

middle class and provides real, not token relief. That includes \$28 billion in tax relief for 35 million families who work but make too little to pay income taxes—families who otherwise would not have been included in this recovery effort, more than 19 million of them with children.

To meet our obligation, to boost our struggling economy, and provide real assistance for working and middle-class Americans, I urge a “yes” vote.

COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY AND
AFFORDABILITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Chairman, I'm pleased that today the House passed H.R. 4137, the College Opportunity and Affordability Act. This bill makes great strides towards helping our Nation's students and families afford college.

The rising cost of college is making the opportunity of a quality education further and further out of reach for far too many of our students. In March, the University of California and California State system raised their tuition for the fifth time in 6 years. This year, students at a school like Sonoma State, in my district, will be required to pay nearly 10 percent more for tuition. With recent budget shortfalls in many States, including California, more increases in tuition appear to be on the horizon. The Federal Government, States, and universities need to work together to both control costs and provide better access to financial aid to ensure that everyone has the chance for a college education.

This bill will help with both college costs and financial aid for our neediest students, and that's why it's such an important bill. Through this bill, States will be encouraged to do their part in keeping college costs down, and universities will be encouraged to be more transparent with important information like projected tuition and fees and average financial aid. This will help ensure that students and their families are not caught unaware by college costs. This bill also assists our Nation's neediest students by increasing the maximum Pell Grant that can be awarded and giving more non-traditional students access to this important source of aid. In addition, this bill encourages more students to go into important fields that serve the public interest, such as teaching, nursing, and firefighting, by offering loan forgiveness in exchange for their invaluable service.

Particularly pleasing is the inclusion of three programs that I championed and which should make a real difference in the lives of our Nation's students. The first is the Patsy T. Mink Fellowships, which will provide fellowships to women and minorities to help them attain graduate degrees in underrepresented fields. This program will encourage more women and minorities to go into underrepresented fields, and at the same time, will increase the amount of women and minorities who become professors in these fields. Congresswoman Patsy Mink was my mentor and friend and was a leader on women's equality and opportunity. This program is in honor of her work on

the inclusion of Title IX in the Higher Education Act and will further ensure equality in higher education.

As a former human resources manager, I know that it can be difficult to find workers to fill all the empty positions. Often, applicants don't have the necessary skills or background to fill available positions. It's critical that we find a way to provide our workforce with the skills and education to fill the gaps. That's why programs like Bridges from Jobs to Careers and Business Workforce Partnerships, which I also championed, are so important.

The Bridges from Jobs to Careers grant program will provide competitive grants to community colleges to improve remedial education by customizing programs to the career and academic goals of students and making it possible for students to move more quickly through remedial classes and to courses related to their degree, certificate program, or career. We need to help students realize the end goal of their education program. Helping schools improve remedial education will help many students get in and out of school with the skills and education they need to succeed.

The Business Workforce Partnerships grant program will encourage the development of partnerships between colleges and businesses to work together to provide workers with for-credit worksite learning opportunities and more flexible schedules. By allowing workers to work and attend school, more of them will have access to the certificates and degrees that will lead to better jobs and higher salaries. These workers will also be able to better fit the needs of our changing workforce.

Thank you, Chairmen MILLER and HINOJOSA, for your leadership on the Higher Education Reauthorization Act. I look forward to working with you and our colleagues to continue to make college more affordable for our Nation's students.

HONORING RETIRING MARILLA
TOWN SUPERVISOR JOHN FOSS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the years of faithful public service of John Foss, retiring Supervisor of the Town of Marilla.

Madam Speaker, John Foss is a lot of things, and a lot of adjectives describe him well. Intelligent, committed and focused on the continued growth and improvement of his hometown, John Foss labored hard on behalf of his constituents, and he has the results to show for it.

I have had the pleasure of knowing John way back to the mid-1990s, when as a candidate for the New York State Assembly, John welcomed me to Marilla and introduced me to dozens of his neighbors—local residents and farmers with concerns about the agricultural industry in Erie County and New York State. John's friendship was critical to me in those days and his steadfast support for our efforts to revitalize the economy of Erie County and Western New York remain important to this very day.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring the public service career of retiring

Marilla Town Supervisor John Foss, and join me in wishing John and his entire family the very best of good luck and Godspeed as they embark upon this new chapter of their lives, active in the public affairs of the town of Marilla, but outside the formal role of Supervisor. Congratulations, John, on a job very well done.

CONGRATULATING ROCK THE
BOAT ON HIS SUCCESS AT THE
WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB
DOG SHOW

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Ch. Pinecrest Orchard Hill Rock the Boat at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. Rock the Boat, better known as Rocky, earned the “Best-in-Breed” title among the Cavalier King Charles Spaniels on Tuesday, February 12, 2008, for the second consecutive year.

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels are a part of the toy group, which encompasses twenty-three breeds. The Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, America's oldest organization dedicated to the sport of purebred dogs, limits entry to 2,500 dogs. Rocky won best-in-breed in his category after going up against a field of thirty-five entrants, and was one of only 169 dogs to receive this honor for 2008.

This triumph is the most recent in a string of successes for Rocky and his owners. In his brief show career, Rocky has accumulated six all-breed Best in Show wins, over thirty Toy Group wins, seven Specialty Best of Breed wins and eight Best in Show wins at the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club, USA Specialties, making him the American Kennel Club's #1 Cavalier. His list of achievements is only made more impressive by the fact that he is not yet three years old.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Rocky, as well as his breeder, owners, and trainer, for his many impressive accomplishments. It is an honor to have such a celebrated canine reside in the 26th District of Texas. I look forward to seeing what the future brings for the talented Rocky.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, January 23, 2008, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation. I would like to make a correction to my earlier explanation of my missed votes on January 23, 2008.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:

(1) Rollcall No. 21: “yes.” On Ordering the Previous Question.

(2) Rollcall No. 22: “yes.” On Motion to Pass H.R. 3963, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding.