

consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act because it will increase our deficit, but not help Americans with the expense of college. This bill is just one more area where the President and his party's leadership in the House are seeking to take over private industry. This is yet another one-size-fits-all government program intended to cripple the private sector and force additional financial risk on the American taxpayer.

In the last few months, we have watched the national debt level grow at an unprecedented rate. We spent billions of dollars bailing out the automobile industry. We have thrown good money after bad to prop up portions of the financial sector that we are told are "too big to fail." We've bailed out Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, only to watch the housing industry continue to flounder. We have spent more than \$780 billion on a stimulus package that has left us with higher unemployment than we had before the bill. And in the next few weeks, we will need to raise the debt ceiling again.

Claims that this bill will save the nation billions of dollars look like a budget gimmick to pay for new government programs. Government has grown enough in recent years. We need to be looking for ways to save money and reduce our deficit, not spend "projected savings" on new, duplicative programs.

Furthermore, the money that supporters claim will be made available by these budget gimmicks is only expected to cover the first five years of these new programs. After that, Congress will be forced to find alternative sources of funding for them, or eliminate them. This is as productive as a credit card offering no payments for six months. This is a very poor way to manage the finances of the nation.

A second big problem I see with H.R. 3221 is the federalization of the student loan industry. If we run out of money for this program in the future, what happens to the students? With no private lenders, the students are left without any other source of funding for their education.

Fifteen years ago, when the federal government first got involved in the business of providing student loans, Congress was told that this was not an attempt for the federal government to take over the student loan industry, but simply a way to improve the system, and provide "competition" to the private sector. Yet, fifteen years later, here we are, debating a bill that would force private lenders out of the industry.

Does this argument sound familiar? It should. These are the same explanations being offered today by the President and by Democrat leaders in the House and Senate on health care. We are told that the bill will not lead to a government takeover of health care. Proponents say that a "government option" will simply compete, not replace, private health insurance plans. But I wonder, if the health care bill were to pass, how long would it be before this body is having a similar vote to eliminate private health insurance plans.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against this bill. This is a big government takeover of a private industry that will saddle taxpayers with the risk of billions in additional

debt, while shrinking access to resources for future generations of students. In short, Madam Speaker, if it ain't broke, don't fix it.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST.
JAMES EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF JEWETT, OHIO

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, Whereas, the dedicated people of St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church celebrate the church's 150th anniversary with great joy; and

Whereas, this milestone is the result of what a tempered people began in 1859; and

Whereas, occasions such as these illustrate to us that love mixed with grace and trust will stand the test of time; and

Whereas, it is the fond wish of this body that you will continue to present this work as an example to congregations and faith communities everywhere; and

Whereas, you have demonstrated excellence in your calling as a church, as anything less would have left you bereaved of such a jubilant occasion, and we are proud to have you as sons and daughters in the great state of Ohio and of our nation; be it

Resolved that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the congregation for your unwavering labor and commitment, recognizing that all great achievements come with extraordinary effort. With great appreciation and respect, we wish you continued abundant grace as you continue to labor for your community and your faith.

TO RECOGNIZE THOMAS JEFFERSON
HIGH SCHOOL FOR SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY FOR BEING
NAMED A 2009 NATIONAL BLUE
RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology for being designated a 2009 National Blue Ribbon School. In 2009, 314 schools from 47 states were named National Blue Ribbon Schools. Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology is one of only two high schools from Virginia so honored for 2009 and in fact, is the only public high school in the Commonwealth to receive this prestigious designation.

The National Blue Ribbon School Program began in 1982 as part of a larger Department of Education effort to identify and disseminate knowledge about best school leadership and teaching practices. Since the program's inception, over 6,150 American schools have received this coveted award. This award honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools that are either academically superior or have made dramatic gains in student

achievement and helped close gaps in achievement among minority and disadvantaged students.

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology has a long history of academic excellence. It has fielded more National Merit Semifinalists than any other high school in America for most of the 1990s and 2000s. From 2000 to 2005, it fielded more United States of America Mathematical Olympiad qualifiers than any other high school in America and has a distinguished history of U.S. Physics Olympiad Team members and medal winners. In 2007 the school had more Intel Science Talent Search Semifinalists (14) than any other school and in 2009, this feat was repeated with 15 semifinalists.

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology was ranked as the top high school in the nation by PrepReview in 2004. In that same year, it had the highest average SAT score among all American high schools, both public and private.

It was also ranked number 1 among "America's Best High Schools" in a study by U.S. News and World Report in 2007 and again in 2008. For schools with more than 800 students in grades 10–12, TJHSST was cited as having the highest-performing AP Calculus BC, AP Chemistry, AP French Language, AP Government and Politics: U.S., and AP U.S. History courses among all schools worldwide.

It is fitting that Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology can now add its designation as a National Blue Ribbon School to their extensive list of other extraordinary achievements.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology on receiving this honor. I also ask my colleagues to join me in thanking the principal, Dr. Evan Glazer along with the entire staff, student body and their families for their commitment to excellence in education.

STUDENT AID AND FISCAL
RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Chair, I rise today in strong support of the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act. Today's bill provides access to education and builds a strong 21st Century workforce.

It provides access to college by ensuring that students have a reliable source of affordable federal loans. It simplifies the FAFSA to make it easier to apply for assistance. And it guarantees the Pell grant as a key to college affordability by indexing the maximum award to the Consumer Price Index plus one percent.

SAFRA will also help students stay in college with a new federal emphasis on college completion. As increasing numbers of Americans turn to community college for job training, this bill invests \$3 billion to fund programs to retain and graduate students.