

meet state standards required by the No Child Left Behind Law. Even though many school districts find themselves unable to meet the goals of the law, the bill before us today provides \$9.5 billion less than the funding promised. Today's bill also falls \$2.5 billion short of the \$13.6 billion promised last year for special education when IDEA was reauthorized last year. I would also hope that we can improve upon the higher education funding, particularly in the areas of Pell Grants and Perkins Loans, so that lower and middle-income students can continue to enroll in public and private colleges across the Nation.

This bill also shortchanges Americans already in the labor market. Eight million Americans who want to work cannot find jobs, but the job training funds do not keep pace with inflation. In fact, compared FY 2001, it cuts job training funding in real terms by over \$700 million. I would hope that we can improve upon these levels in conference.

Finally, we must increase funding for several programs in the Department of Health and Human Services. Last month, we learned that the number of uninsured Americans reached 45 million, yet this bill reduces Maternal and Child Health Block Grants that fund care for uninsured women and children, and it eliminates the Community Access Program, which has funded grants across the Nation for preventive and primary care. This bill also cuts vital Ryan White AIDS Care programs, and it does not adequately fund the lifesaving NIH research that Americans diagnosed with Alzheimer's, cancer, diabetes, and other debilitating diseases are depending upon. Unfortunately, this bill contains an increase of only 2.6% in NIH funding—less than medical research inflation.

I hope, as this House bill moves forward in conference, that the funding levels for these critical needs can be increased to a more realistic level.

VICTIMS COMPENSATION FUND EXTENSION ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, in the immediate aftermath of the September 11th terrorist attacks the Congress created the Victims Compensation Fund (VCF) to provide compensation for victims of 9/11. This fund provided aid to the families of 9/11 victims and to individuals who suffered personal injury. Among other things, aid from the fund pays for medical expenses and lost wages. In return for accepting these funds, recipients relinquished rights to any future litigation. The fund had a deadline for applicants of December 22, 2003.

At the deadline, close to 100% of the families who lost a loved one had filed with the fund, but many individuals who were injured as a direct result of 9/11 had not. After the filing, many of the injured were denied benefits, despite a clear need.

The main reasons for not filing applications included people who did not know they were eligible as well as others whose injuries were late-onset. There are literally hundreds of individuals who are now just developing career-

ending injuries—such as pulmonary and respiratory ailments—but are not eligible to receive assistance because they developed their symptoms after the deadline.

Largely as a result of the VCF's restrictions on applicants, 1,755 of the 4,430 personal injury claims considered were denied. While there was some leeway, the rules required workers to have arrived at Ground Zero within 96 hours of the attack and would have needed to seek medical treatment within 72 hours. This is reasonable for rescue workers who suffered immediate injuries, but leaves no recourse for individuals with late-onset injuries or who arrived after September 15, 2001 to assist in the recovery effort and are now suffering from injuries.

In order to care for the individuals who are now just developing physical injuries and to provide an opportunity for injured individuals who did not know they were eligible, I am introducing the Victims Compensation Fund Extension Act.

This bill would: Amend eligibility rules so that responders to the 9/11 attacks who arrived later than the first 96 hours could be eligible if they experienced illness or injury from their work at the site. Amend eligibility rules so that those who did not seek immediate medical verification for their illness or injury from the disaster, but who have since obtained medical evidence, would be eligible. Extend the deadline for applications to allow those with either late-onset illness from the disaster or those who were never informed of their eligibility for the Victim Compensation Fund to consider applying.

HONORING JERRY RABER FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jerry Raber, a resident of Newark, California. The city of Newark will pay tribute to Jerry on September 16, 2004 at the dedication of Jerry Raber Ash Street Park.

All who know her describe Jerry as a truly special woman. For over thirty years, Jerry has been a tireless advocate fighting to meet the needs of children in her community.

When a fire devastated the original Ash Street Youth Center in March 1969, Jerry pushed and pursued the city to replace the building. Through her leadership and perseverance, she garnered support from volunteers and local contractors to help rebuild the center. Service clubs, such as Kiwanis and Rotary donated funds for play equipment while local contractors contributed roofing, concrete and other building materials. Area businesses and restaurants joined forces and placed donation jars in their establishments to collect funds that helped to complete the softball field.

Along with city funding, federal grants, generous grassroots donations and hard work, the Ash Street Youth Center was rebuilt. The Center was ready to serve the community with programs such as ballet, cake decorating, adult education, secretarial courses, storybook hours, book exchanges, arts and crafts, a game lending library and a horse clinic.

In June 1971, Ash Street Park joined the Ash Street Youth Center and services to the community were expanded. A wide variety of recreational activities included picnicking, softball, flag football, Easter egg hunts, supervised overnight camping and even a pet parade.

Jerry Raber continued to push for further services for the community and assisted in the expansion of Ash Street Park. In 1992, Jerry, along with area residents, school officials and PTA members, formed a non-profit organization, Friends for Ash Street Community Enrichment, better known as FACE. FACE, with the city of Newark, started a new balanced lunch and recreation program.

Children enrolled in the program received free hot lunches and the opportunity to participate in arts and crafts, sports games, lessons on public safety awareness and teambuilding.

Jerry Raber's drive and persistence to make Newark a better place for children has been recognized and appreciated through the years. She has many markers of success she can point to with pride. Her accomplishments have earned her the honorary title "Mayor of Old Town". I join in thanking Jerry for her tireless efforts and investment in the community to make a difference in the lives of others.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL AND KATE TAUER

HON. BOB BEAUPREZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two distinguished Coloradans who reside in my district. I am pleased to announce that Paul and Kate Tauer, of Aurora, Colorado, were recipients of the 2004 National Excellence in Parenting Award presented by the National Parents' Day Council.

I believe that commitment to family and community is a core value all Americans should share. Unfortunately, we rarely take the time to recognize individuals who place their own interests behind those of their family and community.

Paul and Kate Tauer have been married for 47 years and are the parents of 8 children and the grandparents of 13. They have been tireless in their volunteer efforts, in which their children take an active role. The Tauer family has served on countless committees and participate in a myriad of volunteer endeavors. Together they started the Aurora Asian Pacific Partnership and both serve on the Mental Health Center Board. Paul recently retired as a four-term Mayor of Aurora, the third most populous city in Colorado. Following in the footsteps of his father, Paul's son Ed was elected to succeed him as Mayor of Aurora.

This award provides an opportunity to recognize and promote parenting as a central vocation for our families and our communities. It is my genuine honor to be able to represent Paul and Kate Tauer. They are distinguished citizens, activists and parents—there is no higher or more honorable calling.