

SAFRA provides access to quality early childhood education by making new investments in innovative birth through five programs. The bill ensures that every child enters kindergarten ready to succeed by transforming early education standards and building our early childhood workforce.

And finally, it provides access to safe places to learn with funds to repair crumbling schools and make energy-efficiency improvements to save money over the long term.

Importantly, SAFRA makes these vital investments without adding a single penny to the federal deficit. In fact, it would return \$10 billion in savings to the Treasury.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and ensure that every child has access to a high quality education, from birth to graduation day.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF UNITED STATES ARMY SPECIALIST NATHAN SPANGENBERG

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Army Specialist Nathan Spangenberg, who died from an illness at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii on September 8, 2009 following his last deployment. He leaves behind his mother, Lois, his brother, Colin, sister, Megan and a niece and nephew.

Born in Tucson, Nathan attended Mountain View High School from 2004 to 2006, then transferred to Mountain Rose Academy charter school before joining the Army in 2007. SPC Spangenberg was an infantryman with the 2nd Stryker Brigade, 25th Infantry Division headquartered in Hawaii.

He and his unit returned there in February after a 15-month tour in Iraq. The Warrior Brigade, as they are known, was responsible for securing an 800 square mile area North of Baghdad that remains one of the most dangerous places for U.S. forces.

Appropriately, Nathan was a warrior. He survived his extended tour in Iraq only to be taken from us too soon.

We remember SPC Spangenberg and offer our deepest condolences and sincerest prayers to his mother, brother, sister, niece and nephew. My words cannot effectively convey the feeling of great loss nor can they offer adequate consolation. However, it is my hope that in future days, his family may take some comfort in knowing that Nathan's legacy reaches beyond the desolate landscape of Iraq and the barracks of Hawaii and into the hearts of a grateful nation.

This body and this country owe Nathan and his family a debt of gratitude and it is vital that we remember him and his fellow servicemembers who have paid the ultimate price.

Nathan is a hero both to his country and to his wonderful family. We salute his selfless service and bravery. May he not be forgotten and may his mission continue in the work of this body and the hearts of all Americans.

DR. ROBERT H. KNAPP

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Dr. Robert H. Knapp who passed away suddenly on July 13, 2009. I extend my condolences to Dr. Knapp's wife of 31 years, Judy, and his daughters Megan and Sarah, as well as his extended family.

Dr. Knapp attended Wayne State University Medical School in Detroit, Michigan and was a long-time pathologist in the Grand Rapids, Michigan area practicing at Spectrum Health and most recently Grandville Pathology Laboratory.

Dr. Knapp began his service to medicine at the local level. He served as President and Trustee of the Michigan Society of Pathologists and was a member of the Kent County Medical Society and the Michigan State Medical Society.

Dr. Knapp's leadership in pathology allowed him to demonstrate outstanding service to the profession of medicine and his community by serving as an advocate for the important role that pathologists play in improving the quality of health care for Americans.

In fact, Dr. Knapp was very active in advocacy efforts on behalf of both the College of American Pathologists and the American Society of Cytopathology. He visited with me and my staff numerous times over the past few years and hosted me for a laboratory tour at his facility last fall.

In addition to his professional career, Dr. Knapp was an avid cheesemaker and lover of opera.

Dr. Knapp was a dedicated, knowledgeable advocate and respected pathologist. He deserves to be remembered kindly for his legacy of service to the Grand Rapids community and to the medical profession.

STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Chair, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act. For far too long private lenders have saddled our students with thousands of dollars of debt, all so they could make a profit. Today Congress puts an end to this ensuring that all students who desire a higher education can do so in an affordable manner.

When I was growing up I was told that in order to have a good job you must graduate from grade school, and then it was high school and now it is college. Unfortunately the reality is that all too often, many of our brightest and best are not pursuing college because they cannot afford to do so. I hear time and

time again from my young constituents who are working two or three part-time jobs all so they can take a class or two a semester. We cannot allow our brightest minds to burn out before they can complete their degree. Higher education should be an opportunity and not a burden.

H.R. 3221 will change this by ensuring that the students are the focus of our higher education system once again. This legislation will change the way the student loan system functions by ensuring all new loans are operated through the Direct Loan program, saving the taxpayers \$87 billion and guaranteeing our students have access to low-cost, reliable federal loans.

The savings from this change will be directed towards increasing government grant loan assistance for tuition payments. Pell grants, which serve nearly seven million students, will be increased to \$5,550 in 2010 and to \$6,900 by 2019. To ensure that these grants continue to keep up with the rising costs of tuition, beginning in 2011 the grants will be linked to the Consumer Price Index.

In my district more than 13,000 students rely on the Pell grant to help pay for their schooling. This increase of funding would be critical for each one of these students and would increase the total amount of Pell grant awards in the 15th District from \$34 million to over \$85 million.

This legislation will also simplify the FAFSA, making it easier for families to apply for financial aid. By permitting families to use information from their tax returns, the FAFSA process will be more streamlined and effective for our students. This is critical for families in the 15th District who submitted nearly 38,000 applications last year and are anticipated to submit 56,000 in the 2012 school year.

H.R. 3221 also lowers the interest rates on government-subsidized loans helping to lower college debt after graduation, which will be critical to the nearly 334,000 students in Michigan who rely on these loans.

Increased funding will also be directed to our community colleges, many of whom in Michigan are overwhelmed with trying to serve the thousands of dislocated workers who are looking to start their second career. I have always believed that our community colleges and universities deserve equal treatment; however, this recession has made demonstrated the many different types of students our community colleges serve. This legislation will help these colleges to work more closely with our business community, the state and job training programs and adult education programs to ensure our adult learners have access to the support they need to complete their degree or certificate. And for the over 177,000 students currently enrolled in Michigan community colleges, we must ensure that they have safe, quality facilities in which to learn. Under H.R. 3221 Michigan will receive nearly \$88 million to help finance projects to repair or construct new community college facilities.

Overall this legislation makes unprecedented and much-needed reforms to our student aid system, however, we must also ensure that our colleges and universities have the resources and the support they need to implement this bill. I know for the colleges and universities in my district, they are already struggling with reduced financial assistance from the state, therefore, we must ensure that the consideration of any financial match is