

The fears of these voucher critics was confirmed on the floor of the House of Representatives when the lead sponsor of the DC voucher amendment admitted that under his plan the Department of Education would have to begin accrediting religious schools to ensure that only qualified schools participate in the voucher program because religious schools currently do not need to receive government accreditation. Government accreditation is the first step toward government control.

Several private, Christian schools in my district have expressed concerns that vouchers would lead to increased government control of private education. This concern is not just limited to Christian conservatives; the head of the Jewish Anti-Defamation league opposed the recent DC voucher bill because he feared it would lead to ". . . an unacceptable effort by the government to monitor and control religious activities."

Voucher supporters will fall back on the argument that no school is forced to accept vouchers. However, those schools that accept vouchers will have a competitive advantage over those that do not because they will be perceived as being superior since they have the "government's seal of approval." Thus, those private schools that retain their independence will likely be forced out of business by schools that go on the government dole.

We have already seen how a Federal education program resembling a voucher program can lead to Federal control of education. Currently, Federal aid to college students is dispersed in the form of loans or grants to individual students who then transfer these funds to the college of their choice. However the government has used its support of student loans to impose a wide variety of policies dealing with everything from the makeup of student bodies to campus safety policies. There are even proposals for Federal regulation of the composition of college faculties and course content! I would remind my colleagues that only two colleges refuse to accept Federal funds (and thus Federal control) today. It would not be a victory for either liberty or quality education if the experience of higher education was replicated in private K-12 education. Yet, that is the likely result if the supporters of vouchers have their way.

Some supporters of centralized education have recognized how vouchers can help them advance their statist agenda. For example, Sibhon Gorman, writing in the September 2003 issue of the Washington Monthly, suggests that, "The way to insure that vouchers really work, then is to make them agents of accountability for the private schools that accepted them. And the way to do that is to marry the voucher concept with the testing regime mandated by Bush's No Child Left Behind Act. Allow children to go to the private school of their choosing, but only so long as that school participates in the same testing requirements mandates for public schools." In other words, parents can choose any school they want as long as the school teaches the government approved curriculum so the students can pass the government approved test.

Instead of expanding the Federal control over education in the name of parental control, Congress should embrace a true agenda of parental control by passing generous education tax credits. Education tax credits empower parents to spend their own money on

their children's education. Since the parents control the education dollar, the parents control their children's education. In order to provide parents with control of education, I have introduced the Family Education Freedom Act (H.R. 612) that provides all parents with a tax credit of up to \$3,000. The credit is available to parents who choose to send their children to public, private, or home school. Education tax credits are particularly valuable to lower income parents.

The Family Education Freedom Act restores true accountability to education by putting parents in control of the education dollar. If a child is not being educated to the parents' satisfaction, the parent will withdraw that student from the school and spend their education dollars someplace else.

I have also introduced the Education Improvement Tax Cut Act (H.R. 611) that provides a tax credit of up to \$3,000 for in-kind or cash donation to public, private, or home schools. The Education Improvement Tax Cut Act relies on the greatest charitable force in history to improve the education of children from low-income families: the generosity of the American people. As with parental tax credits, the Education Improvement Tax Cut Act brings true accountability to education since taxpayers will only donate to schools that provide a quality education.

Mr. Speaker, proponents of vouchers promise these programs advance true market principles and thus improve education. However, there is a real danger that Federal voucher programs will expand the welfare state and impose government "standards" on private schools, turning them into "privatized" versions of public schools. A superior way of improving education is to return control of the education dollar directly to the American people through tax cuts and tax credits. I therefore hope all supporters of parental control of education will support my Family Education Freedom Act and Education Improvement Tax Cut Act.

TRIBUTE TO ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON ITS 108TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 30, 2003*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to St. David's Church in the Bronx, New York, a treasured Bronx institution and a historic house of worship that celebrated its 108th anniversary on September 26, 2003.

St David's Church was founded in 1895 to address the needs of poor blacks, especially the dining car waiters and Pullman porters who roomed in the area of the New York Central Railroad Depot and had no place to worship.

Mr. Speaker, as a part of the Episcopal Diocese of New York, St. David's strongly believes in the Diocesan mission objective of effective church presence in poor communities. In order to meet that objective, St. David's is constantly involved with community outreach. Presently, it has after school programs, summer day camps, and senior citizens programs to provide structured educational and recreational activities to the people who live,

work, and worship in their community. For the past 108 years, St. David's has been a cornerstone of the Bronx community, providing its parishioners not only with a place of worship, but also with invaluable services in order to assist them in enriching their lives.

Institutions such as St. David's Episcopal Church give life and vitality to distressed areas throughout the United States. The services they provide to their communities deserve recognition. Therefore, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing and honoring St. David's Episcopal Church for 108 years of service to the people of the Bronx, New York.

TRIBUTE TO JACKIE WEAVER

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 30, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise before this body of Congress and this Nation today to pay tribute to the life and memory of a great citizen from my district. Jackie Weaver of Pueblo, Colorado recently passed away at the age of eighty. Jackie was a caring woman who gave selflessly to those around her. As her family mourns her passing, I would like to pay tribute to her memory before my colleagues here today.

Jackie was born in Frederick, Maryland in 1923, and she worked as a chemist in New York City before marrying her husband, D.A., in 1946. After moving to Pueblo with her family in 1978, she became an active member of the community, working with the Christian Women's Club and the youth ministry of her church. In addition, Jackie devoted time to the Reach-for-Recover Program of the American Cancer Society and the Pueblo Kiwanis Club. Jackie cared deeply about children and worked to improve their lives by caring for three foster children and by adopting a child through the World Vision Ministries.

Mr. Speaker, Jackie Weaver's dedication and commitment to her family and her community has touched many lives. She tirelessly gave to her family and community. While Jackie has passed on, her legacy will continue to live. I am honored to join with my colleagues in honoring Jackie here today.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF MOTHER TERESA

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 30, 2003*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the memory of a remarkable woman who dedicated her 87 years of life to reaching out to poor, suffering and dying people all over the world, Mother Teresa.

Mother Teresa was born in Albania on August 26, 1910. She chose to become a Roman Catholic sister at age 18 and was assigned to a convent in Calcutta where she taught history and geography at St. Mary's School. Discontent to simply teach, Sister Teresa dedicated her life to creating a new religious order to serve the sick, disabled and dying no matter where they lived.