

INTRODUCTION OF THE ENSURING
COLLEGE ACCESS FOR ALL
AMERICANS ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 16, 2003

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to submit, with my colleagues Representatives KILDEE, OBEY, OWENS, BISHOP, WOOLSEY, RYAN of Ohio, TIERNEY, DANNY DAVIS, KIND, HOLT, VAN HOLLEN and MCCOLLUM, the Ensuring College Access for all Americans Act.

Higher education is essential to ensure America's economic prosperity, national security, health and the success of individuals. Yet, as college enrollments swell, states slash higher education budgets and tuition continues to skyrocket, millions of American students and families continue to struggle to pay for a college education.

Despite these pressures, late last month the Bush administration decided to revise methods to determine student financial need, which will force a significant number of students and families to pay a higher price for a college education. As the June 13th New York Times article, "Change in Aid Formula Shifts More Costs to Students", documents, these revisions to the Federal needs analysis methodology for the 2004-2005 award year will result in substantially higher college costs for a large number of American students.

These updates, which were completed by the Department of Education without review or approval by the Congress, effectively will eliminate Pell grant eligibility for needy students or will reduce Pell grant awards or the amount of subsidized loans these students can receive. These changes will force students to mortgage their future by going further into debt to attend college.

At a time when the costs of attending college are growing higher every month, as states and private institutions raise tuition and other costs, I question the timing of these revisions.

The Department of Education's revisions to the allowance for State and other taxes are based on three-year-old data. At the time these numbers were compiled, our country had yet to enter the downward economic spiral that we find ourselves in today. Students are going to be denied critically needed financial aid because of the poor performance of the economy. Unfortunately, the failure of the Bush Administration to ensure economic viability has now come to rest on the backs of needy college bound students.

The Ensuring College Access for all Americans Act will reverse the Administration's revision and make certain that students are not denied critical financial aid. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this tradition by supporting the Ensuring College Access for all Americans Act. It is an important step to making certain that all Americans can access a college education.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DONALD F.
WHALEN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 16, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this

nation to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen from my district. Donald Whalen of Durango, Colorado has touched countless lives. He has served as a coach, friend, and mentor to the students of Fort Lewis College. The respect for Donald in the Durango area cannot be overstated, and it is for this reason that Fort Lewis College has dedicated their gymnasium to him.

Donald has committed his life to Fort Lewis, serving in numerous leadership positions within the school. He has worked as a physical education teacher, head coach of the men's golf and basketball teams, director of athletics, and interim school president. While performing these duties, Donald has always made time for his students. He provides them with friendship, advice, counseling, and has an attentive ear. One student even refers to Donald as "Mr. Everything."

Mr. Speaker, Donald Whalen is an outstanding member of his community, a man who certainly deserves recognition before this body of Congress and this nation. The hard work and dedication that Donald has given to Fort Lewis has positively impacted the lives of many students. It is clear that Donald has influenced America's youth, and I hope that his message of kindness, generosity, and resiliency will spread. Thank you, Donald, for your dedication to the community.

TRIBUTE TO LOUISE FICCO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 16, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Louise Ficco and thank her for her many contributions to Ouray, Colorado. Louise has spent over 30 years helping the less fortunate in the Ouray County Public Health Office and, as she plans her retirement, I am honored to speak of her contributions here today.

Louise began her service in Ouray in the early 1970's, helping the County Nurse with bookkeeping, and eventually expanded her duties to include home services and immunizations. Louise then began work in the "Women, Infants, and Children" division of the office, providing care for young mothers and their children. Her coworkers describe Louise as a "people person," doing everything necessary to make her patients comfortable. The Health Department was so worried about losing Louise that they have asked her to remain on as a consultant for the next four months.

Mr. Speaker, Louise Ficco has spent her life giving back to others. Public service is truly a noble calling which Louise has wholeheartedly embraced. Thank you, Louise, for your hard work and dedication to Ouray. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THERESA MCKINNEY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 16, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize the almost four decades that Theresa McKinney of Rocky Ford, Colorado has contributed to the children of my state. For the last twelve years, Theresa has been kitchen manager at Rocky Ford High School, rising early in the morning to begin

her many hours of cooking as she oversees the nutrition of Rocky Ford's children. Theresa will soon be retiring from her service at Rocky Ford, and I am proud to speak of her accomplishments here today.

Theresa has seen many kids come and go in her years at Rocky Ford and I know she will miss the spirit and laughter that the children have brought into her life. Her dedication to the school system has provided the children with an exemplary model of hard work. Theresa always arrived early and worked hard until her job was done.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the contributions Theresa has made to the well being of Colorado's children. Her hard work and dedication to Rocky Ford High School is certainly deserving of recognition before this body. Theresa, I wish you well in all of your future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO RAY CANDELARIA

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 16, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to a man who was willing to sacrifice in the service of our country. Ray Candelaria of Cortez, Colorado served this nation in World War II, going on to dedicate his time and effort toward the betterment of the Cortez community.

In order to serve his nation during a time of need, Ray left high school early to enlist in the Armed Forces. Ray joined up shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, serving in the Army for two years. He was injured and returned home, where he became active in numerous veterans' causes. Ray served as Commander of the Ute Mountain Post of the American Legion, Chairman of the Ute Mountain Rodeo Parade, and currently commands the Disabled American Veterans Post. His hard work and dedication to veteran's affairs have truly made Ray a leader in the Cortez community.

On May 22, 2003, Ray walked across the stage at Montezuma-Cortez High School and received his diploma after 60 years of service. He was one of several veterans who took advantage of a new Colorado law that enables those who fought in World War II to receive full high school diplomas.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Ray Candelaria and commend him for his service to our country. He and the other heroes of "the greatest generation" defeated totalitarianism and fascism, ensuring the freedom of all Americans. Ray left the simple pleasures of life in Colorado for the serious work of defending this great nation and it gives me immense pleasure to honor Ray and offer my congratulations on his graduation. Our country will always be grateful for his service.