

of the level of intensity of their response to an extremely tragic and unfortunate situation. In all likelihood, this will be the last resolution on this particular subject to come before the House, and I did want to indicate that the House is an institution and each individual in it, I believe, can be extremely proud of the way in which the Capitol community responded to such a tragic incident affecting two of its own.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 4354

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

SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE MEMORIAL FUND.

There is hereby established in the Treasury of the United States the United States Capitol Police Memorial Fund (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Fund"). All amounts received by the Capitol Police Board which are designated for deposit into the Fund shall be deposited into the Fund.

SEC. 2. PAYMENTS FROM FUND FOR FAMILIES OF DETECTIVE GIBSON AND PRIVATE FIRST CLASS CHESTNUT.

Subject to the regulations issued under section 4, amounts in the Fund shall be paid to the families of Detective John Michael Gibson and Private First Class Jacob Joseph Chestnut of the United States Capitol Police as follows:

(1) 50 percent of such amounts shall be paid to the widow and children of Detective Gibson.

(2) 50 percent of such amounts shall be paid to the widow and children of Private First Class Chestnut.

SEC. 3. TAX TREATMENT OF FUND.

(a) CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUND.—For purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, any contribution or gift to or for the use of the Fund shall be treated as a contribution or gift for exclusively public purposes to or for the use of an organization described in section 170(c)(1) of such Code.

(b) TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS FROM FUND.—Any payment from the Fund shall not be subject to any Federal, State, or local income or gift tax.

(c) EXEMPTION.—For purposes of such Code, notwithstanding section 501(c)(1)(A) of such Code, the Fund shall be treated as described in section 501(c)(1) of such Code and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code.

SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION BY CAPITOL POLICE BOARD.

The Capitol Police Board shall administer and manage the Fund (including establishing the timing and manner of making payments under section 2) in accordance with regulations issued by the Board, subject to the approval of the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate and the Committee on House Oversight of the House of Representatives. Under such regulations, the Board shall pay any balance remaining in the Fund upon the expiration of the 6-month period which begins on the date of the enactment of this Act to the families of Detective John Michael Gibson and Private First Class Jacob Joseph Chestnut in accordance with section 2, and shall disburse any amounts in the Fund after the expiration of such period in such manner as the Board may establish.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. THOMAS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. THOMAS:

Add at the end of section 4 the following: "Under such regulations, and using amounts in the Fund, a financial adviser or trustee, as appropriate, for the families of Detective John Michael Gibson and Private First Class Jacob Joseph Chestnut of the United States Capitol Police shall be appointed to advise the families respecting disbursement to them of amounts in the Fund."

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I urge that the resolution and amendment be adopted.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I support the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman by the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS).

The amendment was agreed to.

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

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1385, WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT OF 1998

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to call up for immediate consideration the conference report on the bill (H.R. 1385) to consolidate, coordinate, and improve employment, training, literacy, and vocational rehabilitation programs in the United States, and for other purposes, and that it be considered as adopted.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of July 29, 1998 at page H6604.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, although I do not intend to object, and I yield to the gentleman to explain his unanimous consent request.

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

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the conference report, H.R. 1385, the Workforce Investment Act of 1989. It has been 4 years that Members and staff have been working day and night to put this together, so it is a great day to say that we have finally made it.

I want to thank Members of the House for their contributions and to the development of the legislation. I particularly want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education, Training and Lifelong Earning, for his efforts which have brought us here today. Also the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KIL-

DEE), the ranking Democrat on the subcommittee, for working closely with us to develop this legislation and move the legislation forward in a bipartisan fashion; and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY), the ranking Democrat on the committee for his contributions toward this bipartisan effort.

I want to thank Senator JEFFORDS, the chairman of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, and Senator DEWINE, chairman of the Subcommittee on Employment and Training, for their tireless efforts. I also want to make sure that we mention Mary Gardner Claggett and Darch Phillips and Brian Kennedy of the staffs because they have spent hours and hours and hours negotiating all the crossings of the T's and the dotting of the I's. Finally, I want to thank all of those who worked with us to develop the legislation in the administration. They all provided valuable assistance, as we in the Congress developed the bill. I want to repeat that line: as we in the Congress developed the bill.

