

workers can barely make ends meet, considering that those who work have to work an entire 8-hour shift just to fill up their gas tank, if they are lucky enough to have a car. In the wealthiest country in the world, this is not acceptable.

Mr. Speaker, House Democrats want to expand economic opportunities for 7 million Americans. Let the work we do make a difference for the working men and women in this country.

DEMOCRATS ATTEMPTING TO INCREASE MINIMUM WAGE

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, over the past 5 years, average, hardworking Americans have been ignored by the Republicans in Washington. While House Republicans have been showering their corporate interest friends with tons of tax breaks, they have refused for 9 years, for 9 years, to bring to the floor a vote to increase the minimum wage. It is time that this Congress gave 7 million people across the United States a raise.

Last week the Democrats were successful in adding a minimum wage to the labor appropriation bill, and it was supposed to be on the floor this week, but the House leadership refuses to bring it up. They want to bring it up after the elections. Why would that be? They are afraid if they vote against it, which they need to vote against the minimum wage, the rest of you Americans won't vote for them. So they are going to wait until after the election.

The American people should know that House Democrats are not running away from this issue. In fact, increasing the minimum wage is one of our top priorities.

LINE ITEM VETO WON'T BALANCE BUDGET

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, over the next couple of days we are going to hear a lot from House Republicans about how they are finally being fiscally responsible by giving the President a line item veto. The House Republicans are kidding themselves if they believe this will reverse the fiscal collapse they have presided over the last 5 years.

If House Republicans were really interested in restoring fiscal discipline here in Washington, they would have adopted a 2007 budget that actually balanced the budget in the coming years. Instead, the House Republican budget actually makes the deficit worse, offers no plan to bring the budget back in balance, and adds to the growing burden of the national debt. Thanks to these Republican budgets,

the five largest deficits in history will have occurred in these last 5 consecutive years.

Giving President Bush a line item veto will not change the course. Instead, we need to go in a new direction. House Democrats offered an alternative that balanced the Federal budget by 2012. Our proposal also restored pay-as-you-go rules that were so successful in turning deficits into surpluses in the 1990s. Democrats offered a fiscally sound plan, but Republicans rejected it.

So much for Republican fiscal discipline.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GINGREY). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

AMENDING FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5060) to amend the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 to require data with respect to Federal financial assistance to be available for public access in a searchable and user friendly form, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5060

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

SECTION 1. DATA WITH RESPECT TO FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REQUIRED TO BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC ACCESS IN SEARCHABLE AND USER-FRIENDLY FORM.

(a) DATA REQUIREMENTS.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall, as part of the implementation of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-107; 31 U.S.C. 6101 note), work with the Administrator of General Services and other agencies to make available data with respect to Federal financial assistance in accordance with this section and section 204 of the E-Government Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-347; 44 U.S.C. 3501 note).

(b) MATTERS COVERED.—The Director shall ensure that the data required under subsection (a), at a minimum—

(1) are available on the Internet, from a single website database, at no cost to the public;

(2) contain—

(A) all information and types of information (in this section referred to as “data fields”) collected through the Federal Assistance Award Data System, Grants.gov, or any other existing Federal database; and

(B) additional information about each Federal financial assistance award, including program source or funding authority, statu-

tory or regulatory authority, renewability, number of applicants and recipients, type of activity being performed, required measurable outcomes, and any other relevant information;

(3) are in a form that allows for full searching and aggregation of all data fields across all agencies;

(4) include information about Federal financial assistance awards within 30 days after award of the assistance;

(5) identify the Federal financial assistance that a recipient has received during the preceding 10-year period, including an itemized breakdown of that assistance by agency and program source;

(6) include lists of Federal financial assistance awards and the dates and amounts of Federal fund disbursements; and

(7) identify subgrantees that are non-Federal entities.

(c) DOWNLOAD ABILITY.—The Director also shall ensure that the website containing the data allows for the public to download—

(1) results of searches; and

(2) the entire database on a quarterly basis.

(d) PERIOD COVERED.—For purposes of subsection (b)(5), the first 10-year period to be covered shall begin with the year 2006.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

(1) The term “Federal financial assistance” has the same meaning as defined in section 7501(a)(5) of title 31, United States Code, except that, in applying such definition, the term “non-Federal entity” has the meaning provided in paragraph (2).

