

admissions information regarding member institutions and information about financial aid programs that may assist a student in obtaining a college education. Recently, over 500,000 copies of these documents were provided to New York high school guidance counselors and principals, in addition to public libraries and high schools in neighboring States.

Mr. Speaker, over the past 50 years the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities has provided invaluable information and assistance to New York's families and institutions. It is for that reason and all the others that I have articulated here today that I urge my colleagues to honor the 50th anniversary of this important organization and support House Concurrent Resolution 343.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of House Resolution 343. But before I speak on the resolution, I would just like to say a few words about the author of the resolution, my friend and colleague and fellow New Yorker, Congressman BOEHLERT.

Congressman BOEHLERT, during your time in Congress you have been a fair and open-minded public servant; you have been a model of bipartisanship. You have been a very strong voice for the Science Committee and for the scientific community, and I wish you good luck and congratulations in your future endeavors.

I rise in strong support of House Resolution 343. This bipartisan resolution recognizes the 50th anniversary of the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities. Founded in 1956, the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities is a statewide association representing the public policy interests of more than 100 independent colleges and universities in New York State.

The private colleges and universities of New York award 56 percent of the baccalaureate degrees, 71 percent of the master's degrees, and 87 percent of the professional degrees earned in New York State. Over 460,000 students in New York are enrolled in independent higher education, which comprises 38 percent of all students attending colleges in New York State. Collectively, these campuses employ over 158,000 New Yorkers and generate more than \$40 billion annually of economic activity within their communities.

Before coming to Congress, I was lucky enough to work for 29 years at a member institution of CICU, and thus I have had the opportunity to see firsthand its effective and unified approach to ensuring access, quality, and diversity.

As a result of CICU's relentless advocacy, New York's students have seen increases in both the Tuition Assistance Program and the Bundy Aid pro-

gram, both of which are New York-based financial aid programs that fill a vital need in both student aid and in institutional aid.

In Congress, I have found CICU and its president, Abe Lackman, and his staff to be a valuable resource on higher education issues, keeping me abreast of trends and concerns of the New York higher education community.

The students and private colleges of New York are lucky to have CICU advocating on their behalf in both Albany and Washington. I would like to personally congratulate CICU on their 50th anniversary, and I look forward to working with them during the next session of Congress on ways to improve college access and affordability.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KUHL of New York. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to yield as much time as he may consume to the distinguished Member and colleague of mine from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT).

(Mr. BOEHLERT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my generous colleague for yielding me that time, and I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their kind words. It has been a great privilege to serve in this institution, and one of the things I take special pride in is my friendships across the center divide. So I thank you most sincerely.

I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Commission of Independent Colleges and Universities. Fifty years ago, half a century, the commission was established in my home State of New York with the goal of strengthening private, not-for-profit higher education institutions, a goal I wholeheartedly support and have worked tirelessly to achieve.

New York has a long and proud tradition of higher education, and the CICU has worked day after day, week after week to improve and strengthen that legacy.

Since 1956, enrollment in the independent sector has doubled from 225,000 to nearly a half a million today, 460,000. The 109 independent colleges and universities that make up the commission are spread throughout New York State and the entire educational system. The consortium is led by several of our Nation's most notable institutions, including Columbia, NYU, Cornell, RPI, Hamilton, and many others, including, and pardon my understandable pride, the best of the lot, my alma mater, Utica College.

Together, these institutions award over half of all undergraduate and three-quarters of all graduate degrees in New York, as well as training almost 90 percent of our professional students. That is quite a record of achievement.

As the lead sponsor of this resolution, I thank my colleagues from New York for joining me in honoring the

Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities. I am confident that CICU will continue to help improve educational opportunities throughout New York State and the Nation for many years to come, and that is one of the most worthy of goals.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

MR. KUHL of New York. Likewise, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. KUHL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 343.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND MODERNIZATION ACT

Mr. KUHL of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6206) to revise the calculation of interest on investments of the Harry S. Truman Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. R. 6206

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Truman Scholarship Fund Modernization Act".

SEC. 2. REVISION OF INVESTMENT PROCEDURE.

Section 10 of the Harry S Truman Memorial Scholarship Act (20 U.S.C. 2009) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) INVESTMENT OF AMOUNTS APPROPRIATED.—

“(1) At the request of the Board, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to invest in full the amounts appropriated and contributed to the fund. Such investments may be made only in the interest-bearing obligations of the United States issued directly to the fund.

