

Peter Claver. This group was founded in Mobile, Alabama with the aim of creating a Catholic fraternal society for men who were traditionally not able to belong to such organizations. Today, the Knights of Peter Claver, Inc. has over 18,000 members, is active in over thirty states, and includes divisions for men, women and children. In my home state of Texas, this group is particularly active and has been involved with numerous community outreach programs throughout the state.

The Knights of Peter Claver and other such organizations have made incredible contributions to society. Throughout its history, this group has supported community efforts, scholarship and various charitable programs. Additionally, during times of strife for the African American Community, the Knights of Peter Claver supported non-violent actions to fight many social injustices.

This August, The Knights of Peter Claver, Inc. will celebrate the centennial of their society at their 94th National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana. I ask my fellow Members of Congress to join me in honoring this group and to celebrate their hundred years of dedication to God and service to community.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ROBERT
HALE

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Mr. AUSTRIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Robert Hale, for his outstanding service to the community on the occasion of his retirement.

On behalf of the people of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District, I am honored to congratulate Robert Hale on being recognized by the Filipino-American community, his business associates and employees, and his family upon his recent retirement.

His dedicated service to the citizens of Dayton and the Filipino-American community is both admirable and commendable. Hale spent the last 25 years working at Dayton Mailing Service, Inc., a company he founded in 1984. He recently retired and his daughter has taken over daily operations of the company.

Robert has been an avid supporter of the Philippine-American Society of Greater Dayton, the Association of Philippine Physicians of Greater Dayton, Filipino-American Ladies Organization of Dayton and the former Philippine Folk Arts Society. Hale is a member of the Optimist Club and joined the Peace Corps in 1962.

He has been a driving force within the business and Filipino-American communities in the Dayton area and has earned the respect and admiration of all those with whom he has served and the gratitude of the people that have come to know him.

The people of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District and I extend best wishes upon retirement and ongoing success in all endeavors.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
EVERY STUDENT COUNTS ACT

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Every Student Counts Act," legislation that will prioritize graduation of all of our Nation's high school students. My friend, Senator TOM HARKIN, the Senator from Iowa, is also introducing this legislation in the Senate.

Madam Speaker, as you know in 2001, The No Child Left Behind Act passed with broad bipartisan support. The purpose of No Child Left Behind was to ensure that every student in America would receive a quality education. However, over the past eight years, NCLB has not lived up to its promises. Certain aspects of the law are difficult to implement and are not bringing about the results we thought it would. One of the major shortcomings of NCLB is its failure to hold schools accountable for dropouts. Although we believed we addressed this issue in the original NCLB legislation, this portion of the law has not been implemented as we had hoped. Instead, under current law, the only meaningful accountability standard for high schools is students' scores on standardized tests, with virtually no concern given to how many students graduate or drop out of school. Unfortunately, this myopic accountability standard has created an incentive for high schools to push out students who are struggling academically, so that their test scores are not counted in the assessments. Furthermore, the current accountability system also has allowed States to report graduation rates inconsistently and in misleading ways. Finally, NCLB does not require the disaggregation of graduation rates by subgroup, leading to incomplete data on how our schools are doing with one subgroup compared to others.

What is clear is the fact that the current high school accountability system is failing both our students and our Nation. Each year, about 1.23 million secondary school students, approximately one-third of all secondary school students, fail to graduate with their peers. In addition, nearly 2,000 secondary schools—roughly 12 percent of all secondary schools in the United States—produce about half of the Nation's secondary school dropouts. In these schools, the number of seniors is routinely 60 percent or less than the number of freshmen three years earlier. And almost half of the Nation's African-American students and nearly 40 percent of Latino students attend these so called "dropout factories," while only 11 percent of white students do.

In Virginia last year, nearly 30,000 students did not graduate from high school with their peers. But the numbers are worse for minorities—only about 50 percent of African American students and 60 percent of Hispanic students graduate on time with a regular diploma, compared to 75 percent of whites.

