

a high-need school, which until recently was defined as one receiving grants under part A of Title I. To further encourage participants to teach in schools with the greatest need, a \$10,000 bonus is offered to those who agree to teach for three years in a school with 50 percent of students below the poverty level.

This structure has proven very effective in transitioning qualified retiring military personnel into second careers in teaching. Indeed, Troops participants fill several critical needs among educators: A 2005 study found that eighty-two percent are male, over one-third ethnic minorities, and a majority bring an expertise in science and math to the classroom. In an increasingly globalized economy, these valuable characteristics provide a vital resource for schools across the country.

However, this success is now in jeopardy due to a drafting error in the 2001 No Child Left Behind Act which has inadvertently restricted the number of schools at which participants may fulfill their service. The applicable definition for "high-need local education agencies" for Troops to Teachers was inadvertently changed as it was included in the section of the legislation regarding other alternative programs that had a different definition. This stricter definition requires a higher threshold for "high-need," requiring the school to have either 10,000 students or 20 percent of students from families below the poverty level. However, the original Title I definition of high-need was also retained in the law in the section specifically detailing the Troops program. Essentially, Congress inadvertently created two conflicting definitions of "high-need" with regard to this program.

Early on, the Department of Education and the Troops to Teachers program recognized this unintended change in law and worked together to address it. From 2003 to 2005, while discussions were being held on how to reconcile this discrepancy, the program continued to operate under the original and intended definition. However, after the completion of a negotiated rulemaking process in September 2005, the Department issued a regulation stating that the new, stricter definition was not an error but congressional intent. As one of the leading supporters of this program during the drafting of No Child Left Behind, I can assure my colleagues that this clearly was not the intent of the supporters of the program.

Mr. Speaker, the unfortunate result of this, aside from limiting the number of schools at which veterans may teach and honor their obligation of three-years service, is that it has disproportionately impacted western and rural states. In my home state of Wisconsin, the number of eligible school districts has been reduced from approximately 395 to 11. Not surprisingly, participation in the program has fallen significantly since the implementation of the new definition. This decision, although understandable given the conflicting definitions contained in the law, is a disservice both to veterans wishing to continue their service to our nation as educators as well as children who stand to benefit from their unique expertise.

The bottom line is that we are losing out on great teachers because they cannot accept the certification stipend due to a lack of schools meeting the higher needs threshold in their communities. The more we restrict opportunities for participation, the fewer teachers we will be able to bring into public education, and the fewer teachers we will eventually be able

to attract to the schools with the greatest need. Further, given the nation's need for more math and science teachers, we should be removing, not creating, restrictions that prevent qualified teachers in these areas from teaching in our nation's classrooms.

Mr. Speaker, with Troops to Teachers, the Department already has an established program that is well-funded and successful. Rather than restricting it, we should be maximizing this program's potential. This legislation would correct this error and restore the original intent of the Troops to Teachers program. Our bill would ensure that veterans participating in the Troops to Teachers program may receive a \$5,000 stipend for teaching for three years in any school that is in a district receiving grants under part A of Title I. This change would more than double the number of eligible schools for the program.

The legislation would retain the current criteria for troops to receive an additional bonus of \$5,000 for teaching in a high need school, defined as in a school district that has at least 10 percent or greater who come from families living below the poverty level and a school where at least 50 percent of students are eligible for free or reduced lunch or have a "high percentage" of students with disabilities.

This legislation will also increase the number of service personnel who would qualify to participate in Troops to Teachers. Currently, eligibility for Troops to Teachers requires that members of the military have six years of service, and that members of the National Guard and reserves have 10 years of service with a commitment to serve an additional three years. This legislation will change the years of service requirement from six to four years for members of the active duty military to accommodate the many men and women who have served honorably and well in the difficult conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Additionally, it will create a "years of service" exemption for any member of the reserve, National Guard, or active duty military who has served on active duty since September 11, 2001, similar to eligibility requirements for the Post 9/11 GI Bill.

I urge my colleagues to join me and Representatives MATSUI and COURTNEY in supporting this successful program and restoring the opportunity to "serve again" to our nation's veterans.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 23, 2011*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. on May 12, during rollcall vote No. 316, I mistakenly voted "aye." I intended to vote "nay." I ask that the record reflect my opposition to this amendment. With respect to energy production-related legislation, I support an all-of-the-above strategy, as long as it is responsible and meets proper safety standards.

FORMAL DEDICATION OF THE  
MANDELL AND MADELEINE BER-  
MAN CENTER FOR THE PER-  
FORMING ARTS

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 23, 2011*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today will be the formal dedication of the Mandell and Madeleine Berman Center for the Performing Arts in West Bloomfield, Michigan.

It is a magnificent, state-of-the-art cultural center on the campus of the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit. It is a result of the generosity of two people who have exemplified over many decades an exceptional sense of gratitude for the opportunities provided to their families by our nation, Bill and Madge Berman.

The focal point of the new Center will be a 350-seat high-tech auditorium that can be opened to a capacity of 600 seats. The Center will be a venue for people of all ages to experience classical and Broadway music and a wide variety of theatrical productions.

Bill Berman graduated from Detroit schools and Harvard College and Business School, and served as a naval officer for 4 years during World War II. He next began a highly successful career in the building business, using his expertise in a variety of commercial activities and related endeavors. His deep sense of community found its voice in his service on the Michigan State Finance Housing Authority and Board of New Detroit, and he also served as the first Chairman of the Skillman Foundation.

Bill Berman became an indispensable force within the greater Detroit Jewish Community in a wide variety of vital religious, charitable and educational activities. In these efforts he was actively joined by his wife, Madge Berman. She was an inspiration for their deep interests in the arts. She has served on the Board of Directors of the Detroit Symphony and the Michigan Opera Theater. Madge Berman was appointed to the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities in 1994 and was reappointed to the President's Committee last year by President Obama.

The fabulous offer for a cultural center by Bill and Madge Berman engendered support from other very generous persons that will help make this new center a reality. This warm and loving couple has brought joy over many years to their friends. They now will bring the joy of the arts to many, many thousands who have never met the Bermans but will benefit greatly from their generosity. I ask all my colleagues to join me in conveying congratulations and thanks to Bill and Madge Berman on the formal dedication today of the new Center bearing their names.

**JOHN LOXAS, RECIPIENT OF THE  
ROBERT V. HEINZE VOCATIONAL  
SERVICE AWARD**

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 23, 2011*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Mr. John Loxas. John