“(2) The purposes for which obligations of the United States may be issued under chapter 31 of title 31 are hereby extended to authorize the issuance at par of special obligations directly to the fund. Such special obligations shall bear interest at a rate equal to the average rate of interest, computed as to the end of the calendar month next preceding the date of such issue, borne by all marketable interest-bearing obligations of the United States then forming a part of the public debt; except that where such average rate is not a multiple of one-eighth of 1 per centum, the rate of interest of such special obligations shall be the multiple of one-eighth of 1 per centum next lower than such average rate. All requests of the Board to the Secretary of the Treasury provided for in this section shall be binding upon the Secretary.”; and

(2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) SALE OF OBLIGATIONS ACQUIRED BY FUND.—At the request of the Board, the Secretary of the Treasury shall redeem any obligation issued directly to the fund. Obligations issued to the fund under subsection (b)(2) shall be redeemed at par plus accrued interest. Any other obligations issued directly to the fund shall be redeemed at the market price.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KUHLM) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. KUHLM).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KUHLM of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 6206.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. KUHLM of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 6206, a bill to revise the calculation of interest on investments in the Harry S. Truman Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The Harry S. Truman Memorial Scholarship Fund was signed into law by President Ford in 1974, created with the purpose of awarding scholarships to college juniors who, and I quote, “demonstrate outstanding potential for and who plan to pursue a career in public service.”

The foundation provides for at least 53 scholarships, and includes at least one for each State, each year, to deserving young people. The purpose of this measure before us is to align the foundation with other similar scholarship foundations.

Under current law, the Secretary of the Treasury is required to invest the foundation's trust fund solely, and I repeat, solely, in U.S. Treasury securities unless the Secretary explicitly chooses to invest in other obligations. Because of this restrictive policy, the scholarship funds have not been able to keep pace with the rapid increases in college tuition.

Specifically, H.R. 6206, would shift the authority for making the investment decisions in the Par Value Special Treasury Obligations to the foundation's board of trustees. The Par Value Special Treasury Obligations have a slightly higher interest rate than the current yield on the 10-year Treasury note. In addition, these special obligations may be bought and sold without penalty, a feature that would provide the foundation with much needed flexibility in its investments.

Both the James Madison Memorial Scholarship Foundation and the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development currently have this authority already. This measure simply gives the Harry S. Truman Memorial Scholarship Fund, the

sole memorial to President Truman, the same authority.

Mr. Speaker, as college tuition continues to skyrocket, we must continue every opportunity to create scholarships that have the tools necessary to continue to attract students to serve in the areas of public service. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6206.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise in support of H.R. 6206, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Harry S. Truman Memorial Scholarship Fund provides an essential service to students in our country. By awarding graduate students scholarships in the fields of public service, they not only help to make higher education more affordable, but encourage students to give back to their country with service. The fund was founded nearly 30 years ago, and continues to serve as a living memorial to President Truman and his service to this country.

The scholarship foundation awards approximately 75 scholarships each year to students pursuing careers in public service. After leaving graduate school, students must serve at least 3 years in public service employment, including teaching, government service, or public interest organizations. In 2004, the foundation awarded 77 scholarships to students from 67 universities and colleges. Additionally, 52 percent of the scholars were women, and 32 percent were of African, Hispanic, Asian, or Native American heritage.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, college affordability is a serious concern for students and families in this country. Tuition at 4-year public colleges has increased by 35 percent in the last 5 years, higher than at any other 5-year period in the last 30 years.

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Additionally, recent estimates show that the debt burden from paying for college has priced students out of public service careers. These estimates show that 23 percent of 4-year college students graduate with too much debt to manageably repay with a starting teacher's salary.

Meanwhile, public investment in higher education is waning and we are expecting students to bear more of the burden of paying for college. Students are now taking out more loans than grants to finance college. This is especially true for graduate students; only 28 percent of graduate school financing is grant aid.

Scholarship funds such as the Truman Memorial fund help to limit the reliance on loans and the growing debt burden of students. Since its inception in 1977, the Truman Memorial fund has given scholarships to 2,480 students of public service from States and schools across the Nation.

Some notable graduates include Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano, David

Atkins, vice chancellor of the University of Kansas Medical Center, and Margot Rogers, senior executive with the Gates Foundation working on elementary and secondary education issues.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will help the Truman Foundation continue to serve students and our country by allowing them additional financial flexibility and autonomy, which will allow the foundation to continue to award substantial scholarships to students and will continue the living memory of President Truman.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KUHLM of New York. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH).

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6206, the Truman Scholarship Fund Modernization Act. It closes an important loophole in our existing law.

First, I want to thank all of us who helped us get this bill to the floor today: Chairman MCKEON and the Education and the Workforce Committee, Representatives BOEHNER and BLUNT, and all of their staffs.

This bill would simply allow the board of trustees of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation, instead of the Secretary of the Treasury, to choose the type of interest that would be received as a yield on the bonds issued by the Truman fund.

Other established and highly creditable programs have already had this minor change in their discretion; for example, the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation and the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development.

This foundation, the Harry S. Truman Foundation, is a living memorial to our 33rd President. And it has also become an emblematic program of promoting young people to encourage them to be educated for citizenship and political responsibility and to assume the mantle of leadership in our political process.

Every year hundreds of college juniors compete for what amounts to approximately 80 awards. The rigorous selection process requires the candidates have a strong record of public service as well as a policy proposal that addresses a particular issue facing society. These individuals are among our Nation's best and brightest, and many of them have gone on to provide real leadership within our government and within our institutions.

I am a strong supporter of this program, a program that assists in education as a lifelong learning process.

