

One of the most exciting provisions of this bill is that it makes an unprecedented \$10 billion investment to make community colleges part of our economy's recovery. For years, business leaders have told us there weren't enough workers with the knowledge and the expertise for their specific industries. H.R. 3221 will change that. It will help us build a 21st century workforce by strengthening partnerships among community colleges, businesses and job training programs that will align community college curricula with the needs of high-wage, high-demand industries. It will provide community colleges with the tools to replicate programs that are successfully educating and training students and workers for these fields.

As a former Head Start volunteer coordinator, I know first-hand that creating better educational opportunities demands that we invest in our students long before they reach college. To ensure that the next generation of students enters kindergarten with the skills they need to succeed in school, the legislation creates an Early Learning Challenge Fund to increase high-quality early learning opportunities for low-income children. It also will help provide every child with access to a world-class learning environment by investing in school modernization, renovation, and repair projects that will create healthier, safer, and more energy-efficient environments—a measure the House is already on record supporting.

However there is one provision that was added to HR 3221 in the Education and Labor Committee that I am very concerned about. I'm sure it was included with the best of intentions, but for the record, I would like to share with my colleagues what I believe will be the real impact of this provision. Under current law, for-profit postsecondary schools are required to maintain a certain formula for how they receive federal funding, commonly known as 90–10. This means that a school must, at a minimum, acquire 10 percent of its funding from sources other than federal money. The original 90–10 provisions were added because too many for-profit schools were receiving large amounts of federal funding from students who indebted themselves without receiving the training they signed up for. I worked with a number of my colleagues here to help put those 90–10 provisions in place. This formula was enacted after years of students being ripped off and schools raking in record profits. If the schools violate 90–10, they are assessed a financial penalty.

The provision added in Committee would weaken the current standards and basically kick the can down the road by extending the violation period from two to three years. This is completely unnecessary. What is the point of having the formula if we'll allow for-profit schools to continue to violate it?

I am looking forward to work with Chairman MILLER and other Members to make sure that the final bill does not include another victory for an industry that does not have students' best interests in mind. Moving forward, it is my recommendation that we revisit the rules that govern these for-profit schools and allow them to continue accessing federal funds but that also ensure that they fully report graduation and dropout rates, default rates, and job placement rates.

In closing, this is not a perfect bill, but it is a tremendous investment in education for American families and I urge my colleagues to

vote for passage on H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009.

MOUNT NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th Anniversary of Mount Notre Dame High School in Cincinnati, Ohio. On this date, 150 years ago, the Mount Notre Dame Academy, sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, opened with 30 boarders. Mount Notre Dame is the oldest catholic girls' high school in the same location in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

Over the years, Mount Notre Dame has endured immense enrollment growth and has transitioned to an all girls high school with more than 750 students. The young women of this proud school come from four Ohio counties and 50 church parishes. Today, Mount Notre Dame offers 19 honors and 17 advanced placement courses. Ninety-Eight percent of graduates go on to college. Additionally, Mount Notre Dame was named a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the United States Department of Education in 1987.

Mount Notre Dame is also known for their success outside of the classroom. The Cougars have a combined twelve state championships in the team sports of basketball, golf, and volleyball. Just this past March, Mount Notre Dame won the 2009 Division I State Basketball Championship.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in celebrating Mount Notre Dame 150th Anniversary and in wishing them continued success.

MICROSOFT CORPORATION

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Microsoft Corporation for receiving an award from the Department of Defense for its unending support of employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.

The Microsoft Corporation was presented with the 2009 Employer Support Freedom Award on September 17 along with 14 other employers across the United States. Specifically, Microsoft—among other things—initiated a Military Reservist Council, acknowledges employee service through different company newsletters and, in 2007, donated \$3.7 million to the National Guard Youth Foundation.