These numbers are just the tip of the iceberg. Research shows that the lifetime earnings difference between a high school dropout and a high school graduate is about \$260,000. This loss in potential earnings of a dropout can cause serious hardships throughout their lifetime. We cannot sit back and allow this

problem to escalate, or our inaction will create a generation of lower and stagnant earnings and a poorer quality of life. We must reverse this trend and hold schools accountable for graduation rates and dropouts, so all students are graduating with a high school diploma and improving their outcomes in life.

Additionally, reducing dropouts improves America's position in both the global economy and workforce. Attaining a high school diploma is the first step in becoming a member of the educated workforce. Having unprepared workers sets us back considerably, diminishing our role as a global leader in the economy. The major competitive advantage America has in the global economy is an educated workforce. Yet, with an estimated 3.5 million Americans ages 16 to 25 who do not have a high school diploma and are not enrolled in school, we are slowly losing this advantage. Because of the need for well-educated workers to keep our country competitive, we can't allow—or afford—our Nation's high school students to dropout and not reach their full potential.

Until recently, federal policy did not place nearly enough importance on graduating the Nation's high school students. The regulations released by the Department of Education in October 2008 did much to correct the lack of attention to graduation rates in the federal accountability system: they require a uniform graduation rate calculation and improvement in graduation rates over time. Though these regulations are a laudable step in the right direction, they do not go far enough in setting consistent, high graduation rate goals and aggressive, attainable graduation rate growth targets. Without clear guidance and meaningful accountability, most secondary schools can continue to achieve Adequate Yearly Progress, AYP, by making negligible annual improvement in graduation rates and can do so with a consistent, or even growing, graduation gap.

The Every Student Counts Act will bring meaningful accountability to America's high schools by requiring a consistent and accurate calculation of graduation rates across all fifty states to ensure comparability and transparency. The legislation builds on the National Governors Association's Graduation Rate Compact, which was signed by all 50 of the Nation's governors in 2005. Under the Every Student Counts Act, graduation rates and test scores are treated equally in AYP determinations. Moreover, the Every Student Counts Act would require high schools to have aggressive, attainable and uniform annual growth requirements as part of AYP. This will ensure consistent increases to graduation rates for all students by meeting annual, research-based benchmarks with the long-term goal of reaching a 90 percent graduation rate. The bill would also require the disaggregation of graduation data by subgroup to make certain that schools are held accountable for increasing the graduation rate for all of our students and require that school improvement activities focus on closing any achievement gaps.

Recognizing that some small numbers of students take longer than four years to graduate, the bill will give credit to schools, school districts and states for graduating these students while maintaining the primacy of graduating the great preponderance of all students in four years. The Every Student Counts Act will provide incentives for schools, districts and states to create programs to serve students

who have already dropped out and are over-age or under credited. Some credit has to be given to those who get a GED and also those who take more than one or two years and maybe even three years longer than others to graduate. If no credit is given, the school system has no incentive to continue these important programs.

In order to truly ensure that all children have access to a quality education, it is imperative that we take steps to immediately end America's dropout crisis. We must ensure not only that graduation rates increase, but that earning a high school diploma is a meaningful accomplishment. We must use the indicators of student achievement and graduation to know which high schools are doing their job. Those who are must be recognized and supported. Those that are not must be rehabilitated with targeted interventions, whole school reform, or replacement strategies to ensure the standard of accountability with graduation rates and standardized tests are met.

Making sure accountability with graduation rates and standardized testing are met, Virginia's education leaders and the Virginia State Board of Education recently became the first state to give equal consideration to dropout rates and standardized tests when judging AYP. The new standard in Virginia will take effect with the start of the 2011–2012 school years. It also sets an 85 percent graduation rate, well above the dreadful benchmark of 61 percent set for Virginia under the No Child Left Behind Act.

It is my hope that with the Every Student Counts Act, we can make greater strides nationally toward graduating more of America's students and preparing them to succeed in college, the workplace and in life. So, I ask my colleagues to join me in passing this bill and seeing to it that it is quickly enacted into law to ensure, at a minimum, every child becomes a high school graduate.

H.R. 1106, THE HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR HOMES ACT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, the bill before us is far from perfect. Though it will help some homeowners who are facing foreclosure, this bill requires asking a few additional questions.

