

large many of us would find it impossible to maintain order, let alone create an atmosphere conducive to learning. Many teachers must work in dilapidated buildings where heating, plumbing and cooling systems are insufficient. At a time when many of us would find it impossible to function without a computer, teachers are confronted with the task of preparing kids to work in an increasingly technological society without the use of this most basic piece of equipment. Not only do teachers deserve our thanks, they also deserve access to the best tools possible. Our nation's future is, after all, in their hands.

The Bush Administration introduced the No Child Left Behind Act with the promise of reforming and improving education in our country. My colleagues have claimed that "education reform costs money, and this Administration is willing to spend it." However, this has proven to be yet another empty promise. This Administration has been unwilling to fund their own education bill, providing \$9.4 billion less for education reform next year than was promised in the No Child Left Behind Act. Rather than fund their education program, the Republican budget has found room for over a trillion dollars in tax cuts for their fat cat friends.

Furthermore, the proposed Republican budget provides only \$2.9 billion for teacher quality programs, \$234 million less than what the No Child Left Behind Act authorized. This means 56,000 teachers will not receive the extra training they need. Cutting extra training for our teachers not only hurts the quality of our education, but also hurts our ability to recruit and retain these teachers.

Mr. Speaker, under-funding education not only affects our children, it affects working families. To compensate for the loss in funding, local communities have been forced to raise taxes to pay for textbooks and teacher's salaries. Budget cuts have also resulted in more than two million children failing to receive tutoring in reading and math and more than one million children being denied access to after-school programs.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle, Mr. Speaker, not only under-fund education, they attack our public school teachers. In fact, Department of Education Secretary Rod Paige called the National Education Association a "terrorist organization", arguing that the NEA was against school standards and accountability. Instead of fostering resentment, this Administration needs to promote unity; education needs to be a cooperative, nonpartisan effort and we need to honor teachers, not demonize them.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that many of my colleagues and our nation's governors, acting either in haste, desperation or philosophical zeal, have continually tried to undermine real education reform by grasping at "revolutionary schemes" such as vouchers, which have proved to be destructive to public schools as well as ineffective in raising student performance. They have attempted to privatize public schools, where 90 percent of America's children are educated. In an attempt to highlight the problems faced by public schools, they have used teachers and schools alike as punching bags to further their own risky, underhanded schemes that only divert education money away from where it's most needed. I stand before you today to say we should not tolerate this rascality any longer.

Our teachers, our kids and our nation's future deserve better.

Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that we can work together, write quality legislation, help our schools and thank our teachers for their efforts by showing them we know how important educating our children—and their role in this mission—is to America's future.

CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPENING OF THE TIBURCIO VASQUEZ HEALTH CENTER CLINIC IN HAYWARD, CA

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the grand opening of the new Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center, TVHC, Hayward Clinic. TVHC has been providing health care services to Hayward, California, residents since 1990. With a patient volume of more than 14,000 encounters annually, TVHC outgrew its previous clinic. To meet the growing demand for its community based health care services, TVHC embarked on a Hayward Clinic Relocation and Expansion Project, culminating in the grand opening of its new and expanded Hayward Clinic.

As one of the leaders in delivering multicultural and linguistically appropriate health care services in southern Alameda County, Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center, Inc., is part of a centralized, effective system of licensed medical providers, community health education, social work and nutrition services. TVHC has been providing comprehensive primary care and supportive services to the medically indigent, low-income, primarily Latino population in southern Alameda County since 1971.

TVHC has repeatedly been recognized for its achievements in outreach and education that incorporates members of the clinic and surrounding community to govern, direct and participate in all aspects of the clinic operation to insure the quality and success of its service delivery and myriad of programs. They include a nationally recognized Women, Infants and Children, WIC, program out of three sites serving over 5,000 southern Alameda County clients and a comprehensive Family Support Service program through partnerships with the Every Child County/First Five Commission, the California Maternal and Child Health Branch Adolescent Family Life Program and the Alameda County Cal-Learn Program.

TVHC clinic sites are certified California Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program Providers. Comprehensive sick and well child-care, adolescent care, adult care, and care of chronic and acute illness associated with aging are also provided as well as HIV/AIDS education and prevention and case management services.

TVHC's award-winning community health programs, include the Nuestro Salud Nuestro Futuro chronic disease education program and Vide con Esperanza, a breast cancer support group for Spanish speaking Latinas and their families.

A comprehensive staff of over 135 health professionals is expert at providing culturally competent services to people of all ages, races, lifestyles and backgrounds. As a feder-

ally qualified health center, TVHC, Inc., as the parent nonprofit corporate entity, operates three primary medical clinic sites, Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center in Union City, the Miranda Health Center in Hayward, and the Logan Health Center, located at the James Logan High School in Union City.

The new Hayward Clinic will have a capacity to provide health care services for 28,000 patient encounters and will attract 3,000 new primary care users. Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center is a model for community-based health care. Its mission reflects its commitment: Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center is dedicated to promoting the health and well being of its community by providing accessible, high quality care. Our organizational and individual commitment is to ensure this human right through quality service, advocacy and community empowerment.

I applaud Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center, Inc.'s commitment to excellence. I offer my heartfelt congratulations on the opening of its newest clinic in Hayward, California to be dedicated on May 20, 2004.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, on April 27 and 28, 2004, I was unavoidably detained in my district and was not able to vote on rollcall votes numbered 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, and 138. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcalls 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, and 138. I would have voted "nay" on rollcalls 136 and 137.

HONORING THE RHODE ISLAND SMALL BUSINESS PERSONS OF THE YEAR

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Ian Hardman, David Fowlkes, and Henry Seemore, who were all recently honored as the 2004 Rhode Island Small Business Persons of the Year by the United States Small Business Administration. Mr. Hardman, Mr. Fowlkes, and Mr. Seemore are the founders of Davin Wheels, an automobile wheel company based in Providence, RI.

It was David Fowlkes' design that made Davin Wheels so popular. While attending the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Fowlkes created a stylish wheel composed of the base wheel and a spinner. After the car stops moving, the spinner continues to rotate, giving the appearance that the car's wheels are still in motion. Today, with 12 years of experience in the engineering and manufacturing industries, Fowlkes still puts his creative touch on all the products of Davin Wheels, where he currently serves as the President and Chief Operating Officer.

Ian Hardman, the Chief Executive Officer of Davin, met Fowlkes while they were both working at Reebok. Ian worked in marketing