Microsoft's support for our service members is a model that other employers should follow, and it is the paramount duty of Congress to do its part to help our service members make a seamless transition back to civilian life from active duty. It is a priority that requires both private and public sector support. I was pleased that the House passed legislation I authored last Congress to improve the government's responsiveness to hiring difficulties our service members face upon their return, and I hope that this body can continue to partner

with private sector champions like Microsoft to help provide a smooth transition for our service members and veterans between military life and civilian life.

Again, I applaud the Microsoft Corporation for supporting their National Guard and Reserve employees and congratulate them on receiving the 2009 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. I know they will continue to provide outstanding support to Washington's service members in the future, and I pledge to continue doing the same serving in this body. We must do all we can to provide for those who have bravely sacrificed so much to defend our freedoms.

STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

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:

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Chair, the House is considering H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act. I support many of the goals of this legislation, including finding savings in the current student loan program and directing these funds toward expanding student grant aid that will help make higher education a reality for more South Dakotans. However, I have heard from constituents who work in the Federal Family Education Loan Program, FFELP, in my State, and in particular from The Student Loan Corporation in Sioux Falls, that the enactment of this bill could result in the loss of hundreds if not thousands of jobs in South Dakota during this period of continuing higher unemployment, as the country works its way out of economic recession. I also have concerns about completely eliminating a role for the private sector in providing student loans and about the potential disruptions in access to loans for students that could occur during the proposed transition to the new system over the next months.

I have helped to lead the effort in the House of Representatives with my colleague and fellow Blue Dog. ALLEN BOYD of Florida, and we've been joined by a number of our colleagues in the House of Representatives in sharing our concerns on this subject with U.S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan and with the House Education and Labor Committee. I urged the Secretary and the Committee to more fully consider all possible alternatives that would substantially increase funding for Pell Grants and other important sources of financial access to higher education, while maintaining jobs in our districts and ensuring continued access to loans for students. Over the course of the FFELP's decades of existence, it has proven that private competition in the student loan system provides benefits to students. I believe that the FFELP has been a cost effective alternative to "direct lending" for many students in South Dakota. In addition, I am concerned that the Department of Education may not have the resources adequate to handle the origination,

administration and servicing of all student loans beginning in July 2010.

The assumption of complete responsibility for providing federally-backed loans to students by the Department of Education Direct Loan, DL, program presents very real risks of job losses and ends the reliable administration and servicing of student loans at the more than 4,000 schools that are not currently enrolled in the DL program, including most colleges and universities in South Dakota. While a number of these schools have begun exploring a transition to DL with the Department of Education, the risks of a possible disruption in students' ability to access student loans is very real during the rapid transition of these 4,000 schools to DL by July 10, 2010. Further, we do not want to put undue resource burdens on schools and States that are already facing increased budgetary pressures during this economic downturn.

While the bill does present potential opportunities for some lenders in South Dakota, overall, the possible downsides of the bill for South Dakota are substantial, and what's more, I believe they could be addressed in this legislation while preserving the goal of increasing financial assistance for higher education. Thus, while I fully support the goal of finding savings within the current student loan program to provide students with much-needed increases in federal financial aid for higher education, I cannot support today's bill, which I believe should be improved before being passed by the House.

As the legislative process moves forward in the Senate, I will continue to work towards a bill that achieves significant increase in financial assistance for students seeking higher education, that preserves jobs for South Dakotans, and ensures our students receive the specialized attention and information needed to make the best choices for funding their higher education.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I was not able to be present for the following Roll Call votes on September 16, 2009, I would have voted as follows: rollcall #704: "yes"; rollcall #705: "yes"; rollcall #706: "yes"; rollcall #707: "yes"; rollcall #708: "no"; rollcall #709: "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 620, I am recorded as voting "aye". That was not my intention. It was my intention to vote "no" on the Hensarling Amendment.

STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

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. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to show my support for H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009.

This legislation will make a college education more accessible to young Americans. Through initiatives such as a \$40 billion investment in Pell Grants, the number of people eligible for a Pell Grant award greatly increases as does the monetary allotment associated with the award. Under this legislation over \$85.4 million will be invested in our district to increase the maximum annual Pell Grant scholarship to \$5,550 in 2010 and to \$6,900 by 2019. In the 2010–2011 academic year 18,184 students in our district will be eligible for a Pell Grant award.

