

2. Short-term accommodations for some of the refugees in Taiwan, with opportunities of job training in order for them to be better equipped for the restoration of their homeland upon their return.

3. Furthermore, support the rehabilitation of the Kosovo area in coordination with international long-term recovery programs when the peace plan is implemented.

We earnestly hope that the above-mentioned aid will contribute to the promotion of the peace plan for Kosovo. I wish all the refugees an early return to their safe and peaceful Kosovo homes.

HONORING THE YOUTH AWARD
WINNERS OF THE HISPANIC
YOUNG PEOPLES ALTERNATIVE

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 1999

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Youth Award Winners who are being honored by the Hispanic Young Peoples Alternative (HYPA). These young people are being recognized this day for the effort and hard work which has led and will lead them to continued success. In these times of uncertainty, limited resources, and random violence in our communities and schools, it is encouraging to know that they have overcome these obstacles and succeeded. And they have succeeded not only for themselves, but for their community as well.

These students have learned that community service is an important part of their education. They have exhibited great maturity and responsibility by taking on the personal challenge of working to make the community a better place. Their contributions are priceless. They understand that—along with education—community service is an important part of gaining new opportunities and going on to greater endeavors. Their success is not only a tribute to their strength but also to the support they have received from their parents and loved ones.

In closing, I encourage all my colleagues to join me in congratulating the young people of HYPA and all of the youth of America who are engaged in community service. These young people we honor today will be the leaders of tomorrow. And as we approach the new millennium, it is our responsibility to pave the road for this great Nation's future. Members of the U.S. House of Representatives I ask you to join me in recognizing the following Youth Award winners: Rosalie Nuñez, Peter J. Ramos, Emanuel Hernández, Peter M. Ramos, George Lozado, Steven Amenula, Thomas Nuñez, Paticio Cacho Jr., and Jessica Garcia.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 1999

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 214, had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

H.R. 1070, BREAST AND CERVICAL
CANCER TREATMENT ACT

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 1999

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the bipartisan Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act, H.R. 1070. This important legislation will help women beat back the ravages of breast and cervical cancer and save lives.

Every year, Cervical cancer kills 4,400 women and breast cancer kills over 46,000 women and is the leading cause of death among women between 40 and 45. This bill builds on a current program which covers screening services, but does not cover treatment for women who are detected with cancer. The bipartisan Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act takes the vital next step to offer lifesaving treatment to cancer victims.

The medical community has the technology to detect and treat breast and cervical cancer. This bill will strengthen the existing ad hoc patchwork of providers, volunteers, and local programs that often results in unpredictable, delayed, or incomplete. The bill will offer consistent, reliable method of treatment for uninsured and underinsured women fighting breast or cervical cancer.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to say that H.R. 1070 has 248 co-sponsors. I want to compliment Representative ESHOO on her work on this issue. However, I am not pleased with the Republican leadership which has given inadequate attention to this bill. The Republican controlled House has not even held a Committee hearing on the "Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act". This bill has enough co-sponsors to pass. We should pass this legislation and help save the lives of women.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 1999

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, on June 17, 1999 the House debated the Consequences for Juvenile Offenders Act (H.R. 1501). Following the vote, I was dismayed to see that I was listed as not voting on rollcall vote No. 223. I was on the floor and am positive I put my card in the voting device. Had my vote been recorded, it would have been "nay."

H.R. 2015

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 1999

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I introduced H.R. 2015 on June 7, 1999. This legislation would reauthorize the Welfare to Work Tax Credit and the Work Opportunity Tax Credit programs for five years. Both of these tax credits are set to expire on June 30th of this year.

Mr. Speaker, for the last seven years America has experienced an historic level of eco-

nomie growth. The unemployment rate is at a 29 year low, and over 18 million jobs have been created. But, despite this spectacular success there still are many pockets of poverty and of unemployment or underemployment in our country. Mr. Speaker, the Welfare to Work tax credit and the Work Opportunity Tax Credits are specifically targeted to increasing employment amongst the hardest to hire worker groups in this country. These credits reward work, and their tax benefits accrue to the private firms that hire from these at-risk groups. If we are serious about moving millions of welfare recipients as well as unemployed and underemployed Americans into full time jobs in the private sector, Congress must act now to fully reauthorize the Welfare to Work and Work Opportunity Tax Credits.

