

achievement is widely acknowledged, it is also the case that significant numbers of K-12 students are being taught science and math by unqualified teachers.

Not only do we need to ensure a high quality of science and math education for our students, but we also need to ensure there is sufficient quantity of trained teachers available to teach them. The bill I am introducing today would begin to address the shortage of qualified science and math teachers by providing an incentive for individuals with the content knowledge to try teaching as a career.

Most students emerge from college with a heavy debt load—and studies have shown that average debt has tended upward, since college tuition costs have been increasing faster than inflation. So scholarships would be particularly beneficial for those considering entering the teaching field where starting salaries are relatively low.

Mr. Speaker, to keep economic growth strong in the long-term, we need continued innovation. But innovation doesn't happen by itself—it requires a steady flow of scientists and engineers. My bill can begin to help provide this steady flow and ensure that our future workforce will be prepared to succeed in our increasingly technologically based world. With estimates of 240,000 new science and math elementary and secondary teachers needed over the next decade, we must work to provide the incentives now to bring these teachers into our schools.

For the information of our colleagues I am submitting a summary of the bill.

SCIENCE TEACHER SCHOLARSHIPS FOR
SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS ACT
SUMMARY

This bill would authorize a program of one-year, \$7500 scholarships to those with bachelors degrees in science, mathematics, or engineering, or those nearing completion of such degrees, to enable them to take the courses they need to become certified as K-12 science or math teachers. Such awards would be made through competitive, merit-based procedures.

The purpose: To ensure not only high quality of science and math education but also a sufficient quantity of trained teachers available to teach them.

BACKGROUND

The Science Committee held a series of hearings in the 106th Congress on various aspects of math and science education. From these hearings it became clear that student performance in these areas is weak and that no single factor is the key to improving student performance. But the testimony did suggest that a necessary, if not sufficient, condition for improved student performance is teachers with both good content knowledge and pedagogical skills. Current problems in the realm of math and science teaching are difficulties in attracting and retaining math and science teachers and deficiencies in the training of new teachers and in professional development activities for existing teachers.

WHAT THE BILL DOES

Authorization: The bill would authorize the director of the National Science Foundation to make awards to institutions of higher education to provide scholarships to those with bachelors degrees in science, mathematics, or engineering, or those nearing completion of such degrees, to enable them to take the courses they need to become certified as K-12 science or math teachers. Such awards would be made through competitive,

merit-based procedures. The bill would authorize \$20 million to be appropriated to NSF for each of the fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004.

Eligibility: Institutions of higher education offering bachelors degrees in science, math, and engineering and coursework toward teacher certification are eligible to apply for awards under the program. Individuals provided scholarships shall be undergraduate students majoring in science, math, or engineering who are within one academic year of completion of degree requirements or graduates of bachelors or advanced degree programs in science, math, or engineering.

Requirements for Application: Each scholarship application would include a plan specifying the course of study that would allow the applicant to fulfill the academic requirements for obtaining a teaching certification during the scholarship period.

Work Requirement: As a condition of acceptance of a scholarship under this Act, a recipient would agree to work as a science teacher for a minimum of two years following certification as such a teacher or to repay the amount of the scholarship to NSF.

TRIBUTE TO HIS BEATITUDE MAR
NASRALLAH BOUTROS CARDINAL
SFEIR, MARONITE PATRIARCH
OF ANTIOCH AND ALL THE EAST

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today at a Congressional Luncheon hosted by myself and Rep. RAY LAHOOD, and attended by many Members of the House, we had the privilege of hearing remarks made by His Beatitude Mar Nasrallah Boutros Cardinal Sfeir, Maronite Patriarch of Antioch and all the East. This is the Patriarch's first visit to the United States since 1988, and he is here on the occasion of the elevation of the first American born Maronite Bishop Ralph Shaheen.

While in the United States, the Patriarch expressed his vision of peace for Lebanon and the Middle East Region.

Lebanon, the homeland of my grandfathers and its people, cherish the same values of democracy, respect for human rights, independence and sovereignty cherished by the people of America. That is why the Patriarch, the church and the people and government of Lebanon have supported the Middle East peace talks of the past, and hope for a resumption of those talks in the near future.

Mr. Speaker I submit the words of His Beatitude, the Maronite Patriarch of Antioch and All the East be entered in the RECORD, so that my colleagues will be enabled to hear his urgent plea on behalf of a continued alliance between the United States and Lebanon.

I am honored to be here among members of the legislative body which makes laws for the United States and which have an influence on the whole world. I thank you for all the support you have given and are giving to Lebanon and its people. I wish to speak about Lebanon, a country of 10,000 square kilometers and 4 million people, but a country whose historical roots extend more than 6,000 years. It is the country where the alphabet was invented by the Phoenicians, who spread its knowledge not by war, but through trade and human interaction.

Lebanon is a peace loving country which wants to live in peace with all its neigh-

boring countries, including Syria and Israel. As a matter of fact, the Maronite Church and the Lebanese people cherish the same values of democracy, respect for human rights, independence and sovereignty cherished by the American people. The entry of the Syrian troops into Lebanon in 1976 was done without the request or permission of anyone, as stated by former President Hafez al-Assad in his speech of July 20, 1976. This was also noted by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in his book. From that time Syria has established its hegemony over Lebanon.

While we have always advocated good relations between Syria and Lebanon, true international relations are possible only when the countries involved relate to each other on an equal footing. They cannot be established if one country dominates the other. Within the country, the people of Lebanon seek to be democratic, where Christians and Moslems live in peaceful co-existence, unless an outside element provokes a conflict. We seek human and religious values—faith in God, justice, equality, respect for human rights.

Lebanon stands in the Middle East between Israel and Syria, and has suffered difficulties for a quarter of a century—17 years of war, thousands of victims, and terrible destruction. The Taef Agreement of 1989 was supposed to bring an end to the war. The United States was a principal sponsor. However, Taef has been implemented only partially and in a discriminatory fashion. As a result, Lebanon has yet to recover its institutional foundations. If the cannons are silent, anxiety still remains. The country suffers from a succession of crises due to the political situation in Lebanon, in which Lebanon lacks sovereignty, independence, and freedom in its decision-making.

The South of Lebanon is still in a state of instability. A large number of its citizens are either in exile, displaced or in prison, leaving their families in dire straits. The Israeli-Palestinian negotiations raise the question of the final settlement of the Palestinian refugees, who have a right to a just solution. However, no agreement should be made at the expense of the Lebanese people. Imposing on tiny Lebanon a large foreign population would have dire demographic effects, since Lebanon already has the highest population per capita in the region. It destabilizes the balance between Christians and Moslems, and even among the Moslems themselves.

It is in the interest of the United States to help Lebanon for the following reasons:

(1) Lebanon seeks to be a democratic country and to enjoy freedom.

(2) Lebanon has always had one face toward the East and the other toward the West. It possesses the culture of both East and West.

(3) The credibility of the United States requires that it help Lebanon, and to liberate it from all foreign troops, according to the Taef Agreement, sponsored by the United States.

(4) There is a large number of Lebanese immigrants in the United States who have achieved success in the higher levels of business and politics, and thereby can make an impact on the American political system.

(5) Christian influence is diminishing in the Middle East and in Lebanon which has always been a stronghold of Christianity. If there were no more Christians there, this would be a catastrophe for Christianity, but would also undermine respect for human rights.

I know that you have the same view as we, namely, that there should be no outside hegemony over Lebanon, even after the departure of non-Lebanese troops. Lebanon should remain an oasis of democracy, freedom, human values, and respect for human rights. Again, thank you for your welcome and support. May God bless you in your important work.