

quality of the land and restore the health of the ecosystem of their traditional ancestral lands. In addition, the lands will be used for ceremonial and other traditional purposes.

Finally, Santa Fe, Rio Arriba and Los Alamos counties in New Mexico, the National Congress of American Indians, and the National Audubon Society's New Mexico State Office, the Quivira Coalition and the Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club support the acquisition and transfer of these lands.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Resources Committee to pass this important legislation for the people of San Idefonso and Santa Clara.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO CHANGE HOPE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, the passage of the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 represented a watershed event in the relationship between student support and tax policy. The Act's signature initiative, the Hope Scholarship Program, provides annual benefits to students and the families rivaling the support provided through Pell Grants and other long-standing forms of federal aid. However, many of the students who need help the most do not benefit from the Hope Scholarship Program.

Today, Congressman JIM MCGOVERN and I are reintroducing legislation that would address these shortcomings. Currently, the Hope tax credit can be used for only tuition and related expenses when college students must pay for much more than just tuition. Our legislation would allow Hope Scholarships to cover required fees, books, supplies and equipment. Additionally, a student's eligibility is currently reduced by any other grants they receive—federal, state or private. As a result, benefits have been limited primarily to middle and upper-middle income taxpayers and explain why less than one-fifth of all full-time students attending community colleges qualify for maximum Hope Scholarship benefits. Our legislation would ensure that any Pell Grants and Supplemental Educational Opportunity grants a student receives are not counted against the student's eligible expenses when the Hope Scholarship is computed.

This legislation has bi-partisan cosponsors and support from numerous higher education organizations. I urge the House to bring up this legislation in the near future. I yield back the balance of my time.

INTERFAITH CAREPARTNERS

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, February 2, 2003, Interfaith CarePartners will celebrate the unprecedented milestone of one million hours of volunteer community service. On behalf of the people of Texas' Congressional District Seven, I want to congratulate

and honor Interfaith CarePartners for their incredible accomplishment and for their remarkable service to our community.

Interfaith CarePartners, founded in 1985, has evolved into a national movement of faith-based volunteerism that promotes, sponsors, and conducts volunteer caregiving and associated activities in partnership with churches and synagogues. They are "Houston's caregiver," sponsoring the nation's original and largest faith-based caregiving program with 1,600 volunteers in 83 congregations who serve approximately 1,000 families per year, and providing 60,000 hours of volunteer service for frail adults and children. Volunteers also provide in-home care and caregiver respites to more than 3,600 Alzheimer's and dementia-affected families, frail elderly, and other chronically or terminally ill adults, severely impaired children, and people with AIDS. Partner congregations span the theological spectrum within Protestantism, Roman Catholicism, and Judaism.

Interfaith CarePartners has earned the gratitude of all the families they have helped and the admiration of everyone who knows their work and the depth of their selfless devotion to improve the lives of their neighbors. Today, we honor and thank Interfaith CarePartners for their extraordinary achievement in reaching one million hours of volunteer community service. I would like also to congratulate Nancy Reagan, Dr. John McGovern, and Chip Carlisle and Wells Fargo for receiving the Sustaining Presence Award, an annual award presented to distinguished individuals and organizations whose commitments and activities constitute an exemplary contribution to the creation of caring communities. All of you exemplify the best of America.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS ACCESSIBILITY ACT

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Instructional Materials Accessibility Act, which will ensure that, for the first time, blind students will be able to fully enjoy an equal opportunity to a quality education. This same bill attracted 88 bipartisan cosponsors in the 107th Congress, most notably my friend GEORGE MILLER, the Ranking Member of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, who has worked closely with me on crafting this legislation.

Unfortunately, it is the exception rather than the rule that blind students have access to textbooks for a given class at the beginning of the school year. Because of the cumbersome process needed to translate a textbook into Braille or other specialized format, it can take up to six months for the blind student to have the same materials as his or her sighted peers. Only a heroic effort can save this student from being hopelessly behind in class.

This was not much of an issue before the 1960's. Before that time, most blind children attended centralized schools for the blind, and there was (and is) existing infrastructure, such as the American Printing House for the Blind in Kentucky, to provide support services such

as production of Braille textbooks. Beginning in the 1960's, though, blind children began attending schools in their home communities, and now the vast majority do so. As a result, every local school district which has one or more blind students must obtain or create the necessary specialized textbooks for these students. However, again this is a laborious process that is beyond the capability of most school districts to carry out quickly or easily.

