

FRIST for the establishment of select committees that would deal with an analysis of what the problems were leading up to Hurricane Katrina and what took place in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Unfortunately, the Democratic leadership chose to not appoint any Members to this select committee.

I have just been watching over the last while the hearings that have been taking place. Before they took place, the Democratic leader said that these hearings would be nothing but a whitewash. Well, having seen the questions raised by my Republican colleagues on the committee, they are tough, strong, hard questions that are being raised of the former FEMA administrator, Mr. Brown.

□ 1415

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that it is responsible to appoint the full complement of membership. It is imperative that the people who have been victimized by these tragedies are heard through their representatives on this select committee, and for those of us in the rest of the country who face the prospect of a disaster, in my State, earthquakes, fires, mudslides create the threat of really causing a tremendous loss of life, we need to figure out what the problems are at FEMA.

So, Mr. Speaker, let us see the leader appoint the full complement of membership to that committee so that their very important questions can be raised.

SIGNIFICANT VICTORY IN IRAQ

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, as my colleague was saying, we have talked quite a bit about Hurricanes Katrina and Rita today and over the past few weeks, and we do express our sympathies to all of those families that have been affected.

I had a colleague mention a moment ago something about Iraq, the war against terrorism, spoke about it from the negative. I want to highlight a positive and a real victory, a significant victory in Iraq.

Al Qaeda's second-highest ranking operative in Iraq was killed in a joint strike by U.S. and Iraqi forces. This is a huge win, Mr. Speaker, a huge win for our troops and for freedom; and it is another sign that we are taking al Qaeda and the terrorist organizations apart, piece by piece.

Whether they are in Iraq, Afghanistan, or working to infiltrate our borders, we are working to uncover and destroy the terrorists' network. We are being led in this effort by our men and women in uniform. God bless them and their good work, and bless those wonderful American-Iraqi forces who are leading in this war against terror.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

NATURAL DISASTER STUDENT AID FAIRNESS ACT

Mr. JINDAL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3863) to provide the Secretary of Education with waiver authority for the reallocation rules in the Campus-Based Aid programs, and to extend the deadline by which funds have to be reallocated to institutions of higher education due to a natural disaster, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3863

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCES.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Natural Disaster Student Aid Fairness Act”.

(b) REFERENCES.—References in this Act to “the Act” are references to the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.).

SEC. 2. ALLOCATION AND USE OF CAMPUS-BASED HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE.

(a) WAIVER OF MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding sections 413C(a)(2), 443(b)(5), and 463(a)(2) of the Act (20 U.S.C. 1070b-2(a)(2); 42 U.S.C. 2753(b)(5); 20 U.S.C. 1087cc(a)(2)), with respect to funds made available for academic years 2004-2005 and 2005-2006—

(1) in the case of an institution of higher education located in an area affected by a Gulf hurricane disaster, the Secretary shall waive the requirement that a participating institution of higher education provide a non-Federal share or a capital contribution, as the case may be, to match Federal funds provided to the institution for the programs authorized pursuant to subpart 3 of part A, part C, and part E of title IV of the Act; and

(2) in the case of an institution of higher education that has accepted for enrollment any affected students, the Secretary may waive that matching requirement after considering the institution's student population and existing resources, using consistent and objective criteria.

(b) WAIVER OF REALLOCATION RULES.—

(1) AUTHORITY TO REALLOCATE.—Notwithstanding sections 413D(d), 442(d), and 462(i) of the Act (20 U.S.C. 1070b-3(d); 42 U.S.C. 2752(d); 20 U.S.C. 1087bb(i)), the Secretary shall—

(A) reallocate any funds returned under any of those sections that were allocated to institutions of higher education for award year 2004-2005 to an institution of higher education that is eligible under paragraph (2) of this subsection; and

(B) waive the allocation reduction for award year 2006-2007 for an institution returning more than 10 percent of its allocation under any of those sections.

(2) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS FOR REALLOCATION.—An institution of higher education may receive a reallocation of excess allocations under this subsection if the institution—

(A) participates in the program for which excess allocations are being reallocated; and

(B)(i) is located in an area affected by a Gulf hurricane disaster; or

(ii) has accepted for enrollment any affected students in academic year 2005-2006.

