

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, H.R. 1779 amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow penalty-free retirement account withdrawals for national guardsmen and reservists called to active duty for an extended, and further authorizes a 2-year period to reimburse their accounts up to the amount withdrawn. I think you would be hard pressed to find a Member of Congress who opposes this low cost bill to benefit our troops. My only question is: Shouldn't we do more? The answer is clearly yes. I agree in spirit with this bill, but when I compare it with what the troops truly deserve, I'm reminded of the commercial, "Where's the beef?" come up short. The mere fact that we are considering legislation that allows guardsmen and reservists to withdraw funds from their retirement accounts indicates the problem. A solution for this problem must include more "beef" than simply allowing our service members to borrow from their long term savings to meet their short term obligations. A true solution lies in the form of better benefits.

Our troops, both active and reserve need and deserve better family separation and imminent danger pay. Reservists serving in Afghanistan and Iraq need TRICARE military health coverage. Retirees deserve better survivor benefits for military widows and our military families deserve better housing.

Recent events in Afghanistan and Iraq highlight the perils of war. In the FY03 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill, imminent danger pay, additional compensation provided to servicemen and women in combat zones, was raised to \$225 from \$150 a month. The family separation allowance, which goes to help military families pay rent, child care or other expenses while service members are away, was raised from \$100 to \$250 a month. Congress should act now to make these increases permanent. This will show our troops that we are aware of the hardships they face not only in the field, but also at home.

The Supplemental Appropriations bill also provided limited and temporary TRICARE benefits for Reservists. It stopped short of providing expanded health care benefits to members of the selected reserve and certain members of the Individual Ready Reserve and their families.

Representative JEFF MILLER's bill to end the survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) widow's tax has 303 co-sponsors, but may never make it to the floor for a vote. Congress should act on this important legislation.

We have thousands of service members and their families living in substandard housing. The Military Housing Privatization Initiative (MHPI) was passed to remedy this injustice. A spending cap was set as a safeguard. We anticipate reaching the spending cap by November 2004, and the problem has not been solved. We must raise or eliminate this cap in order to continue this necessary program.

Instead of rewarding our troops and retirees with tangible benefits, the legislation we are debating today simply permits select Reserve Component members to borrow their own money in the short term at the expense of their long term goal of a comfortable retirement. While H.R. 1779 allows a two year period to replace the withdrawn funds, I am doubtful that a financial strain that would require tapping one's retirement savings would permit complete reimbursement within 2 years. We can do better for the men and women of

the world's greatest military. Rather than simply removing the 10 percent penalty for early retirement account withdrawal, I urge my colleagues to support a permanent increase in imminent danger pay and the family separation allowance, provide adequate funding to include reservists in TRICARE, eliminate the SBP widow's tax, and raise or eliminate the MHPI spending cap.

H.R. 1779 is a low cost morale booster for our troops in the field, and I urge its passage today. However, the mere fact that we are considering this measure highlights a bigger and more lasting problem for our troops. Mr. Speaker, I will vote yes on this bill, but I urge my colleagues, especially the Republican Majority to follow up H.R. 1779 with the more meaningful and substantive legislation I have outlined, which is specifically spelled out in the "Military Benefits Proposal," which I am attaching and submitting for the RECORD. This list contains benefits I proposed when the \$87 billion Supplemental Appropriation was offered last year. Unfortunately, the Rules Committee did not make my proposal in order as an amendment. I intend to offer many of these benefits again when the Defense Authorization Bill is marked up in Committee and considered here on the floor.

MILITARY BENEFITS PROPOSALS

Hostile Fire/Imminent Danger Pay: Makes increase from \$225 per month to \$250 per month permanent.

Family Separation Allowance: Makes increase to \$250 per month permanent.

Hardship Duty Pay: Increases from \$300 per month to up to \$600 per month during FY2004.