Although states already have the obligation under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and other federal statutes to provide equivalent educational opportunities to disabled and non-disabled students, it has become apparent that specific and practical standards need to be put in place to anticipate and meet accessibility needs in this area. The Instructional Materials Accessibility Act (IMAA) takes several approaches that, taken together, will greatly reduce the waiting time for blind students to receive their textbooks.

This bill establishes a standardized electronic file format for instructional materials. Conversion into an electronic format is a necessary step in the process of creating a Braille version of a textbook. Twenty-six states currently require publishers to provide electronic copies of textbooks but have no agreed-upon file format. This drives up costs for publishers and often results in unusable electronic files provided. And it does nothing to reduce the months-long period needed for production of the specialized textbook.

Our bill requires statewide plans to ensure that students who are blind or visually impaired have access to instructional materials in formats they can use at the same time the materials are provided to all other students. Our bill will establish a national clearinghouse to provide "one-stop shopping" for local school districts to acquire the needed materials. In the future, publishers will be able to submit an electronic copy of a textbook to this clearinghouse, rather than having to deal with inconsistent state requirements. Finally, our bill authorizes a small capacity-building grant program to assist state and local educators in using electronic files supplied by publishers.

This issue has been a bone of contention between textbook publishers and the blind community for quite a while. However, working together over a period of many months, both communities finally arrived at a mutually agreeable and practical solution to this problem and the publishers and the blind advocates strongly support the IMAA as introduced in both Houses.

In the 107th Congress, the support and great need for this legislation prompted the Department of Education to fund the development of a voluntary standardized electronic format for specialized instructional materials. Once completed, this standardized file format would implement a significant piece of the IMAA. However, a standardized file format by itself will not solve all the problems which cause delays in the delivery of textbooks to visually impaired students. That is why this legislation is still needed. Once implemented, the IMAA will make life easier for states, publishers and most of all blind students, at a very modest cost.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF THE
WIENERY

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, in 1978, Anne Fox founded a small restaurant in Sacramento simply named The Wienery. This year The Wienery, and all those who enjoy its unique atmosphere and menu, is pleased to celebrate its 25th Anniversary.

As the name implies, The Wienery offers its customers numerous varieties of hot-dog options. Among the most popular are the Hotsy Dog, the B.L.T. Dog and the Swiss Sauté Dog.

The Wienery buys its franks from another family owned business in the region, Alpine Meats. Alpine Meats was founded by Swiss sausagemaster Josef Kaeslin—who immigrated to California—and its wieners are spiced by hand and smoked in a hardwood-burning smokehouse with no artificial additives or preservatives.

Using these top quality dogs, The Wienery has attracted a dedicated clientele devoted to appreciating their old-fashioned gourmet hot-dogs as well as its homemade soups, chili and sauces. I am proud to consider myself one of their devoted fans and have personally been eating at The Wienery for many years.

As a small businessman, I know how hard it is to start a business, especially a restaurant, and keep it running for many years. Current proprietor Cynthia Fox-Vanover carries on Anne Fox's tradition of serving "fast food with full service."

In addition, The Wienery has been a proud member of the Sacramento community. It has sponsored more than 20 local little league teams, and supported the Special Olympics and the Disabled Veterans Association—to name just a few.

Our community is indeed proud of The Wienery and its history. And I am proud to congratulate the owners and my fellow customers as we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Wienery.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TEACHER
RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION
ACT OF 2003

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to join my colleagues in introducing the Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act of 2003. This bill reflects the commitment of the President and of this Congress to increase the number and enhance the quality of teachers in the nation's classrooms. Most pointedly, the bill expands the current teacher loan forgiveness program from the current \$5,000 to a maximum of \$17,500 for teachers who commit to teaching math, science, or special education for five years in some of our nation's most disadvantaged schools.