The Welfare to Work Tax Credit was established as part of the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997. This tax credit is intended for long term Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) recipients. A private firm that hires a member of a family that has received TANF benefits for at least 18 consecutive months can apply for the credit. The Welfare to Work Tax Credit counts against a firm's federal income tax liability for an amount up to 35% of the first \$10,000 earned during the individual's first year of employment, and 50% for the first \$10,000 earned during the second year of employment. An employer must retain eligible workers for at least 400 hours or 180 days in order to receive the credit. In the first two quarters of FY 1999, over 47,000 Welfare to Work certifications were issued.

The Work Opportunity Tax Credit was initially authorized as part of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996. This tax credit is intended for several hard to hire groups other than long term welfare recipients. Groups eligible for the Work Opportunity Tax Credit are: Members of families receiving TANF benefits for any 9 months during the 18 month period before starting employment; 18 to 24 year-olds whose principal place of abode in an empowerment zone or an enterprise community; 18 to 24 year-olds who are members of families receiving food stamp benefits for the 6-month period ending on the hiring date; 16 to 17 year-olds hired for summer work for any 90 day period between May 1 and September 15 whose principal place of abode is an empowerment zone or an enterprise community.

Veterans who are members of families that have received food stamps for at least a 3 month period during the 15 month period ending on the hiring date.

Individuals with physical or mental disabilities that have been referred by their state's vocational rehabilitation program.

Economically disadvantaged ex-felons.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients.

For eligible hires who remain on a firm's payroll at least 400 hours, an employer can apply a Work Opportunity Tax credit against the firm's federal income tax for an amount equal to up to 40 percent of the first \$6,000 in wages paid during the worker's first year of employment. For eligible hires who remain employed from 120 hours to 399 hours the Work Opportunity Tax Credit rate is 25 percent for the first \$6,000 in wages. With regards to summer youth employees, the Work Opportunity Tax Credit is applied against the first \$3,000 earned in any 90 day period between May 1 and September 15. During Fiscal

Year 1998, 285,322 Work Opportunity Tax Credit certifications were issued. For the first two quarters of FY 1999, 157,850 such certifications were issued.

Both the Welfare to Work and Work Opportunity Tax Credits are set to expire this year on June 30th. H.R. 2015 would reauthorize both credits for five years. Mr. Speaker, I believe it is important that this Congress take a firm stand in favor of economic development and reduce the remaining pockets of unemployment and underemployment in this country by fully reauthorizing both the Welfare to Work and the Work Opportunity Tax Credits for 5 years. Both these credits have minimal impact on the federal budget. The Joint Committee of Taxation estimated that currently issued credit certifications for the Work Opportunity Tax Credit would cost \$445 million between fiscal year 1999 and fiscal year 2004, and Welfare to Work credits would cost \$25 million for the same period. We cannot afford to put these programs at risk each year during the annual budget process. We need to reauthorize them for at least a full 5 year period. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 2015.

HONORING THE SPECIAL GRADUATES OF MIDDLE SCHOOL 136

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 1999

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating special graduates of the 12th Congressional District of New York. I am certain that this day marks the culmination of much effort and hard work which has led and will lead them to continued success. In these times of uncertainty, limited resources, and random violence in our communities and schools, it is encouraging to know that they have overcome these obstacles and succeeded.

These students have learned that education is priceless. They understand that education is the tool to new opportunities and greater endeavors. Their success is not only a tribute to their strength but also to the support they have received from their parents and loved ones.

In closing, I encourage all my colleagues to support the education of the youth of America. With a solid education, today's youth will be tomorrow's leaders. And as we approach the new millennium, it is our responsibility to pave the road for this great Nation's future. Members of the U.S. House of Representatives I ask you to join me in congratulating the following Academic Achievement Award Recipients: Andrew Caceres and Fi Lan Ho.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 1999

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 215, had I been present, I would have voted "aye".

IN SUPPORT OF AMERICAN AGRICULTURE

HON. RONNIE SHOWS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 1999

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, today I stand before my colleagues and the American people to discuss the American farmer. I have done so before and am more than happy to stand up for the American Farm Family again.

My district, in Mississippi, is largely supported by agriculture. Family farmers, and I was once a farmer, are our neighbors, friends and community leaders. They provide a foundation of sound American values and a strong work ethic to communities all across our nation. When you get right down to it, they are good people who work hard to make a living and raise their families.

