

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

inflation, and the bill's stated goal of achieving 250,000 participants by 2014.

For this estimate, CBO assumes the bill will be enacted by October 1, 2009, and that outlays will follow historical patterns for those programs.

Programs funded under NCSA and DVSA received appropriations of \$1.1 billion for fiscal year 2009, including \$200 million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5).

Specified Authorizations: Under H.R. 1388, specified authorizations for 2010 would total \$472 million. Specifically, the bill would authorize the appropriation of the following amounts for 2010:

Foster Grandparent Program (\$115 million),

VISTA (\$100 million),

Learn and Serve America (\$97 million),

Retire and Senior Volunteer Program (\$70 million),

Senior Companion Program (\$55 million), and

National Civilian Community Corps (\$35 million).

CBO estimates that implementing those programs would cost \$1.9 billion over the 2010-2014 period, assuming appropriation of the specified amounts for 2010 and adjusting those amounts for anticipated inflation for 2011 through 2014.

Indefinite Authorizations: The bill also would authorize the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2010 through 2014 for other programs, including AmeriCorps and education awards funded through the National Service Trust. CBO estimates those indefinite authorizations would total \$840 million in fiscal year 2010 and would rise to nearly \$2 billion by 2014.

H.R. 1388 includes a stated goal that participation in all AmeriCorps programs (including the National Civilian Community Corps and VISTA) should increase to 250,000 people by 2014 (participation in those programs was about 75,000 in 2008). For this estimate, CBO assumes that sufficient funds would be provided to meet that goal—\$3.6 billion over the 2010-2014 period, CBO estimates. Those funds would be used primarily to provide grants to states, territories, tribes, and nonprofit organizations to operate volunteer service programs. CBO estimates that outlays for those programs would total \$2.7 billion over the 2010-2014 period.

Most participants in AmeriCorps programs (and some VISTA participants) earn education awards for completing specific terms of service that can be used to repay certain student loans or to pay for future education expenses. In 2009, the maximum award is \$4,725. Beginning in 2010, the maximum full-time education award would be pegged to the amount authorized for Pell grants under the Higher Education Act of 1965. Those amounts are \$6,400 in 2010; \$6,800 in 2011; \$7,200 in 2012; \$7,600 in 2013; and \$8,000 in 2014. CBO estimates that over the 2010-2014 period another \$2.4 billion would be needed to fund education awards for AmeriCorps participants. Assuming the appropriation of those sums, CBO estimates outlays would increase by \$0.5 billion over the five-year period (with significant additional outlays in subsequent years).

CBO also estimates that over the 2010-2014 period, the bill would authorize the appropriation of funds for:

Administrative expenses, including support to state service commissions and evaluation of programs (\$0.6 billion),

Various demonstration programs (\$0.2 billion),

Training and technical assistance programs (\$150 million), and

A new Congressional Commission on Civic Service (\$1 million).

In total, CBO estimates that outlays would rise by \$0.8 billion over the next five years, assuming appropriation of the estimated amounts.

Intergovernmental and private-sector impact: H.R. 1388 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. The bill would authorize grants to state, local, and tribal governments to support national service programs including AmeriCorps, VISTA, and the National Senior Service Corps. CBO estimates state, local, and tribal governments could receive grants totaling more than \$4 billion over the next five years. Any costs to those governments would be incurred voluntarily as a condition of receiving federal assistance.

Estimate prepared by: Federal Costs: Christina Hawley Anthony; Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Burke Doherty; Impact on the Private Sector: Patrick Bernhardt.

Estimate approved by: Peter H. Fontaine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand here before you not only as a Member of the United States Congress, but as a woman. I fully support H. Res. 211, "Supporting the goals and ideals of National Women's History Month", this is an issue that I hold dear to my heart. This bill will increase awareness and knowledge of women's involvement in history.

Women's history is a vital part of American history, however it is not public knowledge; mostly in part to the lack of women's history education in the schools. I thank my colleague Representative WOOLSEY for introducing this valuable piece of legislation.

As Susan B. Anthony said "It was we, the people; not we, the white male citizens; nor yet we, the male citizens; but we, the whole people, who formed the Union" and "There never will be complete equality until women themselves help to make laws and elect lawmakers."

This national celebration and recognition of women's historic achievements began in 1980 when National Women's History Week was proclaimed by Presidential Proclamation. In 1987, this national celebration was expanded by Congressional Resolution to an entire month by declaring March as National Women's History Month.

National Women's History Month provides an opportunity to educate the general public about the significant role of women in American history and contemporary society. Establishing this focal celebration has encouraged schools to introduce new curriculum, and communities to recognize women who have been pivotal in their own communities.

The knowledge of women's history provides a more expansive vision of what a woman can do. This perspective can encourage girls and women to think larger and bolder and can give boys and men a fuller understanding of the female experience.

Today, women account for 51% of the world's population and throughout "woman's-

kind" we have had countless sisters whose brilliance, bravery and power changed the course of history. H. Res. 211 recognizes and honors the women and organizations in the United States that have fought for and continue to promote the teaching of women's history.

While we have come a long way from the early nineteenth century, when women were considered second class citizens whose existence was limited to the interior life of the home and care of the children, we have yet to achieve equality. It is a shame that a decade into the new millennium we are still fighting for women's equality and the right to be respected for our contributions both in and out of the workplace.

This bill will bring awareness to all of those women who have broken barriers and glass ceilings for the rest of us. Women such as the Honorable Speaker PELOSI, the Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Susan B. Anthony, the Honorable Barbara Jordan, Sojourner Truth, Sacagawea, Rosa Parks, Amelia Earhart, Joan of Arc, and the list could go on for miles.

However, this month is not only about the well known women of history. It is also about those less renowned, such as Belva Ann Lockwood, who fought for admittance into law school. She fought to practice before the Supreme Court and even ran two full campaigns to run for President of the United States, although she could not vote. Texas is home to a multitude of women. The women of Texas are strong, and National Women's History Month is the perfect time to celebrate the diverse population of women that reside in the great state of Texas. I am a proud Texan, and today, I want to bring attention to several women from Texas who deserve recognition and praise for their influence in the continuing fight for women's equality.

One of my personal heroes is Barbara Jordan. Barbara Jordan was born in the Fifth Ward of Houston to a Baptist minister and a domestic worker. She grew up a native Houstonian, attended Houston public school, and attended Texas Southern University in Houston. In 1966, Barbara Jordan was elected as State Senator becoming the first woman to serve since 1883. Her political career continued to grow when she was elected to Federal Representative in 1972. As a Congresswoman, Barbara Jordan sponsored the cause of the poor, black, and disadvantaged people. She is truly a strong woman from Texas that is more than deserving of our recognition during National Women's History Month.

A native Texan, Ann Richards was politically motivated from a young age. Through the 1950s and 60s, she volunteered on several Democratic Governor campaigns, and by 1976, she won her first political position as a Commissioner in Travis County. Beginning in 1982, she became the first woman elected to statewide office in 50 years as state Treasurer, and in 1990, a Democrat turned the typically red state of Texas blue. Ann Richards worked hard to champion for all of her constituents while she was in office and continued this fight even after she was out of office. In 2006, Ms. Richards passed away, but she will always be remembered for her kind heart and determined demeanor. She was an advocate for women everywhere. I want to make sure that her Texas memory is not forgotten.

Alongside Barbara Jordan and Ann Richards there are many Texas women that have