(3) BASIS OF REALLOCATION.—The Secretary shall determine the manner in which excess allocations shall be reallocated to institutions under paragraph (1), and shall give additional consideration to the needs of institutions located in an area affected by a Gulf hurricane disaster.

(4) ADDITIONAL WAIVER AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in order to carry out this subsection, the Secretary may waive or modify any statutory or regulatory provision relating to the reallocation of excess allocations under subpart 3 of part A, part C, or part E of title IV of the Act in order to ensure that assistance is received by affected institutions for affected students.

(c) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS DATE EXTENSION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law—

(1) any funds available to the Secretary under sections 413A, 441, and 461 of the Act (20 U.S.C. 1070b; 42 U.S.C. 2751; 20 U.S.C. 1087aa) for which the period of availability would otherwise expire on September 30, 2005, shall be available for obligation by the Secretary until September 30, 2006 for the purposes of the programs authorized pursuant to subpart 3 of part A, part C, and part E of title IV of the Act, respectively; and

(2) the Secretary may recall any funds allocated to an institution of higher education for award year 2004-2005 under section 413D, 442, or 462 of the Act that, if not returned to the Secretary as excess allocations pursuant to any of those sections, would otherwise lapse on September 30, 2005, and reallocate those funds in accordance with subsection (b)(1).

SEC. 3. EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.

Section 2 of this Act is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress).

SEC. 4. TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.

The provisions of this Act shall cease to be effective one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Education.

(2) AFFECTED STUDENT.—The term “affected student” means an individual who has applied for or received student financial assistance under title IV of the Act, and who—

(A) was enrolled or accepted for enrollment, as of August 29, 2005, at an institution of higher education in an area affected by a Gulf hurricane disaster;

(B) was a dependent student enrolled or accepted for enrollment at an institution of higher education that is not in an area affected by a Gulf hurricane disaster, but whose parents resided or were employed, as of August 29, 2005, in an area affected by a Gulf hurricane disaster; or

(C) suffered direct economic hardship as a direct result of a Gulf hurricane disaster, as determined by the Secretary using consistent and objective criteria.

(3) GULF HURRICANE DISASTER.—The term “Gulf hurricane disaster” means a major disaster that the President declared to exist, in accordance with section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170), and that was caused by Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita.

(4) AREA AFFECTED BY A GULF HURRICANE DISASTER.—The term “area affected by a Gulf hurricane disaster” means a county or

parish, in an affected State, that has been designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for disaster assistance for individuals and households as a result of Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita.

(5) AFFECTED STATE.—The term “affected State” means the State of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, or Texas.

(6) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given that term in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JINDAL) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JINDAL).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JINDAL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3863.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. JINDAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of H.R. 3863.

In my home State of Louisiana, several institutions of higher education have been impacted by both Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, literally dozens across the entire State.

The bill we are discussing today addresses an approaching deadline for the Department of Education that requires the Department to redistribute campus-based aid funds.

Currently, campus-based aid funds include the Federal Work Study program, Perkins loans, and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants.

Currently, schools that have additional campus-based aid funds are required to return those funds to the Department. Under current law, after September 30, the Department is required to redistribute the funds to schools all over the country.

This bill we are discussing today would extend the September 30 deadline to allow the Department to recapture unspent funds and reallocate them to the institutions that have taken in students from Louisiana, from Mississippi, from Alabama, and from Texas.

In addition, the bill would allow the Department to give additional campus-based aid funds to colleges in the affected States when they got up and running again.

Waiving the Federal matching requirements will assist the financially strapped institutions since the affected schools do not have matching funds that are currently required to receive this funding.

The authority granted to the Secretary in this bill is important to ensure that the affected institutions in the gulf coast region do not experience additional financial strain and provides

assistance to get them back on their feet.

As the former president of the University of Louisiana system, a system that comprises universities and colleges that have been impacted directly by the storm, I truly understand the need to be flexible and responsive and to help the neediest students in the affected institutions in their time of need.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3863 is, in fact, a good bill, and I want to congratulate my colleague for filing this bill and working on it.