A number of important organizations who support the legislation have contributed significantly to the conference agreement, including the National Governors Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the National Association of Counties, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, the National Alliance of Business, the National Association of Private Industry Council, the Home School Legal Defense Association, the National Center for Family Literacy, the Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities, and many others.

This conference report is based on many positive reforms that are already underway in States and local communities.

H.R. 1385 vastly reduces federal involvement in job training, employment, literacy, and vocational rehabilitation programs; transfers the vast majority of resources and authority to the States and local communities; and most importantly, sends authority and responsibility into the hands of actual individuals—giving people choices in the selection of occupations, services, and service providers so that they are empowered to succeed in today's society.

The Agreement consolidates over 60 federal programs through the establishment of three block grants to States and localities, and through amendments to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

In the area of Adult Education and Literacy Programs, the Agreement will provide much-needed services to individuals through a variety of literacy providers, which can meet the unique educational needs of adult learners and assist them in becoming self-sufficient.

Adult education programs are often the key to lifting individuals out of poverty. They open doors for individuals who are illiterate, who are welfare-dependent, who are unemployed or under-employed, and who are unable to help their children to succeed in school and break the cycle of illiteracy.

To understand the need to provide assistance to adults with low levels of literacy we only need to look at the statistics. Forty-three

percent of those with the lowest literacy levels live in poverty, 17 percent receive food stamps, and 70 percent are unemployed or under-employed. More than two-thirds of unwed parents, adults in poverty, school drop-outs, and arrestees have below average literacy levels.

This Conference Agreement also allows adults, on a voluntary basis to participate in family literacy programs—an approach to addressing the literacy needs of the nation by simultaneously addressing the educational needs of at least two generations. It is the integration of the best practices of adult education, early childhood, and parent education—designed to restore the family as the focus in education.

For Disadvantaged Youth, the Agreement increases the focus of existing youth programs on longer-term academic and occupational training—on getting young people back to school, rather than stand alone, short-term employment fixes. While allowing the continuation of good summer youth employment programs, the bill requires that all employment experiences under these programs be tied to basic academic and occupational learning opportunities. Under these programs, priority for services is given to hard to serve disadvantaged youth, including a requirement that not less than 30% of local youth program funds be spent on out-of-school youth.

For Adults, the bill establishes a single delivery system for adult employment and training, that maximizes individual choice in the selection of occupations and training providers, while protecting funding for dislocated workers.

Going hand-in-hand with welfare reform, the bill encourages an “employment first” approach to job training.

The bill encourages individual responsibility and personal decision-making through the use of vouchers (individual training accounts) for the purchase of training services. This market-driven system eliminates the decades old tradition of bureaucrats making training decisions for adults. Customer choice makes the job training and employment system more responsive to the skill needs of individuals and the local labor market.

The Agreement provides a strong and active role for business, utilizing business-led local boards for the design and implementation of the training system—making sure that training is provided for the high-skill, high-wage jobs of the future. All training is to occur for occupations that are in demand.

Under the new system, individuals will choose training providers based on performance information accessed through the one-stop delivery system. This will result in a truly market-driven system where the best providers of training will prevail.

With regard to vocational rehabilitation, the Agreement significantly expands opportunities for persons with disabilities.

Under the Conference agreement, individuals with disabilities will finally have access to a comprehensive job training system that is capable of serving all who come to its doors. Unemployed individuals with disabilities will have broader job opportunities, allowing them to re-enter or in some cases enter the workforce for the first time.

The bill provides a much needed emphasis on self-employment, business ownership, and telecommuting opportunities, as well as im-

proving linkages with employers and the State workforce investment system.

In conclusion, as the barriers to local reforms are removed through this legislation, we will see an array of newly energized programs emerge that will provide individual participants with the information they need to make informed choices—and help them acquire the skills that make them most attractive on the local job market.

We will see reformed systems that make sense in today's economy, and that can adapt as the economy continues to change and grow.