Why would Congress want to pass a bill that uses bankruptcy as the first option to re-

solve only some loans, and not all loans, as opposed to invoking the full power of the FDIC and SEC to handle all loans?

This legislation will "protect mortgage services from legal liability." Why would we do this at the same time as we are sending individual homeowners to the bankruptcy gallows?

Why would we pass a bill that eliminates the government's share of any appreciation in the home's value at sale?

Madam Speaker, these are some of the questions for which this bill does not provide answers to those critical questions.

Most of all, this bill continues to reinforce the seriously flawed mortgage securitization approach to the U.S. housing market. The overarching concentration and securitization of the housing mortgage market by Wall Street bond houses and money center banks are continued in the bill rather than replaced by an approach that restores prudent Main Street lending practices again.

Our housing finance system is far too concentrated. Its system-wide imprudent practices centered in the securitization process, itself, have done enormous damage domestically and internationally and have ripped neighborhoods and communities apart across our Nation.

Responsible lending requires that our financial system re-empower the local banking, local underwriting and local mortgage markets first. This bill merely rewards the wrongdoers by letting them fall in the government basket of FHA, FNMA, and Freddie Mac.

A real reform plan should be the foundation stone that precedes any legislation that proposes to transfer hundreds of billions of dollars more to the very money center banks and servicing companies that have produced the chaos that ails our mortgage lending system today. Reform must come first, not last. No matter how well-intentioned any housing bill is, there must be a broader policy context in which it is advanced.

In sum, this plan does not do enough to address the fundamental cause of the financial crisis—widespread and overuse of concentrated securitization practices, mortgage and appraisal fraud, and the seize up of credit markets due to improper use of federal instrumentalities in attempting to resolve the situation.

This bill nips at the edges of a very troubled system, picks up some of the casualties, and lets the Titanic continue to chug toward some iceberg.

Our citizens deserve full justice, not continuing reliance on the very institutions that brought us to this fork in the road.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE, H.R. 1388, THE GENERATIONS INVIGORATING VOLUNTEERISM AND EDUCATION ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Mr. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I insert into the RECORD the Cost Estimate from the Congressional Budget Office on H.R. 1388, the Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education Act.

U.S. CONGRESS, CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE, Washington, DC, March 17, 2009.

Hon. GEORGE MILLER, Chairman, Committee on Education and Labor, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 1388, the Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education Act.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Christina Hawley Anthony.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS W. ELMENDORF.

Enclosure.

H.R. 1388—Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education Act

Summary: H.R. 1388 would amend and reauthorize programs established under the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (NCSA) and the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (DVSA).

Assuming appropriation of the estimated amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$481 million in 2010 and about \$6 billion over the 2010–2014 period. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or receipts.

H.R. 1388 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. H.R. 1388 contains no private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

Estimated cost to the Federal Government: The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 1388 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 500 (education, employment, training, and social services).

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2009–2014
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION							
NCSA and DVSA Spending Under Current Law:							
Budget Authority*	1,084	0	0	0	0	0	1,084
Estimated Outlays	927	688	359	177	89	58	2,299
Proposed Changes:							
Estimated Authorization Level	0	1,312	1,580	1,860	2,151	2,454	9,356
Estimated Outlays	0	481	951	1,249	1,515	1,785	5,980
Spending Under H.R. 1388:							
Estimated Authorization Level*	1,084	1,340	1,611	1,894	2,189	2,496	10,440
Estimated Outlays	927	1,169	1,310	1,426	1,604	1,844	8,279

Note: NCSA = National and Community Service Act, DVSA = Domestic Volunteer Service Act.
* The 2009 level is the amount appropriated for that year for NCSA and DVSA programs.

Basis of estimate: For some programs, the bill would authorize the appropriation of specified amounts for fiscal year 2010 and such sums as may be necessary for each subsequent year through 2014. For those pro-

grams, CBO estimated the authorization level for fiscal years 2011 through 2014 by adjusting the amount authorized for 2010 for anticipated inflation. For the remaining programs authorized by H.R. 1388, the bill would

authorize such sums as may be necessary for each fiscal year. CBO estimated those authorization levels based on historical program costs for similar activities, anticipated