

THE REGULATORY EFFICIENCY
ACT

HON. RANDY TATE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 1995

Mr. TATE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to streamline our Nation's regulatory process. The Regulatory Efficiency Act of 1995 will force Government agencies to finalize proposed regulations within 18 months or the proposals will be terminated.

For too long, Government bureaucrats have terrorized private property owners, small businesses, and individuals with unreasonable regulatory proposals. Too many Americans and their businesses have worried about complying with costly and burdensome proposed regulations well before they take effect. In many cases, a proposed regulation will loom while taxpayers are waiting for the ax to fall. Many time, businesses spend thousands of dollars to change their facilities or operations because they expect that they will have to comply with the proposed regulation in the future. Unfortunately, our regulatory system is far from perfect. Too often is the case when businesses comply with a proposed regulation, only to have the proposed regulation change significantly, or be withdrawn, before it becomes final. Many in fact, change the way they operate soon after a regulation is proposed only to clear later that the proposed regulation is not the regulation that will become effective. In other cases, proposed regulations do not become final until weeks before their enforceability—leaving it impossible for businesses to comply in a timely fashion. I do not need to tell my colleagues what happens when a business does not comply with a Federal regulation.

We must put an end to this drawn-out regulatory roller coaster ride. American taxpayers and businesses should know there is a definite date by which a proposed regulation becomes final or it will terminate. The American people want common sense returned to Government. My bill brings efficiency and certainly back to the regulatory process. I urge my colleagues to support this long-awaited legislation.

MIDTOWN COMMUNITY SCHOOL

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 1995

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today before the House of Representatives to take this opportunity to congratulate Midtown Community School of Bayonne, NJ. Midtown Community School was recently selected by Redbook as one of the best schools in America.

Midtown Community School is an example of what is right about public school education. We are constantly bombarded in the media by horror stories about how public education is letting our children down. Nothing could be further from the truth at MCS. At MCS they take extra effort to expose the students to advanced technology. Technology is the cornerstone of the curriculum at MCS and it is incor-

porated into every aspect of the school day, from the science classes to the music classes. The students teachers and administrators don't just talk about the electronic super highway, they are riding it.

Nearly 500 schools were nominated for the prestigious award by State and national leaders, but only 142 schools were recognized by Redbook. A panel of 10 distinguished educational experts selected the winners. It took dedication by the parents and staffs to work collectively to earn this recognition.

Midtown Community School is one of the best elementary schools in the country. It is an example of what public education can accomplish and we take great pride in knowing that it is part of our community. MCS's commitment to education does not end at 3 p.m. It offers a wide range of educational programs to all segments of the community. MCS fosters lifelong learning. Schools like MCS nurture students. They create a climate in which they can excel. At the same time they insure that our country will be competitive in the next century. MCS is a national educational treasure and deserves emulation. There can be no doubt that at Midtown Community School the future is here, today.

Please join me in honoring this excellent educational institution for their extraordinary accomplishment. Lets not forget that the future of our Nation depends on the students of today. I am proud to have a school in the 13th Congressional District which serves as an academic role model for the rest of the Nation. That school is the Midtown Community School of Bayonne.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE
COALITION BUDGET

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 1995

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, this is a time of tough, economic choices. Congress is faced with a \$4.7 trillion debt that is depriving our Nation of the investments we need to improve our economic productivity and give our children a stable future.

I have long searched for a solution to the problems facing my constituents and the country as a whole. I have listened to the concerns of the hard-working people in my district. They understand that sacrifices have to be made in order to get our financial debt under control. They just want to make sure that it is done in a fair, sensible, common-sense way.

This is why I voted for a budget proposal that is tough on the deficit, but makes only the cuts necessary to balance the budget.

Unfortunately, the Republicans in the House have proposed a budget that puts off consideration of cuts until after \$350 billion in tax cuts are put in place. I want to see those tax cuts become a reality—but we need to reduce government first. The Senate has put forth a budget that reflects this idea. They agree that it is not good fiscal policy to start giving out tax credits before the budget is balanced.

The budget resolution that I support makes many tough choices. It is a new, bold solution to really fix what needs fixing—reigning in government spending. But it does it much more slowly and deliberately than what the Repub-

licans have proposed. It will cut what needs to be cut, but it doesn't go too far, too fast. The budget proposal I voted for makes conservative, but not unreasonable cuts, in funding for programs such as education, health, economic development, and maintains the solvency of the Medicare Trust Fund.

The Republican budget proposal would cause Cook County to lose \$90 million in mass transit funds, \$6.8 billion in Medicare funding, and \$1.5 million in community development grants. I am for balancing the budget. I just do not want to make drastic and unnecessary cuts that will hurt my community, especially its elderly.

The Coalition Budget Substitute that I supported makes smart choices about downsizing the government:

It slows the growth of Medicare just enough to keep the Trust Fund solvent. What we need to do in the next several years is lower the projected cost of the Medicare Program, while preserving benefits, quality, choice and affordability. We can do this by aggressively investigating fraud and abuse, and offer incentives to encourage the use of fewer and less expensive services. Medicare growth needs to be controlled, but drastically increasing the premiums of Medicare recipients is not the answer.

It turns Medicaid into a block grant and slows the current growth rate of the program. The Coalition Substitute cuts less than the Republican bill—\$50 billion less in cuts—but it will significantly reorder Medicaid funding. This program is important to Illinois because 50 percent of the beneficiaries are disabled individuals who are unable to work, and 20 percent are elderly who need assistance with nursing home care costs. The Republican budget's cuts would be so severe, that long-term care for the more vulnerable elderly and disabled would be non-existent. Medicaid needs changing, and the Coalition Budget Substitute can accomplish this change without devastating the elderly and disabled in Illinois.

Many health care organizations have come out in support of the Coalition Budget Substitute because they know that our health care system cannot continue to meet the needs of the American people if the broader economy is ill. They support this alternative to the Republican budget proposal because it makes hard choices while still preserving essential safety net programs in Medicare and Medicaid.

It incorporates savings from welfare reform that will not give benefits to non-citizens. It is time for this country to put the needs of its hard-working, law-abiding citizens ahead of those who do not contribute to our economy. This bill does gives priority to legal U.S. citizens.

It does not cut guaranteed student loans. The Republican budget proposal would start penalizing children while they were still in school. We need to continue educating our children, not take away their ability to improve themselves and our country.

It deletes the tax on Federal employees, so people who have contributed all their lives to their pension will not be penalized for doing so. The Republicans included this increase in Federal employees' contributions to pay for tax cuts, but I don't agree with targeting one group of retirees for this purpose. It is not fair, and the budget proposal I voted for would right this wrong.