Obviously, as he stated, the bill directs the Secretary of Education to waive an institution's match requirement and to redistribute millions of dollars in unused campus-based aid funds such as work study and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants to students and colleges that are impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The bill in the first instance states that the Secretary shall waive those match requirements if, in fact, an institution is located in the gulf area that is affected by the hurricanes, and it may waive them for institutions that accept for enrollment any affected students after considering an institution's student population, existing resources, and applying objective and consistent criteria. That makes great sense.

Under current law already, colleges that participate in the campus-based aid programs have to return any unused aid to the Secretary of Education at the end of the year. Then the Secretary can reallocate those funds to colleges that have an additional need or return the money to the Treasury.

This bill gives the Secretary the instruction and the latitude to take that money and redistribute it where it is most needed at this particular time after the devastation of the storms. The Department of Education estimates that this change could result in an additional \$36 million of student aid to help affected students and colleges this year.

I support this commonsense step and believe that it will provide immediate relief to the affected colleges and students.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JINDAL. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY).

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan bill could result in an additional \$36 million in aid this year for students and colleges impacted by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. It is a commonsense bill, and I am proud to rise in support of H.R. 3863; but we cannot stop here.

Congress must do more to make college affordable for all students, including victims of the hurricanes.

Unfortunately, the House probably will vote next month on H.R. 609, a Republican bill that would increase the cost to students of Federal aid by billions of dollars.

Ironically, one of the provisions of the Republican H.R. 609 legislation would change the formula for distributing campus-based aid while not increasing the amount of that aid.

Earlier this summer, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) offered an amendment in committee that would have ensured that changes in the formula were not tied to full increases but to real increases in aid; but the amendment was defeated by the Republicans in our committee.

H.R. 609 simply would rob Peter to pay Paul, rather than address the real problem, which is the Republican refusal to significantly increase Pell grants and other grant aid to make colleges more affordable for low- and middle-income families.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, I support what Congress is doing today because it will help college students in the gulf region, but I encourage everyone to keep an eye on what Congress does next month because that will change what we do to help college students nationwide.

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, assuming that my colleague has no other speakers, I yield myself such time as I shall consume.

I just want to, Mr. Speaker, highlight the point that the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) finished with in her remarks.

If this bill is enacted, that she was talking about, H.R. 609, which, in fact, redistributes the campus-based aid formula, these very States that we are trying to help today, this afternoon, would be harmed. If it was enacted and those funds were redistributed without adding additional funds to protect schools that now receive assistance under that provision, Louisiana would lose almost \$1.2 million in work study funds under the plan. Alabama would lose \$1.3 million. Mississippi would lose nearly \$2.5 million in work study. So almost \$4.5 million in all the three campus-based aid programs.

This clearly does not make sense. Rearranging the deck chairs on a sinking ship is not going to save that ship from going down.

In higher education, we have a tremendous obligation now to have more children take advantage of college and graduate. It used to be a high school education was enough to catapult a son or daughter into the middle class. We all know today that that is not enough any longer, that we really need to encourage 2 to 4 years beyond high school; and in doing that, campus-based aid plays a very significant and important role.

Redistributing the funds in such a way that you are taking them away

from some campuses and then putting them on other campuses is, in fact, as the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) said, taking from Peter to pay Paul.

The fact of the matter is we ought to increase the funding so that no student loses current assistance and new students who should be getting it do indeed receive the assistance that they need.

A reallocation of campus-based funds must include a significant boost in that funding in order to continue our efforts here so we give more children the responsibility and the opportunity to complete a college degree.

The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) and I had offered that amendment in committee. It failed on a tie vote, 24 to 24. We got significant bipartisan support. In fact, a number of schools would be impacted. More than

80 Members of Congress have signed a letter to the committee asking them to take that offending provision that would redistribute the funds without adding additional money, to take that out of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I will place in the RECORD at this point a list of each of the States and how much money they would lose on campus-based aid if that redistributed formula under H.R. 609 passed without adding more funds in.