Eliminate Out-of-Pocket Housing Costs: Accelerates from 2005 to 2004 the final year of the bipartisan effort to increase the Basic Allowance for Housing to completely cover average out-of-pocket housing costs for military families living off base.

Family Assistance Centers: Provides \$48 million for increased demand on family assistance centers for National Guard and Reserve to assist with problems related to increased deployments.

Transition Assistance for Disabled Servicemembers: Provides \$50 million to enhance DOD-VA transition programs for disabled servicemembers.

Deployment Notification to Reservists: Directs DOD to provide maximum advance notice to mobilized Guard and Reserve personnel on the timing and duration of their duty.

Small Business Loans for Reservists: Provides \$25 million for loans or loan guarantees for reservists whose small businesses have been disrupted by their mobilization.

Vocation Development for Reservists: Provides \$25 million for SBA grants for vocational or technical training for reserve-owned small businesses.

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation, H.R. 1779, the Guardsmen and Reservists Financial Relief Act, which will allow members of the National Guard and military Reserve forces to make penalty free withdrawals from retirement accounts if they are called to active duty for an extended period of time.

Our National Guard and reserve forces are playing a leading role in our operations abroad. Nationwide, over 325,000 members of the Guard and reserve have been called up to active duty since September 11, 2001. Serving in Iraq and elsewhere, these service members have fought side-by-side with their Active Duty

counterparts in often difficult and dangerous conditions.

Over the past year, I have had the opportunity to meet with many National Guard and Reserve members and families from Wisconsin who have been called up in support of operations Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq. Members of the 229th Engineer Company out of Prairie du Chien and Platteville, the 829th Engineer Detachment out of Richland Center, and the 652d Engineer Company out of Ellsworth all recently returned from yearlong deployments in Iraq. Their sacrifices, and those of their families, are greatly appreciated by Wisconsin residents.

With many Guard and Reserve members taking large pay cuts when called to active duty, it is proper that Congress act to relieve this additional burden. The legislation before us today helps by allowing activated Guard and Reserve members to withdraw money from retirement accounts without penalty.

While this legislation assists those Guard and Reserve members and families who need financial assistance to make ends meet, it is only a minor step. I, along with many other members of Congress, support additional tax relief for military families, pay increases for certain personnel, health care improvements, and reenlistment bonuses for members of the Reserve Component.

Our military commitments in Iraq and throughout the world are not likely to diminish in the near future, and the Defense Department expects Guard and Reserve units to make up about 40 percent of our total force in Iraq by May 1, 2004. With this in mind, we need to do all we can to support the men and women of the Guard and Reserve who are called to active duty and their families.

My thoughts and prayers are with those serving our country overseas, as well as their families. America is firmly behind our troops, and we are all hoping to see them home safe, secure and soon.

May God continue to bless the United States of America.

Mr. SHAW. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1779.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SHAW. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 3970, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 4030, by the yeas and nays;
H.R. 3147, by the yeas and nays;
H.R. 4019, by the yeas and nays;
H.R. 1779, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

GREEN CHEMISTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2004

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 3970, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3970, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 402, nays 14, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 121]

