

vacancies has proven to be extremely cumbersome and the appointments of voting members to the board has not been made in a timely manner. H.R. 3049 would prevent the situation where board members have felt obligated to serve additional terms in order to maintain a quorum for the purpose of conducting business. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this purely technical corrections bill and thank the Speaker for the opportunity to voice my concerns.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, my compliments to the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GOODLING] and the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. KILDEE] for this excellent corrections day bill. Since I have no further requests for time, I will also yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and (three-fifths having voted in favor thereof) the bill was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend section 1505 of the Higher Education Amendments of 1986 to provide for the continuity of the Board of Trustees of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONTINUED GRANT PARTICIPATION BY HISTORICALLY BLACK GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 3055) to amend section 326 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to permit continued participation by Historically Black Graduate Professional Schools in the grant program authorized by that section.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 3055

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The Historically Black Graduate Professional Schools identified under section 326 of the Higher Education Act may receive grant funds if the Secretary of Education determines that such institutions make a substantial contribution to the legal, medical, dental, veterinary, or other graduate opportunity for African Americans.

(2) The health professions schools which participate under section 326 train 50 percent of the Nation's African American physicians, 50 percent of the Nation's African American dentists, 50 percent of the Nation's African American pharmacists, and 75 percent of the Nation's African American veterinarians.

(3) A majority of the graduates of these schools practice in poor urban and rural areas of the country providing care to many disadvantaged Americans.

(4) The survival of these schools will contribute to the improved health status of disadvantaged persons, and of all Americans.

SEC. 2. ELIMINATION OF GRANT RENEWAL LIMITATION.

Section 326(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1063b(b)) is amended by striking the second sentence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. NORWOOD] and the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. CLAY] each will be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. NORWOOD].

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing me and my colleague from Missouri, Mr. CLAY, to bring to the floor a small yet important bill. H.R. 3055 corrects a situation going on here in Washington that has a big effect on five historically black colleges and universities, including two major Georgia colleges that supply health care professionals to nearly every county in my district.

Because of a technicality in the Higher Education Act of 1965, both Morehouse School of Medicine and Clark-Atlanta University could stand to lose their ability to compete for Federal education grants. Under that 1965 Act, grant eligibility is limited to two 5-year grants. These schools have received their two 5-year grants.

This was originally done to make sure a small number of schools didn't monopolize the few grants that were available, but over the years that situation has proven not to be an issue. At present, the other 11 schools covered by the Act have said that they have no objection to Morehouse and Clark, as well as the other three schools, continuing to compete, yet this unnecessary rule still is on the books, which means both colleges will be shut out of the process starting next year unless we act now.

H.R. 3055 will correct this situation. Here's why this is so important—the five schools who will lose grant eligibility under this rule provide more than half of the entire country's African-American physicians, pharmacists, and dentists, and three-quarters of all African-American veterinarians.

For the most part, these health-care professionals practice in poor urban and rural areas, where they serve a large number of poor Americans regardless of their race. It would be inexcusable to allow these colleges' ability to put qualified health-care providers in the field to be compromised because of a rule that should no longer apply.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3055 contains no new spending, and does not increase the Federal deficit. H.R. 3055 contains no new Federal mandates. But what H.R. 3055 does contain is a small measure of help for those who would provide medical help to many in rural and poor areas. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 3055.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise in support of H.R. 3055 and commend my colleague, Mr. NORWOOD, for co-sponsoring this legislation. I am proud to note that this bill was favorably reported by the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities with unanimous, bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, this bill corrects a problem with respect to section 326 of title III of the Higher Education Act. That section was added to the act in 1986 as a way to provide support for historically black graduate and professional institutions of higher education which perform vitally important services for our Nation.

As Mr. NORWOOD stated, the five schools initially included in section 326 educate more than half of all black doctors, dentists, and pharmacists, as well as 75 percent of all black veterinarians each year. That is a major return on the small investment provided by the Federal Government.

H.R. 3055 allows those five institutions to continue to do what they do so well. It will allow them to remain eligible to receive section 326 support at no additional cost to the Federal Government.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan effort.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and (three-fifths having voted in favor thereof) the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RESIGNATION AS CONFEE AND APPOINTMENT OF REPLACEMENT CONFEE ON H.R. 3019, BALANCED BUDGET DOWN PAYMENT ACT, II

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a conferee:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, April 23, 1996.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I hereby resign as a conferee for the entire bill, H.R. 3019, the omnibus appropriations measure for Fiscal 1996. I intend to remain a conferee for the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education portion of the bill.

Thanking you and with best regards, I am
Sincerely yours,

STENY H. HOYER.