(2) The term “non-Federal entity” means a State, local government, nonprofit organization, corporation, association, partnership, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, or any other legal business entity.

(f) COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENT.—The website database made available pursuant to this section shall not be considered in compliance with this section if it only provides electronic links to the Federal Assistance Award Data System, Grants.gov, or other existing websites and databases, unless each of those sites has information from all agencies and meets the requirements of subsections (b) and (c).

(g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The data shall be available for public use not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS), and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Majority Whip Roy BLUNT and I introduced H.R. 5060, which would amend the Federal Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 to require data with respect to Federal financial assistance to be

available for public access in a searchable and user-friendly form. The bill would require the Office of Management and Budget to create a Web site for all grant awards to be displayed in a format that would be easily accessible and free of charge. Each award would be required to be listed on the Web site within 30 days of its enactment.

No such real-time disclosure is required today of grant awards, and available data is often untimely. Currently there is no central database of all entities receiving Federal funds, including the nearly 30,000 organizations that are awarded nearly \$300 billion in Federal grants each year. In fact, several agencies have taken different approaches to making public information about grantees, and often little or no information is available on line.

Our bill would put the framework in place for increased sunshine on the Federal grant process, allowing anyone with access to the Internet to review and search Federal assistance awards, thus providing greater transparency to the grant-making process.

I congratulate my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Missouri, for recognizing the importance of this issue and working so hard to bring this measure forward. I also want to thank my ranking member Mr. WAXMAN for working to move this legislation forward in a bipartisan way. This bill adds much-needed transparency to the Federal grant process. I also want to thank Mr. DAVIS, too, my colleague from Illinois, for his assistance in this.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with the chairman of the Government Reform Committee, Chairman DAVIS, in consideration of H.R. 5060, which calls for the creation of a new searchable database of all Federal grants to be made publicly available on the Internet.

I have always had serious concerns about any decision to bring a bill to the floor without the opportunity for hearings or other committee consideration, but I have been very pleased with Majority Whip BLUNT and Chairman DAVIS' willingness to work together over the past week to address problems with the bill and to make revisions.

As revised, the bill will require the Office of Management and Budget to develop a database that would be useful to individuals and organizations researching Federal grant funding. The database will provide a complete record of Federal grant funding, including information about grantees and the purpose and requirements of each grant. The requirement that the database be fully searchable and available for download is also most important.

As Members of Congress, we have a responsibility to increase public under-

standing of Federal spending and public access to information about how taxpayer dollars are spent. Currently the public has access to a data system, the Federal Assistance Award Data System, that provides limited information about domestic grants, but this system is unwieldy and difficult to use. Under this bill public oversight of Federal spending will increase.

The bill is a step in the right direction, but it is missing a key component that is essential to public oversight. I had hoped that the legislation we are considering today would have required that information on Federal contracts be included in the database or in a similar separate database of Federal contracts. As Federal contract spending increases, there is a vital need for the public to be able to track and understand this spending.

As with the Federal Assistance Award Data System for grants, there is a publicly available database of contracts, the Federal Procurement Data System, but it, too, is plagued with problems. This data system is often incomplete, and, like the grant data system, is unwieldy and difficult to use. Currently it is virtually impossible for the public to accurately track Federal contract spending.

I understand that Chairman DAVIS has agreed to work on improving the FPDS with Ranking Member WAXMAN and others in order to make Federal contract information freely and easily accessible to the public. I, quite frankly, look forward to this collaboration, and I hope that when the new database of Federal grants is made available on a Web site for the public to search and download at no charge, there will also be a new FPDS system or other new contracts database made available that is just as accessible and usable as the new grants database that we are dealing with.

I want to again commend the chairman of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight and its ranking member, Mr. WAXMAN, for the tremendous leadership that they both provide in a very bipartisan way. I think that is one of the reasons that you see us down here so often with bills that have come through that committee ready for passage on the floor.

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

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for his kind words and also thank him for his many, many contributions to the committee and the bipartisan approach we have taken to issues.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the majority whip, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), who is the chief author of this legislation.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank the chairman for yielding, Mr. Speaker, and I also thank Mr. DAVIS for his generous comments and his hard work on this bill.

Over the past several months, Mr. Speaker, we have had good discussions

in the House about earmarks and earmark reform. The House has committed to pass and will pass earmark reform to increase sunshine on the earmark process, yet there is another process in the Federal Government that, despite spending over \$300 billion a year, has almost no disclosure. That is really the purpose of this bill.

