

who is retiring in June as president of Baltimore City Community College. As president of BCCC, Mr. Tschechtelin has worked tirelessly on behalf of BCCC students and on behalf of the greater Baltimore community.

During his 12-year tenure, he helped educate and train a world-class workforce that is critical to the economic success of the entire Baltimore region. He has worked to modernize BCCC's facilities, increase state funding, improve outreach and enhance responsiveness to businesses. His commitment and dedication to excellence has helped transform BCCC into a leading educational facility that meets the needs of businesses for talented employees.

We are fortunate to have had Mr. Tschechtelin at the helm of BCCC. His vision and dedication have helped the college meet new challenges. In recognition of his success, the BCCC Foundation Board has created the James D. Tschechtelin Workforce Scholarship Endowment, a scholarship that helps working students by providing half of their educational costs.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in saluting the accomplishments of James Tschechtelin as president of BCCC. His tenure has marked a turning point for the college as a respected institution that meets the educational needs of its students.

FARM SECURITY ACT OF 2002 (H.R.
2646)

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, today I offer my congratulations to Chairman COMBEST, the Ranking Member, Mr. STENHOLM, and the 2002 Farm Bill conferees for their hard work in crafting a bipartisan bill that will help America's farmers.

The Farm Security Act of 2002 is the product of 50 hearings over two years. I am pleased that we were able to pass a farm bill that maintains the market-oriented features of the 1996 Farm Bill while fully complying with the Congressional Budget Resolution. This Farm Bill is critically needed by our nation's farmers who are facing the lowest real net cash income on the farm since the Great Depression. Record high costs of production combined with the fifth straight year of record low prices necessitated the quick passage of a farm bill that addresses these critical issues.

Americans rely on a consistent supply of nutritious food, and our farmers are the ones working hard to make this possible. Not only do they supply food for us domestically, but they also are the hands that feed the world. Our farmers deserve our support, and I was pleased to vote in favor of this bipartisan Farm Bill.

Mr. Speaker, despite my support for this bill, I do want to go on record as having serious reservations about the price tag the Farm Bill could have for taxpayers. There is no doubt we need a strong farm bill, which I support. But I am concerned we are voting today on an overinflated six-year bill that has the potential to cost taxpayers far more than the estimated \$170 billion. We must guard against turning the family farm into the federal government's farm. My concern is that this bill, while con-

taining good provisions, is dangerously close to moving beyond reasonable support for farmers into warding the family farm to the welfare state.

The American dream for agricultural producers is not a land of neo-government farms, but rather individual opportunity to succeed by profitably working the land they love and own. This is the farmer's dream. Then, when help is needed due to unforeseen events like natural disasters, Uncle Sam can offer assistance that encourages and motivates.

Another concern is that the 2002 Farm Bill abuses agriculture subsidies by reviving price supports for commodities such as mohair, wool and honey. It also distorts the market by adding subsidies for milk, peanuts, lentils and chickpeas. I am disappointed that provisions in the Farm Security Act of 2002 succumbed to the pressures of special interest groups while ignoring the best interests of the citizens and farmers I represent and the American taxpayer.

Despite disagreeing with many of this bill's provisions, I will vote in favor of the Farm Bill, because overall, it provides much-needed farm policy for the next six years and will help America's farmers. Without this bill, we would have automatically been forced back to 1938/1949 permanent farm laws, which would have devastated our economy.

Mr. Speaker, I hear from many constituents in the Fourth District of Kansas who care deeply about conservation. I am pleased to tell them that the Farm Security Act of 2002 builds on the current voluntary incentive programs for conservation that have proven to work. Farmers and ranchers will have the opportunity to participate in new conservation programs as well. I am pleased to know that the men and women who work the land and care most about it are the ones who are being provided with the power and means to better protect the soil, water and wildlife through the various conservation programs.

This farm bill includes more than \$200 million in federal funding for the Commodity Credit Corporation Bioenergy Program, which will help advance the production of biofuels, including ethanol. I have had many Kansans tell me they support continued investment into ethanol production as a fuel source. The 2002 Farm Bill provides federal assistance to bioenergy producers who purchase agricultural commodities for the purpose of expanding products of biodiesel and fuel grade ethanol.

Mr. Speaker, past farm program levels for sorghum have distorted the market and reduced incentives to plant grain sorghum. I was pleased to see this disparity addressed in the Farm Bill. Equity for Kansas feed grains is important to Kansas farmers, and I strongly support this corrective provision.

I am also pleased that the food stamp program has been simplified allowing states more flexibility in helping those in financial poverty. With the reduction of state reporting requirements, we are allowing states to require households to report changes in household circumstances not less often than once every six months in lieu of reporting changes as they occur. Another simplification in the food stamp program provided for in the Farm Bill allows states the option to exclude, rather than deduct, child support payments, and it allows the use of the Child Support Enforcement Agency data to determine the amount of support paid.

Kansas farmers rely heavily on trade with other countries. With forty percent of U.S.

commodities going into the export market, it is essential that producers have access to expanded markets. The 2002 Farm Bill answers this need by complying with the United States' international trade obligations under the WTO. This allows for the promotion of more free trade for our future. Furthermore, the Farm Bill makes substantial investments in programs designed to aid in the creation, expansion and maintenance of foreign markets for U.S. agriculture products.

Generous support for the Market Access Program, the Food for Progress Program, the Food for Peace Program, the Foreign Market Development Program and the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program are a few examples of how this Farm Bill helps expand our markets while sharing our bounty with the needy in developing countries around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, research has been recognized in this Farm Bill as being the key to keeping U.S. producers competitive in the world market. The Farm Security Act of 2002 makes a significant new investment in research programs that will help reap rewards for producers and our society for generations to come.

The Farm Bill makes significant investments in improving rural development. Rural development programs are important to sustaining communities by aiding in the development of infrastructure and job creation in rural areas. Our small communities across this country benefit from these programs, and I am pleased that this farm bill recognizes their importance to our American way of life.

Getting broadband Internet service to our rural communities is also a concern I have. With the passage of the 2002 Farm Bill, we will be providing a total of \$100 million to provide loans and loan guarantees to allow rural consumers access to high-speed, high-quality broadband services.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to know that value added market development grants have been expanded to meet producers' interests in start-up, farmer-owned, value-added processing facilities. These grants will help establish resource centers to assist producers in value-added endeavors. The Farm Bill recognizes the importance of enabling producers to capture more of the value of their commodities.

The Farm Security Act of 2002 offers farmers and ranchers and all Americans a balanced approach to securing our agriculture security into the future. I commend the Chairman and conferees for their dedication to a quality farm bill.

BRAIN TUMOR ACTION WEEK

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues a speech written by my dear friend and Alabama native, Adrienne McMillan Burns. Adrienne was diagnosed with a brain tumor three years ago and has served as a shining example of how to survive with grace to people with potentially terminal illnesses ever since.

I have reflected on this tragic condition and Adrienne's case in particular during this Brain