I urge all of my colleagues to join with us in support of this Conference Report on H.R. 1385 that will empower individuals to make their own decisions that will enable them to be self-sufficient and prosper in today's society.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I thank the gentleman, and I rise in support of the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, a highly skilled workforce is essential if we are to be successful in the increasingly competitive global economy. Now, more than ever, we must rely on the skills and productivity of American workers. Education and job training programs provide the opportunity to learn and improve skills. We must make sure that those programs are as effective as possible. So I am pleased to be a part of the effort to improve the quality of our education and training system, while eliminating duplication of efforts and unnecessary bureaucracy.

Let me express my gratitude to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING), to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON), and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) for their hard work on the House legislation. Also, for their continued efforts to move this bill through conference and on to the President's desk.

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I am pleased that there is broad agreement, Mr. Speaker, one, to foster the development of one-stop intake systems that will provide comprehensive information on the kinds of assistance available to those seeking help; two, to tailor job training assistance to the particular needs of each individual; three, to provide those seeking assistance with comprehensive consumer information about the quality of programs; four, to improve the quality of training and the accountability of the system; and five, to streamline and coordinate the delivery of services.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this bipartisan legislation, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the conference report.

Mr. Speaker, continuing my reservation of objection, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON).

Mr. MCKEON. I thank the gentleman for yielding to me, Mr. Speaker.

I rise in strong support of the conference report for H.R. 1385, the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. This agreement is an important step in addressing the Nation's long-term Work-

force preparation needs by helping States and local communities to make sense out of our current confusing array of employment training and literacy programs.

The American economy is strong and is increasingly driven by creativity, innovation, and technology. It has been reported that new high-skilled jobs are growing at nearly three times the rate of other jobs. However, many employers are finding it increasingly difficult to find workers with the skill necessary to fill these high-wage positions.

This agreement will provide opportunities for more Americans to obtain these jobs. The agreement accomplishes long overdue reform, consolidating over 60 Federal programs through the establishment of three block grants to States and localities for the provision of such services, and through amendments to the Rehabilitation Act.

It accomplishes key reforms in this country's job training system by building on the three principles of individual choice, quality training for the 21st century, and the transfer of resources and authority for employment, training and literacy programs to States and local communities.

For youth, we amend the JTPA's current disadvantaged youth programs, increasing the focus of such programs on long-term term academic and occupational training, rather than short-term employment fixes; requiring that all employment experiences under these programs be tied to academic and occupational learning opportunities; and prioritizing services for hard-to-serve disadvantaged youth, including school dropouts.

For adults we establish a single delivery system for adult employment and training that maximizes individual choice through the use of vouchers for “individual training accounts” for the purchase of training services.

This market-driven system, focusing on customer choice, makes the job training and employment system more responsive to the skill needs of individuals in the local labor market. Not only will this conference agreement result in improved services to dislocated workers, but it will also result in enhanced services provided to welfare recipients who must make the transition from welfare to work.

Title II of the Workforce Investment Act amends the current Adult Education Act, consolidating adult education programs into a flexible block grant to States. This portion of the agreement includes important linkages to employment and training programs to ensure that individuals seeking employment and training services have the literacy skills they need in order to succeed.

With regard to vocational rehabilitation, this agreement will provide more job opportunities to individuals with disabilities, and provide a much-needed emphasis on self-employment, business ownership, and telecommunicating opportunities, as well as linkages with

employers and the State workforce investment system.

This agreement will not only provide the flexibility that States and local communities need to vastly improve their employment and training efforts, but it will provide individuals that are in need of these services with the information, choice, and resources that they need to become skilled and gainfully employed.

The skills of this Nation's workforce are more important today than ever before. This agreement will go far to help States and local communities to reform employment training and literacy programs that address the individual skill needs of their citizens. It will go far to empower individuals to break the cycle of dependency that has plagued our country for too long.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Members of our committee for their contributions in the development of this legislation; in particular, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Chairman GOODLING), for his insight and leadership over the years on this issue; and the ranking member of the full committee, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY), and the Democrat on the post-secondary subcommittee, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), with whom I have worked very closely in coming to this agreement. I want to thank them for their help and support.

In addition, I want to thank all of the Senate conferees for their efforts, especially Senator JEFFORDS, the chairman of the Labor and Human Resources Committee, and Senator DEWINE, chairman of the Employment and Training Subcommittee.

