

consideration the bill (H.R. 3843) to reauthorize programs to assist small business concerns and for other purposes:

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to express my support for the reauthorization of the Small Business Administration, which has provided essential assistance and guidance to our nation's entrepreneurs since its creation in 1953. Though the agency was originally intended as a temporary response to address the economic concerns of the postwar economy, it has grown significantly and has helped small businesses become a driving force in our nation's economy.

Small businesses play an integral role in sustaining our Nation's economic strength. Innovative, flexible, and resilient, independent businesses have had a significant impact on all sectors of industry, from service to high-technology. Enterprises with fewer than 500 workers employ 52 percent of the Nation's private sector workforce, produce 51 percent of private sector output, represent 96 percent of exporters of goods, and produce virtually all new jobs in our changing economy. The small firm embodies the American ideals of independence, innovation and adaptability, which is one reason why the small business thrives in the United States.

Not only have small businesses had a positive impact on our economy, they also undertake significant responsibilities in communities. The 1996 changes to the Nation's welfare system emphasized the transition from government assistance to the work force, and small firms have been instrumental in providing employment to former welfare recipients. By doing so, workers learn new skills in a small, manageable atmosphere and can become productive members of a business team. Furthermore, small businesses cooperate with local government, schools, and other organizations to cement the bonds of a strong community. Whether sponsoring a little league team or donating computers to an elementary school, the small business is an anchor of any town or city.

As a former small business owner, I know firsthand the challenges faced by our Nation's entrepreneurs. Embarking on a new venture is a period of excitement for entrepreneurs, though the task ahead appears daunting and formidable. Not only must a small business owner consider the financial implications of an endeavor, he or she must also master the Federal and State regulations pertaining to business owners. Luckily, the Small Business Administration is available to provide financial assistance and legal expertise to entrepreneurs. In fiscal year 1999, the SBA provided \$10.1 billion in loans to small businesses, with almost \$108 million in loans to businesses in my State of Rhode Island. Furthermore, the SBA excels at providing continued assistance to firms, sharing information about new technologies, trade and export opportunities, and pertinent federal laws and regulations. I applaud the SBA for its commitment to fostering creativity and entrepreneurship in the United States, as well as its assistance to small businesses in meeting the new challenges of our Nation's changing economy.

Today we have the opportunity to enact legislation to reauthorize the Small Business Administration and its programs through fiscal year 2003. Given all of the substantial benefits this organization has provided in its 47-year history, I strongly believe that we must give

this agency the opportunity to continue its mission for the next 3 years. I urge my colleagues to join me today in giving our nation's entrepreneurs the tools and resources needed to pursue their personal dreams. I urge them to vote in favor of SBA reauthorization.

APPLES FOR THREE MILLION TEACHERS ACT

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, last year Senator JON KYL and I introduced the K-12 Education Excellence Now (KEEN) Act to provide tax relief for all Americans, including our Nation's teachers. This year we are introducing another much-needed avenue for teacher relief: the Apples for Three Million Teachers Act. The bill will offer America's 3,107,000 public and private school educators a \$100 dollar-for-dollar tax credit for out-of-pocket classroom expenses. It also contains another provision—one included in the \$792 billion tax relief package vetoed by the President last year—that will permit educators to claim a tax deduction for expenses above \$100. I am pleased to report that the Apples for Teachers Act passed 98-0 in the Senate as an amendment offered by Senator KYL and Senator SUSAN COLLINS to the Education Savings Accounts Bill (S. 1134). The House would be wise to incorporate this amendment into the education tax incentive package currently being crafted. The President has shown his tendency to deprive parents and grandparents of a tax-free way to save for education expenses in twice vetoing legislation expanding Education Savings Accounts to elementary and secondary educational expenses. He might hesitate if faced with the prospect of denying every K-12 teacher in America partial from classroom expenses

Education funding tends to be rigid, with money distributed on a categorical basis leaving teachers with little flexibility to direct funds. The Apples for Teachers Act is desperately needed because teachers often have to dip into their own resources to provide their students with the resources they need when, as so often is the case, the provided materials are inadequate. The National Education Association estimates that teachers spend an average of \$408 annually on out-of-pocket, non-reimbursable materials for their classrooms. A seven year veteran teacher who now serves on my staff reports that this estimate may be very low. While teaching in inner city schools, she spent \$900 to \$1,200 annually to subsidize her classroom. She believes this is below or within the norm of her colleagues.

Further, in a letter endorsing the teacher tax relief contained in my broader KEEN Act, 53,000 educators of the National Science Teachers Association and 110,000 members of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics commented that the KEEN tax credit bill "would alleviate a teacher's financial burden in getting needed materials for his or her classroom." Apples for Teachers furthers this same goal.

Certainly, one of the most important factors in the academic success of a student is teacher quality. But to achieve quality, teachers need more than praise: They need the re-

sources necessary to provide our children with the learning materials teaching requires. It's time for Congress to assist the men and women in American who not only dedicate their careers to educating our children, but continue to sacrifice financially for them as well. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Apples for Teachers Act and believe that this legislation should be included in any tax package devoted to improving K-12 education.

NELSON MANDELA

HON. LAMAR S. SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, at the suggestion of the distinguished former Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the Honorable Charles Percy, I am pleased to request that the following two part series on Nelson Mandela, recently published in *The Christian Science Monitor*, be submitted into the RECORD.

[From *The Christian Science Monitor*, Feb. 10, 2000]

MANDELA

(By John Battersby)

Ten years after Nelson Mandela walked out of prison on Robben Island, and seven months after stepping down as president of South Africa, he reflects, in an interview with the *Monitor*, on his legacy and the lasting influence his 27 years in prison had on him.

"Whatever my wishes may be, I cannot bind future generations to remember me in the particular way I would like," Nelson Mandela says.

Despite peace missions, a blistering schedule of overseas travel and stepped-up philanthropic activities, Mr. Mandela has begun to reflect on how he wants to be remembered both in an interview and at functions to pay tribute to him.

And despite his reluctance to be singled out and discuss his personal qualities, there is consensus in South Africa that without Mandela's personal commitment to reconciliation, his moral authority, integrity, and intense compassion, the country's transition to democracy might not have gone as smoothly.

Mandela is at pains to ensure that he is remembered as an ordinary mortal with qualities that are within the reach of ordinary people. "What always worried me in prison was [that I could acquire] the image of someone who is always 100 percent correct and can never do any wrong," he told one audience of 500. "People expect me to perform far beyond my ability."

He expanded on these reflections for the first time in a recent interview with the *Monitor*, which probed his philosophy of reconciliation, the origins of his moral integrity, and the experiences and influences that forged the qualities which have made him one of the heroes of the 20th century.

He also spoke about the importance of religion in his life and the crucial role of reflection and "the time to think" during his 27 years in jail.

History will remember Mandela for having the strength of conviction to risk engaging his jailers—and thereby humanizing them—from inside prison and eventually setting the stage for the ANC to negotiate them out of power. Mandela sees the success of the ANC in mobilizing both domestic and international opinion against the apartheid government as the key factor.