

carry us through the rest of the year, but the one thing that is holding it up are the anti-environmental riders that the Republican leadership insists on putting in the bill.

Today they insist on environmental riders that would bar new listings under the Endangered Species Act, prevent the EPA from protecting wetlands, provide no drinking water standards to protect the public from radon, and also to limit and cap the number of hazardous waste cleanup sites around the country.

It is no surprise to me that today the only reason we are held up on this budget bill is because the Republican leadership continues to insist on putting these anti-environmental riders in the appropriations in the budget process. It is because fundamentally, from the very beginning of this Congress, they took an anti-environmental stance because they wanted to cater to the special interests, the corporate interests, that wanted to continue to pollute and tear down our environmental laws that we have worked so hard for since Earth Day 1970.

Mr. Speaker, I know we are going to hear all kinds of rhetoric today from the Republicans about how they are so pro-environmental, but the real test is if they would eliminate the environmental riders and not put them in the budget bill. All the rest is simply rhetoric for Earth Day.

LET US ADJUST THE MINIMUM WAGE TO \$5.15 PER HOUR OVER 2 YEARS

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, one of the issues which Congress must periodically address is the adjusting of the level of minimum wage. I did not say raise the minimum wage, I said adjust the minimum wage. The last adjustment of the minimum wage dollars took place in 1991. At that time the minimum wage was adjusted from \$3.80 to the current level of \$4.25. Despite that adjustment of 45 cents, the actual buying power of basic hourly compensation is estimated to have fallen by 50 cents because of inflation. In fact, the minimum wage is now 29-percent lower than it was in 1979 and, left unchanged, its real value will be at a 40-year low by January. In the absence of any kind of automatic cost-of-living adjustment, let us take the necessary step to bring this basic entry-level wage up to where it needs to be today.

In the most simple way, we can positively affect the lives of millions of working Americans. Let us approve an adjustment in the minimum wage to \$5.15 per hour over the next 2 years.

BILL CLINTON'S JUDICIAL APPOINTEES ARE SOFT ON CRIME

(Mr. COOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COOLEY. Mr. Speaker, Bill Clinton's judges are soft on crime.

All of our antidrug and anticrime legislation is useless if Clinton's judges refuse to enforce the law.

One of Clinton's nominees to the Federal bench—a Democrat fund-raiser from Miami—didn't even know about the Supreme Court's 1995 affirmative action decision.

Another Clinton judge dismissed a defendant's confession and 75 pounds of cocaine.

Why?

The judge ruled that police are corrupt, and that drug dealers should be allowed to run away.

Bill Clinton has already appointed 25 percent of all Federal judges.

If Clinton is elected again, he will have the chance to appoint up to 50 of all Federal judges, as well as one, two, or three Supreme Court judges.

Do the American people want President Clinton to appoint half the Federal judges?

I hope not.

I, for one, would rather see a Federal judiciary that cares about crime victims.

REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON GOVERNMENT BY INCREASING THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EMPLOYERS TO PAY A MINIMUM WAGE

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, we tried welfare reform without jobs. Do we want to put these same people to work without enough pay to live on? All the welfare reform in the world will not do what a raise in the minimum wage will do. One hundred thousand kids would come out of poverty the day we lift the minimum wage. No bureaucrats, no training, just a small hike in the minimum wage. Not 1 cent added to the deficit.

Why should we subsidize employers with food stamps and other benefits in order to allow them to pay less than a minimum wage? Reduce dependency on Government by increasing the responsibility of employers to pay a minimum wage.

CORRECTIONS CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). This is the day for the call of the Corrections Calendar.

The Clerk will call the first bill on the Corrections Calendar.

CONTINUITY OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE CULTURE AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 3049) to amend section 1505 of the Higher

Education Act of 1965 to provide for the continuity of the Board of Trustees of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 3049

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

SECTION 1. CONTINUITY BOARD.