There's more, much more, to say about our farmers, though. The American family farmer is the most successful and efficient farmer in the world. Our agricultural industry feeds and clothes more people than any other system of agriculture on the planet. The American farmer is one of America's greatest success stories. They have excelled through the best and worst of times.

Our farmers fed a hungry nation during the Great Depression, sustained our great army during World War II. And, when the soldiers came home, our farmers went to work with new and dynamic technologies and machinery. They have helped feed, clothe, fuel and grow our economy without ever looking back.

We cannot turn our backs on our farmers when they need our help. We cannot afford to.

Our farmers and ranchers are feeling financial and emotional stress. Prices of commodities have been spiraling downward over the past year. Many of our farm families have seen prices for their hard work hit decade lows over the recent months. We must continue to act in support of our American farm families.

Let's fight for the farmers as they work to meet the demands of the EPA. Let's give them the time and support they need in the Farm Quality Protection Act.

Let's continue supporting the Conservation Reserve Program. Mississippi's very own Jamie Whitten realized this monumental piece of legislation that has added millions of acres in needed pine trees. This program needs our continued support. Dairy Farmers in Mississippi and across America need the USDA to enact Option 1A. Let me say that again. America's Dairy Farmers need option 1A and I urge the USDA to do the right thing.

Let's support our farmers because they support us everyday.

TRIBUTE TO STOCKTON MORRIS, PENNSYLVANIA DELEGATE TO THE FIRST JUVENILE DIABETES CONGRESS IN WASHINGTON, DC

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 1999

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Stockton Morris,

a 9 year old student at the Coopertown Elementary School who has just completed the third grade. On Sunday, June 20, Stockton will be traveling to Washington, DC as a Pennsylvania delegate to the First Juvenile Diabetes Congress to raise the awareness of the Congress and the country about diabetes.

Diabetes is a devastating disease which affects over 16 million Americans. Even though 1,700 people are diagnosed with diabetes each day, half of those who have this disease do not even know it. Unlike many other chronic and potentially deadly diseases, there is so much more that we can do to tackle diabetes—much of it simply through education and awareness. Most important, however, is the need for increased funding for diabetes research at NIH and CDC so that we may someday discover a cure to eradicate this disease.

I have heard from many of Stockton's friends and teachers. All of them applaud him for his character and courage. Susan Mingey, a teacher in Stockton's school, wrote to me saying, "As a teacher in Stockton's school, I have watched him for almost four years carry himself with dignity and honor as he accepts the day to day routine of 'highs and lows' with needles. I have listened to him explain his disease to peers, teachers, and Coopertown's youngest students with the knowledge and authority of one who is in control of his disease." Karen Brimer, Stockton's Learning Support Teacher, wrote to say, "I have seen Stockton grow into such a wonderful young person. He is full of knowledge, wisdom, and zest for life. I often look at him as my teacher when it comes to learning about diabetes."

Stockton has worked patiently, quietly, and courageously to raise the awareness of his schoolmates regarding this disease. He has even raised money for research to find a cure. On Sunday, Stockton will be taking his efforts to a new level, traveling to Washington, DC to raise the awareness of the country and the Congress about the need for increased research dollars.

Three years ago, I myself was diagnosed with adult-onset diabetes, a disease in which the body does not produce or properly use insulin—a hormone which breaks down sugar and converts it to energy. I was diagnosed after I underwent a diabetes screening test after former Speaker Newt Gingrich urged me and my colleagues to become more involved with fighting diabetes. I have type II diabetes, the most common form, and can easily treat and control my condition through medication, exercise, and diet. Since then I have worked as a leading Member of the House diabetes caucus to do what Stockton has been so successful at—teach others about the disease, and raise awareness about the need for increased research dollars.

In April of this year, I introduced legislation that will help us to fight this deadly disease by raising public awareness and provide increased funding for research. This innovative legislation, called the Stamp Out Diabetes Act, would create a new first-class postage stamp to raise funds for diabetes research. Under my legislation, supporters of diabetes research would voluntarily pay between 34 cents and 41 cents for the special stamp. The additional penny to eight cents would be earmarked for diabetes research at the National Institutes of Health, after the administrative costs incurred by the postal service are subtracted.