

director of the National Science Foundation.

Each of these individuals, the top leaders from our government who focus on research and technology, will be available to answer questions and to present a broad overview of the kinds of technology that America needs to focus on in the 21st Century.

During the 2 days we will also have breakout sessions, approximately 20 of them, that will be centered around specific technology areas: information technology, environmental technology, materials technology, technology relative to oceans and outer space, so that young scientists, entrepreneurs and academics can get a feel of where we are spending America's tax money and how we can better spend that money and leverage it to create new opportunities for us to improve our quality of life.

My purpose today is to invite all of our colleagues to come to Philadelphia for April 6 and 7, to invite all the staff members from the House, as well as the other body, and to invite people and companies from all over America to come and look at what we are calling Tech Trends 2000, the kind of technology that we expect to be focusing on in the next millennium.

It is our opportunity to show America where their \$80 billion a year of R&D investment is going and how they can take advantage of that. So I encourage our colleagues to invite their university research leaders, to invite their companies, to invite students. Students, graduate and undergraduate, can come to this entire conference for free. There is a small charge for the private companies that would come. It is a golden opportunity to see where America is going in terms of technology in the 21st Century.

It is a bipartisan opportunity. It is an opportunity where the Congress is working hand-in-hand with the White House and all the various Federal agencies, so I encourage my colleagues to attend. It is called Tech Trends 2000. Contact a Member of Congress any place in America, who can get information about this conference and how one can take advantage of this golden opportunity.

SUPPORT A COMPLETE AND THOROUGH COUNT OF EVERY CITIZEN IN THIS COUNTRY FOR THE NEXT CENSUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I take pride in joining my Democratic colleagues in supporting a complete and thorough count of every citizen in this country for the next census.

The year 2000 will usher in a new year, a new decade, a new century and

a new millennium. It is more important now than in any other time in our history to ensure that every citizen will be counted and that that count will be as accurate as possible.

The 1990 undercount of 4 million people had a disproportionate effect on minorities, women and children, particularly women on ranches and farms. Many individuals were denied an equal voice in their government.

□ 2045

Millions were double-counted, and millions more were not counted at all.

Census data directly affects decisions made on all matters of national and local importance, including education, employment, public health care, housing, and transportation, among other things.

Federal, State, and county government use Census information to guide the annual distribution of hundreds of billions of dollars in critical services. The data is also used to monitor and to enforce compliance with civil rights statutes, employment, housing, lending, education, and antidiscrimination laws.

Finally, the accuracy of the Census directly affects our Nation's ability to ensure equal representation and equal access to important governmental resources for all Americans.

Ensuring a fair and accurate Census must be regarded as one of the most significant civil rights issues facing the country today. If we accept the current Census count of nearly 2 million farms in the United States, only 6 percent will be represented as being operated by women. This small percentage reflects that women on ranches and farms have been severely undercounted. This inaccurate count is also due to the type of information collected by the Census Bureau and the Department of Agriculture in their yearly count.

Mr. Speaker, everyone counts. Minorities count. Women and children count. Young men and elderly men count. Farmers and small business owners count. Rural Americans count. Urban Americans count. Suburban and inner city dwellers count. In America, Mr. Speaker, we all count. Let us have a Census that does just that, count all of us fairly and accurately. Let us count the Census correctly.

EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about education savings accounts, also known as education IRAs. These ESAs are the wave of the future, as they will give families the tools to help their children receive a quality education.

I am very proud to be a lead cosponsor of H.R. 7, the Education Savings and School Excellence Act of 1999. Current law allows only parents to put away \$500 a year in an ESA. It does not permit funds in that account to be used for K through 12 education. H.R. 7 allows families to put up to \$2,000 a year into an education savings account to be used for tuition or school expenses for K through 12 and higher education.

As a parent, I know how hard it is to save money to send children to private school or to pay for books and supplies. As a congressman, I hear daily how hard it is for my constituents to keep up with the rising cost of educating their children.

This legislation would give parents the tools to help their children succeed in school by allowing them to put away money in a tax-free account to help defray expensive education costs.

Mr. Speaker, I am a big proponent of choice. This bill gives parents the choice to send their children to the best school possible, public or private. It also offers them the choice of buying computer equipment or getting access to the Internet.

I know that opponents of this measure say that we are leaving poor students behind in bad schools. This is completely and absolutely wrong. I and other cosponsors of this bill support public school education, and do not want to take money away from them. This bill encourages families to use education savings accounts to supplement a student's public education by paying for a high-cost item such as computer equipment.

In fact, studies have shown that 75 percent of all families using these accounts will use them to support children in public schools. That is why parents of all backgrounds support education savings accounts, because it will give students the tools they need to excel in the 21st century.

In my hometown of Chicago, the Catholic Archdiocese has an unparalleled record of educating students of all racial and economic backgrounds. However, the Archdiocese faces serious economic challenges, and Cardinal George of Chicago supports this measure because it will allow the Archdiocese to continue to play its part in teaching the youth of Chicago.

He has worked closely with Mayor Daley, because both of them know that Chicago's public schools cannot educate the children of Chicago by themselves, and it must be a collective group effort. Mayor Daley in turn also supports education savings accounts, because he knows it will help students get a good education.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, to cosponsor H.R. 7 so we can give current and future generations of schoolchildren the tools to be the brightest in the 21st century.