Each year the Federal Government gives out thousands of grants to various organizations and entities. All told, about 30,000 organizations a year receive grants, yet there is no central system available to the public or even to the Congress to determine who is receiving these taxpayer funds and how they are being spent.

Chairman DAVIS and I have introduced H.R. 5060, the bill we are considering today, to correct this. This legislation requires the Office of Management and Budget to establish a searchable public Web site listing all recipients of Federal financial assistance, such as grants and loans. Within 30 days of a grant award, the following information would be available to the public through this single site on the Internet and should be and would be required by law to be easily searchable:

There would be the name of the grantee and the subgrantees who have received the award; an itemized breakdown of that assistance by agency and program source; and all of the grants that the grantee has received in the past 10 years.

This database will serve as an invaluable tool enabling Congress, the public, and the media to easily determine who is receiving taxpayer funds. This information will be critical in uncovering wasteful spending and ensuring compliance with existing Federal laws, including the 1995 Lobbying Disclosure Act.

There are numerous examples of wasteful government grants, such as millions of dollars spent by the National Institute of Mental Health to study what makes a meaningful day for college students or to study how college students decorate their dorm rooms.

□ 1045

I was a college president for 4 years, and I will tell you that is a study that is not only not worth having, but something that nobody wants to know about.

Often such waste has been uncovered by the inspector general from the various agencies, such as an effort made by the inspector general in 2003 that resulted in an EPA grant from the 1990s, where \$700,000 was spent, was granted, without any knowledge of what work the recipient was going to perform. Under this law, that information will become publicly and quickly available.

This bill will empower everybody with access to the Internet to begin reviewing Federal grants and other forms of taxpayer assistance to look for such waste, fraud and abuse. This, in turn, will help us become better stewards of taxpayer funds.

This legislation will also help to ensure that Federal laws are adhered to by those receiving Federal funds. Frequently, Federal law imposes various restrictions or requirements on Federal grantees. For example, Congress has required that entities receiving funds under our global AIDS programs have a firm policy opposing prostitution and sex trafficking. Yet last year, the Government Reform Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources uncovered that a USAID grantee was subgranting taxpayer funds to an organization that was pro-prostitution. This bill requires grantees to also disclose their subgrantees, thus making it easier to ensure compliance with important Federal policies like those that would be applicable to this and other funds.

This legislation will also ensure compliance with existing lobbying restrictions. The 1995 Lobbying Disclosure Act prohibits organizations that receive Federal grants from lobbying, even with their own funds. The restriction has been difficult to enforce. This access to information about who gets grants makes it easier to see that the lobbying bill itself is enforced.

It is my belief that this bill will provide important information to all Americans and serve as a powerful tool to improve how the government spends precious taxpayer funds.

I want to thank Chairman DAVIS and ranking member WAXMAN for their assistance in moving this legislation forward. And in particular, I want to thank the staff of the Committee on Government Reform, particularly Ellen Brown, Mason Alinger, and Ed Puccarella for their tremendous efforts to help my staff with this bill and to improve the bill as it moved through the committee. I urge passage of this bill.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BLUNT. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DREIER. I thank my friend from Branson for yielding, and I rise in strong support of this legislation.

As my colleague knows, we have been focusing on the issue of accountability, transparency and greater disclosure as we look at the challenge of trying to put into place lobby and ethics reform which passed in this House with bipartisan support. We are still working with the Senate on that.

And the notion of oversight is something that is a very important constitutional responsibility that we have. This measure that the distinguished majority whip has pursued is, I believe, very important in recognizing that greater transparency and disclosure is important.

I do appreciate his commitment to ensure that as information comes forward, and his experience for 4 years as a college president demonstrates, that we will not, in fact, have to have a greater degree of transparency on what will be disclosed as to what is existing

on the walls of those college dormitories. But I do believe that the American people should have an opportunity to gain access to as much information as possible when it deals with the awarding of these grants.

I thank Chairman DAVIS and Mr. DAVIS and Mr. WAXMAN and all who have been involved in this and believe that it very importantly gets right at our core constitutional responsibility. I think this is a very, very helpful measure, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank the gentleman for his comments, his support of the bill and his clear understanding that as we bring transparency to the process of spending, that to not have transparency where most of the money is really spent would be a huge, huge gap in our efforts to make it easier to see how government money is spent, to see that it is more accountable and that we have a real way to access that, and the public as well as the Congress has a way to access that.

