

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
DALE E. KLEIN

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2006

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, the Honorable Dale E. Klein, currently the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs, departs his post this week to assume the position of Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Born and educated in Missouri, Vice Chancellor for Special Engineering Programs in the University of Texas System, and on leave from his position as Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering (Nuclear Programs) at the University of Texas in Austin, Dr. Klein, as the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense from November 2001 to June 2006, led the Department of Defense's efforts to combat weapons of mass destruction at a watershed time in history.

In this position, he served as the principal staff assistant and advisor to the Secretary of Defense, Deputy Secretary of Defense, and the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology for all matters concerning the formulation of policy and plans for nuclear weapons, and nuclear, chemical, and biological defense. He was directly responsible to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense for matters associated with nuclear weapons safety and security, chemical weapons demilitarization, chemical and biological defense programs, cooperative threat reduction, treaties, and agreements.

In this capacity, he was responsible for the day-to-day oversight of four organizations responsible for billions of dollars in providing combat support operations to the Theater Commanders in support of the Global War on Terrorism, Counterproliferation and Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction. In addition, he was responsible for the Research and Development, Testing and Evaluation, and Acquisition Life-cycle Planning for systems to combat Weapons of Mass Destruction and to survive in a contaminated environment.

Dr. Klein personally facilitated international cooperation in the area of nuclear weapons safety and security by ensuring active and relevant bi-lateral dialogue was ongoing between several nuclear nations. These actions directly helped ensure proper stewardship of the enduring nuclear weapons stockpile by several nations, while maintaining adherence to numerous international treaties and agreements, such as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. These programmatic actions serve to help mitigate the threat nuclear weapons pose to world order, while ensuring the President retains a credible deterrent option.

He supported and electrified President Bush's aims for the NATO-Russia Council. Desiring to see NATO and Russia move forward, together, to face common challenges and build ties that expand with time, Dr. Klein helped facilitate and institute numerous initiatives in the realm of nuclear and chemical and biological defense programs. These challenges include countering terrorism, preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction, search and rescue operations at sea, and emergency planning.

Dr. Klein led the establishment of a significant new effort in medical bio-warfare defense. The Transformational Medical Technology Initiative (TMTI) focuses more than \$1 billion over the next five years to develop broad-spectrum medical countermeasures against advanced bio-terror threats, including genetically engineered pathogens.

Dr. Klein provided the Chemical Demilitarization Program with the oversight and policy guidance that led to the successful start of five new chemical weapons destruction facilities. Under Dr. Klein's Leadership, the Chemical Demilitarization Program led the international community in compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention obligations while maintaining the safety and security of the workers, the environment and the public during the destruction of the U.S. chemical weapons stockpile and former chemical weapons production facilities.

His endeavors produced extraordinary results and will have a lasting impact on the quality of many of the programs vital to the Department of Defense. They include such significant accomplishments as: successful stewardship of the U.S. nuclear deterrent enterprise; spearheading efforts to develop science and technology programs aimed at establishing the backbone of Domestic Nuclear Defense; personally facilitating international cooperation in the area of nuclear weapons safety and security; and development of capabilities to defeat improvised explosive devices, special weapons, hardened targets, and WMD stockpiles and production facilities.

Dale Klein accelerated national security in the critical areas of nuclear weapons safety and security, chemical weapons demilitarization, chemical and biological defense programs, cooperative threat reduction, and nuclear, chemical, and biological treaties and agreements. His leadership, vision, and tenacity were the driving forces in transforming the Department of Defense's approach to nuclear, chemical and biological defense while proactively seeking new and revolutionary technologies to address future threats. Dr. Klein's achievements and dedication represent the highest traditions of public service.

HIGHER EDUCATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT EXTENSION

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today the House will temporarily extend for 3 months the Higher Education Act. I rise today to support this extension and to express my concern for the dangerous direction in which this Congress has taken our country's college students and our Nation's valued higher education system.

The Republican leadership has failed college students and their families by pushing through a reauthorization bill that does nothing to make college more affordable as tuition continues to increase at a rate faster than inflation. Instead of helping students and families deal with the rising price to attend college, Republicans also passed legislation cutting

\$12 billion from the student loan program—the largest cut in the history of federal student financial aid.

In addition to cutting Federal aid, the Republican leadership has made loans more expensive. And the bad news keeps coming. Recent reports confirm what struggling families already know—students and families are going deeper and deeper into debt to finance a college education. The Project on Student Loan Debt, a non-profit advocacy group, has found that the percentage of graduate seniors who have debt loads of \$40,000 or more have increased from 1.3 percent to 8 percent between 1993 and 2004.

Another recent report done by the Public Interest Research Group's Higher Education Project shows that 25 percent of public school graduates and 38 percent of private school graduates who become new teachers can't afford to pay their student debt on their salaries. Social workers in the same situation number even more—37 percent of public and 55 percent of private school graduates can't afford their student loan payments. More and more students are graduating with student loan debt numbers in the six figures. This is unmanageable and unfair and Congress can be a better partner in making the possibility of going to college more attainable—especially for middle- and low-income students.

Another troubling statistic has emerged—during the 2004–2005 school year—student borrowing of private loans increased by 30 percent. Private student loans are often used to bridge the gap between traditional financial aid and the cost of tuition—but they are more costly to students and families. In addition to being costlier, these private loans do not share some of the features of Federal student loans that are backed by the government, including deferment of payments and the rates at which interest may accrue.

What's more, starting July 1, Federal student loans will carry a higher fixed interest rate of 6.8 percent, an increase from the current 5.3 percent. That's why I support Democratic plans to provide substantive increases to the Pell Grant and to cut the student loan interest rates in half. As a co-sponsor of the Reverse the Raid on Student Aid Act, I believe that Congress can be a better partner for those students and their families who—as we debate these very issues that affect them—are sitting at kitchen tables across the country trying to figure out how to piece together the finances to attend college this fall.

There is some good news in this extension. The good news is that the current law that will be extended today is better than the Republican bill to reauthorize the Higher Education Act, H.R. 609, which does nothing to make college more affordable for students—the expressed purpose of the Higher Education Act. It makes no sense to make college more expensive by amending a law that exists to promote access to a college education.

College students should not be forced to bear the weight of President Bush's and this Republican Congress's irresponsible fiscal policies that have slashed student aid in order to pay for tax cuts that only benefit one percent of the nation's wealthiest. As I've stated in earlier extensions—today, this temporary extension is necessary, but I will continue to work to ensure that students will not be forced to pay for this enormous deficit now through financial aid cuts—or in the future as taxpayers.