YEAS—402

Abercrombie	Capuano	Fattah
Ackerman	Cardin	Feeney
Aderholt	Cardoza	Ferguson
Akin	Carson (IN)	Filner
Alexander	Carson (OK)	Foley
Allen	Carter	Forbes
Andrews	Case	Ford
Baca	Castle	Fossella
Bachus	Chabot	Frank (MA)
Baird	Chandler	Franks (AZ)
Baker	Choccola	Frost
Baldwin	Clay	Galleghy
Ballance	Clyburn	Garrett (NJ)
Ballenger	Coble	Gerlach
Barrett (SC)	Cole	Gibbons
Bartlett (MD)	Collins	Gilchrest
Barton (TX)	Conyers	Gillmor
Bass	Cooper	Greig
Beauprez	Costello	Gonzalez
Becerra	Cox	Goode
Bell	Cramer	Goodlatte
Bereuter	Crane	Gordon
Berkley	Crenshaw	Goss
Berman	Crowley	Granger
Berry	Culberson	Graves
Biggert	Cummings	Green (TX)
Bilirakis	Cunningham	Green (WI)
Bishop (GA)	Davis (AL)	Grijalva
Bishop (NY)	Davis (CA)	Gutierrez
Bishop (UT)	Davis (FL)	Gutknecht
Blackburn	Davis (IL)	Hall
Blumenauer	Davis (TN)	Harman
Blunt	Davis, Tom	Hart
Boehlert	Deal (GA)	Hastings (WA)
Boehner	DeFazio	Hayes
Bonilla	DeGette	Hayworth
Bonner	Delahunt	Hefley
Bono	DeLauro	Hergert
Boozman	DeLay	Hill
Boswell	DeMint	Hinche
Boucher	Deutsch	Hinojosa
Boyd	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hobson
Bradley (NH)	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hoekstra
Brady (PA)	Dicks	Holden
Brady (TX)	Dingell	Holt
Brown (OH)	Doggett	Honda
Brown (SC)	Dooley (CA)	Hoolley (OR)
Brown, Corrine	Doolittle	Houghton
Brown-Waite,	Doyle	Hoyer
Ginny	Dreier	Hunter
Burgess	Dunn	Hyde
Burns	Edwards	Inslee
Burr	Ehlers	Isakson
Burton (IN)	Emanuel	Israel
Buyer	Emerson	Issa
Calvert	Engel	Istook
Camp	English	Jackson (IL)
Cannon	Eshoo	Jackson-Lee
Cantor	Etheridge	(TX)
Capito	Evans	Jenkins
Capps	Farr	Johnson (CT)

Johnson (IL)	Moran (KS)	Scott (GA)
Johnson, E. B.	Moran (VA)	Scott (VA)
Johnson, Sam	Murphy	Sensenbrenner
Jones (OH)	Murtha	Serrano
Kanjorski	Myrick	Sessions
Kaptur	Nadler	Shadegg
Keller	Napolitano	Shaw
Kelly	Neal (MA)	Shays
Kennedy (MN)	Nethercutt	Sherman
Kennedy (RI)	Neugebauer	Sherwood
Kildee	Ney	Shimkus
Kilpatrick	Northup	Shuster
Kind	Norwood	Simmons
King (IA)	Nunes	Simpson
King (NY)	Nussle	Skelton
Kirk	Oberstar	Slaughter
Kleczyka	Obey	Smith (MI)
Kline	Olver	Smith (NJ)
Knollenberg	Ortiz	Smith (TX)
Kolbe	Osborne	Smith (WA)
Kucinich	Ose	Snyder
LaHood	Owens	Solis
Lampson	Oxley	Souder
Langevin	Pallone	Spratt
Lantos	Pascrell	Stark
Larsen (WA)	Pastor	Stearns
Larson (CT)	Payne	Stenholm
Latham	Pearce	Strickland
LaTourette	Pelosi	Stupak
Leach	Peterson (MN)	Sullivan
Lee	Peterson (PA)	Sweeney
Levin	Petri	Tanner
Lewis (CA)	Pickering	Tauscher
Lewis (GA)	Pitts	Taylor (MS)
Linder	Platts	Taylor (NC)
Lipinski	Pombo	Terry
LoBiondo	Pomeroy	Thomas
Lofgren	Porter	Thompson (CA)
Lowe	Portman	Thompson (MS)
Lucas (KY)	Price (NC)	Thornberry
Lucas (OK)	Pryce (OH)	Tiahrt
Lynch	Putnam	Tiberi
Majette	Radanovich	Tierney
Maloney	Rahall	Towns
Manzullo	Ramstad	Turner (OH)
Markey	Rangel	Turner (TX)
Marshall	Regula	Udall (CO)
Matheson	Rehberg	Udall (NM)
Matsui	Renzi	Upton
McCarthy (MO)	Reyes	Van Hollen
McCarthy (NY)	Reynolds	Visclosky
McCollum	Rodriguez	Vitter
McCotter	Rogers (AL)	Walden (OR)
McCrery	Rogers (KY)	Walsh
McDermott	Rogers (MI)	Wamp
McGovern	Rohrabacher	Waters
McHugh	Ross	Watson
McInnis	Rothman	Watt
McIntyre	Roybal-Allard	Waxman
McKeon	Royce	Weiner
McNulty	Ruppersberger	Weldon (FL)
Meehan	Rush	Weldon (PA)
Meek (FL)	Ryan (OH)	Wexler
Meeks (NY)	Ryan (WI)	Whitfield
Menendez	Ryun (KS)	Wicker
Mica	Sabo	Wilson (NM)
Michaud	Sánchez, Linda	Wilson (SC)
Millender-	T.	Wolf
McDonald	Sanchez, Loretta	Woolsey
Miller (MI)	Sanders	Wu
Miller (NC)	Sandlin	Wynn
Miller, Gary	Saxton	Young (AK)
Miller, George	Schakowsky	Young (FL)
Mollohan	Schiff	
Moore	Schrock	

