

funding in H.R. 4577 completely undermines the public prioritization of education as a paramount concern in 2000.

Make no mistake—these education cuts come as no surprise. Beginning with the passage of the House budget resolution for FY 2001, my Republican colleagues have shown their true intentions with regard to education funding. As passed, the budget resolution provide \$56.8 billion for 2001 appropriations for education, training, employment, and social services—almost \$5 billion less than the level provided in the House Democratic budget and the President's budget. The conference agreement on the budget would eliminate Head Start for more than 40,000 children and their families and provide 316,000 fewer Pell Grants to low-income students by 2005.

If enacted, these cuts would have serious consequences on the future of our schools and our children. Although our children have no legislative voice, they represent our nation's future and deserve our investment in their education today. As it stands, H.R. 4577 would cut funding for reading tours, teacher quality initiatives, bilingual instruction, class size reduction, school modernization, violence prevention initiatives, afterschool services and many other vital programs.

Specifically, the House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill would cut \$1 billion in targeted investments to improve teacher quality and recruit new teachers. Further, it would completely repeal last year's bipartisan commitment to hire 100,000 new teachers to reduce class size in the early grades. H.R. 4577 also would ignore our disadvantaged children by eliminating Head Start assistance to 53,000 children, cutting bilingual instruction to 143,000 students, ending college preparation assistance for 644,000 low-income middle and high school students and denying school violence prevention aid to 40 urban, suburban and rural communities.

If enacted, H.R. 4577 would be a grave disservice to our children and the future of our nation. For these reasons and more, I oppose the unsatisfactory education funding levels in this appropriations bill.

Unfortunately, underfunded education initiatives is not the only problem with this bill. Particularly offensive is the language in the bill that would prohibit the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) from using funds to advance its ergonomics standard. Each year, our nation's workers experience almost two million work-related musculoskeletal disorders from overexertion or repetitive motion injuries due to unsatisfactory working conditions. A third of these injuries result in lost workdays and decreased worker productivity.

As a result of limiting funding to implement the ergonomics standard for the past five years, America's workers have lost approximately \$45 million in workers compensation and other related costs while failing to prevent 1.5 million disabling injuries. It is time for Congress to provide relief to the hundreds of thousands of workers who continue to suffer these painful injuries by allowing OSHA to move forward with its safety standard for work-related ergonomic hazards.

H.R. 4577 also fails to provide the requested adequate levels of funding to further workforce development by eliminating employ-

ment services assistance for over 400,000 displaced workers. In addition, this bill cuts millions of dollars of requested funding levels for programs specifically designed to improve working conditions while providing the means to protect employment insurance, wages and pensions. As corporations continue to maximize their profits through mergers, the need for Congress to look after the health, safety and welfare of working families is now more pressing than ever.

Finally, this legislation lacks appropriate funding levels for health care and senior citizen programs. Even as my Republican colleagues bemoan the state of health care, they refuse to fund the necessary programs to increase access and decrease costs. H.R. 4577 denies \$125 million requested by the President for over 250,000 Americans with long-term care needs. This bill eliminates \$36 million to ensure that 1.6 million elderly and disabled receive quality nursing care. Additionally, instead of working to ensure that retiring Americans receive their Social Security benefits in a timely manner, H.R. 4577 cuts Social Security Administrative expenses by \$156 million. The result of this cut will be increased waiting times for 26 million individuals and delayed claims for 100,000 individuals.

H.R. 4577 does not only neglect the elderly and the disabled, but it also targets children for critical health program cuts. Rather than meeting the President's request for funding for mental health treatment services, this bill cuts \$40 million from programs to care for 2,200 children with serious mental illnesses and blocks grants to 50 communities to reach individuals not currently receiving services within the mental health system. Finally, H.R. 4577 falls \$44 million short of the amount needed to adequately address substance abuse treatment for over 28,000 addicted individuals seeking treatment.

Clearly, I cannot support this bill as written. In its current form, this legislation is nothing less than an insult to the American people. It inadequately and irresponsibly allocates money to Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. However, should this bill return from the Senate with the appropriate funding levels, I will gladly support it. I sincerely hope we can work out the problems and pass a responsible bill that responds to the needs of our children, workers, and elderly citizens.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN JACOBS

### HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2000

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to John Jacobs. One of the most well known and respected political journalists in Northern California, Mr. Jacobs recently passed away after a lengthy battle with cancer. His friends and family will gather for a memorial service on Thursday, June 15. I ask all my colleagues to join with me today in saluting John Jacobs.

After attending Lowell High School in San Francisco, Mr. Jacobs graduated Phi Beta Kappa from UC Berkeley in 1972. He earned a master's degree in American history at the

State University of New York, Stony Brook, in 1973 and a master's degree in Journalism at UC Berkeley in 1977.

John Jacobs was recognized as a Knight Professional Journalism Fellow at Stanford University in 1984–1985 and a visiting scholar at Berkeley's Institute of Governmental Studies. It was there that he researched most of his book, "A Rage for Justice," a biography of Phil Burton.

At the beginning of his distinguished literary career, Mr. Jacobs spent a year as a general assignment reporter on the national desk for the Washington Post. He later made his mark writing for his hometown newspaper, the San Francisco Examiner. He wrote for the Examiner for 15 years before joining the Sacramento Bee in 1993 as a political editor.

In his many years in journalism, John Jacobs worked tirelessly to generate public interest in politics. He helped to define politics in Northern California while defending American democracy. Despite his criticism of ideological politics in this deeply cynical age, his belief in our system shone through. He challenged us to examine the political system from a different perspective. In doing so, he celebrated politics in a time when few others did.

John Jacobs maintained his perspective and generated his positive attitude through his love for his family. His wife (Carol Bydolf) and children (Max and Marguerite) contributed to his caring and generous personality. He refused to use his position to attack or belittle others. He will be remembered for his vigor, his optimism, and his hunger for knowledge in an arena that he truly adored.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to pay tribute to John Jacobs, a truly outstanding member of our community. Mr. Jacobs' columns have become a part of our lives in Sacramento and the Bay Area, and his presence in Northern California will be sincerely missed. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in celebrating his accomplishments and extending our deepest condolences to his family.

#### HONORING MR. STAN PILCHER

### HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2000

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Mr. Stan Pilcher who is retiring after 35 years of service as an Extension Agent for Colorado State University. His years of dedication in the Washington County office have earned him numerous accolades from his colleagues.

In 1965 Mr. Pilcher graduated from the University of Arizona with a bachelor's degree in entomology and thereafter took his first position in Yuma, CO. The following year he pursued a master's degree from Colorado State University, and upon completion, began work in the Washington County Extension Office.

In northeastern Colorado he is recognized as the primary contact for developing control measures in order to prevent pest outbreaks. Specifically, Mr. Pilcher's essential work fighting against the Russian Wheat Aphid, along with developing Best Management practices for chemigation in the Colorado Clean Water