

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 4241, DEFICIT REDUCTION
ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot about the devastation we will cause by passing this small little act tonight. In fact, we are trying to further reform welfare and improve the system of delivery of the services and goods for those in our society who need them most.

Something that really surprises me, though, is there is really no plan from the other side. I have noticed in our hallways the Democrats' signs crying for action on the Federal deficit, but I have yet to see their plan to deal with the deficit.

Blue Dog Democrats have billboards in front of their offices declaring how much each family owes on the federal debt, but they have no plan to reduce it. There are more plans on the television show *West Wing* than the Democrats have here in the United States House of Representatives. There are more plans on the other political shows about how to deal with the problems of today, but we get no plans or help from the other side.

We need some Blue Dog Democrats that that will actually hunt. We need dogs with bite rather than a large bark. Right now all we hear is a lot of noise from the Blue Dogs, but there is no action and there is no plan. All we hear are complaints about trying to improve the system.

I will give you one quick example. In Kansas, Medicaid claims are only correct 3 out of 4 times. One out of 4 times the payment is inaccurate. We need to reform that system. You would not get on an airplane today if you had a 3 out of 4 chance of getting to your destination. You would not start a trip today if you had only a 3 out of 4 chance of getting to your destination. When we make a Medicaid payment in the State of Kansas, it is wrong 24 percent of the time. This legislation includes reform to help improve our Medicaid system, so those who are truly in need get the services they require.

But the other side doesn't want to do that. We need to pass this legislation, reform the welfare system, and do the right thing about the Federal budget.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 4434, "10,000
TEACHERS, 10 MILLION MINDS"
SCIENCE AND MATH SCHOLARSHIP
ACT AND H.R. 4435, AD-
VANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS
AGENCY—ENERGY ACT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing two pieces of legislation: H.R. 4434, the "10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds" Science and Math Scholarship Act and H.R. 4435, the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, ARPA-E, Act. These two bills au-

thorize a set of recommendations from a committee of the National Academy of Sciences chaired by Mr. Norman Augustine. The recommendations of the committee's report, *Rising Above the Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter Economic Future*, reflect the consensus forged among nationally-recognized industry, academic and government experts.

The Augustine Committee's highest priority is to improve K-12 math and science education by enhancing the skills and qualifications of math and science teachers. The "10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds" Act establishes a National Science Foundation, NSF, program to award scholarships to science, math, and engineering students if they obtain their teaching certification and commit to becoming math and science teachers upon completing their degrees. The bill also authorizes NSF to establish a master's degree program for in-service science and math teachers and establish training programs for preparing science and math teachers to teach Advanced Placement, AP, and International Baccalaureate, IB, courses in science and math. In addition, legislation also authorizes summer teacher training institutes at NSF and the Department of Energy.

The Augustine Committee stressed the need to "sustain and strengthen the nation's traditional commitment to the long-term basic research that has the potential to be transformational to maintain the flow of new ideas that fuel the economy, provide security, and enhance the quality of life." One specific action recommended by the Augustine Committee is to create in the Department of Energy, DOE, an organization like the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, DARPA, at the Department of Defense. My second piece of legislation, the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, ARPA-E, Act implements this key recommendation. It establishes within the DOE a new agency modeled after DoD's successful DARPA program. By supporting high-risk, potentially high-payoff research, ARPA-E will turn cutting-edge science and engineering into technologies for energy and environmental application with the goal of reducing the Nation's reliance of foreign energy sources by 20 percent during the next 10 years.

These two bills are a response to a serious challenge to our Nation's future economic prosperity. From the Augustine report, "This Nation must prepare with great urgency to preserve its strategic and economic security. Because other Nation's have, and probably will continue to have, the competitive advantage of a low-wage structure, the United States must compete by optimizing its knowledge-based resources, particularly in science and technology, and by sustaining the most fertile environment for new and revitalized industries and the well-paying jobs they bring. We have already seen that capital, factories, and laboratories readily move wherever they are thought to have the greatest return." I fully acknowledge that these two bills together would require a sizable amount of funds to implement fully. Given the stakes, I believe we must find a way to make this investment in our Nation's future. The authorization levels are based upon the National Academy of Sciences estimates of the funding levels required to implement the recommendations in its report.

The Augustine Report correctly identifies the challenges we face as a nation and has developed a series of specific recommendations to address these challenges. Today's *Washington Post*, includes the op-ed *Learning to Lose? Our Education System Isn't Ready for a World of Competition* by Mr. Norman Augustine which highlights the urgency of taking immediate actions and the consequences if we don't. I have included Mr. Augustine's op-ed in this statement.

My intent in introducing these two bills is to issue a call for action by the Congress and the administration. The conclusions and recommendations in this report are not new. The problem is that neither the administration nor Congress has made any real efforts to act. I hope the introduction of these two bills will begin a substantive discussion on the commitment and resources required to ensure our Nation's future economic competitiveness and that our children have access to well-paid, challenging jobs.

I am committed to working with the private-sector, Members of Congress and the administration in turning this legislation into funded programs.

[From the *Washington Post*, Dec. 6, 2005]

LEARNING TO LOSE? OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM
ISN'T READY FOR A WORLD OF COMPETITION

(By Norman R. Augustine)

In the five decades since I began working in the aerospace industry, I have never seen American business and academic leaders as concerned about this nation's future prosperity as they are today.

On the surface, these concerns may seem unwarranted. Two million jobs were created in the United States in the past year. Citizens of other nations continue to invest their savings in this country at a remarkable rate. Our nation still has the strongest scientific and technological enterprise—and the best research universities—in the world.

But deeper trends in this country and abroad are signs of a gathering storm. After the Cold War, nearly 3 billion potential new capitalists entered the job market. A substantial portion of our workforce now finds itself in direct competition for jobs with highly motivated and often well-educated people from around the world. Workers in virtually every economic sector now face competitors who live just a mouse click away in Ireland, Finland, India, China, Australia and dozens of other nations.

Soon the only jobs that will not be open to worldwide competition are those that require near physical contact between the parties to a transaction. Visitors to an office not far from the White House are greeted by a receptionist on a flat-screen display that controls access to the building and arranges contacts; she is in Pakistan. U.S. companies each morning receive software that was written in India overnight in time to be tested in the United States and returned to India for further refinement that same evening. Drawings for American architectural firms are produced in Brazil. Call-center employees in India are being taught to speak with a Midwestern accent.

This movement of U.S. jobs to other countries has few natural limits. Manufacturing jobs were the first to go, but jobs developing software and conducting various design activities soon followed. Administrative and support jobs are starting to move overseas, and even "high-end" jobs such as professional services, research and management are threatened.

Other nations will continue to have the advantage of lower wages, so the United States