I would also like to thank the staff for their hard work on this conference agreement: Vic Klatt, Sally Lovejoy, Mary Gardner Clagett, D'Arcy Philps, Lynn Selmsler, Jeff Andrade, Andrea Weiss, and Brian Kennedy from the Democrat staff. I would also like to thank the administration for working with us to make this a bipartisan effort.

Finally, I am very pleased that the National Governors Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures, and the National Association of Counties are supporting this agreement, as well as leading national business operations. This is truly a good agreement that will help this country's workers gain the skills they need to succeed in today's workforce. I urge Members' strong support for this conference report.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, continuing under my reservation of objection, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to have been part of this bipartisan effort to streamline and reform our Nation's job training system. I have enjoyed working with my friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. BUCK MCKEON),

the chairman of the subcommittee, and I also appreciate the hard work and leadership of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING), the Chairman, and the ranking member, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) on this legislation.

The conference report we consider today represents a culmination of a 4-year effort to improve our job training system and eliminate the unnecessary duplication and bureaucracy.

The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 consolidates over 60 separate Federal job training programs into a single coordinated system. The legislation builds on President Clinton's proposed G.I. Bill for Workers by providing individual training accounts, so that those who seek assistance can choose the kind of training that best meets their needs.

The Workforce Investment Act also increases accountability by providing individuals seeking training with report cards on the quality of programs offered by eligible providers, and hold States and localities responsible for meeting high levels of performance. I am also pleased that the legislation protects funding for dislocated workers, and better targets programs for at-risk youth by setting aside a significant amount of dollars for funding out-of-school youth.

I am also pleased that the bill includes a strong summer jobs element, and the concentrated youth opportunity grant program developed by the President and Secretary Herman.

Mr. Speaker, the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 is an example of what we in Congress can do when we put aside our partisan differences and work together to promote the interests of all Americans. Again, I am proud to have been a part of this process, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this conference report.

I would like to thank the staff members who have worked so hard on this: Mary Gardner Clagett, D'Arcy Philps, Vic Klatt, Brian Kennedy, Jennifer Maranzano of my own staff, and Mary Ellen Sprengel.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, continuing to reserve my right to object, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. MARTINEZ).

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

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Conference Report on the Workforce Investment Act, and urge everyone to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Conference Report on the Workforce Investment Act.

Trained skills are an essential ingredient not only for individual success, but also for the United States as a whole if we intend to remain competitive in this increasingly technological world.

In the near future this body will legislate to increase the number of immigrants to this country in an attempt to address the current shortage of skilled workers.

What we should be doing, and are attempting to do through this legislation, is increasing the skill level of our own workforce.

Although unemployment is currently at an all time low, there are still too many unemployed and underemployed Americans, and this number will only increase as the welfare reform act mandates those currently on the welfare rolls to enter the workforce.

That is why this bill, the Workforce Investment Act, is so essential.

This bill, which passed both the House and Senate earlier this year with overwhelming support, is, in my opinion, even better today thanks to the long hours and dedication of the conference committee and staff.

This bill consolidates the more than 60 existing Federal training programs, which have often been criticized as being too fragmented and duplicative.

It provides States with the flexibility necessary to implement programs that will best suit their particular needs while maintaining high standards and accountability.

It emphasizes one-stop centers that allow consumers to more easily access job training services. It also targets resources to those who need them most—youth, low-income, and displaced workers.

Last night the Senate passed this bipartisan conference report with unanimous consent. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the conference report is agreed to.

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I would inquire of the distinguished majority leader if he would outline the schedule for the remainder of the day and for next week.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ARMEY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that we have concluded legislative business for the week. The House will next meet on Monday, August 3rd, at 10:30 a.m. for morning hour, and at 12 o'clock noon for legislative business. We do not expect any recorded votes before 5 o'clock p.m. on Monday.

On Monday, August 3, we will also consider a number of bills under suspension of the rules, a list of which will be distributed to Members' offices this afternoon.

After suspensions, Mr. Speaker, the House will continue consideration of H.R. 2183, the Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act of 1997. Following wrap-up