

other States have some form of bottle bill in effect. The 77 million Americans who live in these bottle bill States already recycle more than the rest of the 186 million Americans in States without bottle bills. In 1995, EPA reported that the 10 bottle bill States recycled 1.63 million tons of beverage containers, 300,000 more tons than the 1.33 million tons recycled by the other 40 States combined.

As I introduced this important bill, I cannot help but offer an appropriate paraphrase of a timeless political adage, which I hope this legislation will bring to life: "as Maine recycles, so recycles the nation."

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE POST-SECONDARY ADULT VOCATIONAL EDUCATION ACT

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, November 9, 1997*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Postsecondary Adult Vocational Education Act [PAVE] to promote vocational and higher education as a means of helping welfare recipients to become self-sufficient.

Last year, Congress enacted a sweeping welfare reform law with my support. The new welfare system is designed to provide needy families with job preparation, work, and support services to enable them to leave the welfare program and become self-sufficient. In particular, it permits a limited number of adult welfare recipients to pursue vocational educational training—but only for 1 year. I believe this provision is inadequate. The fact is, nearly half of all jobs in the 21st century will require some postsecondary education.

That is why I have introduced the PAVE Act. This legislation would permit more welfare recipients to attend institutions of higher education for up to 2 years—enough time to earn a vocational or community college degree. In addition, those who attend college while on welfare would be permitted to fulfill their additional work requirements through college work-study. Working on campus will cut down on the time and expenses of commuting that make it so difficult for single mothers to meet their work and family responsibilities.

In my district there are a number of effective higher education programs that are helping welfare recipients find and keep good jobs, including the JobSTAR Program at Westchester Community College and the CLOUT Program at Pace University. Programs around the country are having similar success. By expanding the vocational and higher education opportunities available under the new welfare law, the PAVE Act will enable more welfare recipients to gain the knowledge and employment skills they need to support their families on their own and leave the welfare rolls once and for all.

The Postsecondary Adult Vocational Education Act is a commonsense proposal that will help pave the road to self-sufficiency. I invite my colleagues to join me and cosponsor this important legislation.

FEDERAL CHILD CARE CENTERS,  
H.R. 2982

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, November 9, 1997*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2982, the Quality Child Care for Federal Employees Act. With the topic of child care on every news program and magazine cover, we here in the House need to look at this problem and begin to bring about changes in child care throughout America, especially in federally owned buildings.

Unfortunately, these Federal child care centers are not forced to maintain the same standards as privately owned facilities. Not only do these centers not have to comply with the State or local codes regarding child care centers, but in addition they do not follow basic fire and health codes because they are Federal facilities. This legislation will mandate that all Federal child care centers comply with State and local fire and health ordinances in addition to all other child care center codes.

This is an important first step in improving our Nation's child care and in ensuring the safety of our children who spend a great deal of their formative years in such centers. I urge my colleagues to join in supporting the thousands of children in day care by supporting my bill, H.R. 2982.

#### APPLAUDING HOUSE COLLEAGUES FOR CHINA VOTES

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, November 9, 1997*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud my colleagues for passing by overwhelming majority nine separate bills assailing China's human rights record, its weapons sales, its treatment of religious minorities, its support of compulsory abortion, and its relationship with Taiwan. Virtually all Americans share the same goals with regard to ending China's oppressive practices, but many disagree on the means necessary to accomplish those goals. These bills strongly show the anger and frustration of this Congress toward the Communist Chinese regime.

As former President Ronald Reagan did with the "Evil Empire," I believe the United States must continue to maintain firm dialog with its adversaries, contain them militarily, and saturate them with Western, pro-freedom influences. I believe a similar combination will work on China. I am tough on China and any country that allows human rights abuses and religious persecutions.

As a subcommittee chairman, I denied President Clinton's ill-thought plan for a \$50 million coal plant for China. I also recently took part in an event sponsored by the Congressional Human Rights Caucus and "adopted" Gyaltzen Choezom, a Tibetan nun, and Qin Musheng, and evangelical pastor, who are imprisoned by the Chinese Government for

the peaceful expression of their political beliefs or the practice of their religion. I will join other colleagues in advocating for the release of their adopted prisoners with the Chinese Government. I am committed to improving human rights and establishing true religious freedom for all of the people of China.

#### CHARTER SCHOOL AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROBERT SMITH**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 1997*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2616) to amend titles VI and X of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve and expand charter schools:

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer additional comments regarding an amendment I offered to the Charter Schools Amendments Act of 1997 that will enable Oregon to continue its efforts to give students and parents broad choices in public education.

I would like to thank the Chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, Mr. GOODLING, and the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Youth and Families, Mr. RIGGS, for their work in bringing this important legislation before us today.

I also appreciate the work of my colleague from Oregon, Ms. HOOLEY, for her hard work on this issue. I want to thank her for her efforts.

Charter schools are innovative public schools that are held accountable for academic results in exchange for freedom from burdensome regulations. The Charter Schools Amendment Act will carefully target funding for the Federal Public Charter Schools Program.

Currently, Oregon has implemented the charter school concept under enabling State statutes. This State legislation gives local school boards broad authority to establish new schools or restructure existing schools to be innovative and flexible in the way they educate children. However, my home State of Oregon does not have a specific charter school law.

Therefore, under this bill, Oregon, which this year received the final year of a 3-year Federal Public Charter Schools Program grant, would be ineligible for continued funding.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment simply makes it clear that States, which have received a 3-year grant, are not prohibited from receiving a 2-year grant extension. This amendment would extend Oregon's eligibility until 1999, when our State legislature, which meets every 2 years, convenes again and has the opportunity to pass a specific State charter school law.

My amendment will enable the State of Oregon to apply for continued support to provide creative, flexible educational options for students and families.