

Michigan's youngest citizens receive the child support owed them and the unit is on track to collect over \$100 million by early 2011. His expanded efforts to keep children safe while online have resulted in the arrest of 258 internet sexual predators, making Michigan's Internet Predator Unit one of the most productive in the country. Cox's office developed the Michigan Cyber Safety Initiative. This innovative program has reached more than a half million.

With his unwavering commitment to all citizens, Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox has actively sought to protect our vulnerable senior citizens from unscrupulous caregivers, testified before Congress in defense of the embattled auto industry and led the fight to keep dangerously invasive Asian Carp from destroying our bountiful Great Lakes.

Madam Speaker, during his distinguished career, Attorney General has bettered the lives of countless Michiganders. As he embarks upon the next chapter of his life with his beloved wife Laura and his children Lindsey, Sinead, Conor and Rory, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding his legendary leadership, and in thanking him for his unfaltering service to our community and our country.

TAXPAYER RECEIPT ACT OF 2010

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 29, 2010

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, Oliver Wendell Holmes said "taxes are the price we pay for a civilized society" and taxes are a very big topic in our national debate today. How much federal income tax people pay and what those taxes buy is not well understood by many Americans. It is hard and complicated to figure out. Very little information about how tax revenues are spent is ever made available to the American people. This results in significant misinformation. For example, a Washington Post and Kaiser Foundation poll found that by a margin of two to one, Americans believe that the federal government spends more on foreign aid than on either Social Security or Medicare. This is why I am introducing the Taxpayer Receipt Act of 2010. This bill requires the Secretary of the Treasury to provide each taxpayer with a simple annual statement explaining how his or her federal income tax dollars were spent.

Similar to the annual Social Security statement, the Taxpayer Receipt will show the taxpayer's income tax liability, the amount of the liability spent on major spending categories, and the actual federal outlays for each category. It will also provide information on the state of the deficit and the 10 costliest tax breaks for that year. This simple annual Taxpayer Receipt will provide clear and consistent information to taxpayers that will serve to educate taxpayers on government spending—a subject full of misinformation.

Thomas Jefferson once said, "Information is the currency of democracy." To that end, providing Americans with information and transparency on government spending is essential to maintaining the strength and health of our democracy.

TO SUPPORT THE NUCLEAR ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2010

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 29, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 5866, the Nuclear Energy Research and Development Act of 2010.

I am proud to see this vital piece of legislation up for consideration under suspension of the rules today. My colleagues and I on the Science and Technology Committee worked tirelessly on this bill which amends the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to modify and augment existing nuclear research and development programs at the Department of Energy. This legislation is an important step in ensuring the next generation of affordable and safe nuclear energy.

Our country should focus on creating environmentally safe and economically sustainable nuclear energy in order to reduce reliance on fossil-fuel resources. I was pleased the Science and Technology Committee included an amendment I offered during the Energy and Environment Subcommittee Markup on July 27th, 2010 which is now section 13 of H.R. 5866. Section 13 calls for the Secretary of Energy to work with the National Academies to conduct a long-term operating study of our Nation's existing nuclear power plants.

We need to know how long these facilities can last safely and what can be done to maintain these plants better. We should also identify what major impediments are threatening their long-term operational viability. To help transition to a low carbon economy, Congress needs these questions answered.

The United States currently has 104 reactors in 31 States that generate approximately 20 percent of our nation's electricity. Data indicates that it is possible that one-third of nuclear facilities in our country will be retired in the next 20–25 years. Given that nuclear power provides approximately 20 percent of the electricity in the United States, this topic is of critical national concern.

Many existing nuclear facilities in the U.S. are nearing the end of their initial 40-year licenses. Many of these facilities are likely to seek and receive license renewals for an additional 20 years. As the demand for low-carbon electricity grows, it is not too soon to identify options for these plants beyond the 60-year mark. The dearth of new nuclear units necessitates that our current nuclear infrastructure must continue to operate reliability, safely, and efficiently.

In the U.S. there are 59 nuclear plants that have reapplied for licenses through the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for an additional 20 years, taking the age of their plants from 40 to 60. The need to demonstrate the technical and financial feasibility of extending the life of nuclear facilities beyond 60 years is evident. Madam Speaker, the best way to lower energy costs is to identify and implement affordable clean energy.

I would like to thank Chairman BART GORDON for introducing this critical legislation. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation in order to shed some light on the best path forward for our National Nuclear R&D strategy.

PROVIDING RELIEF TO THE UNEMPLOYED

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 29, 2010

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, the current recession has impacted the lives of millions of American families. Unemployment rates in the past 3 years have reached record highs, with competition for employment so steep that roughly five Americans compete for every available job. Providing meaningful relief to the unemployed in these scarce times is, by definition, our responsibility as legislators.

To get through these hard times, millions of unemployed Americans are raiding their retirement savings to put food on the table. In 2007, over 34 million Americans participated in their employer-sponsored retirement plans, and over 20 million Americans had an Individual Retirement Account. Unfortunately, withdrawing retirement funds early can carry stiff penalties. That is why I am introducing legislation to waive the penalty for unemployed taxpayers who have turned to their retirement savings for an early distribution. This bill will waive the penalty for such distributions made during 2009, 2010, or 2011, so long as the taxpayer received 12 consecutive weeks of unemployment compensation in the year the distribution was made.

In creating retirement accounts with special tax treatment, Congress was encouraging saving towards a financially stable retirement. It was the right thing to do. Congress wanted these funds to be for retirement, but Congress did not foresee the economic disaster we are going through. By allowing temporary, penalty-free withdrawals from retirement accounts when folks are unemployed we are helping the unemployed when they need it most.

HONORING BRUCE PATTERSON

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 29, 2010

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge the distinguished career of Bruce Patterson, Michigan State Senator representing the 7th District.

Born in Detroit, Michigan on February 7, 1947, Senator Patterson now resides in Canton. After graduating from Redford High School, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wayne State University in 1969, and thereafter, in 1972, a Juris Doctorate Degree from Wayne State University Law School.

Prior to beginning his storied political career, Senator Patterson served 20 years as an Associate Attorney, Vice President and President of McCabe, Middleton and Patterson, PC. Senator Patterson has been a member of the State Bar of Michigan since 1972 and was a member of the Plymouth-Canton Public School's Educational Excellence Foundation Board of Directors from 1989–1997. As Director of Planned Giving for Eastern Michigan University, Senator Patterson diligently worked from 1991 to 1994. He devoted his time and energy as President of the Canton Economic Club from 1991 to 1992 and to the Canton