Congress and the Bush Administration have worked hard to improve the educational sys-

tem and a good deal of our effort has been focused on improvements to the education that disadvantaged students receive. The No Child Left Behind Act calls for states to have a highly qualified teacher in every public school classroom by the end of the 2005–2006 school year. Since we are demanding that our children be instructed by a competent teaching force, we must also do all we can to encourage the best and the brightest to enter this very important field.

The Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act of 2003 will take a landmark step in addressing the growing teacher shortage. The bill provides a strong incentive for individuals to enter the field of teaching and to make a long-term commitment to the students that need them the most. We need to do all we can to encourage college students to take on one of the most challenging, rewarding and important careers that exist.

There is nothing more important to our nation's future than the education of our children. The Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act of 2003 will help to fulfill our responsibility to children by ensuring that our most competent and caring teachers are adequately supported in their charge to educate our nation's future.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and continue our commitment to the men and women of this country who do so much to advance our nation and its children.

RETIREMENT OF CAROLINE
STRICKLAND BRYSON

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Caroline Strickland Bryson upon her retirement after 20 years of loyal and dedicated service to the United States Congress.

Caroline was born on December 10, 1943, in Columbia, South Carolina. She attended the University of South Carolina in 1962–63 and the Institute of Financial Education in 1978. Before coming to work for Congress, she worked for 14 years with Lexington County Savings & Loan and served for four years on the Lexington Town Council.

Caroline began working on Capitol Hill in 1983 with my good friend, the late Honorable Floyd Spence of South Carolina as his Executive Assistant and Office Manager, in which she served for 18 years. In this capacity, Caroline supervised the office staff, managed a million-dollar annual budget and served as the public relations liaison for Congressman Spence. For six of those years, Congressman Spence served as Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. As a result of her position and responsibilities in the Chairman's office, Caroline regularly interacted not only with Members of Congress, but with foreign dignitaries, the press, and the President's Cabinet as well.

Following her tenure with Congressman Spence, Caroline served briefly as a Staff Assistant with the House Armed Services Committee and later as the Executive Assistant for Senator MIKE DEWINE of Ohio. In each of these capacities, Caroline's professional experience, warm charisma, and friendly attitude led her to excel at all levels.

Caroline's southern charm has always been a trademark of her personality. I know from my personal conversations with Congressman Spence that he held Caroline as an invaluable member of his staff and was always impressed with her dependability, loyalty and patriotism. In a place where many people come and go, Caroline is a symbol of commitment and dedication from which many of us could learn. I congratulate her on her retirement and thank her for two decades of honorable service to this Congress and her country. On behalf of the House Armed Services Committee and the U.S. Congress, I wish you the best of luck as you begin this new and exciting chapter of your life.

IN HONOR OF BART DIRECTOR
WILLIE B. KENNEDY

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable woman, Mrs. Willie B. Kennedy, who has served with distinction on the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) Board of Directors since 1996. Mrs. Kennedy is retiring from the BART Board effective January 31, 2003. Thankfully, Mrs. Kennedy is not leaving public service entirely, after working for over 60 years as a political and social activist and elected official in the San Francisco Bay Area. She will continue her work in the Hunters Point neighborhood with the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, which oversees development there.

Mrs. Kennedy is an outspoken advocate for public transit and transit-oriented development. During her six years as a BART director, she was chosen by her colleagues to serve as president in 2001 and vice president in 2000. Mrs. Kennedy pushed BART to begin a tradition of donating special "flash passes" to community organizations for train rides to and from San Francisco's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. parade and memorial ceremonies. She works diligently behind the scenes to respond to her constituents' concerns about BART service and facilities. She has been a long-time supporter of the new BART extension to the San Francisco International Airport.

As a BART board member, Mrs. Kennedy served as vice chairperson of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission Liaison Committee. She was a member of the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Board, the San Francisco Transportation Authority Liaison Committee, the San Mateo County Negotiation/SFO Extension Committee, and the Santa Clara County Policy Committee.

In addition to her years of service to BART, Mrs. Kennedy is a former Supervisor of the City and County of San Francisco. She was appointed to the Board of Supervisors in March 1981 by former Mayor and now U.S. Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN. She completed the unexpired term of the late Supervisor Ella Hill Hutch, was elected in her own right in 1984, 1988 and 1992, and served until May 1996. She has served as the President of the San Francisco Transportation Authority and on the boards of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), the California