Section 1505(i) of the Higher Education Amendments of 1968 (20 U.S.C. 4412(i)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting before the period at the end of the first sentence the following: "or to recommend another individual if the member does not consent to be reappointed"; and

(2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

"(2) If the President has not transmitted to the Senate a nomination to fill the position of a member covered by such a recommendation within 60 days from the date that the member's term expires—

"(A) if the member consents to reappointment, the member shall be deemed to have been reappointed for another full term to the Board, with all the appropriate rights and responsibilities; or

"(B) if the member does not consent to reappointment, an individual recommended by the Board under paragraph (1) shall be deemed to have been appointed for a full term to the Board with all the appropriate rights and responsibilities."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. NORWOOD] and the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. KILDEE] will each be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. NORWOOD].

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

Mr. Speaker, today we are considering H.R. 3049, which simply corrects a board of trustees appointment problem for the Institute of American Indian Arts. This legislation was introduced in a bipartisan manner by our colleagues Mr. GOODLING and Mr. KILDEE at the request of the Institute. This simple fix will help maintain the continuity of the Institute's board of trustees, and will help the Institute to continue to fulfill its mission of educating those who wish to preserve our native American arts and culture.

The Institute of American Indian Arts is a federally created institution of higher education. Its primary purposes are to provide scholarly study of and instruction in Indian art and culture, and to establish programs which culminate in the awarding of degrees in the various fields of Indian art and culture. The Institute is authorized under title XV of the Higher Education Amendments of 1986, and policy for the Institute is set by a board of trustees which includes 13 voting members appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Unfortunately, the board appointment process has proven to be overly cumbersome and this has resulted in a number of board members serving additional terms, sometimes beyond the

time they wished to serve, in order to insure that the board could maintain a quorum.

The legislation we are considering today would simply amend section 1505 of the Higher Education Amendments of 1986 to allow the board to recommend successors for the board members whose terms are expiring and who do not wish to serve additional terms. The President would have the prerogative to act on these recommendations, or to appoint another qualified individual of his choosing subject to confirmation by the other body.

However, should the President fail to act within 2 months of the expiration of the sitting member's term, and should that member not wish to serve an additional term, then the individual recommended for appointment by the Board would be automatically seated.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is bipartisan and revenue neutral. It does not limit the options of the President in making appointments to the board, but merely streamlines the appointment process for this one institute. This is a small step in our efforts to make Government more responsive and less burdensome for those it is intended to serve. But it will make a real difference for those at the Institute, who are preparing the next generation and preserving an important part of our heritage.

This is commonsense legislation, and I urge its passage.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to rise in support of this legislation that I cosponsored with my friend, BILL GOODLING.

Ten years ago, I worked with BILL GOODLING, and a number of other Members, to create the Institute of American Indian Arts. The Institute was to provide a place of study and instruction in the culture, history, and arts of the native American people. Mr. Speaker, the Institute has been very successful in accomplishing this mission, as the gentleman from Georgia has pointed out. Today, the Institute offers degree granting programs in a variety of fields, and has served a vital purpose in helping educate people on the native American culture. The policy of the Institute is set by a 13-member voting board, which is appointed by the President of the United States.

The problem that brings us here today, is the appointments to the Institute's board of trustees have not been made in a timely fashion. As a result, the board of trustees does not have the ability to function in the best interest of the Institute.

This legislation, very simply, will allow the board to appoint an individual to the board if the President does not act within 2 months of the expiration of a sitting member's term.

This legislation will allow the board to operate in a more effective and efficient manner, as the gentleman from Georgia has pointed out.

I believe this legislation makes good sense, and I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

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

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada [Mrs. VUCANOVICH].

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in support of H.R. 3049 and H.R. 3055, the second and third bills brought to the floor this session under the corrections day process.

Since the commencement of corrections day, seven bills have been signed into law by the President, and six bills have passed the House and are waiting further action in the Senate. I believe we are compiling a record of success, and that the corrections calendar will continue to be relied upon by the House.