I thank the chairman and Mr. WAXMAN for the great work they have done to advance this bill.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. And as we shed more light and sunshine on congressional earmarks, grants are essentially executive earmarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER).

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

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, first, let me thank Chairman DAVIS and our majority whip, Congressman BLUNT, for their leadership on this important legislation. I particularly want to thank the whip for making sure that this gets to the floor.

Our chairman knows and is regularly hearing our frustrations at the subcommittee level in Government Reform and Oversight because it has been so hard to get information from this administration. It was not easy from the last administration, either; and this is basic information that is necessary to do oversight.

So I rise in support of this bill and I thank the chairman for being persistent in backing up the subcommittee chairman in trying to receive this grant information in a searchable and user-friendly form.

Let me illustrate why H.R. 5060 is necessary.

We battled this with multiple agencies, whether it is the faith-based category as they give grants, National Parks, we have battled it in all kinds of narcotics oversight, but let me illustrate the specifics and detail in one of the most frustrating processes that I have ever dealt with that our majority whip just referred to in his statement.

In my capacity as chairman of the Committee on Government Reform Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources on October 6, 2005, I sent a letter to

USAID seeking information about its funding of the pro-prostitution non-governmental organization called SANGRAM in violation of Public Law 108-25, the United States Leadership Against HIV-DS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003.

According to an unclassified State Department memorandum obtained by subcommittee staff, Restore International, an anti-trafficking NGO that works with law enforcement agencies in India, was confronted by an USAID-funded NGO, SANGRAM, while the former attempted to rescue and provide long-term care for child victims of sex trafficking. The confrontation led to the release of 17 minor girls, victims of trafficking, into the hands of traffickers and trafficking accomplices. Now get this, a tax-funded organization in violation of Federal law forced the release of girls who were being rescued from sex trafficking. They were victims of trafficking and they turned them back to the traffickers and trafficking accomplices.

According to this memorandum, SANGRAM "allowed a brothel keeper into a shelter to pressure the girls not to cooperate with counselors. The girls are now back in the brothels, being subjected to rape for profit."

On November 16, 2005, a USAID briefer asserted to the Government Reform Committee staff that USAID had "nothing to do with" the grant to the pro-prostitution SANGRAM, and that the committee's inquiries were "destructive." The subcommittee is now in possession of documents that demonstrate that USAID must provide a revised briefing to Congress on its true role.

These documents prove that USAID money financed the pro-prostitution SANGRAM through a second organization named Avert, which was established with the assistance of four USAID employees as a pass-through entity. USAID has held the ex-officio vice chairmanship of Avert since inception.

According to these documents, the USAID board member of Avert voted twice to award funding to SANGRAM, once on July 27, 2002, and again on December 3, 2004, the last time being some 18 months after the provisions of Public Law 108-25 prohibited taxpayer funding of pro-prostitution like SANGRAM.

That SANGRAM was a high-risk candidate for not complying with Public Law 108-25 should have been no surprise to USAID. SANGRAM was a co-signer, along with many other high-risk candidates, of a May 18, 2005, letter to President Bush opposing the anti-prostitution pledge.

Subcommittee staff found posted on a USAID-sponsored Web site a 5-year-old report from SANGRAM that states: "We believe that when involuntary initiation into prostitution occurs, a process of socialization within the institution of prostitution exists, whereby the involuntary nature of the business changes increasingly into one of

active acceptance, not necessarily with resignation. This is not a coercive process.”

I agree with President Bush that “it takes a special kind of depravity to exploit and hurt the most vulnerable members of society. Human traffickers rob children of their innocence; they expose them to the worst of life before they have seen much of life. Traffickers tear families apart. They treat their victims as nothing more than goods and commodities for sale to the highest bidder.”

It is inconceivable that an organization like SANGRAM could have received funding from the American taxpayer had USAID put in place an adequate management system to carry out Public Law 108-25.

On December 13, 2005, a large briefing team from the State Department and USAID met with staff from my subcommittee in order to demonstrate ownership of the problem and lay out corrective measures being taken. To my dismay and astonishment, the briefers were not prepared to discuss and exhibited little knowledge of the pass-through entity known as Avert that USAID has established and which served as the mechanism whereby NGOs in India were monitored and financed with American tax dollars.

