

country. Since African Americans have been denied educational opportunities until very recently, these schools have really been the only avenue open to blacks to further themselves through education.

Today, a majority of African American college students graduate from HBCU's. 28% receive their bachelor's degrees from these schools, and 15% obtain their Master's degrees from these schools. Since their creation, HBCU's have graduated more than 70% of the degrees granted to African Americans.

In my state of Florida, we are blessed with four HBCU's, two of which are located in my district. In Tallahassee, we have Florida's largest Black College, my alma mater, Florida A&M, which has nearly 10,000 students. In South Florida, we have Florida Memorial College, and my district, Florida's third, is lucky to have both Edward Waters College in Jacksonville, and Bethune Cookman College, which was founded by a determined young black woman, Mary Mcleod Bethune, in 1904 in Daytona.

Among the many exciting things happening in Florida's black colleges is the acquisition of a law school at Florida A&M, which is set to open in 2003. The opening of the school will officially mark the return of the FAMU College of Law since its closing in 1968. I remember when I was a student at Florida A&M, when the FAMU College of Law, which had provided the only avenue in the state of Florida for African Americans to undertake a career in the influential field of law, was stolen from us and merged with the law school at Florida State. This was a time when African Americans were not allowed to study at Florida state schools at the graduate level, consequently, African Americans were excluded from the field. Not surprisingly today, although that law has been repealed, there are very few African American attorneys in Florida. With the reinstatement of FAMU's law school, minority students will once again have greater access to be represented in the legal profession.

In closing, I am, and always will be, a strong supporter of HBCU's, and will continue to work hard to allow these schools to continue on with their valuable mission, the educational advancement of young African Americans.

Mr. SISISKY. Mr. Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of the positive influences that Virginia State University and Saint Paul's College, two Historically Black Colleges and Universities in my district, have had on Virginia in particular, and African American culture in general.

Virginia State University, located in Ettrick, Virginia, is America's first fully state supported four-year institution of higher learning for African-Americans. In its first academic year, 1883-84, the University had 126 students and seven faculty; one building, 33 acres, a 200-book library, and a \$20,000 budget.

Tuition was \$3.35 and room and board was \$20.00.

From these modest beginnings, Virginia State University now offers 27 undergraduate degree programs and 13 graduate degree programs.

The University, which is fully integrated, has a student body of 4,300, a full-time teaching faculty of approximately 170, a library containing 277,350 volumes, a 236-acre campus and a 416-acre farm, more than 50 buildings (including 15 dormitories and 16 classroom buildings), and an annual budget of \$64,238,921.

I am pleased to have been on the Board of Visitors of Virginia State University.

When I was a delegate in the Virginia General Assembly, I sponsored the legislation which changed Virginia State College to Virginia State University.

Saint Paul's College, founded in 1888 in Lawrenceville, Virginia, is a small liberal arts college in which the attributes of integrity, objectivity, resourcefulness, scholarship, and responsible citizenship are emphasized. Over 15 undergraduate degrees are offered.

Its liberal arts, career-oriented, and teacher-education programs prepare graduates for effective participation in various aspects of human endeavor.

Intentionally small, its 600 students represent a wide variety of areas in the United States and several countries. However, the active campus life is characterized by a strong sense of camaraderie.

Education has always been very important to the people of Virginia. Whatever part of the Commonwealth you hail from, there is a place for our children to go for advanced learning.

Both Virginia State University and Saint Paul's College rank with the best colleges and universities in the country for preparing our young people to enhance this world.

As a Historically Black Colleges and Universities, the opportunities offered by these schools have been very important to the development of Virginia, and will continue to be for the future of this nation.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, Lincoln University, in Jefferson City, Missouri, is an historic black college that has served Missouri and our nation well since the latter part of the 1800s. Today, it serves as a beacon of education for our state of Missouri. I am so very proud of the faculty, the students, and its extension service, which have put this university on the map. I am pleased to represent such an outstanding institution.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 4577, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 7(c) of rule XXII, I hereby notify the House of my intention tomorrow to offer the following motion to instruct House conferees on H.R. 4577, a bill making appropriations for fiscal year 2001 for the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education.

I move that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill, H.R. 4577, be instructed to increase Title VI Education Block Grant funding with instructions that these increased funds may also be used for the purposes of addressing the shortage of highly qualified teachers, to reduce class size, particularly in early grades; using highly qualified teachers to improve educational achievement for regular and special needs children, to support efforts to recruit, train and retrain highly qualified teachers, or for school construction and renovation of

facilities at the sole discretion of the local educational agency.

#### MEDICARE MODERNIZATION AND PRESCRIPTION DRUG ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, tonight we want to discuss one of the measures that has passed the House of Representatives. Sometimes, we do not feel the need to discuss measures that have gone through committee and have passed the House, but since there has been so much misrepresentation about the legislation that passed the House on a bipartisan vote called the Medicare Modernization and Prescription Drug Act, and since the Presidential nominees are engaged in a spirited debate, I thought it would be worthwhile to take some time, one, to focus on what it is that the House actually did, but probably more important than the specifics is to put in context the way in which the prescription drug issue has been discussed.

I think the first thing that people have to remember is that as the former majority, the Democrats controlled the House the entire time Medicare was law, up until 1994. Indeed, when President Clinton was elected in 1992, the Democrats controlled the House, they controlled the Senate, and they controlled the Presidency. I find it rather interesting that at a time when they could do anything they wanted to do, they did not talk about putting prescription drugs in Medicare for seniors.

All right. Let us say that that issue is one which has matured only recently. However, let me tell my colleagues what I consider to be an even more telling fact. During the time the Democrats controlled the House and the Senate and the Presidency, they did not add any preventive care measures or wellness measures. Now, that I think is very telling, because it was pretty obvious even at that time that if we would do relatively aggressive screening on seniors for colorectal cancer, increase mammography, and especially tests for women with osteoporosis; and one of the real scourges is diabetes, and with education and early detection and treatment, we can make significant life-enhancing behavioral decisions; but none of those were part of a Medicare program that the Democrats offered.

In 1995, the Republicans became the majority in the House and in the Senate. We offered a series of reforms adding preventive and wellness and suggesting prescription drugs. Well, as some people may remember, the 1996 election was based upon a series of untruths, frankly, that Republicans were trying to destroy Medicare, that Republicans never liked the program and could not be trusted with it.