

In his former life as an attorney, he spent a lot of time placing kids out of foster care into loving homes, permanent homes.

There is nothing more important I think than to do everything we can to encourage adoption in this country. One of the saddest things that we can possibly see is a child who is not loved, a child that does not have a home to go to or the security of its own room within that particular home; and I applaud the gentleman. I applaud the bipartisanism that we are getting on this bill.

I do want to, however, correct one statement that my friend from Maryland made because otherwise he was very practical and very straightforward. The reason that this and the previous bill, Holocaust tax relief, the reason these two pieces of legislation as well as the entire tax bill that they were part of was sunsetted was because it was going over to the Senate on a budget reconciliation bill which required a straight up and down vote, and it was a question of the technicalities of the Byrd rule. The requirement was not put on permanent. It had nothing to do with the size of the entire bill.

So I do want to clarify that particular issue, but it is a rare moment and all too rare in matters pertaining to taxes that this House finds itself in total agreement.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT).

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great joy to stand here today to celebrate the thousands of moms, dads, and children who have become bigger and stronger families because of adoption.

I introduced the Hope for Children Act last year, along with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in the Hope Coalition, to ensure enactment of several important adoption provisions. The Hope for Children Act extended and doubled the adoption tax credit to \$10,000 for all adoptions. Additionally, the bill extended and doubled the tax exclusion allowed for employer-provided adoption benefits and included a \$10,000 flat credit for special-needs adoption, which has been mentioned.

The Hope for Children Act was included in the tax package signed into law by President Bush last year; but unfortunately, the Senate included a sunset provision in the new law to comply with the Senate procedural rules.

Without this bill today, H.R. 4800, the new adoption law will expire after December 31, 2010, and thousands of adoptive parents will see their taxes raised overnight. Mr. Speaker, that cannot happen; and that is why we must pass the legislation today.

One of the greatest titles in the world is that of parent, and one of the biggest blessings in life is to be called mom or dad. We hope this bill will help unite children with parents and build

strong, stable families in our country. This bill will guarantee tax relief for future generations of adoptive parents. I urge all my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just want to explain that there is no question, I just want to underscore the points that my colleagues have been making, that the adoption credit, the expansion of the adoption credit and now making it permanent is a bipartisan effort. We think it is extremely important to encourage families to adopt children, particularly special-needs children. So this legislation is one that we look forward to the permanent enactment.

Going back though to the last year just one more time, I know my friend from Florida and I have talked about this frequently. There is no question that if the tax bill last year had not been \$1.35 trillion but more affordable to the fiscal condition of this country, and I think we have now seen with the large deficits that are being projected that our concerns expressed last year have become real, there is no question that if we had a more modest bill that was before us last year we would have made those provisions permanent last year, and we would have had the support of the other body. We would not have to worry about extraordinary votes in the other body, that we could have made all these provisions permanent, and we would not have been here this year piece by piece looking at specific provisions trying to remove the 10-year sunset.

When we work together as Democrats and Republicans, we usually come up with good policy. Today we are on the adoption credit. I regret that we did not do that in the past so we would not have to go through this exercise on a tax-provision-by-tax-provision basis.

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

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for support of this bill and this issue. We are both on the Committee on Ways and Means, and I know he has been working on this for some time, clearly with the special-needs adoption area; and this is a bipartisan effort.

I would just finally urge support of this bill and say that all provisions in the tax bill in 2001 were sunset, and this is one area where I think that there is general agreement that should become permanent, and it was all sunset because of the Senate rules which would have required 60 votes otherwise. So, on that, I urge support of the bill.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise in support of H.R. 4800, a bill that would extend the \$10,000 adoption tax credit and the \$10,000 employer adoption assistance exclusion so that they are not subject to the sunset of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001.

This bill is a significant step toward ensuring that every child has a loving family. I am

proud to come to the floor in support of families who wish to bring another child into their lives.

Like many of my colleagues, children's issues and legislation that increases adoption are very important to me. I am honored to represent a pro-adoption constituency. New York has traditionally adopted at one of the highest rates in the country. Unfortunately, 134,000 children across the Nation are still waiting for homes. All parents are familiar with the rising costs of raising children. Too many potential parents resist adopting because of this substantial economic burden. It is imperative that we take additional steps to relieve this financial weight on these families.

Every Member of Congress is accustomed to lobbyists continually seeking tax benefits for specific special interests. Children in need of adoption have no high-priced lobbyists and no political action committees, so their voices often fail to be heard in today's Washington. I am pleased that this House will hear their voices today.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4800.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of H.R. 4800, the bill just considered.

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

There was no objection.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Agriculture:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the provisions of section 13, Public Law 806, 80th Congress (15 U.S.C. 714k), I transmit herewith the report of the Commodity