ESTIMATED CHANGE IN CAMPUS-BASED AID FUNDING—BASE GUARANTEE ELIMINATION PROPOSAL

	SEOG change in allocation	FWS change in allocation	Perkins change in allocation	Total change	% Change
Alabama	\$319,328	-\$1,366,249	\$193,908	-\$853,013	-2.9
Alaska	-357,194	-292,672	0	-649,866	-39.1
Arizona	184,692	191,795	495,118	871,605	3.5
Arkansas	-109,651	-847,811	-223,204	-1,180,666	-8.8
California	5,346,622	6,981,497	1,367,670	13,695,789	7.0
Colorado	354,210	-35,688	-224,410	94,112	0.4
Connecticut	68,743	744,203	-2,244	810,702	3.8
Delaware	184,837	170,007	-4,868	349,976	10.5
District of Columbia	17,425	1,884,291	240,916	2,142,632	11.3
Florida	1,894,571	2,956,506	1,975,050	6,826,127	9.1
Georgia	1,172,369	-896,299	414,028	690,098	1.7
Hawaii	-109,763	-161,240	-16,180	-287,183	-7.4
Idaho	-68,365	276,785	-146,554	61,866	1.2
Illinois	1,582,535	1,975,747	-703,749	2,854,533	3.0
Indiana	875,175	1,201,143	-164,648	1,911,670	5.0
Iowa	268,598	1,088	-391,244	-121,558	-0.5
Kansas	-609,378	-821,312	-693,636	-2,124,326	-14.6
Kentucky	803,328	-1,518,496	-11,330	-726,498	-3.2
Louisiana	915,018	-1,193,153	99,218	-178,917	-0.7
Maine	-3,346,280	-3,425,036	-460,794	-7,232,110	-46.5
Maryland	-262,256	272,230	43,102	53,076	0.2
Massachusetts	-4,398,750	-4,886,369	-96,665	-9,381,784	-11.7
Michigan	-1,798,914	752,152	-1,213,575	-2,260,337	-4.0
Minnesota	-2,377,299	-1,248,027	-452,806	-4,078,132	-11.1
Mississippi	-1,282,404	-2,487,498	-700,467	-4,470,369	-20.0
Missouri	923,933	945,748	-63,658	1,806,023	5.0
Montana	241,460	-378,709	-177,076	-314,225	-5.2
Nebraska	52,045	-138,681	-268,659	-355,295	-3.1
Nevada	195,286	295,456	66,199	556,941	13.2
New Hampshire	-769,185	-1,502,087	-156,759	-2,428,031	-18.7
New Jersey	501,889	450,066	106,108	1,058,063	2.8
New Mexico	-586,005	-2,183,573	-204,870	-2,974,448	-26.2
New York	7,189,176	7,766,963	3,204,027	18,160,166	9.7
North Carolina	-1,820,724	-1,384,785	-88,970	-3,294,479	-8.0
North Dakota	-965,544	-577,921	2,866,841	1,323,376	19.9
Ohio	775,727	46,677	620,384	1,442,788	2.0
Oklahoma	36,553	-619,493	-456,089	-1,039,029	-5.3
Oregon	-1,738,961	-889,047	-185,769	-2,813,777	-11.2
Pennsylvania	2,514,303	4,595,845	1,265,707	8,375,855	7.5
Puerto Rico	1,650,308	432,023	442,540	2,524,871	7.1
Rhode Island	21,779	-533,551	36,572	-475,200	-2.8
South Carolina	100,627	-789,970	97,811	-591,532	-2.5
South Dakota	-635,011	-1,360,964	-234,921	-2,230,896	-27.7
Tennessee	5,768	-452,951	-6,719	-453,902	-1.4
Texas	647,894	1,103,488	-1,236,695	514,687	0.5
Utah	-422,039	214,156	-477,662	-685,545	-6.4
Vermont	-2,382,485	-1,778,571	-264,202	-4,425,258	-37.7
Virginia	854,144	-174,968	12,640	691,816	2.0
Washington	-844,292	771,689	-229,162	-301,765	-1.0
West Virginia	-76,805	-302,606	-127,184	-506,595	-4.1
Wisconsin	-4,769,861	-1,419,305	-1,192,894	-7,382,060	-19.3
Wyoming	16,325	112,844	-80,097	49,072	1.9

NOTE.—Total 29 states would lose funding under this proposal. Source: American Council on Education, Center for Policy Analysis.