Scholars who participate in this program are invited to participate in a number of programs, including the Truman Scholar Leadership Week, The Summer Institute, The Truman Fellows Program, and the Public Service Law Conference.

This program has been an extraordinary success, and this bill provides it

greater flexibility in generating the one source of revenue it has. We think that this program is very important. We think that this change is essential. We think that this is an important commitment for this Congress to make to cultivate the leadership of the future in public service.

I salute the gentleman for leading this effort to pass this bill on the floor. I am privileged to have introduced it with the idea that this one small change can do a great deal to promote greater leadership not only in this institution but throughout our political process and throughout our governmental and nongovernmental institutions.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KUHL of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN).

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I am one of the two Congressmen who serves on the board of this Truman Scholarship fund. As has been explained here today, it is a very good use of money to help students obtain these different scholarships, to prepare them for work in public service.

The problem is that the principal cannot be invested in a very flexible kind of way. That is why this is a modernization act, to allow us to use those funds. I think it is completely non-controversial. I serve with a Member of the other party on that board. Everybody, as far as I know, is in agreement that this modernization needs to take place. It is going to result in more money for scholarships, and people will be better prepared for public service. It seems like everybody wins, and so I am a strong supporter. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6206.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KUHL of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. KUHL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6206.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REQUIRING SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TO SUBMIT ANNUAL REPORT ON CONGRESSIONAL INITIATIVES

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6375) to amend title 10, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Defense to submit to Congress an annual report and to provide notice to

the public on congressional initiatives in funds authorized or made available to the Department of Defense.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 6375

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS AND NOTICE TO PUBLIC ON CONGRESSIONAL INITIATIVES IN FUNDS AUTHORIZED OR MADE AVAILABLE TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) IDENTIFICATION OF CONGRESSIONAL INITIATIVES.—Chapter 23 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 490. Congressional initiatives in funds authorized or made available to Department of Defense: annual report to Congress; notice to public

“(a) ANNUAL REPORT AND PUBLIC NOTICE REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the close of each fiscal year, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report on congressional initiatives applicable to funds authorized or made available for the Department of Defense for that fiscal year. Upon being submitted to Congress, each such report shall be posted on a publicly available Internet website of the Department of Defense.

“(b) CONTENT.— Each report under subsection (a) shall include, for each congressional initiative applicable to funds that were authorized or made available to the Department of Defense for the fiscal year covered by the report, the following:

“(1) A description of each such congressional initiative, including—

“(A) the geographic location (by city, State, country, and congressional district, if relevant) in which the funds covered by such congressional initiative are to be used;

“(B) the purpose of such congressional initiative (if known); and

“(C) the recipient of the funding covered by such congressional initiative.

“(2) For each such congressional initiative, an assessment of the utility of the congressional initiative in meeting the goals of the Department, set forth using a rating system as follows:

“(A) A rating of ‘A’ for a congressional initiative that directly advances the primary goals of the Department or an agency, element, or component of the Department.

“(B) A rating of ‘B’ for a congressional initiative that advances many of the primary goals of the Department or an agency, element, or component of the Department.

“(C) A rating of ‘C’ for a congressional initiative that may advance some of the primary goals of the Department or an agency, element, or component of the Department.

“(D) A rating of ‘D’ for a congressional initiative that cannot be demonstrated as being cost-effective in advancing the primary goals of the Department or any agency, element, or component of the Department.

“(E) A rating of ‘F’ for a congressional initiative that distracts from or otherwise impedes that capacity of the Department to meet the primary goals of the Department.

“(c) CONGRESSIONAL INITIATIVE DEFINED.— In this section, the term ‘congressional initiative’ means a provision of law, or a directive contained within a joint explanatory statement or report accompanying a conference report or bill (as applicable), that specifies—

“(1) the identity of an entity or project, including a defense system, for which funds are authorized or made available in that law (or conference report or bill) and that was not

requested by the President in a budget submission to Congress; and

“(2) the amounts of the funds so authorized or made available.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“490. Congressional initiatives in funds authorized or made available to Department of Defense: annual report to Congress; notice to public.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 490 of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to funds made available to the Department of Defense for each fiscal year after fiscal year 2006.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the legislation under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I would also ask that after I make my opening remarks, I be allowed to yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER), the sponsor of this bill, and I ask unanimous consent that he be allowed to control the time for purposes of debate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, this legislation is legislation a number of Members have asked to bring to the floor in both bodies to illuminate to the world what they call congressional initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, as the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, let me give you my take as one Member of this very important body on congressional initiatives that are sometimes pejoratively called earmarks.

The Constitution of the United States charges the United States Congress, not the President, not the Pentagon, not a general, not some under secretary, charges us with raising and equipping the forces of the United States of America, the Armed Forces, the armies and the navies that the Constitution refers to; and, of course, by implication the United States Marine Corps and the United States Air Force.

It is our job to build this budget, not just to work around the fringes of the defense budget, it is our job to build this budget from the ground up. From my perspective the recommendation that comes over from the President is just that: It is a recommendation. It is not charged by the Constitution. It is