NAYS—14

Cubin	Hensarling	Otter
Davis, Jo Ann	Hostettler	Paul
Duncan	Jones (NC)	Pence
Everett	Miller (FL)	Tancredo
Flake	Musgrave	

NOT VOTING—17

Frelinghuysen	Hulshof	Ros-Lehtinen
Gephardt	Jefferson	Tauzin
Greenwood	John	Toomey
Harris	Kingston	Velázquez
Hastings (FL)	Lewis (KY)	Weller
Hoefel	Quinn	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) (during the vote). Members are advised that there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1250

Mr. TANCREDO, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. EVERETT, Mrs. CUBIN, and Messrs. PENCE, MILLER of Florida and OTTER changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the remainder of this series will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL FOR OUT- STANDING CONTRIBUTIONS IN MATH AND SCIENCE EDUCATION ACT OF 2004

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 4030, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4030, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 411, nays 7, not voting 15, as follows:

Roll No. 122]

YEAS—411

Abercrombie	Boucher	Cox
Ackerman	Boyd	Cramer
Aderholt	Bradley (NH)	Crane
Akin	Brady (PA)	Crenshaw
Alexander	Brady (TX)	Crowley
Allen	Brown (OH)	Cubin
Andrews	Brown (SC)	Culberson
Baca	Brown, Corrine	Cummings
Bachus	Brown-Waite,	Cunningham
Baird	Ginny	Davis (AL)
Baker	Burgess	Davis (CA)
Baldwin	Burns	Davis (FL)
Ballance	Burr	Davis (IL)
Ballenger	Burton (IN)	Davis (TN)
Barrett (SC)	Buyer	Davis, Jo Ann
Bartlett (MD)	Calvert	Davis, Tom
Barton (TX)	Camp	Deal (GA)
Bass	Cannon	DeFazio
Beauprez	Cantor	DeGette
Becerra	Capito	Delahunt
Bell	Capps	DeLauro
Bereuter	Capuano	DeLay
Berkley	Cardin	DeMint
Berman	Cardoza	Deutsch
Berry	Carson (IN)	Diaz-Balart, L.
Biggert	Carson (OK)	Diaz-Balart, M.
Bilirakis	Carter	Dicks
Bishop (GA)	Case	Dingell
Bishop (NY)	Castle	Doggett
Bishop (UT)	Chabot	Dooley (CA)
Blackburn	Chandler	Doolittle
Blumenauer	Choccola	Doyle
Blunt	Clay	Dreier
Boehlert	Clyburn	Duncan
Boehner	Coble	Dunn
Bonilla	Cole	Edwards
Bonner	Collins	Ehlers
Bono	Conyers	Emanuel
Boozman	Cooper	Emerson
Boswell	Costello	Engel