

people referred to them. This bill allows non-profit and private organizations to help these people find meaningful and productive work.

Furthermore, by extending benefits to people who join this program for two years, it alleviates a fear common to almost all people who receive public assistance—that in reentering the workforce, they will lose the entirety of their benefits. Without this loss of necessary income to stop their progress, these people will no longer feel inhibited to go out and find work.

I also support this Act because it furthers the goals of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)—to help disabled persons participate in a meaningful way in our society. This bill, coupled with the ADA, not only prohibits employers from discriminating against disabled persons, but also gives those employers access to a new pool of potential recruits, who are both qualified and willing to work.

Finally, I am happy to report to you that current estimates have this bill saving the taxpayers \$38 million over the next five years. Colleagues, this bill is fiscally and socially beneficial for all Americans.

I ask that all my colleagues join this bipartisan effort to give hope and meaning to millions of people's lives.

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3433, the "Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Act."

The National Council on Disability said it best in its report to the 105th Congress on removing barriers to work when it wrote, "Social Security programs can be transformed from a lifelong entitlement into an investment in employment potential for thousands of individuals."

Historically, fewer than 1% of people with disabilities leave the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) rolls following successful rehabilitation.

Individuals with disabilities have insufficient access to, and choice of, the services and supports they need to achieve employment. In fact, most SSI and SSDI beneficiaries are never even offered rehabilitation services.

This legislation empowers individuals with disabilities to choose from the state Vocational Rehabilitation agency or among private-sector employment networks which provide an array of vocational rehabilitation, employment and other support services to beneficiaries.

It also breaks through the complexities of the current system by establishing a corps of work incentive specialists to accurately disseminate information on SSI and SSDI work incentives.

While I wish the bill included a more comprehensive approach for tackling the complex health care needs of individuals who return to work, I am glad it does include a provision to at least extend Medicare eligibility for two years during the program's implementation.

I look forward to continuing to work on these critical health care issues during the conference with the Senate on this legislation, or next year when the Commerce Committee looks at health care needs under the Medicaid program.

Mr. Speaker, despite my concerns about the health care provisions in this bill, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation before us today because it begins the process of breaking down the barriers to work for individuals with disabilities.

Preventing people from working run counter to the American spirit, a spirit that thrives on individual achievements and the larger contributions to society that result.

Creating work incentives for people with disabilities is not just humane public policy, it is sound fiscal policy.

Removing the barriers that discourage people with disabilities from working will mean they can earn a regular paycheck, pay taxes and move off public assistance. It means they can return to work and live up to their full potential.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Reps. BUNNING and KENNELLY for this work in this area. Again, I urge members to vote yes on H.R. 3433.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 450, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

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 passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, further proceedings on this question will be postponed until tomorrow.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

#### EXTENSION OF WAIVER AUTHORITY FOR THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 105-262)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I hereby transmit the document referred to in subsection 402(d)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "Act"), with respect to the continuation of a waiver of application of subsections (a) and (b) of section 402 of the Act to the People's Republic of China. This document constitutes my recommendation to continue in effect this waiver for a further 12-month period and includes my determination that continuation of the waiver currently in effect or the People's Republic of China will substantially promote the objectives of section 402 of the Act, and my reasons for such determinations.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, June 3, 1998.

#### EXTENSION OF WAIVER AUTHORITY FOR VIETNAM—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 105-263)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I hereby transmit the document referred to in subsection 402(d)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974 (the "Act"), as amended, with respect to the continuation of a waiver of application of subsections (a) and (b) of section 402 of the Act to Vietnam. This document constitutes my recommendation to continue in effect this waiver of a further 12-month period and includes my determination that continuation of the waiver currently in effect for Vietnam will substantially promote the objectives of section 402 of the Act, and my reasons for such determination.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, June 3, 1998.

#### EXTENSION OF WAIVER AUTHORITY FOR BELARUS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 105-264)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I hereby transmit the document referred to in subsection 402(d)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "Act"), with respect to the continuation of a waiver of application of subsections (a) and (b) of section 402 of the Act. This document constitutes my recommendation to continue in effect this waiver for a further 12-month period and includes my determination that continuation of the waiver currently in effect for the Republic of Belarus will substantially promote the objectives of section 402 of the Act, and my reasons for such determination. I will submit separate reports with respect to Vietnam and the People's Republic of China.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, June 3, 1998.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, and the Chair's prior announcement, the Chair will