My colleagues will see that 29 States lose money overall, and in fact, every State loses some aid through some of its campuses in one of those three programs.

I just say again, we have an agreement on this particular bill today. It makes sense to do what we are doing to help those affected in the areas that were hurt by Hurricanes Rita and Katrina; but it makes little sense to go through that effort to do that and at the same time, in a week or two or from now, pass a bill that is going to rob them of money of campus-based aid and leave them set back even further.

We can have it both ways. We can help them now through the legislation that is currently on the floor, and we can do a better job with H.R. 609 when it comes to the floor by adding in resources so that existing student aid does not go down on campuses that are

using it and projected aid for those campuses that need additional funds, those needs can be met, and all students and more students will have the opportunity to have a college education so that they, too, can go into the middle class and help make this country strong and its economy strong as well.

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

Mr. JINDAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am certainly sympathetic to what the gentleman and my colleague have both referred to in terms of the provision in H.R. 609. Indeed, I was one of the Republicans that actually voted for his amendment.

However, my understanding from the majority on the committee, the rationale for the current language in H.R. 609, is that right now campuses are

keeping the financial aid they receive regardless of the number of needy students they have enrolled on campus. The intent behind H.R. 609 is, over a number of years, phase this out and allow the funds to actually follow the needy students to whatever campuses they may be on.

Regardless of the merits of both sides of this issue, certainly today we are here to talk about a provision that will help those institutions impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. I want to, first of all, thank my colleagues both in the majority and across the aisle for their support for today's legislation.

Certainly, nobody thinks today's legislation will solve all the problems facing institutions of higher education in Louisiana, in Texas, and Mississippi and Alabama; but today, with consideration of this legislation, I do think we are taking an important step forward.

I also want to thank the Members across the aisle and the members of my committee and the chairman in particular for not only moving so quickly on this legislation but for, lastly, moving so quickly on another piece of legislation that helps students directly, waiving some of the requirements that they repay their Pell grants and their other financial assistance if their studies were interrupted by Hurricane Katrina.

□ 1430

I certainly think with the steps we are taking today, we are providing quick, flexible relief, both to students in great need, but also their institutions of higher education.

I have literally spent hours visiting with the leaders of these various institutions, campus presidents, with students visiting some of the impacted campuses, and there are questions in their minds regarding how they are to continue their studies, how are they going to continue their payrolls, how are they going to get their facilities back in preparation for welcoming students back to continuing their studies and their research as the rebuilding process continues.

Again, as a former president of a university system, I know how important these institutions are to the vitality, the economic growth, and the well-being of the region and the families that have been so devastated by these hurricanes. So I certainly thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their bipartisan support for this legislation, and I want to thank the chairman and the House for moving so quickly.

Again, this is not a comprehensive solution, but it is, again, a very important first step forward.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill to protect financial aid opportunities for students and schools affected by the recent hurricanes in the gulf coast region.

I would like to thank my friend from Louisiana, Representative BOBBY JINDAL, for his ongoing efforts to provide higher education assistance to the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. I would also like to thank Representatives MILLER, KILDEE, and HINOJOSA for working with us in a bipartisan manner to provide critical higher education relief.

The Natural Disaster Student Aid Fairness Act protects financial aid opportunities for students and schools affected by the recent hurricanes by providing needed flexibility for the campus based aid programs.

The three campus based aid programs—Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG), Federal Work Study, and the Perkins Loan program—provide valuable financial assistance to low- and middle-income students.

The funds are allocated to colleges and universities, which then combine Federal funds with their own dollars and award financial aid to their students. Because the campus based aid programs are awarded to institutions and require institutional matching funds, colleges and universities impacted by the hurricanes are facing additional challenges in maintaining these programs.

