

irresponsibility have resulted in higher interest rates and our Nation's students having to pay for the mistakes of this administration and this Congress.

Last year the House leadership chose to cut student loans to the tune of \$12 billion through the Deficit Reduction Act. With those cuts in the budget reconciliation bill, and now with higher interest rates on student loans, we are sending a message to America's students and their families that they are no longer among this Nation's top priorities.

As high school graduates and their proud parents calculate how they can squeeze college costs into their budget, they are discovering that it is an uphill climb for most families, made tougher by new higher interest rates.

Mr. Speaker, I support this extension that we are considering here today, but I do not support the direction and actions of this Congress as it relates to higher education. We must do more to ensure that every qualified student has the chance to go to college.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS).

(Mr. ANDREWS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, the last couple of weeks and months have been times of mixed emotions for a lot of American families. Many people got the thick envelope in the mail that told them they were accepted to the school they really want to get into. And then it became time to figure out how to pay for it.

Now, a few families were fortunate enough, very few families were fortunate enough, they have enough income to meet the tuition payment. Others immediately went down to the bank and made a home equity loan application to figure out a way to borrow enough money to send their son or daughter to school. Others weren't so fortunate and had to decide some other course, maybe including not going to school at all. And then others who are themselves already parents who are raising children and working full time just can't figure out a way to do it without putting themselves so far in debt that it makes no sense to get an education.

This bill is a missed opportunity to address that problem. There were significant savings generated in the student loan programs that were thrown away by the reconciliation bill, the budget-cutting bill passed by this Congress late in 2005. Money that could have been used to raise loan limits, eliminate origination fees, expand programs where people can pay back their loan as a function of their income, money that could have been used to increase Pell Grants was instead put into the economic priorities of this majority: tax cuts for the very wealthy, subsidies for corporate America and misadventures around the world. So here we are feebly extending existing terms

of this bill, while millions of American families struggle with the very real problem of how to pay for a higher education.

This is a missed opportunity. It calls for a radical change in the country's priorities away from tax breaks for the wealthy, away from welfare for corporate America, away from misadventures around the world, toward educating and investing in the people of this country. Those changes in priorities are coming.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5603.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 4755

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as cosponsor from the bill, H.R. 4755.

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

There was no objection.

SENIOR INDEPENDENCE ACT OF 2006

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5293) to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2007 through 2011, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5293

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the “Senior Independence Act of 2006”.

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

Sec. 3. Establishment of Administration on Aging.

Sec. 4. Functions of the Assistant Secretary.

Sec. 5. Federal agency consultation.

Sec. 6. Administration.

Sec. 7. Evaluation.

Sec. 8. Reports.

Sec. 9. Contractual, commercial and private pay relationships; appropriate use of Act funds.

Sec. 10. Nutrition education.

Sec. 11. Pension counseling and information programs.

Sec. 12. Authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 13. Purpose; administration.

Sec. 14. Authorization of appropriations; uses of funds.

Sec. 15. Organization.

Sec. 16. Area plans.

Sec. 17. State plans.

Sec. 18. Payments.

Sec. 19. Nutrition services incentive program.

Sec. 20. Consumer contributions.

Sec. 21. Supportive services and senior centers program.

Sec. 22. Nutrition service.

Sec. 23. Congregate nutrition program.

Sec. 24. Home delivered nutrition services.

Sec. 25. Criteria.

Sec. 26. Nutrition.

Sec. 27. Evaluation of nutrition projects.

Sec. 28. Improving indoor air quality to buildings where seniors congregate.

Sec. 29. Caregiver support program definitions.

Sec. 30. Caregiver support program.

Sec. 31. Activities of national significance.

Sec. 32. Title IV grant programs.

Sec. 33. Career preparation for the field of aging.

Sec. 34. Health care service demonstration projects in rural areas.

Sec. 35. Demonstration projects for multigenerational activities.

Sec. 36. Native American programs.

Sec. 37. Multidisciplinary centers.

Sec. 38. Responsibilities of Assistant Secretary.

Sec. 39. Community service employment-based training for older Americans.

Sec. 40. Native Americans caregiver support program.

Sec. 41. Vulnerable elder rights protection activities.

Sec. 42. Native American organization provisions.

Sec. 43. Elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation prevention.

Sec. 44. Technical amendments.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

Section 102 of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3002) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (10) to read as follows:

“(10) The terms ‘assistive device’, ‘assistive technology’, and ‘assistive technology service’ have the meanings given such terms in section 3 of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3002).”.

(2) by amending paragraph (12)(D) to read as follows:

“(D) evidence-based health promotion programs, including programs related to the prevention and mitigation of the effects of chronic disease (including osteoporosis, hypertension, obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease), alcohol and substance abuse reduction, smoking cessation, weight loss and control, stress management, falls prevention, physical activity, and improved nutrition through the consumption of a healthful diet and multivitamin-mineral supplementation.”.

(3) in paragraph (29)(E)—

(A) in clause (i) by striking “and” at the end, (B) in clause (ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and” , and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) older individuals at risk for institutional placement.”.

(4) by amending paragraph (24) to read as follows:

“(24) The term ‘exploitation’ means the fraudulent or otherwise illegal, unauthorized, or improper act or process of an individual that uses the resources of an older individual for monetary or personal benefit, profit, or gain, or that results in depriving an older individual of rightful access to, or use of, benefits, resources, belongings, or assets.”.

(5) by amending paragraph (34) to read as follows:

“(34) The term ‘neglect’ means—

“(A) the failure of a caregiver or fiduciary to provide goods or services that are necessary to maintain the health or safety of an elder; or
“(B) self neglect.”.