

own law office. Six years later his wife, Janice, joined him in the firm and they established their professional partnership of Reznik & Reznik. The firm has grown steadily since and today is one of the city's most respected law firms.

When not working in the firm, Ben gives freely of his time and resources to those less fortunate than himself. It is well known throughout the community that Ben constantly lends a hand to others facing adversity. His altruistic nature manifests itself in the very personal responsibility he feels to our community.

His service ranges from his current position as president of the Valley Job Recovery Corp., a nonprofit economic development corporation assisting our community in job creation and retention, to his past chairmanship of the Economic Alliance, a nonprofit group developing an economic strategic plan for the San Fernando Valley. His expertise and hard work were noted by Mayor Richard Riordan, when he appointed Ben to serve on the development reform committee which recommended ways of streamlining the development process. Ben was also asked by the mayor to oversee implementation of a Federal grant aimed at producing an economic development strategy for the changing economy of Los Angeles. Beyond work and various philanthropic pursuits, Ben and Janice are dedicated parents to their three wonderful children.

Ben is held in the highest esteem within our community, and is frequently looked to for his sage advice. Ben Reznik's life is truly a remarkable story, he is living proof that dedication and hard work are still the formula for success.

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#### HOME-BASED BUSINESS FAIRNESS ACT

**HON. LINDA SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 20, 1997*

Mrs. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues, Representative TALENT from Missouri, and Representative PORTMAN from Ohio, in introducing the Home-Based Business Fairness Act. I also wish to compliment Representative TALENT for his unfailing commitment to relieving the tax and regulatory burdens affecting small businesses as chairman of the House Committee on Small Business.

With tax season upon us, most Americans are focused on one overwhelming problem: our antiquated and complex Tax Code. There is growing consensus on the need to change and simplify our tax system. It penalizes hard-working, responsible Americans, and inhibits their ability to save for themselves and for their children and grandchildren. The time is ripe, Mr. Speaker, for a commonsense approach to providing tax relief to individuals and to small and women entrepreneurs. Home-based businesses, in particular, need our attention and commitment.

One of the most exciting trends in small business today is the burgeoning of home businesses. The majority of them are created and operated by women. There are now more than 9 million home-business owners, and, according to the Small Business Administration, an estimated 300,000 women in this country

are starting home-based businesses each year. The entrepreneurial spirit of these men and women is breaking through existing barriers to work, and driving economic growth and jobs. These jobs give parents greater freedom and flexibility to balance and meet their families' needs, including those of their children, grandchildren, and aging parents.

While the technology explosion in our world is facilitating this new phenomenon, our Tax Code is hindering it. We must treat women-owned and home-based businesses more fairly. The Home-Based Business Fairness Act is a strong, commonsense approach to providing tax relief for this dynamic and vital sector of America's working families. It would allow small entrepreneurs to deduct their health insurance costs and the expenses of their home offices. It would give them the freedom to use independent contractors to grow and expand their operations without the fear of onerous back taxes, penalties, and interest small entrepreneurs too often face because of subjective and inconsistent reclassifications of independent contractors as employees by the IRS.

With this bill, Representative TALENT and I have tried to address the three problems which we believe are critical to helping self-employed men and women succeed in home business. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House on this important legislation.

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#### COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

**HON. BOB STUMP**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 20, 1997*

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, in this very Chamber, during his State of the Union speech, the President spoke to us of his commitment to education and his desire to increase its Federal funding. Many Americans support any effort that would improve our Nation's schools and our students' ability to meet the challenges of the future.

Mr. Speaker, many Americans also want to be certain that the educational bureaucracy does not waste the money that we seek to invest in our Nation's children. Too often when Members of Congress question the effectiveness of some of these costly Federal programs and mandates, we are accused of being against education. Frankly, that accusation is not true.

In fiscal year 1997, Congress appropriated \$14 billion for elementary and secondary education. What was the result? In one case, it was motivation for the Oakland, CA, school board to declare Ebonics as a language worthy of Federal bilingual education funding. While Oakland claimed it would not seek new Federal funds for this program, the school system is using Chapter I education funds for Ebonics classes.

There is a larger point to be made here, Mr. Speaker. When the American people hear that the Government will spend more money on education, they believe the money will be spent for needed items such as textbooks, computers, and new desks. Unfortunately, we squander the taxpayers' hard earned money on bureaucracy and social engineering schemes.

We have seen this done for 30 years in our bilingual education programs. We were told

such programs would teach immigrant children English. Thirty years later, we are told that the research is still inadequate to determine whether these programs are successful. Meanwhile, the children and parents relying on us to help students learn English are cheated of a proper education. Now, through Ebonics programs, education bureaucrats want to rob African-American children of an appropriate education. They want to create what is effectively a program of bilingual education for English-speaking African-American children by declaring Ebonics their native language.

Supporters of Ebonics instruction claim that the children already speak Ebonics and that they are merely teaching the children the particulars of their chosen language. Evidently, they do not equate teaching Ebonics with teaching about Ebonics. Rather than learning the grammar of Ebonics, these children deserve to be learning math, science, and English. The parents of the children involved agree.

That is why I am introducing legislation that will get Washington out of the vernacular English instruction business for good. My bill assures the taxpayers that we will not waste their money and our students' time teaching regional dialects that are not recognized foreign languages. Every child deserves a challenging curriculum that prepares them for the 21st century rather than a feel-good program designed to enhance self-esteem. This legislation is simply common sense and merits all Members' support.

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#### THE DEFENSE OF THE ENVIRONMENT ACT OF 1997

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 20, 1997*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago Congress adopted procedural steps that ensured that unfunded mandates and tax increases could not be enacted unless specifically considered and approved by the House. Today I am introducing the Defense of the Environment Act of 1997 with Representative GEPHARDT and Representative MILLER of California. This legislation would extend this same protection to environmental policies.

The Defense of the Environment Act is a commonsense safeguard that could dramatically improve the consideration of environmental legislation at virtually no cost. Nothing in the Act would prevent Congress from weakening or eliminating any existing environmental protection, even though a December 1996 Roper poll indicates that only 19 percent of our constituents favor rolling back environmental policies. Instead, the Act only takes the modest step of requiring a brief time for debate and a vote on any weakening legislation.

This is a practical measure which will simply ensure that environmental legislation receives adequate consideration before becoming law. I encourage my colleagues to consider the Defense of the Environment Act. I believe it is one environmental bill that we can all agree on.