

in college. Under most of these plans, participation guarantees that tuition will be "locked-in" at today's prices, helping families fight inflation.

The State of Florida has an excellent program that has been operating for eight years with great success. Florida has sold more than 327,000 contracts to residents planning ahead for their children's college education. I am pleased that my own State of Maryland is planning to adopt a prepaid tuition program to help residents who are concerned about preparing for their children's future.

There are several reasons for encouraging more States to adopt plans that promote college savings:

Additional savings might enable some students to consider more expensive public as well as private schools. Consequently, families will have more choice as to which schools their children might attend. Additional savings may enable a student to live on campus rather than at home, and to attend school full-time rather than part-time.

Savings for college encourages parents to begin thinking about their children's education and planning for their future. Planning ahead might encourage parents to set higher educational standards and goals for their children.

Providing plans to encourage college savings reduces the need for student loans, which could reduce student debt and the student default rate.

Mr. Speaker, I have long supported measures to help students pay for college. At present, approximately 500,000 families nationwide participate in tuition prepayment programs that make college more affordable for middle-class families. I believe that all of our States should provide prepaid tuition or other savings plans to give American families everywhere the opportunity to save for their children's college education in advance. Helping our nation's families send their children to school is crucial to the economic strength and the cultural growth of our country.

THE NEWLY INDEPENDENT NATION OF UKRAINE

HON. ROBERT G. TORRICELLI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the newly independent nation of Ukraine which observes the 5th Anniversary of its independence on August 24. Over the past 5 years, the people of Ukraine have made dramatic progress in their struggle to build a free and democratic society. The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe and other monitoring groups report that Ukraine has the finest human rights record of all former Soviet republics. This summer, the Ukrainian Parliament passed a new Constitution which enshrines the principles of liberty, equal rights and free enterprise. Working with American corporations and private voluntary groups, President Leonid Kuchma has mounted an inspiring campaign to overcome the tragic legacy of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster, to privatize local enterprises and to revitalize the eternal life of ethnic and religious minorities which had long been suppressed under the Soviet system.

I am proud to acknowledge the remarkable accomplishments of the Ukrainian-American community in my home state of New Jersey which kept faith with the people of Ukraine during the long dark years of Soviet rule when hopes of winning freedom seemed to be remote and dim.

I especially wish to acknowledge the outstanding work of the Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund (CCRF), based in Short Hills, NJ, which over the past 6 years has become the leading provider of medical aid to Ukraine. On a modest budget of under \$3 million, CCRF has leveraged more than \$40 million worth of humanitarian aid to the hospitals which specialize in the treatment of radiation victims. I am pleased to support a new Women's & Children's Health Initiative which CCRF has launched in three provinces in Ukraine with a grant from the Monsanto Company to combat the high rate of infant mortality in rural regions. Monsanto has helped many Ukrainian farmers to quadruple their crop yields with modern agricultural techniques. Its unique partnership with CCRF offers a model for similar initiatives in other developing countries.

We should all do everything in our power to promote the cause of freedom in Ukraine, to build a health future for Ukraine's children and to strengthen the growing friendship between Ukraine and the United States.

CONFERENCE REPORT TO H.R. 3734, BUDGET RECONCILIATION—WEL- FARE REFORM

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House passed a welfare reform proposal that I believe will not achieve its stated purpose of breaking the cycle of poverty and return people to the workforce. I voted against the bill because it sacrifices the legitimate needs of legal immigrants, those trying to reenter the workforce, and children who through no fault of their own are in the need of assistance.

I support reforming the welfare system and I have voted for reforms such as those included in the bipartisan proposal by Congressmen TANNER and CASTLE. That proposal would have achieved real reform while keeping children fed and out of poverty, and providing the necessary funding for people to move from welfare into the work force.

In short, the Tanner-Castle legislation represented responsible reform. The conference report did not.

This is billed as "welfare reform." It is a scale back of benefits. It hurts children who have no control over their economic circumstances.

It fails on the issue of legal immigrants who have played by the rules we established for living in the United States. In abdicating this responsibility, the Federal Government places a heavy financial burden on local governments. In California alone, additional costs of as much as \$10 billion could burden counties over the next 6 years.

Finally, the level of financial commitment that States must meet is inadequate to address the job which is being promised. The Tanner-Castle proposal guaranteed an 85 per-

cent maintenance of effort by states. In other words, States must spend at least 85 percent of what they spent in 1994 on welfare programs and yet the conference report allows States to spend only 75 percent on their 1994 welfare budgets. The Congressional Budget Office has stated that under this bill states will have to provide additional services without additional money. Welfare recipients may find new job training opportunities, but at what cost? Less food? Less child care? These are the choices with which Congress has burdened our local governments by passing this bill.

I could not, in good conscience, support a phony reform bill that so clearly fails to provide the resources needed to move individuals from welfare to work. It hurts the innocent—the children—and my Faith, not a party nor a President nor political winds, gives me the foundation on which I cast my vote.

THE FORGOTTEN TIMORESE

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I recently read an article in the Washington Post that discusses the increasing repression of the people of East Timor by a brutal Indonesian Government and accuses the world, including the United States, of just not caring.

Mr. Speaker, the situation in Indonesia is nothing new—since 1975 when Indonesia invaded East Timor and annexed it the following year, the peaceful citizens of East Timor have lived under daily brutal assault. Just 4 years ago, Indonesian troops killed more than 250 peaceful mourners in a cemetery in Dili, the Timorese capital. In response to this reprehensible act, the Congress cut off all military training aid for Indonesia.

Last year, Congress agreed, despite the strong objection of many Members, including myself, to renew military training aid for Indonesia upon the condition that the human rights situation would improve over the course of the year. Mr. Speaker, I am sad to report that instead of improvement, we saw deterioration in the human rights situation throughout 1995. The 1995 State Department Country Report on Human Rights Practices section devoted to Indonesia spells out very clearly Indonesia's lack of progress on the human rights front.

And what do we do in light of deteriorating human rights conditions in East Timor? We vote, unbelievably, to give more military training aid to Indonesia for fiscal year 1997. Mr. Speaker, this sends the wrong message to the Indonesian Government. First, by saying one thing and doing the opposite, we give the impression that we do not mean what we say. This type of behavior gives us little credibility in the future to try to pressure the Indonesian Government to reform its oppressive ways. Second, by giving more military aid to a government whose human rights policies we find unconscionable, we give the Indonesian Government the go ahead to keep committing human rights abuses. Mr. Speaker, we must not continue to send mixed messages. We must send the strong, clear message that we will not tolerate such atrocious behavior. We must let the people of East Timor know that