

resolution that recently passed in the House of Representatives expressing congressional opposition to a unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state (H. Con. Res. 24).

My vote for this resolution was not a comment on the merits of a Palestinian state. Rather, my vote is a reflection of my belief that a unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state at this time would hamper efforts to reach a just and lasting peace between the parties. A unilateral Palestinian declaration of an independent state outside of the framework agreed upon in Madrid, Oslo and Wye would not bode well with the current, precarious state of the peace process. This is the position advanced by our Administration. Indeed, the resolution simply restates official U.S. policy. Ultimately, this is why I voted for it.

However, I would note that I chose not to cosponsor the resolution because of my concerns with its one-sided approach. I am concerned that unilateral actions by any of the parties would have a great potential to undermine the efforts we have set forth for peace—whether committed by Palestinians or Israelis. The resolution's failure to mention any Israeli unilateral actions was, in my opinion, a grave error.

The Administration has worked hard to keep this process going—to keep the hope for peace alive for both Israelis and Palestinians. Congress should work diligently to support this effort and maintain balance.

A BILL TO AMEND THE RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTATION TAX CREDIT TO PROVIDE A CREDIT AS AN INCENTIVE TO FOSTER COLLABORATIVE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROJECTS THROUGH BROADLY SUPPORTED NON-PROFIT, TAX-EXEMPT SECTION 501(c)(3) RESEARCH CONSORTIA

**HON. AMO HOUGHTON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague from Michigan, Mr. LEVIN, together with twenty-one of our colleagues, in introducing our bill, the "Public Benefit Collaborative Research Tax Credit." This bill would amend the research and experimentation tax credit in order to foster collaborative scientific research projects through broadly supported non-profit section 501(c)(3) research consortia. These collaborative not-for-profit scientific research consortia are devoted to research projects that benefit not just one company, but the economy and the country as a whole. Our amendment to the research credit would provide incentives for multi-company and multi-industry research partnerships, with the result that this important tax credit would be structured to foster the kind of collaborative research on which America's economic growth in the 21st century will depend.

Our proposal would require that the research tax credit be extended beyond its June 30, 1999 expiration date, and we strongly urge extension of the credit. The research intensive

sectors of our economy find it very difficult to do planning for research due to the constant stop-and-start arising from the perennial expiration and re-enactment of the research credit. The research credit is one of our most important tax incentives for economic growth, because scientific and technological innovation are, in the final analysis, the sources of that growth.

This is why our public benefit collaborative research credit proposal is so important. More and more scientific and technological research of the greatest economic value now takes place not in the confines of individual companies, but collaboratively—and this is true for traditional manufacturing and utility sectors as well as computers and telecommunications. Yet the research credit as it currently stands actually contains disincentives for collaborative research. Companies are required to reduce their contributions to non-profit research consortia by an arbitrary 25% before those amounts can be used in the computation of the credit. Our proposal would eliminate the disincentives in current law for collaborative research, and make the research credit "fit" modern research-partnership approaches.

Under our bill, companies would be entitled to a flat (non-incremental) 20% credit for support payments made to non-profit, tax exempt section 501(c)(3) scientific research organizations. Section 501(c)(3) scientific research organizations are required under existing law—which would not change—to make their research results available to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis. In this way, our proposal assures that all the scientific research for which our new credit is allowed is public-benefit research. In addition, for support payments to be eligible for our credit, the tax-exempt scientific research organization receiving the support payments would be required to have at least 15 unrelated supporting members, no three of which provide more than half of its funding and no one of which provides more than 25% of its funding. This assures that only truly multi-company collaborative research consortia are supported by our proposal.

Examples of broadly supported section 501(c)(3) research consortia whose continued success is tied to our proposal are the Gas Research Institute, funded by member companies in the natural gas industry, the Electric Power Research Institute, funded by member companies in the electric utility industry, the National Center for Manufacturing Sciences, funded by a coalition of high-technology manufacturing companies, the American Water Works Association Research Foundation, funded by water utilities, and non-profit consortia funded by other utility sectors. Collaborative public-benefit scientific research conducted by these and other section 501(c)(3) research consortia (and our bill should encourage new consortia) represents some of the most efficient and economically significant research being performed in the United States today, e.g. in the areas of cutting-edge manufacturing techniques, energy efficiency, public health, and economically rational pollution control, among many other areas. Collaborative research consortia supported by our proposal are devoted to sophisticated scientific research that in many cases no single com-

pany could afford, or would be willing, to conduct on its own, because of the uncertainty of immediate success or because of the risk of copycat competitors.

For all these reasons collaborative scientific research represents our brightest economic future. Our bill amends the research tax credit provisions to foster this goal. We urge our colleagues to join us in cosponsoring this very important legislation, the "Public Benefit Collaborative Research Tax Credit Act of 1999."

AMENDING THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

**HON. BOB BARR**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to announce the introduction of legislation which would amend the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to provide more flexibility for schools, and would require the expulsion and termination of education services, if a student with a disability carries a weapon to school or to a school function, and it is determined the behavior in question of the child was not due to his or her disability.

When a student brings a weapon into school, it places every individual's life in danger. Such a potentially dangerous action cannot be tolerated or accepted; regardless of whether the student has a disability. The protection of students and faculty must be a priority. We must establish a zero tolerance for weapons in schools, and not allow federal regulations to tie the hands of school disciplinarians. IDEA strongly restricts school administrators and educators in the area of discipline.

Recently, in Cobb County, Georgia, two seventh-graders were expelled by the local school board for bringing a handgun to school. Insofar as these boys have disabilities they may very well be sent to a private school at taxpayer expense, in accordance with IDEA. Under the provisions of IDEA, if a student brings a weapon to school and is expelled, then the school board is responsible for providing alternative education services. For Cobb County taxpayers, the cost of educating a student outside the regular classroom can range between \$5,000 and \$41,000 a year, depending on the level of special services required.

Ninety-five percent of students in special education who are suspended or expelled for displaying violent or aggressive behavior are not disciplined. Taxpayers should not be held responsible for these children with disabilities who carry weapons into schools or school functions. This also bill reduces the amazing amount of paperwork administrators must deal with under IDEA, and it would provide for more flexibility for schools in the disciplinary process.

While I support and voted in favor of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act, H.R. 5, in 1997, I do not support condoning behavior by a student that places the students and faculty members at risk. If it is determined a disabled student's disability was not a contributing factor, that student