

forced to take out student loans, loans that can often exceed \$30,000 a year. Entering the workforce with these kinds of commitments can often be intimidating for a newly-graduated student.

Having had two children in college at one time, I understand how saving for our children's postsecondary education has become increasingly important, as we continue to see the costs of the postsecondary education steadily rising.

Currently, the United States Tax Code offers options for families to do just that, save money, to set aside for the value of that education. Two such options are the 529 College Savings Plan and the Coverdell Accounts. Both of these plans have benefited thousands of students and helped their families meet the rapidly escalating costs associated with obtaining a college degree.

Mr. Speaker, I plan on introducing the Education Savings Act of 2003 tomorrow that will clarify the law to make it clear that employers can make tax deductible contributions to employees in their 529 and 530 education accounts, available to all employees at every income level. The Education Savings Act will clarify that any amounts contributed to these educational accounts will not count toward an employee's gross income.

Planning for our children's postsecondary education by setting up savings accounts is essential, now more than ever.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) for their efforts to give this important issue the recognition it deserves.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, as the sponsor of H. Con. Res. 270, I rise in support and wish to thank Chairman DAVIS for bringing it to the floor today and to thank Congressman JOHN TIERNEY for joining me in sponsoring this resolution. H. Con. Res. 270 recognizes September as College Savings Month in conjunction with the National Association of State Treasurers and the College Savings Plan Network in order to raise public awareness about the need to save for educational expenses.

Since 1980, the rate of increase of the cost of postsecondary education has exceeded the rate of increase of inflation, public assistance to students and family income. This rapid rate of increase poses serious threats to the ability of parents to save for and individuals to access postsecondary education.

Given that it is in our Nation's best interest to have a highly educated population and to encourage parents to save for their educational expenses, many States, like Michigan, offer tax incentives to encourage their citizens to save for educational expenses. As a State senator, I sponsored legislation to develop a 529 plan that provides tax-free contributions and withdrawals made to an education savings account. Soon after becoming a Congressman, I introduced legislation to make distributions from State-sponsored prepaid tuition or college savings plans tax free. I was

pleased when this provision was included in the 2001 Economic Stimulus legislation that was signed by the President. Education savings accounts are one way that we can ensure that individuals at every income level have the ability to contribute to their child's or a relative's or even their own postsecondary education.

I realize many working families are trying to save for college and it would be ideal if no student had to take out a student loan. But for those who do incur debt, we need to make sure every student loan borrower has a real opportunity to borrow at the lowest rate possible. In order for borrowers to reach the lowest rates possible, there must be competition in all aspects of the student loan program, including consolidation loans.

In order to ensure that we instill such competition, we will need to make sure that we repeal the single holder rule during the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, which is currently moving through the Education and the Workforce Committee. I want to thank my colleagues, Chairman BOEHNER and Congressman MCKEON, for their efforts to keep college costs under control. It will be part of my commitment to them as well as students and families everywhere that they can have the benefit of competition from the more than one thousand qualified lenders in the program when they consolidate their loans and, thus, allow them to further reduce their debt burden by taking advantage of historically low fixed interest rates, just as other borrowers are able to do every day.

In conclusion, I encourage my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 270 and the goals and ideals of College Savings Month.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 270.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING EAST BOYNTON BEACH, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM CHAMPIONS

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 273) recognizing and congratulating the East Boynton Beach, Florida, Little League team as the 2003 United States Little League Champions.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 273

Whereas the Little League team East Boynton Beach, Florida, captured the Florida State and Southeastern United States Regional Championship to reach the Little League World Series in historic Williamsport, Pennsylvania;

Whereas more than 7,000 teams from around the world competed for the honor of reaching the Little League World Series, East Boynton Beach was among the 8 final American teams;

Whereas, on August 23, 2003, after competing against the best young baseball players in the Nation, East Boynton Beach defeated the team from Saugus, Massachusetts, by a score of 9-2 in the final game, thus capturing the United States Little League Championship title;

Whereas the team spirit and sportsmanship displayed by its roster of East Boynton Beach players Michael Broad, Richie DeJesus, Cody Emerson, Jordan Irene, Patrick Mullen, R.J. Neal, Matt Overton, Ricky Sabatino, Benny Townsend, Devon Travis, and Andrew Weaver set a new standard of excellence through team spirit and sportsmanship;

Whereas the coaching staff led by manager Kenny Emerson, assisted by coaches Joe Irene and Tony Travis not only taught these young men how to play top grade baseball on the field, but also taught them the best way to conduct themselves off the field;

Whereas national television commentators, sportswriters, and other media from around the world singled out East Boynton Beach for the way they joyfully played the game and the respect and friendship they showed to all opposing players from around the world; and

Whereas these Little League ambassadors from East Boynton Beach have honored their parents, families, teachers, friends, and the City of Boynton Beach, Florida, by their actions, demonstrating not only the best of Little League tradition but the best of America: Now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That Congress—

(1) recognizes the achievement of the Little League team East Boynton Beach, Florida, in winning the United States Little League Championship and congratulates them on this victory and on the example of excellence they set on the field and off the field;

(2) expresses its pride that the 2003 East Boynton Beach team represents America as the 2003 United States Little League Champions and invites the players, coaches, parents, and other league and city officials to the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. to be honored;

(3) requests that the President recognize the national champions in their achievements; and

(4) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make available enrolled copies of this resolution to the City of Boynton Beach and the Boynton Beach Little League office for appropriate display and to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to each player and coach of the East Boynton Beach Little League baseball team.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) and the gentleman from California (Ms. WATSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW), the sponsor of this resolution.

