

May 19, 2000

as a few policy changes that we believe are necessary to implement the Act as intended. There are also a number of policy changes that were recommended to us that have not been included in this bill, and I expect that some will be disappointed at their exclusion. However, in crafting this legislation, we have worked to ensure that the bill is bipartisan, that it is fully paid for, that it will benefit students, and that it will be signed into law.

For example, I feel very strongly that the Department is not following our intent with respect to direct loan origination fees. Now, before this is taken out of context, let me be clear; I support better terms and conditions for students. The 1998 amendments were designed to provide students with the best possible deal under very tight budget constraints, and I believe we succeeded in doing that. However, the law is very clear in directing the Secretary to collect a four percent origination fee on direct student loans.

This is confirmed in legal opinions from the Congressional Research Service and the Comptroller General. It was not our intent to change that, and in my view the Department's action sets a very dangerous precedent. The fact that this legislation does not address this issue should not be taken as an endorsement of the Department's actions.

The legislation we are introducing today does make a needed change to the "return of federal funds" provisions in the Higher Education Act to help students who withdraw before the end of a term. Specifically, it corrects the Department's interpretation and clarifies that students are never required to return more than 50 percent of the grant funds they received. Again, I know there are those who would like us to go further. However, doing so would have mandatory spending implications that we have no way to pay for, and in many instances would result in students leaving school with increased student loan debt.

This bill will also modify the campus crime reporting provisions of the Act to provide parents and students with information on schools' policies regarding the handling of reports on missing students. Specifically, information will be provided on a school's policy on parental notification as well as its policy for investigating such reports and cooperating with local police. I have a long history of trying to ensure that parents have the information they need to make sure that their children are safe on campus, and I have worked closely with my colleague, Mr. Andrews, to craft this version of "Bryan's Law" so that it gives parents this information without overly burdening schools.

Finally, I would also note that we have included the provisions of H.R. 3629, the Tribal College Amendments, which we marked up last month and which passed the House under suspension of the rules. These provisions will streamline grant applications for Tribal Colleges under Title III and allow institutions to apply for a new grant without waiting for two years. We have included them again here because we are uncertain whether the other body will act on H.R. 3629 in a timely manner. I also note that this bill contains similar treatment for Hispanic Serving Institutions under Title V, and I thank our colleague, MARK GREEN of Wisconsin, for bringing this issue to our attention.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

I also want to thank Mr. CLAY, Mr. MCKEON, and Mr. MARTINEZ for their efforts in crafting this bipartisan legislation. This bill will not satisfy everyone completely. But it does make necessary technical and policy changes that will improve the implementation of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998, and it does so in a way that will benefit students and that is likely to be enacted. I urge my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to support this legislation.

COMMENDING MASTER CHIEF ANDE HARTLEY

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2000

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, today I commend Master Chief Ande Hartley of the United States Navy upon his retirement after twenty-one years of service and duty to our country. Ande carried out that duty as a submariner.

Being a member of a submarine crew for two decades is no small accomplishment. It is well known among members of our armed forces that submarine duty may be among the toughest and most challenging assignments in the Navy. After all, in most other assignments in the Navy, there is usually an opportunity to leave your station for a few hours and have time alone. When you are aboard a submarine there is no opportunity for retreat from one's responsibilities.

Ande's specific duties as a Machinist Mate aboard a nuclear submarine were to make sure that the mechanical systems of the submarine ran properly. All though I am not aware of all those responsibilities, I want to be sure and mention the importance of running the propulsion plant spacers and ensuring that all mechanics associated with the reactor plant were in proper working order. If a qualified member of the crew had not carried out these duties correctly, then this ship would be unable to perform its covert operations for the Navy that are so vital to the freedom of this nation.

Without reservation Mr. Speaker, I can say that Master Chief Ande Hartley has performed his duties well. I am sure there were days he realized he could pursue other employment opportunities and earn better pay, and benefits as well as enjoy more time with his family and friends. For Ande though, true commitment is more than pay and benefits, it is about the preservation of the freedom we enjoy so that our family and friends will have the opportunities they now have in the future.

Ande's sacrifices are without doubt noteworthy and commendable. His commitment is an example that his family, friends and fellow sailors can follow as a pattern in their own lives. Thank you Ande for serving your country so faithfully, for so many years. It is an example we can all follow.

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CONCERN FOR 13 MEMBERS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY WHO ARE ON TRIAL

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2000

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with my colleagues the deep concern that I have for 13 members of the Jewish community in Iran who are on trial for a crime I do not believe they have committed. Iran's arbitrary charges against these thirteen individuals endangers that country's entire Jewish community and is an offense to world Jewry. The trial takes place at the same time when the world honors those who were lost to the Holocaust and vows never to let such atrocities of hate recur.

I am encouraged by the fact that so many of my colleagues have taken a role of moral leadership on this issue, and have expressed their outrage to the Administration and to Iranian authorities. This past week, members of Congress took further steps to emphasize how seriously this trial can affect Iran's status. We wrote to the World Bank and contacted nations on the bank's loan approval board to urge postponement of pending loans for development projects in Iran. Unfortunately, those loans were approved. I am grateful that representatives of numerous nations that were present expressed concern over the trial. The outcome of this trial will not be overlooked by members of Congress or the Jewish and human rights communities.

The future for these thirteen individuals does not look promising. No matter what the outcome of this trial is, I will never forget Iran's behavior and will take this matter into account as I make foreign policy decisions that affect that country. I commend to my colleagues an article written by Douglas Bloomfield for the Chicago Jewish Star. Mr. Bloomfield's column is usually full of great information and insight, this one is particularly compelling and is worthy of members' attention.

SHOA TRIAL

(By Douglas M. Bloomfield)

There was something deeply troubling and yet fitting that as Jews around the world last week remembered the Six Million who perished in the Holocaust, the Ayatollahs began the trial of 13 Jews accused of spying for Israel. It was a dramatic reminder that Jews remain endangered in some parts of the world.

The time and place were appropriate. Iran is where a long-ago Hitler once concocted genocidal plans for the Jews of the Persian Empire. Just a few weeks ago, Haman's modern descendants declared the ancient vizier was really an Egyptian, not unlike the Austrians trying to convince the world Hitler was really a German.

The trial of 13 men accused on trumped up espionage charges opened on a dramatic note with the televised confessions, outside the courtroom, of first, one man and then two more and other followed, all dutifully denying coercion.

It was an alarming development unabashedly offered by a regime that wanted the world to see the confessions but not the trial.