

Education Amendments. These changes gave the Secretary the authority to offer the same kind of repayment incentives to Direct Loan borrowers as exist in the bank-based program.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to note that there is a third piece of good news in which Congress has played an important role. In fiscal year 2000 alone, \$4 billion has been recovered on defaulted loans through vigorous collection efforts by the Department of Education and the loan guaranty agencies. Congress authorized the use of offsetting Federal income tax refunds, wage garnishment, and other methods to aid in the collection of these loans.

What is important, however, is that defaulters also have the opportunity to get out of default through loan consolidation and the opportunity to repay their loans based on their income. We must never burden students with loans they cannot repay, and much of our current as well as future savings will be due to the appropriate use of the carrot as well as the stick.

Declining default rates, increased collections, savings produced by the direct student loan program—when we combine the fruits of all these labors, the end result is that we are saving American taxpayers \$18 billion.

Too often we overlook the good news in education and fail to note the successes of our legislation and its implementation.

Let us take a moment here to offer congratulations to all for the excellent news coming out of higher education this year.

DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION AGENDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Democratic education agenda for the 107th Congress.

We live in a changed world: a new economy, new technology, and new family realities. More than ever, we all need our children to achieve their full potential. But our children are not getting the support they need.

Our friends in the majority promised radical improvements for public education when they gained control of the House 6 years ago. They said they would get the government out of our schools, and they followed through on that pledge by trying to abolish the Department of Education.

They continually turned their backs on their responsibility to focus on the priorities of the American people. Saying the Federal government has no place in our public schools did nothing to lift up a child or to help a parent, and the American people rightly rejected their plan.

I quote the distinguished majority leader, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), when I say, "It is time for a new vision."

While looking forward to the 107th Congress, Democrats will make six new commitments to modernize our public schools and lift up every child:

First, we will recruit and train high quality teachers and principals. Be-

cause America's public schools are attended by 90 percent of American children, we need to ensure that every class is led by a highly-qualified teacher; we also aim to establish new incentives to recruit highly-qualified teachers.

Secondly, we will reduce class size. We will recruit 100,000 highly-qualified teachers and reduce class sizes for grades one through three to a national average of 18 children;

Thirdly, we will build accountability measures to ensure that school districts and States set high standards and help every student achieve by building on proven reforms;

Fourthly, we will build new schools and repair existing ones. The Federal help to renovate 6,000 local public schools and repair an additional 8,300 schools to improve learning conditions is vital to our children's future.

We will aim to expand educational technology. We will continue to provide schools with Internet capacity, and bring new technology into the classrooms.

Finally, we will promote lifelong learning in all of our public schools. Our agenda wants to put America on the path to have preschool universally available to every child, and to bring the dream of a college education closer to reality for everyone by making tuition more affordable through tax relief, and by increasing funds for college grants and loans.

These simple six steps will ensure that our children are guaranteed the education they deserve.

Since coming to the House of Representatives, I have worked to bring Congress to the classroom. Two years ago, I visited Crispus Attucks Junior High School, which was my alma mater. Crispus Attucks is a good example of what can be achieved when people in government are committed to public education and public schools.

The school created a good learning environment and provides training on computers and the Internet.

I worked to have Crispus Attucks High School connected with a school in Darby, United Kingdom, and they are doing a tremendous job because they have similar characteristics, and are getting acquainted in a very vital way with each other.

However, more help is needed. With information technology now a key element of the global economy, we must make sure that our children are prepared to use this technology when they enter the world of work.

The Democratic agenda aims to secure computers for all schools. The future of our children is vital, and Federal help must not be seen as negative big government intervention.

The educator and author Derek Bok once wrote, "If you think education is expensive, try ignorance." Bad House majority policies have cost America dearly. Children are being neglected, and they cannot raise themselves.

We would provide \$1.7 billion for reducing class size. The opposition did

not guarantee one Federal dollar for class size reduction.

We would provide a new \$1 billion teacher quality initiative, whereas the opposition has rejected this proposal and has proposed funding lower than this for two combined programs.

We would provide \$1.3 billion to leverage about \$6.7 billion in grants and loans to fund school renovation. The opposition rejects this approach.

All of our proposals, including funding for after-school programs, safe-and-drug-free schools, accountability and the Head Start and Gear-Up programs have either been rejected or cut dramatically by the House leadership. This is unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to stand up for education and for our schools, and work towards a better America for all of our children. If we do not stand up for education and our schools, we will fall for anything.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PROFESSOR DANIEL J. MCFADDEN ON WINNING NOBEL PRIZE FOR ECONOMICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to recognize and to congratulate a distinguished member of the University of California at Berkeley, Professor Daniel J. McFadden.

Last week, Professor McFadden, along with Professor James Heckman of the University of Chicago, received the Nobel Prize for Economics.

Together, through their research and observations, they have contributed significantly to the understanding of individual and societal behavior. Their vital work cuts across disciplinary barriers and greatly enhances our understanding of economics and public policy.

Prior to joining the world of the academic and social sciences community at the University of California at Berkeley in 1963, Professor McFadden, like many of us, attended public school.

As a young man during his college years, he was always attracted to the studies of human behavior. His passion for the field of behavioral sciences and the drive to learn and analyze human behavior helped launch an ambitious career and a lifelong commitment to the study of behavioral and social sciences.

Subsequently, Dr. McFadden developed and linked these behavioral theories to mathematics, statistics, and economics.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud and honored to congratulate and recognize Professor McFadden for this lifetime of achievements. His dedication and his outstanding work in economics have contributed significantly to our society.

The implications of his research extend far beyond the ivory tower. Because of his efforts, governmental