The Natural Disaster Student Aid Fairness Act allows the Secretary of Education to waive the institutional matching requirements for institutions affected by the gulf coast hurricanes and for institutions whose financial aid budgets have been stretched more than anticipated as they open their doors to affected students.

This flexibility will ensure colleges and universities are still able to participate in the campus based aid programs as they work to rebuild their campuses and serve their students.

The bill also extends the deadline for the Department of Education to reallocate excess funds for these programs to provide ample time to assess the needs of all participating institutions.

Moreover, the bill allows these excess funds to be targeted to the institutions located in the affected regions or to the institutions that have accepted displaced students.

The campus based aid programs have always been aimed at meeting the needs of disadvantaged students. For the students and schools impacted by the gulf coast hurricanes, the time of need is now. This bill will provide much needed flexibility to ensure these funds are available to the students and schools that need them the most.

Once again, I would like to thank the sponsor of this bill, Representative JINDAL, and members on both sides of the aisle for working quickly on this bill to protect financial aid opportunities for students and schools impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE
WORKFORCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, September 27, 2005.

Hon. JIM NUSSLE,

Chairman, Committee on the Budget, Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NUSSLE: I am writing concerning H.R. 3863, the "Natural Disaster Student Aid Fairness Act," which is scheduled for floor consideration today. Section 3 of the bill designates that any provision of Section 2 affecting receipts, budget authority, or outlays in the bill will be for emergency purposes pursuant to the budget resolution of this year (H. Con. Res. 95). Thus, the Committee on Education and the Workforce shares the jurisdiction with the Committee on the Budget on this provision.

I recognize the Committee on the Budget's jurisdictional interest in Section 3 of the bill, but ask that you allow H.R. 3863 to go forward. I agree that by allowing the bill to be considered, the Committee on the Budget does not relinquish any jurisdiction over H.R. 3863 or similar legislation. I would also support your request to be represented on a conference on H.R. 3863, if one should become necessary.

Finally, I will include my letter and your response in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the measure.

Sincerely,

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 27, 2005.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,

Chairman, Committee on Education and the Workforce, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BOEHNER: In recognition of the desire to expedite floor consideration of H.R. 3863, the Natural Disaster Student Aid Fairness Act, the Committee on the Budget agrees to waive its right to consider this leg-

islation. H.R. 3863, as introduced on September 22, 2005, contains subject matter that falls within the legislative jurisdiction of the Committee on the Budget pursuant to rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives. Section 3 of the bill, relating to the designation of provisions of the bill as emergency requirements pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95, is of jurisdictional and substantive interest to this Committee.

The Committee on the Budget appreciates the Education and Workforce Committee's recognition of our jurisdictional interest in section 3. The Budget Committee also appreciates your offer to support any request we might make to be represented on the conference for H.R. 3863. Finally, the Committee on the Budget recognizes that the Committee on Education and the Workforce retains sole jurisdiction over all provisions of H.R. 3863 other than section 3.

Thank you for including our letters in the Congressional Record during floor consideration.

Sincerely,

JIM NUSSLE,
Chairman.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Natural Disaster Student Aid Fairness Act.

Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita have caused destruction of monumental proportions. First and foremost, our priority should remain delivering food, water and other aid to those most in need. During this time of national crisis we should tap every available resource of the Federal Government to make sure that we are providing relief in every corner of the devastated Gulf Coast region. This relief extends to the colleges and universities that work so hard to provide our young people with the skills they need to succeed.

This important legislation would allow the Secretary of Education to grant waivers to colleges and universities affected by these disasters that participate in Federal Campus-Based Aid programs such as SEOG and Federal Work-Study. This would waive the requirement that participating institutions of higher education provide matching Federal funds provided to the institution for these programs.

I am pleased to see the speed at which legislation is being considered to help students in the affected regions and applaud the spirit of bipartisanship in addressing these important issues. I commend the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JINDAL) for introducing this legislation, and I thank the leadership for calling this legislation to the floor so quickly.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill in a difficult hour. I strongly encourage my colleagues to vote for it.

Mr. JINDAL. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JINDAL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3863, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.