This bill will also help make a college education more accessible and affordable to Americans by streamlining the FAFSA student aid application. The simplification of the FAFSA form will help provide needed support to the growing number of families applying for student aid by allowing them to use the information on their tax returns to verify their eligibility.

The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act also sets in motion a five-year initiative aimed at improving college access and completion support programs through the College Access and Completion Fund, resulting in at least \$14.1 million a year for the next five years in Texas. The increased funding is to be used towards providing students, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, with the support they need to stay in school and graduate despite obstacles, particularly those of a financial nature.

For students who need further financial assistance, this legislation increases the availability of Perkins Loans, and increases the reliability and affordability of federal student loans through the Direct Loan program.

In addition to making education more affordable, The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009 aims to improve the quality of higher education in the United States. One of the main components of the bill I am excited about is the major investment in our local community colleges. In 2007, over 497,500 students were enrolled in Texas community colleges, and this bill will help to increase the effectiveness and impact of community colleges in our area by continuing to develop first-rate affordable education right here in our district, which, in turn, will help build our workforce and community.

H.R. 3221 not only focuses on higher learning, but also childhood education by establishing an Early Learning Challenge Fund. Over the next two years, Texas will receive more than \$359.4 million to develop schools that equip every child with access to a world-class learning environment.

I strongly believe in the power of education, and am proud to support this legislation that increases individuals access to higher education, improves the quality of that education, and helps to develop a skilled workforce, while reducing the deficit.

TRIBUTE TO KANSAS CITY, KANSAS, SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT JILL SHACKELFORD

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, during my years of serving in Congress, the Kansas City, Kansas, public schools have had two excellent superintendents. When Dr. Ray Daniels retired in 2005, he was succeeded by Dr. Jill Shackelford, assistant superintendent of schools, who became USD 500's first female superintendent. Although the Kansas City, Kansas, school district faces the same formidable challenges as other urban districts, one great advantage is the stable leadership it has enjoyed. Other districts in our area have had frequent changes of leadership and vision. The KCK School District has continued to pursue an effective and visionary course, made possible by the "First Things First" program funded by the Kauffman Foundation. This comprehensive school reform program has brought about heartening improvements in student performance and test scores.

We will miss Dr. Shackelford's warm and caring personality, but I am sure that the KCK Schools will choose another fine leader to succeed her. I am including with this statement a recent Kansas City Star article detailing Dr. Shackelford's announcement.

[From the Kansas City Star, Aug. 11, 2009]
KCK SUPERINTENDENT, AN ADVOCATE FOR URBAN STUDENTS, ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT
(By Dawn Bormann)

Kansas City, Kan., School District Superintendent Jill Shackelford—who has been a leading voice for urban, at-risk Kansas students—announced Tuesday that she would retire in June.

And it is fair to say that the district's first woman superintendent has left her mark. Students know her as the "lady in pink" who proudly wears pink shoes, pink skirts and a rhinestone lapel pin that spells "believe" in capital letters. Shackelford, a former reading teacher, praises their accomplishments and passes out hugs with the nurturing style of an elementary school teacher.

Education officials know her as the leader of a low-income district that led the charge for free all-day kindergarten and posted double-digit gains in assessments. The changes have stood out at least in part because 83 percent of the students qualify for free or reduced-cost lunch.

When Shackelford, 65, started five years ago, some casually mentioned that she might want to tone down her wardrobe and her feminine approach.

"You know you're the first female, so don't act too female-ish," she said, recalling that advice. "I was told to get into your closet and dig out all your black suits."

It lasted a few weeks. Shackelford had already survived Stage 3 breast cancer. She didn't need to wear black to prove herself, she said.

"Out came the pink. Out came my personality, and I was able to relax," Shackelford said.