The American people are demanding a more responsive Government, and corrections day plays a key part in meeting their demands. I believe that the two bills we will consider today are superb examples of how corrections day is a process that works for the American people.

I would like to thank the members of the corrections day advisory group, especially Mr. WAXMAN, who through his and their efforts, make corrections day truly bipartisan in nature. I also want to thank Chairman GOODLING, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. KILDEE, and the Opportunities Committee for their hard work in getting these bills to the floor. I am hopeful that the Senate will recognize the need for quick action and send these bills to the President without delay.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. RICHARDSON].

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

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman and ranking member of the committee, and the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. NORWOOD], in addition, for their attention to the Institute of American Indian Arts, which is located in my district in Santa Fe, N.M. I especially want to commend the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. KILDEE]. It is true he is one of, if not the, father of this institution, with some very valuable legislation that he offered over the years, along with the Committee on Education and Labor.

Let me say, Mr. Speaker, that I will at this time support the bill, but I do have some concerns about the precedent this bill sets in putting restrictions on Presidential appointments, so this is not a Democratic or Republican issue. I believe that in the future, before we consider legislation which in any way limits a President's duty to appoint boards, that we should really take a hard look at the precedent it sets.

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Nonetheless, this bill addresses one of the biggest obstacles the Institute faces. The Institute has lost its Federal funding, half of it, last year, and has directions from this body to become totally privately funded in a matter of years.

In times like this, you need a strong board of directors that is going to raise money, that is going to find other sources of money, and which can provide strong leadership. This is very important at this time.

However, let me just state that besides that concern that I have of putting restrictions on board appointments, let me say that the board at the institute for American Indian Arts has not always been the most stable force there. They have a board now that I believe is offering leadership.

I see the gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. SKEEN] here, my good friend who is responsible for keeping the Institute alive 1 more year, and hopefully, with the help of the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. REGULA], for 3 more years in a transition to it becoming a private institution.

Again, I think this legislation is well meaning, but I think we have to be very careful about limiting Presidential appointments to boards. One of the problems has been the White House, regrettably, delayed naming many of these board members.

This is not a big fish, this issue. This fish happens to be in my congressional district, nonetheless, and it is an institute that is teaching young men and women, native American men and women, a ability to express themselves in art. Some outstanding art comes from here. The institute has gotten its act together. Let us not object to this bill.

I think as we move ahead in the other body, we should just be sure that we are not infringing on a Presidential priority, infringing on a Presidential prerogative. But I think this legislation is in response to a situation that needs to be corrected. For that reason, I will be supporting it. I hope in the days ahead we can deal with some of these concerns, but this is not the time to derail good legislation as it moves forward.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3049, a bill providing for the continuity of the Board of Trustees of the Institute for American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development. Since 1988, I have been appointed by the Speaker's office to fulfill the Board of Trustee position for the two congressional seats of the U.S. House of Representatives and I thank the Speaker for this honor.

As you know, the Institute is a federally created institution for higher education, authorized under title 15 of the Higher Education Amendments of 1986. Its primary function is to provide instruction in Indian arts and culture and establish a program which completes with the award of degrees in the contemporary and traditional fields of Indian art and culture.

Unfortunately, the appointment/reappointment process of fulfilling the Board of Trustees

vacancies has proven to be extremely cumbersome and the appointments of voting members to the board has not been made in a timely manner. H.R. 3049 would prevent the situation where board members have felt obligated to serve additional terms in order to maintain a quorum for the purpose of conducting business. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this purely technical corrections bill and thank the Speaker for the opportunity to voice my concerns.