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Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, this past August, some of the best young athletes from around

the country gathered in historic Williamsport, Pennsylvania, to compete in America's favorite past time at the 2003 Little League Championships. Today, I stand with my colleagues from Palm Beach County, the gentlemen from Florida (Mr. WEXLER) (Mr. FOLEY) and (Mr. HASTINGS), to honor these boys from my home district who captured the United States championship.

Just as we honor their victory with this resolution, I want to especially compliment them on their spirit and their sportsmanship which became legendary in this series. These are the character traits that deliver victory and most certainly enabled them to bring home the championship to East Boynton Beach.

So let me first start by congratulating the boys from the East Boynton Beach Little League team: Michael, Richard, Cody, Jordan, Patrick, R.J., Matt, Ricky, Benny, Devon, and Andrew, who are also known as this year's United States Little League World Series Champions.

While we all recognize their outstanding achievements, we also recognize that children do not get there on their own. In each of our lives, there are people we remember who have helped shape our character along the way: role models who helped make our choices clearer, role models who make our defeats less painful and our victories even sweeter, role models who teach us through their encouragement and support. As we grow older, we come to recognize the scope and impact of their influence and that influence as it has affected our lives.

The boys from East Boynton Beach are surely no exception to this rule. They have been reared by loving parents who, no doubt, sacrificed much of this past year. To make their sons' dreams come true, they chauffeured them to countless practices and packed the family up to cheer at games all season long. When the boys were on the field, they were coached by the best in the league, led by manager Kenny Emerson, assisted by coaches Joe Irene and Tony Travis. These role models not only taught the team how to play top-grade baseball on the field, but also taught them the best way to conduct themselves when they are off the field.

So for all of these reasons, I am proud to bring to the attention of the United States House of Representatives the phenomenal achievements of these fine young men from Florida's 22nd Congressional District. Their victory brought East Boynton Beach great recognition, as it has indeed all of Palm Beach County and the State of Florida. But it was their teamwork and their sportsmanship that brought us all the greatest of pride. We applaud their effort and are offering this concurrent resolution to honor their spirit, which captured our hearts and brought home the championship. I am sure my colleagues will join me in voting "yes" on this resolution.

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

Mr. Speaker, 11 preteen boys from East Boynton Beach came within a game of winning the Little League World Series. They lost the Little League game to Japan, but they had a wonderful time playing the game and spending the summer becoming the first team from southern Florida to win the national championship. A pitcher on the East Boynton Beach team said of the Little League World Series game, "I don't care that we lost. We had a blast."

Little League baseball was created for just that purpose. In 1938, a man named Carl Stotz hit upon the idea for an organized baseball team for the boys of his hometown of Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Mr. Stotz gathered several of the neighborhood children and experimented with different types of equipment and different field dimensions during that summer. In 1939, he enlisted the help of others and formed three teams: Lycoming Dairy, Lundy Lumber, and Jumbo Pretzel.

Mr. Stotz came up with the name Little League, and the first Little League game was played June 6, 1939. His idea was to provide a wholesome program of baseball for the boys of Williamsport as a way to teach them the ideals of sportsmanship, fair play, and teamwork.

Carl Stotz would have been proud of the East Boynton Beach team. Sportsmanship, fair play, and teamwork are what made them the 2003 United States Little League Champions, an example not often set by the grown-ups involved in the game.

The East Boynton Beach Little League baseball team played with respect and friendship for their coaches, parents, and opposing teams. And all should be commended.

I join the sponsors of this resolution in commending them for their achievements.

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

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I would advise the gentlewoman we have no additional requests for time.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER).

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution recognizing the accomplishments of the East Boynton Beach Little League team, which have been stated very eloquently, who won the United States Little League championship title this summer.

This Little League team from East Boynton Beach captured the hearts and souls of America this past August through sheer determination, grit, and love for the game of baseball. Out of the 7,000 teams from across the globe participating in the Little League World Series, these young ball players displayed the highest level of sportsmanship and goodwill. I am extremely proud of the way they worked together

as a team, as representatives of their community and Nation, and with the greatest amount of respect for their opponents.

I join my colleagues in Congress in congratulating the East Boynton Beach players: Michael Broad, Richie DeJesus, Cody Emerson, Jordan Irene, Patrick Mullen, R.J. Neal, Matt Overton, Ricky Sabatino, Benny Townsend, Devon Travis and Andrew Weaver. I also want to highlight the extraordinary efforts of manager Kenny Emerson and coaches Joe Irene and Tony Travis, individuals who instilled a keen sense of skill, spirit, and confidence in these young men and taught them how to conduct themselves on and, maybe even more importantly, off the field.

Finally, I also want to congratulate and thank those who are often overlooked who are critical to the accomplishments of these teams. East Boynton Beach's success could not have been achieved without the sacrifice of family members as well as the support of fans in Boynton Beach and throughout Florida. Clearly, the backbone of this team is not only the players and the coaches, but also the parents and family members who sacrificed their time, money, and effort to support this team of champions.

Again, I would like to join the gentlemen from Florida (Mr. SHAW) (Mr. HASTINGS) (Mr. FOLEY) in congratulating the East Boynton Beach Little League team for winning the United States league championship.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON), I yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 273.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING INSPECTORS GENERAL OVER THE LAST 25 YEARS

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 70) recognizing Inspectors General over the last 25 years in their efforts to prevent and detect waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, and to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the Federal Government.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 70

Whereas the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) was signed into law on October 12, 1978, with overwhelming bipartisan support;

Whereas Inspectors General now exist in the 29 largest executive branch agencies and in 28 other designated Federal entities;