

INTRODUCTION OF MINORITY
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the reintroduction of the "Minority Entrepreneurship Development Act," a bill designed to address economic inequality in minority communities by fostering business development and entrepreneurship.

The numbers explain why this legislation is necessary. Strikingly, the average income for African Americans is only equal to 62 percent of that earned by Whites. More than 40 years after the last Jim Crow laws were repealed by the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the economic value of blacks is still about three-fifths that of whites.

The average incomes of Native Americans and Latinos are similarly unbalanced, with the income in those communities equaling 65 and 74 percent respectively of the income earned by Whites. This race-based "wealth gap" is simply unacceptable.

All Americans deserve the right to share in the American Dream, regardless of their race or ethnicity.

We know that small business development has provided great opportunities for minority communities. Minority-owned businesses promote personal economic growth, provide employment opportunities, and support local economies.

Everyone wins when minority-owned businesses thrive.

That is why I have introduced the "Minority Entrepreneurship Development Act of 2007," to help promote these vitally important enterprises.

The legislation would set up a \$15 million, three-year pilot program to promote small business development in colleges and universities that serve African American, Native American and Latino communities.

Through grants of up to \$1 million, the institutions would provide students who are not business majors with the tools necessary to use their area of expertise as entrepreneurs.

The bill would also allow institutions to set up Small Business Development Centers to conduct research and provide training, counseling, capacity building and niche market development services to start-up entrepreneurs.

The legislation garnered support from 42 of my colleagues in the 109th Congress, and is the companion to S. 98, which was introduced by Senator JOHN KERRY of Massachusetts in January.

In the past, this legislation was supported by the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, and the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. I again look forward to their support and working with them to implement this important piece of legislation during the 110th Congress.

A great legacy of the American Dream has been the opportunity for ordinary citizens to improve their livelihoods by starting their own business, and minority communities deserve a chance to share in that dream.

I would like to urge all of my colleagues to join me in this important initiative by becoming a cosponsor of the "Minority Entrepreneurship

Development Act of 2007," and by working to ensure its swift passage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the chamber on Friday. Had I been present for the rollcall votes taken on amendments to H.R. 1257, the Shareholder Vote on Executive Compensation Act, I would have voted "nay" on each one. This includes a "nay" vote on rollcalls numbered 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, and 242.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HIGHER
EDUCATION FOR FREEDOM ACT
OF 2007

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Higher Education for Freedom Act. This legislation establishes a competitive grant program making available funds to institutions of higher education, centers within such institutions, and associated nonprofit foundations. These grants would promote programs focused on the teaching and study of traditional American history, free institutions, and the history and achievements of Western Civilization at both the graduate and undergraduate level, including those that serve students enrolled in K-12 teacher education programs.

Several years ago I was involved in a congressional effort to highlight the decline in historical and civic literacy among American college students. This effort led to the unanimous, bicameral passage of S. Con. Res. 129 which stated, in part, that "the historical illiteracy of America's college and university graduates is a serious problem that should be addressed by the Nation's higher education community."

Given the increased threat to American ideals in the trying times in which we live, it is easy to see how the lack of historical and civic literacy among today's college students has become a more pressing issue. Nevertheless, most of the Nation's colleges and universities no longer require United States history or systematic study of Western civilization and free institutions as a general prerequisite to graduation, or for completing a teacher education program.

I believe it is time for Congress to take a more active role in addressing this matter. Our country's higher education system must do a better job of providing the basic knowledge that is essential to full and informed participation in civic life and to the larger vibrancy of the American experiment in self-government, binding together a diverse people into a single nation with common purposes.

TRIBUTE TO VOLUNTEERS WHO
SERVE ORPHANS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to bring before this Congress the following outstanding people who have voluntarily served orphans, public school children, college students, juvenile delinquents, and needy families under the official invitation and authority of government agencies in Russia, Mongolia, Romania, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, Peru, Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines and China. The excellent character demonstrated by these people, as well as their commitment to the principles upon which our nation was founded, have not only attracted the attention of leaders, parents, the media, and students, but it has also brought honor to the United States of America and to the Lord Jesus Christ whom they serve.

Aguilar, Dominique (CA), Alexander, Evangeline (AK), Anderson, Cassia (MI), Anderson, Daniel (TX), Apple, Alexandra (NC), Apple, John (NC), Archer, Amos (KS).

Bailey, Deanna (CA), Bair, Aileen (IL), Bair, Robert (IL), Baldwin, Charity (VA), Barb, Joanna (CA), Barclay, Tiffany (OR), Barker, Emily (GA), Bartlow, Joel (TX), Beaulieu, Anna (MN), Beaulieu, David (MN), Behrens, Katherine (MI), Bender, Anthony (CA), Bender, Steven (CA), Bennett, Erika (GA), Bennett, Russell (IL), Bisson, Shannon (OH), Bode, Leah (VA), Bogner, Melanie (TX), Booth, Paul (GA), Bousfield, Leah (CA), Bracey, Danielle (CA), Bracey, Michelle (CA), Brannon, Jolene (TX), Brink, Julia (GA), Brown, James (NY), Brown, Sarah (NY), Brown, Timothy (NY), Brown, Zachary (NY), Brubaker, David (PA), Brubaker, Emily (PA), Brubaker, Jeni (PA), Brubaker, Leon (PA), Brubaker, Luke (PA), Brubaker, Mary (PA), Bruccoleri, Berea (CA), Burrus, Anthony (TX), Burrus, Lula (TX), Bylsma, Katrina (KS).

Cade, Alton (MS), Cade, Laura (MS), Cahill, Amy (TX), Cahill, Laura (TX), Cavanaugh, Daniel (KY), Cavanaugh, Micah (KY), Chamberlain, Sarah (IN), Chen, Anna (NY), Chen, Dr. Stephen (NY), Chen, Faith (NY), Chen, Grace (NY), Chen, Karen (NY), Chen, Timothy (NY), Cheng, Shiwei (MD), Clawson, Laura (MN), Coffing, Dominique (NM), Coggin, Hannah (VA), Cole, Leslie (OK), Conzatti, Dena (WA), Cook, Tim (SC), Copu, Carmen (IL), Copu, Paul (IL), Copu, Peter (IL), Copu, Rebecca (IL), Copu, Stefana (IL), Copu, Valen (IL), Copu, Victor (IL), Cribb, Laura (NC), Curtis, Anna (MI), Cyrus, Lauren (MI).

Daniel, Sheri (GA), Davis, Andy (VA), DeBoer, Rachel (IL), DeMasie, Laura (IN), Derhammer, Rebecca (OH), DeVall, Adrian (FL), Dickey, Allison (CA), Dickey, Darlene (CA), Dickie, Russell (KS), Dickson, Christina (WA), Dicus, Bonnie (CA), Dicus, Carrie (CA), Dicus, Melinda (CA), Dodd, Lindsay (GA), Dodson, Aaron (MD), Driggers, Noah (TX), Dudley, Crystal (TX), Durocher, Susan (MN).

Eng, Emily (NC), Estes, Autumn (FL), Estes, Curtis (FL), Estes, Daniel (FL), Estes, Mildred (FL).

Faas, Josiah (MN), Farr, Katie (TX), Feehan, Benjamin (WA), Feig, Joel (WI), Feig, Zach (WI), Felber, Britton (IL), Felber, Shane (IL), Fernandez, Jonathan (CA), Fernandez, Rachel (CA), Fessenden, Jonathan (TX), Fisher, Sarah (RI), Fisher, Zachariah (RI), Fiskeaux, Christy (AK), Fite, Caty