Subcommittee staff knew more than the State Department USAID briefing team about this matter, thanks to Google searches on the Web for critical documents that had not been provided to the subcommittee by the administration.

At that meeting, USAID was requested by the subcommittee staff to establish an electronic registry for grantees and subgrantees to facilitate oversight by USAID Washington as well as by Congress and ensure compliance with the Federal law. That request has not been honored.

In the months since that December 13 appeal was made for an electronic registry, the subcommittee request has inspired two pieces of legislation: First in the other body, and the second we are debating here today. This scandal of financing pro-prostitution groups by USAID was highlighted by the authors in both Chambers as illustrating the need for this legislation.

On April 7, I asked USAID in writing to provide legal advice to make certain that all USAID grantees and subgrantees would be captured by H.R. 5060. That request, too, has not been honored.

I, for one, am out of patience having to wait months for agencies to reluctantly produce documents to shed light on how questionable projects are funded.

I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 5060 and begin the process of bringing sunshine on the processes of unelected bureaucrats doling out grants to questionable organizations.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I again thank Mr. WAXMAN and his staff and Mr.

DAVIS for being here, and all of the staff on the Government Reform Committee on the minority side, Anna Luitin, Christopher Davis, Robin Appleberry, and Brian Cohen for their contributions to this legislation as well. We thank you for working with us.

I would just add that I would urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 5060, as amended.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5060 requires the Office of Management and Budget to create a web-based database of Federal grants.

I want to thank Majority Whip BLUNT and Chairman DAVIS for working with us to make changes to the bill as originally drafted. Based on these revisions, I am supporting the bill.

As modified, H.R. 5060 will create a robust, fully searchable database of all Federal grants that is free for members of the public to use. The database will contain a significant amount of information about each grant awarded—including details about the grantee, the process under which the grant was awarded, as well as the purpose and requirements of the grant.

Currently, there is an existing grants data system that is available to Members of Congress. The database that will be created under H.R. 5060 is an improvement over this existing system in two key ways: it will include more information and it will be available to the public, not just Members of Congress. As a result, this database will serve as a useful tool for individuals and organizations hoping to understand how the Federal Government distributes funds.

There is also an urgent need to improve the existing database of Federal contracts. Earlier this week, I released a report finding that the “shadow government” of private companies working under Federal contract has exploded in size over the past 5 years. Far more taxpayer dollars now go to contracts than to grants.

I had hoped that we would be able to add language improving the current contracts database, the Federal Procurement Data System, to this bill. The FPDS can be hard to use and is not fully accurate. Although it contains a significant amount of information about Federal contracts, it is not easily or freely searchable by members of the public. It must be fixed in order to provide the public with the ability to truly understand the role of contracts in the Federal Government.

We were not able to reach agreement on language to add a contracts database to this legislation. But Chairman DAVIS has pledged to work with me to address this issue in separate legislation.

Again, I want to thank the Majority Whip and the Chairman for working with us to amend H.R. 5060, and look forward to continuing this collaboration as we address the problems with the existing database of Federal contracts.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. 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 Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5060, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof)

the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SECOND HIGHER EDUCATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2006

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5603) to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5603

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 “Second Higher Education Extension Act of 2006”.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS.

Section 2(a) of the Higher Education Extension Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-81; 20 U.S.C. 1001 note) is amended by striking “June 30, 2006” and inserting “September 30, 2006”.

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act, or in the Higher Education Extension Act of 2005 as amended by this Act, shall be construed to limit or otherwise alter the authorizations of appropriations for, or the durations of, programs contained in the amendments made by the Higher Education Reconciliation Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-171) to the provisions of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the Taxpayer-Teacher Protection Act of 2004.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5603.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5603, the Second Higher Education Extension Act of 2006. This bill will provide a clean extension of the Higher Education Act for 3 months. This bill enjoys bipartisan support and is cosponsored by the chairman and ranking members of the full Education Committee and the Higher Education Subcommittee.

On March 30, 2006, the House of Representatives completed its work and passed the College Access and Opportunity Act to fully reauthorize the Higher Education Act. We strengthened Pell Grants, improved the Perkins Loan program, and expanded access for millions of American students.

However, the Senate has not yet acted to reauthorize the Higher Education Act. The Senate should soon act to pass the reauthorization bill so we