

Accreditation these days has little to do with academic rigor or educational outcomes; rather, it serves only to show that a school has the right set of inputs, and virtually every college and university in the nation is able to comply with these standards. Because federal law makes eligibility to receive federal student loan funds conditional upon retaining accredited status from an accrediting association recognized by the Department of Education, schools have a rather large incentive to maintain their accreditation status. This places an enormous amount of influence in the hands of the accreditors, who oftentimes force schools to reallocate resources or even adopt policies at odds with a school's individual mission in order to comply with accreditation requirements and recommendations.

As we continue to pursue policies of accountability for our education institutions and strive to do our part in making higher education affordable for more Americans, we should examine ways that the accreditation process can be changed to play a more useful role—one that provides meaningful information about a school to students and parents. I believe my legislation is the necessary first step to achieve this goal.

#### RESTORING BUDGET DISCIPLINES

### HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 30, 2002*

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, the end of September marks not only the end of fiscal year 2002, but also the expiration date for crucial mechanisms of budget discipline. I rise today to inform my colleagues that I have introduced the Restoring Budget Disciplines Act of 2002, a bill designed to extend budget enforcement mechanisms and get us back on the path of balanced budgets. I invite all members, from both sides of the aisle, to co-sponsor this legislation.

The 1990s were a decade of great fiscal progress, as we converted chronic deficits into hard-won surpluses. There is widespread agreement that the discretionary spending caps and the pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) rules—which were originally established in 1990 and which expire today—played a critical role in achieving this progress. Indeed, in his recent appearance before the House Budget Committee, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan testified that the spending caps and PAYGO rules have been effective, and noted that “[f]ailing to preserve them would be a grave mistake.”

The bill I have introduced extends the PAYGO rules through fiscal year 2007. As you know, the PAYGO rules require that the cost of all mandatory spending increases and all tax cuts enacted during a session be fully offset. If this condition is not met and the net effect of all tax legislation and mandatory spending legislation enacted during a session reduces the surpluses or increases the deficit, then the rules provide for a sequestration of resources by the Office of Management and Budget.

The bill also takes important steps toward extending the discretionary spending caps. The precise levels at which these caps should be extended can emerge only from bipartisan

negotiations. But this bill puts the Congress on record as supporting a renewal of the caps, and it provides for the extension of key provisions of the Budget Act pertaining to the caps once such levels are set.

The fiscal progress of the last decade was achieved largely as a result of budget agreements between the White House and Congress. Now is the time for bipartisan action to renew the budget enforcement mechanisms that were created and extended in those landmark agreements.

#### TRIBUTE TO COL. AND MRS. DOUGLAS RAABERG

### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 30, 2002*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, if has come to my attention that Claudia and Douglas Raaberg have received the 2002 Gen. and Mrs. Jerome F. O'Malley Award. The Raabergs have demonstrated a strong commitment and dedication to the United States Air Force.

The Gen. and Mrs. Jerome F. O'Malley Award recognizes the wing commander and spouse whose contributions to the nation, Air Force and local community best exemplify the highest ideals and positive leadership of a military couple in a key Air Force position. The Raabergs received this award for their efforts while stationed at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma.

As commander of the 71st Flying Training Wing, Col. Raaberg secured \$11.5 million and 11 acres of land to build 230 new housing units, the first for the base in 60 years. His emphasis on dormitory improvements resulted in new furniture, carpet, microwaves and free Internet access for assigned airmen.

Claudia oversaw the Vance Spouses Club “compassion coalition,” an initiative to invite spouse clubs across the Department of Defense to contribute to the assistance program for survivors of the September 11 terrorist attacks. She was also an active participant in “Christmas in April,” mustering volunteers and \$20,000 to rebuild and repair 10 homes in a day for local disabled and elderly residents.

Mr. Speaker, Claudia and Douglas Raaberg have distinguished themselves as community leaders in the United States Air Force. Their service to our nation is invaluable and I am sure that my colleagues will join me in wishing the Raaberg family all the best.

#### GUJARAT VIOLENCE A POGROM AGAINST MUSLIMS, NEWS REPORT SAYS

### HON. CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 30, 2002*

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, on June 4, an interesting article appeared at Islam Online, an Internet news site. It said that the People's Union for Democratic Rights (PUDR) had found that the recent violence in Gujarat in which, according to The Hindu newspaper, over 5,000 people were killed, was a planned

pogrom designed to reduce Muslims to second-class citizens. Unfortunately, Muslim and other minorities such as Christians, Sikhs, and others are already second-class citizens in India.

The article says that the violence was well organized and planned long before the train attack in Godhra. It reports, that “the organizers of the carnage tapped on a seam of hatred, based on anti-Muslim propaganda which had been carefully cultivated over many years.” It clearly points the finger at the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and the Bajrang Dal, militant Hindu fundamentalists organizations inclined to violence which are under the umbrella of the militant, Hindu nationalist, pro-Fascist Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), whose political wing is the BJP, the party that leads India's government. It was the RSS that published a booklet last year on how to implicate Christians and other religious minorities in fake criminal cases. It was the VHP that murdered missionary Graham Staines, yet has not been punished for it. In New York a couple of years ago, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee told an audience proudly, “I will always be a Swayamsewak”.

This reveals the reality of so-called democracy in India. It is a democracy for the Brahmins, but it is a tyranny for the minorities. We should stop our aid to India until they allow human rights and we should declare our support for self-determination for all the people living within its borders. Otherwise, I am afraid, violence will be even more a way of life in South Asia than it already is, and that would be a tragedy for all the people there. If we can do anything to prevent that, we should do so.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to add the Islam Online article to the RECORD at this time to give more detail on the pogrom in Gujarat.

#### GUJARAT POGROM AIMED AT REDUCING MUSLIMS TO SECOND CLASS CITIZENS

NEW DELHI, JUNE 3 (ISLAMONLINE).—The People's Union for Democratic Rights (PUDR), one of India's premiere human rights organizations, said in its report on the violence in Gujarat, “The whole intent of the pogrom has been to reduce Muslims to second class citizens in their own country.”

The PUDR is a well-known independent human rights organization in India monitoring human rights violations against minorities and weaker sections of society.

The PUDR report “Maaro, Kaapo, Baaro: State, Society and Communalism in Gujarat” said that the organizers of the carnage tapped on a seam of hatred, based on anti-Muslim propaganda which had been carefully cultivated over many years.

The report said that the anti-Muslim carnage was planned well before the Godhra train tragedy. It says that the hate propaganda increased in the six months prior to February 2002.

The PUDR report says that the VHP (World Hindu Council) and its youth wing, the Bajrang Dal, organized trishul (tridents) distribution ceremonies in villages with Muslim populations. Speeches were made abusing and threatening Muslims during these ceremonies.

The report gives the instance of Pandarwada village where one of the worst massacres and sexual abuse cases took place. A meeting was held in this village about a fortnight before the attack.

The PUDR report provides detailed lists of people named as organizers and attackers.

Many of these are functionaries of the ruling party, BJP, the VHP and the Bajrang Dal.