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

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, my compliments to the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GOODLING] and the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. KILDEE] for this excellent corrections day bill. Since I have no further requests for time, I will also yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and (three-fifths having voted in favor thereof) the bill was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend section 1505 of the Higher Education Amendments of 1986 to provide for the continuity of the Board of Trustees of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONTINUED GRANT PARTICIPATION BY HISTORICALLY BLACK GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 3055) to amend section 326 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to permit continued participation by Historically Black Graduate Professional Schools in the grant program authorized by that section.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 3055

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The Historically Black Graduate Professional Schools identified under section 326 of the Higher Education Act may receive grant funds if the Secretary of Education determines that such institutions make a substantial contribution to the legal, medical, dental, veterinary, or other graduate opportunity for African Americans.

(2) The health professions schools which participate under section 326 train 50 percent of the Nation's African American physicians, 50 percent of the Nation's African American dentists, 50 percent of the Nation's African American pharmacists, and 75 percent of the Nation's African American veterinarians.

(3) A majority of the graduates of these schools practice in poor urban and rural areas of the country providing care to many disadvantaged Americans.

(4) The survival of these schools will contribute to the improved health status of disadvantaged persons, and of all Americans.

SEC. 2. ELIMINATION OF GRANT RENEWAL LIMITATION.

Section 326(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1063b(b)) is amended by striking the second sentence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. NORWOOD] and the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. CLAY] each will be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. NORWOOD].

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing me and my colleague from Missouri, Mr. CLAY, to bring to the floor a small yet important bill. H.R. 3055 corrects a situation going on here in Washington that has a big effect on five historically black colleges and universities, including two major Georgia colleges that supply health care professionals to nearly every county in my district.

Because of a technicality in the Higher Education Act of 1965, both Morehouse School of Medicine and Clark-Atlanta University could stand to lose their ability to compete for Federal education grants. Under that 1965 Act, grant eligibility is limited to two 5-year grants. These schools have received their two 5-year grants.

This was originally done to make sure a small number of schools didn't monopolize the few grants that were available, but over the years that situation has proven not to be an issue. At present, the other 11 schools covered by the Act have said that they have no objection to Morehouse and Clark, as well as the other three schools, continuing to compete, yet this unnecessary rule still is on the books, which means both colleges will be shut out of the process starting next year unless we act now.

H.R. 3055 will correct this situation. Here's why this is so important—the five schools who will lose grant eligibility under this rule provide more than half of the entire country's African-American physicians, pharmacists, and dentists, and three-quarters of all African-American veterinarians.

For the most part, these health-care professionals practice in poor urban and rural areas, where they serve a large number of poor Americans regardless of their race. It would be inexcusable to allow these colleges' ability to put qualified health-care providers in the field to be compromised because of a rule that should no longer apply.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3055 contains no new spending, and does not increase the Federal deficit. H.R. 3055 contains no new Federal mandates. But what H.R. 3055 does contain is a small measure of help for those who would provide medical help to many in rural and poor areas. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 3055.

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

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise in support of H.R. 3055 and commend my colleague, Mr. NORWOOD, for co-sponsoring this legislation. I am proud to note that this bill was favorably reported by the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities with unanimous, bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, this bill corrects a problem with respect to section 326 of title III of the Higher Education Act. That section was added to the act in 1986 as a way to provide support for historically black graduate and professional institutions of higher education which perform vitally important services for our Nation.

As Mr. NORWOOD stated, the five schools initially included in section 326 educate more than half of all black doctors, dentists, and pharmacists, as well as 75 percent of all black veterinarians each year. That is a major return on the small investment provided by the Federal Government.

H.R. 3055 allows those five institutions to continue to do what they do so well. It will allow them to remain eligible to receive section 326 support at no additional cost to the Federal Government.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan effort.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and (three-fifths having voted in favor thereof) the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RESIGNATION AS CONFEE AND APPOINTMENT OF REPLACEMENT CONFEE ON H.R. 3019, BALANCED BUDGET DOWN PAYMENT ACT, II

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a conferee:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, April 23, 1996.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I hereby resign as a conferee for the entire bill, H.R. 3019, the omnibus appropriations measure for Fiscal 1996. I intend to remain a conferee for the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education portion of the bill.

Thanking you and with best regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

STENY H. HOYER.