

Dr. Ibanez has served successfully on the Smithsonian's Board of Regents for the past 6 years.

I urge my colleagues to support S.J. Res. 42, which reappoints Dr. Ibanez for another 6-year term.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, again I rise in support of this resolution.

I have listened to the words of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) with reference to Dr. Ibanez, and I concur in those remarks.

Mr. Speaker, the Smithsonian Institution is, as my colleagues know, both a museum of extraordinary note but also a very distinguished academic institution. It not only displays knowledge, but it diffuses knowledge, as well.

Dr. Ibanez has served with distinction on the Smithsonian Board. So we have had Mr. Spoon, who is going to bring a new perspective, and Dr. Ibanez, who will continue to have an institutional memory of what has come before and what should go in the future.

So I am very pleased to rise in support of this resolution and to, frankly, thank Dr. Ibanez for agreeing to continue to expend his very valuable time in this volunteer way on behalf of a great American institution, in fact a great world institution, the Smithsonian Institution.

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for his comments and I tell him that I appreciate those comments. Because Dr. Ibanez, of course, does live down near the valley in Texas and it is hard to get here, and sometimes those regents come from far away and we are proud to have representation from all over this Nation. It is a great institution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate joint resolution, S.J. Res. 42.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate joint resolution was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on S.J. Res. 42.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

#### AMERICAN INDIAN TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3629) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve the program for American Indian Tribal Colleges and Universities under part A of title III, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3629

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

#### SECTION 1. APPLICATIONS FOR AND AWARD OF GRANTS.

(a) SIMPLIFICATION OF APPLICATIONS.—Sections 316(d)(2) and 317(d)(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(d)(2), 1059d(d)(2)) are each amended by inserting after the first sentence the following: "The Secretary shall, to the extent possible, prescribe a simplified and streamlined format for such applications that takes into account the limited number of institutions that are eligible for assistance under this section."

(b) SPECIAL RULES FOR AWARDS.—

(1) TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.—Section 316(d) of such Act is further amended by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

"(3) SPECIAL RULES.—

"(A) ELIGIBILITY.—No Tribal College or University that receives funds under this section shall concurrently receive funds under other provisions of this part or part B.

"(B) EXEMPTION.—Section 313(d) shall not apply to institutions that are eligible to receive funds under this section.

"(C) DISTRIBUTION.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall, to the extent possible and consistent with the competitive process under which such grants are awarded, ensure maximum and equitable distribution among all eligible institutions."

(2) ALASKAN NATIVE AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN INSTITUTIONS.—Section 317 of such Act is further amended by striking subsection (e) and by inserting at the end of subsection (d) the following new paragraph:

"(3) SPECIAL RULES.—

"(A) ELIGIBILITY.—No Alaskan Native-serving institution or Native Hawaiian-serving institution that receives funds under this section shall concurrently receive funds under other provisions of this part or part B.

"(B) EXEMPTION.—Section 313(d) shall not apply to institutions that are eligible to receive funds under this section.

"(C) DISTRIBUTION.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall, to the extent possible and consistent with the competitive process under which such grants are awarded, ensure maximum and equitable distribution among all eligible institutions."

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this Act shall be effective on the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MARTINEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON).

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3629, as amended, which makes

technical improvements to sections 316 and 317 of title III of the Higher Education Act.

I want to thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN) for introducing H.R. 3629 and bringing this matter to our attention.

1545

The bill we are considering today takes two technical improvements to title III that relate to tribal colleges and Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions. These institutions are located primarily in remote areas not served by other postsecondary education institutions.

They offer a broad range of degree and vocational certificate programs to students for whom these educational opportunities would otherwise be geographically and culturally inaccessible.

Under title III, grant funds are provided to postsecondary institutions for improving academic programs, for improving their management and fiscal operations, and to help institutions make effective use of technology. Funding is targeted to institutions that enroll large proportions of financially disadvantaged students and have low per-student expenditures.

Mr. Speaker, last year, 17 institutions received grant awards under this program. One used its funds to add computer hardware and software to improve the college's physical management, academic programming, and student services.

These improvements will include Internet access for instructors. Another institution is using its grant award to acquire new technology and provide staff development related to distance education programs.

Another institution is using its grant to acquire computers and Internet access for its students in order to improve academic achievement and increase student retention. Others are using their grant funds for many similar purposes.

The first technical improvement that we are making in this bill directs the Secretary of Education to simplify the application process for the limited number of institutions eligible for funds under this section 316 and 317.

Currently, institutions spend a great deal of time and money preparing applications for funds under the highly competitive title III grant program. For poorer institutions, these costs are often prohibitive. However, if the process is simplified, it is possible that more of the poorer institutions will apply for assistance.

The second improvement will allow these institutions to apply for a new grant without waiting until 2 years lapse after the expiration of a prior grant. Under current law, an institution receives a grant for a 5-year period and then must wait 2 years after the expiration of the grant before applying for another grant.

This 2-year wait-out rule was part of the original title III legislation, and its