

Award from the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association.

Tarquina has worked for over 25 years at the Women's Health Care Clinic in Torrance, California. This Clinic serves over 14,000 women annually and would not succeed without the commitment of individuals like Tarquina.

Following knee surgery in 1996, for example, she returned to the Clinic wearing a cast in order not to fall behind in her work. When a fellow practitioner injured her hand, Tarquina took over that person's breast exams in addition to her own caseload. Her efforts set the standard for dedication.

In 1996, Tarquina was the recipient of the "Unsung Hero Award" from Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. She was also voted Employee of the Year for 1998 and 1999.

Providing women safe and affordable access to health care is among my highest priorities in Congress. While there are actions I can—and do—take in Congress, their implementation depends on dedicated workers like Tarquina.

I am proud to join Tarquina's colleagues and friends in congratulating her on the receipt of this prestigious national award and invite my colleagues to join me in commending her exemplary public service.

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ENSURING THAT NO CHILD IS  
LEFT BEHIND REQUIRES MORE

**HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2001*

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, the House has taken a major step in supporting the federal government's role in education with the passage of H.R. 1, the No Child Left Behind Act, which re-authorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Through this legislation, we have made a \$22.8 billion commitment for elementary and secondary education programs—a \$5 billion increase over last year.

Specifically, this comprehensive measure authorizes \$11.5 billion for Title I grants, which assist school districts serving economically disadvantaged students; requires states and school districts to issue report cards on aspects of student performance and teacher qualifications; requires all teachers to achieve state certification by 2005; and allocates \$1.3 billion for afterschool programs, including the 21st Century Learning Centers and the Safe and Drug-Free Schools.

I am also pleased that amendments calling for the implementation of block grants and private school vouchers were soundly defeated during floor consideration of H.R. 1. While H.R. 1 consolidates thirteen programmatic titles under ESEA into six, the current funding structure remains intact. Federal dollars will continue to go directly to the local school districts rather than be needlessly funneled through a state's bureaucracy.

Furthermore, although the Act provides public school choice as well as private tutorial services to Title I students in consistently failing schools, it does not create a private school

voucher program. I have consistently opposed any private voucher proposal because it would undermine public financing for public schools and provide no guarantee that low-income students would have any meaningful choice. The House's rejection of these provisions reaffirms Congress' bi-partisan support of public education.

Despite these many achievements during consideration of the No Child Left Behind Act, there remain several shortcomings which I hope are addressed during the House-Senate conference. In particular, I am disappointed with the House's failure to authorize funds for class size reduction and school renovation and construction. We have again missed the opportunity to bring older schools into the new century and ensure that our children learn in safe facilities with the most modern amenities and technology.

Unfortunately, the primary focus of "reform" has been on testing. In the name of accountability, more testing will be mandated with little financial support from the federal government. Given that many states have failed to comply with current law calling on states to

Moreover, I, along with my colleagues in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC), have concerns with H.R. 1's treatment of the Limited English Proficient (LEP) student population. The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), a diagnostic tool to be used to audit the results of state assessments, does not administer a Spanish language reading test. Additionally, H.R. 1 unwisely consolidates immigrant, bilingual, and foreign language education into a single formula grant program. It would also require parents to opt-in to Title I LEP services and bilingual education and would subject bilingual education programs to a 3-year limit.

In their March 3, 2001 letter to President Bush, Congressman REYES, Chair of the CHC, and Congressman HINOJOSA, Chair of the CHC Education Task Force, voiced the CHC's opposition to the above provisions. First, tests provided in only English could result in inaccurate assessments of student performance for LEP students. Second, because LEP children have diverse needs and skills, a one-size fits-all approach is impractical. Establishing an arbitrary three year instructional time limit is short-sighted and contrary to the objectives of bilingual education, which is the academic achievement of LEP students in addition to English proficiency. Finally, opt-in provisions will place cumbersome procedural requirements on school districts and potentially dissuade them from providing educational instruction to LEP students. LEP students should be automatically enrolled in bilingual education programs and allowed to opt out of them if their parents so choose.

The conference version of the ESEA's re-authorization should incorporate language that provides better funding, requires no time limits, contains no opt-in provisions, and maintains immigrant, bilingual, and foreign language education as three separate programs. As an educator and supporter of public schools, I will continue to seek the resources our schools need to succeed. We have an obligation to provide fair and equal access to quality education for our children so that truly no child is left behind. Until we are truly ready to commit ourselves to educating all our chil-

dren with the best we can offer, we cannot honestly say we have left no child behind.

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A TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH AND  
VICTORIA COTCHETT

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2001*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to my dear friends, Victoria and Joseph Cotchett of Hillsborough, California. These two extraordinary people are being honored for their civic involvement in the Bay Area by the Volunteer Center of San Mateo County with the prestigious "Very Important Volunteer Award" (VIVA).

Mr. Speaker, both Cotchett's are deeply involved in a wide spectrum of community activities and give freely of their time and resources to numerous community organizations. Victoria serves on the advisory board of many woman's groups, including the Woman's Protective Services of San Mateo County and Families in Transition. She is a founding director of the Wiegand Museum of Art at the College of Notre Dame in Belmont, and she previously served on the boards of the San Mateo County Hospital Foundation and the Peninsula Humane Society.

As a longtime supporter of the arts, Victoria is a member of the Board of Directors of the President's Advisory Committee on the Arts of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts here in Washington, DC, and she is currently leading an effort to develop a Children's Film Festival in association with the Sundance Film Festival.

A former Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves, a JAG Officer, and a former Special Forces paratrooper officer, Joe Cotchett is a graduate of California Polytechnic College. He earned his law degree from the University of California's Hastings College of Law. Joe was recognized as one of the "100 Most Influential Lawyer in America," by the news media and in 1990 was named Trial Lawyer of the Year by Trial Lawyers for Public Justice. He is a leader of numerous professional organizations, is the author of several books on legal practice, and is a past officer of the California State Bar.

Mr. Speaker, Joe's record of commitment to our community is equally as distinguished as that of his wife. He is director of the Bay Meadows Foundation, Disability Rights Advocates, and a Commissioner on the State Parks Commission. He also serves as Director of the University of California's Hastings College of Law, President of the San Mateo Boys and Girls Club, and Chairman of the Heart Fund Finance for the San Mateo County Heart Association.

Mr. Speaker, Victoria and Joe are proud parents of two girls and represent the very best of our many volunteer citizens on the Peninsula. I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to these two outstanding community leaders and congratulating them on receiving this prestigious award.