law enforcement officers. With thousands of troops set to return this year, it is essential that we be prepared to give them an opportunity to serve their communities. I urge all my colleagues to join me in reaffirming our nation's commitment to care for our servicemembers and veterans by supporting this bill.

Our veterans have invested in our country and this legislation invests in our veterans!

HONORING FORTY ACRES AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Forty Acres in Delano, California, as it is designated as a National Historic Landmark on February 21, 2011, in a ceremony that will honor the history of this important site and the thousands of farmworkers who created the farmworker movement in the 1960s.

The national significance of Forty Acres is extraordinary in every facet. Through its association with the farmworker movement, as well as with labor, civil rights, environmental and social reform interests, this land and the buildings that sit upon it helped define an important part of twentieth century American history. Acquired in the spring of 1966 by the National Farm Workers Association, Cesar Chavez had a dream for this forty-acre property. This bleak parcel of land would be transformed into a regional service center for farmworkers and an administrative headquarters for the growing union, United Farm Workers of America, which joined National Farm Workers Association, led by Cesar Chavez, and Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee, led by Larry Itliong.

Between 1966 and 1974, farmworkers, aided by an assortment of supporters and volunteers, built four structures on the property: a gasoline station and automotive repair shop, a multi-purpose hall, a health clinic, and a residential building. The structures served not only the needs of the union, but also provided social services for the Chicano and Filipino community—services that were not readily available at that time. Chavez's vision was that Forty Acres would be the first of many service centers where farmworkers would be welcomed and have access to the goods and services that as low-income, migrant workers, they were not always able to receive and obtain. These individuals and their families could purchase gas and food, receive help with automobile repair, banking services, health care, legal assistance, and child care.

Forty Acres was not only the administrative office and the site of the first regional service center of the UFW, but soon after, it also gained a higher level of significance because

of two events that received national media attention. In February 1968, in the middle of the Delano Grape Strike, Cesar Chavez announced that he would begin a hunger fast in order to refocus union members on non-violence efforts. Chavez set up a cot at the service station at Forty Acres and fasted for twenty-five days. He drew national attention with this action, and on March 11, 1968, Robert F. Kennedy flew to Delano to visit Chavez at the service station.

The other significant event took place at Forty Acres on July 29, 1970. The growers met with the union leaders in the multi-purpose hall, and after three days of negotiations, signed union contracts, thereby ending the almost five-year table grape strike and providing basic rights to fair wages and benefits, safer working environments, and job security to more than 70,000 farmworkers. Hundreds of union members, supporters, and journalists were present for the culmination of the hard work and dedication of the farmworker movement.

Forty Acres, with its mission-revival style buildings and beautiful grounds, is a piece of American history. The Roy L. Reuther Memorial Building, where the union contracts were signed; the Rodrigo Terronez Memorial Clinic, where farmworkers and their families received necessary medical services; the Pablo Agbayani Retirement Village, where aging Filipino farmworkers were provided with affordable housing; and the Service Station, where Cesar Chavez began his legendary fast that led to national recognition of the farmworker movement.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud and honored to bring to your attention this important dedication. The inclusion of Forty Acres as a National Historic Landmark guarantees that this site will continue to serve as a symbol of the farmworker movement and a lesson of courage, faith and perseverance in our country's history for future generations.

LET'S TRULY BE COMPASSIONATE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a very important bill that I just reintroduced, the Visitors Interested in Strengthening America (VISA) Act of 2011 (H.R. 714). The bill would grant humanitarian visa waivers to children and their parents for one day in order to attend a medical appointment, an education or cultural event.

In the past, the Port Directors at the border had the authority to grant humanitarian visa waivers to certain children and their accompanying parent. Now, children who come without a visa must be turned away. The fee to enter into the United States for 24 hours is an insurmountable amount of money for these poor children and their families. These children pose no threat to our national security. They are merely trying to receive medical treatment or to enjoy a school field trip to one of our Nation's numerous tourist attractions.

This legislation does not affect the number of legal or illegal immigrants living in the United States—the children and accompanying adults visit for one day and then return to their homes. It gives Port Directors the