

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

OPPOSING H.R. 1911, SMARTER SOLUTIONS FOR STUDENTS ACT

HON. TONY CÁRDENAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1911, Smarter Solutions for Students Act.

This is a truly devastating bill for every working and middle class family trying to achieve the American Dream.

If we do nothing before July 1st, we will be passively negligent.

If we pass this will today, we will be actively destroying our competitiveness and economic strength by taking dollars out of the pockets of our workforce.

The bill is as far away from “commonsense legislation” as we get. It makes the situation worse by making college education far more expensive!

According to a Congressional Research Service report, under this proposal, a student borrowing the maximum loan amounts with a 5 year subsidized loan will pay more than \$10,000. Even under the doubled rate of July 1, a student with the same loan would pay less than \$9,000. Under the current rate of 3.4 percent, this student pays just over \$4,000.

Those massive differences in repayment rates show that this bill was not written with students in mind.

The growing student loan-burden in our country is critical and must be addressed.

According to the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau, student loan debt recently surpassed the \$1 trillion mark. The 2010 Survey of Consumer Finances reported that 45 percent of all American families hold outstanding student-loan debt. This was an increase from 33 percent in 2007.

While the majority of student debt is held by people under the age of 35, increasing student debt affects every member of the family, especially in a time when nearly half of bachelor's degree holders under the age of 25 are unemployed.

However, addressing increased interest costs is only part of the solution. We need to begin to address the exorbitant prices of higher education. I understand that universities are trying to cope with the decreases in government funding and declining contributions as a result of the tough economic times. However, these institutions also have a role to play in ensuring that education is accessible and affordable to all students. If these institutions would like the government to continue to invest in students, they should do so as well, by doing everything in their power to keep tuition costs low.

I cannot stress enough the importance of making college education accessible. We all agree that education transforms people's lives. Education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty, crime, and violence in any community. It is the engine that will propel our fami-

lies into the middle class and allow us to reinvigorate and grow our economy. We must act swiftly to remedy this unsustainable situation.

IN HONOR OF SHEILA STUART

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Sheila Stuart, a dear friend and long time community activist who recently died. Sheila was a remarkable woman who touched the lives of many throughout her years of tireless service to her community.

Sheila was born in Dublin, Ireland on April 24, 1918, the second of six children. Her father, a school teacher and principal, instilled in Sheila a life-long love of learning. At fifteen, after attending Dominican College for three years, Sheila went to work as a clerk to support her family. In 1945, she met and married John “Harry” Stuart. In 1947, the young couple had a son and a year later moved to London and then India, where Harry worked as a mechanical engineer building power plants. While in India, daughter Orla was born. The family left India in 1954, eventually finding their way to Santa Cruz, California, in 1956. They remained in Santa Cruz for the rest of their lives.

Sheila was an active participant in a number of community organizations. Harry and Sheila joined the Pasatiempo Golf Club where Sheila served as President of the Pasatiempo 18-hole Women's Club and won numerous trophies. In the late 1950's she began serving as both “room mother” at her son Orin's school and Cub Scout Den Mother. She was active in the League of Women Voters, as well as in the Santa Cruz Symphony, and Shakespeare Santa Cruz.

Sheila's interest in politics was fueled by her love for fellow Irishman John Kennedy. Sheila walked precincts for Kennedy, handing out pamphlets. She and the children drove to San Jose to watch Kennedy's motorcade and she often recounted how Kennedy turned and smiled directly at her when she shouted the Irish greeting, “cead mile failte.” Sheila continued her involvement in local politics working as Santa Cruz County Assessor for eleven years, where she assisted with the Homeowner's Exemption Program. An avid Democrat, Sheila said one of her greatest achievements was turning her conservative husband into a liberal Democrat! Sheila ran several campaigns in Santa Cruz including Robert Kennedy's 1968 Presidential Primary, Gary Hart's Presidential bid and two campaigns for DIANNE FEINSTEIN. She helped Leon Panetta in his first Congressional campaign and later volunteered tirelessly for a number of other candidates and issues. After her retirement, she became active in the Democratic Women's Club and The Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee, where she became the

first Voter Services Chair and later DCC Co-Chair. She was also honored as the first DCC “Democrat of the Year”.

Sheila is survived by son Orin and daughter-in-law Arlene of Sutter Creek; daughter Orla of Santa Cruz; grandchildren Jason, Nicole (Ian), Courtney (Ryan), and Trevor; three great-grandchildren, Sophia, Colton and Cayden, numerous nephews and nieces in Ireland and Canada, and many dear friends.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in honoring Sheila Stuart and the remarkable life she led and in extending our condolences to her family and friends. The civic activism that Sheila Stuart embodied is the lifeblood of our democracy and our nation owes her a debt of gratitude for her efforts.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES DESIGNATION

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Divine Temple Church of God in Christ, located in Green Bay, Wisconsin. This historically significant structure, designed by architect George Rockwell for the Christ Episcopal Church, was built in the famous Gothic Revival-style. The site has now been added to the National Register of Historic Places. The church and its members are planning to celebrate this milestone on Friday, June 28th, 2013.

The cornerstone of this church was put in place in 1898, and the structure that stands today was completed one year later. Throughout its long history in downtown Green Bay, this church has served the spiritual needs of the community, and offered congregants a safe place to worship. I congratulate Pastor L.C. Green for his efforts to pursue this designation, and commend the congregation of Divine Temple Church of God in Christ for volunteering their time to preserving this wonderful structure.

There is a quote from Romans 15:7 on the church website that reads: “Wherefore receive ye one another as Christ also received us to the glory of God.” May this church continue to receive those seeking spiritual refreshment in the years to come. Again, congratulations to Divine Temple Church of God in Christ for receiving this special recognition.

HONORING ANGIE MCDONALD'S RETIREMENT AFTER 23 YEARS OF TEACHING

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Angie McDonald who retired on

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