

streamline federal education programs at the state and local level. But the history of reduced funding and weakened accountability that comes with block grants suggests that we should approach this issue very cautiously.

I want to add that our bill places greater emphasis in certain areas where the President places less and where we hope to work together to find agreement, specifically, in the areas of: raising teacher standards; creating financial incentives such as loan forgiveness and pay bonuses to attract teachers to high-need schools; improving state and local assessment and accountability; and investing more resources.

I think the Miller/Kildee bill is the best approach in terms of committing new resources to schools, targeting effective programs, and holding schools accountable to high standards without abandoning them.

I am encouraged by the beginning of this Congress and this new Administration. I take the President's commitment to education and to working with Congress very seriously and I look forward to making a difference this year for all children.

PUBLIC EDUCATION REINVESTMENT  
REINVENTION AND RESPONSIBILITY ACT

**HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2001*

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to join my colleagues in highlighting some important aspects of the Public Education Reinvestment Reintervention and Responsibility Act.

This legislation, often referred to as the Three R's, would refocus our national education policy by giving school districts the money and local control they need to improve. And, it demands that they get results.

This bill is the way to help American public schools be a true path to equal opportunity for all students by closing the achievement gap; improving teacher quality; helping immigrant students master English; promoting public school choice; and stimulating local initiatives.

It will increase public education funding by \$35 billion in the next five years and let local schools spend more time with our children, rather than wasting time applying for the same grants year after year by consolidating about 50 federal programs into 5 performance-based grants. This new process would ensure a strong stream of funding with fewer strings attached. In exchange for this increased investment and fewer strings, states and schools would be held accountable for results.

Although increased funding is a critical component to reform, it is not the only one. If we expect states to meet high standards for students, we must give them broad flexibility and strong incentives to try bold new ideas—returning the power to decide how to best educate our children to the teachers who spend the most time with them.

Because education should be a national obsession, as well as a local possession.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SELF-EMPLOYED HEALTH INSURANCE FAIRNESS ACT OF 2001

**HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2001*

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, today I will introduce my bill, the Self-employed Health Insurance Fairness Act of 2001, to accelerate the health insurance deduction for the self-employed to 100 percent immediately.

Remarkably, more than 44 million Americans are uninsured. Over 60 percent of the 44 million uninsured Americans have one thing in common: they are either self-employed or have a family member who is employed by a small business that cannot afford to provide health benefits to its employees. Among self-employed families, approximately 5 million Americans and their children or other dependents are uninsured. These families represent small businesses operating as sole proprietors, S corporations, limited liability companies, and partnerships—including the majority of farmers and ranchers. Congress should make health insurance more accessible and affordable to these working families by accelerating their health insurance deduction to 100 percent immediately.

We have the opportunity this year to provide tax fairness and parity on the deductibility of health insurance for all employers. Larger businesses can deduct 100 percent of their health insurance costs. Under current law, the long-standing disparity between the self-employed and large employers does not end until the year 2003. Three more years is a long time to ask small-business families with no health insurance to wait for simple tax fairness. For most of us, the prospect of having no health insurance coverage for ourselves and our children for even a few months is daunting—imagine three years.

As critical as this bill is to eliminating the tax disparity between small and large businesses, the bill would also provide small businesses greater access to affordable health care; expand the ability of small employers to provide health insurance to their employees, and simplify taxes for small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Committee on Small Business, I am proud to offer this bipartisan bill together with our ranking Democrat NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ of New York, and Representatives PHIL ENGLISH of Pennsylvania and KAREN L. THURMAN of Florida of the Committee on Ways and Means. We urge its prompt passage in this Congress.

TRIBUTE TO DOUG JACOBS

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2001*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to a fallen detective from Riverside, CA. Detective Doug Jacobs died Saturday, January 13, in the line of duty for his Riverside community. We send our condolences and prayers to his family, neighbors, and the community.

Doug Jacobs was 30 years of age and employed with the Riverside Police Department

since 1995. He leaves behind his young wife, Tamara, daughter Rachel, and stepson Nicholas Sohn. He also leaves behind neighbors and a community that will miss his constant self-sacrifice, generosity, and deep faith in God. And, now those left behind must pull together to support and strengthen each other during the coming months and years.

Being a police officer was all that Doug ever dreamed about when growing up—his family remembers him as a child riding in the car and pretending to talk to officers in passing police cars through the spare seat belt buckle. His career ambition only grew stronger as he grew older, joining the Riverside Sheriff's Department as an Explorer at 14. And recruiters saw in Doug an applicant who not only talked the talk of being an officer, but walked the walk. His love for police work led him to service in the police and sheriff's departments of Los Angeles, before returning home to work for Riverside in 1995.

The National Law Enforcement Officer Memorial, says it the best, that it is not how these officers died that made them heroes, it is how they lived." And as Riverside Police Chief Russ Leach noted at the funeral, Detective Jacobs "Lived His Dreams." Many of us cannot truly understand the latent danger associated with the day to day routine of our law enforcement officers. They put themselves in danger everyday when they stop a vehicle, respond to an incident or a noise complaint—like Detective Jacobs. The danger and violence they face day in and day out is very real and it is times like these, sadly, that make us stop and honor our law enforcement officers. We hope that they be given such honor, respect and thanks always—not only when life's fragile nature is revealed. Detective Doug Jacobs lived his life protecting others and we can best serve his memory by honoring, respecting, and thanking our law enforcement officers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join us today to remember this fine detective. On behalf of the residents of the city of Riverside, we extend our prayers and most heartfelt sympathy to his family and loved ones.

IN HONOR OF THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FLORISTS

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2001*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, it's with great pride that I rise today to honor the work of the Society of American Florists and specifically, my constituents John and Eda Muller of Half Moon Bay, California, for their breathtaking work which displayed during the Inauguration.

The Society of American Florists has provided the floral needs for inaugural events since John F. Kennedy's administration. This year, more than 150 floral industry volunteers from 32 states and the District of Columbia arrived in Washington, D.C. a week before the inaugural festivities to create the floral themes for inaugural festivities. Together, the volunteers donated over 5,000 hours during pre-inauguration week, creating elegant and exquisite works of floral art for nine balls, three dinners and other events. Designers used their skills to arrange 150,000 roses, tulips, lilies