

face of immense challenges. It has proven not only to be a faithful friend to the United States but also a tenacious ally, as demonstrated by their recent assistance in our peacekeeping efforts in Bosnia. I hope we will not jeopardize their future security by withholding NATO membership beyond 2002.

In closing, I would like to thank the outgoing Ambassador from Lithuania, Mr. Stasys Sakalauskas, for his service in Washington, D.C. and his dedication to improving U.S.-Lithuania relations. I also welcome the new Ambassador who will be named at the end of this month, and I look forward to working with him.

I urge my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 83rd anniversary of Lithuanian independence.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, due to the cancellation of my flight, I missed the vote last night on H.R. 2, the Social Security and Medicare Lock-box Act of 2001. Had I been here, I would have voted in favor of the bill.

This legislation signifies our commitment to protect seniors' benefits. It ensures that Medicare and Social Security funds will only be used for their intended purposes and not be spent on other government programs. I believe this is a major step toward long-term reform that will assure all workers and retirees that these programs will be there for their future.

□ 1345

REPEALING THE 5-YEAR LIMITATION ON INTEREST DEDUCTIBILITY FOR STUDENT LOANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to re-introduce a bill important to all students—H.R. . In the 105th Congress, we passed legislation that allows students to deduct interest paid on student loans. We did this to make it easier for all Americans to bear the enormous costs of higher education, and I supported this effort whole-heartedly.

My bill improves this law by removing the current 60 month limitation period for deducting student loan interest. As the law currently stands, if your student loan is older than 5 years from when it came due, you are not eligible for a tax deduction.

This limitation needs to be removed. Higher education has become increasingly expensive and is creating a financial burden on graduates well beyond the first five years of graduation. According to the General Accounting Office, the average student loan in 1980 was \$518; in 1995, it rose to \$2,417, an increase of 367%. Tuition at 4-year public and private colleges and universities has risen nearly three times as much as median household in-

come in the past 15 years. As a result, it is becoming harder for students to graduate from college or graduate school without the help of student loans.

Students that graduate with student loans start out a few steps behind those without it. It is harder for them to save for emergencies or to invest money for their future. It is also harder for them to meet day-to-day expenses. This tax deduction will help.

All interest accrued on student loans should be deductible. Congress can send the message that we value higher education and recognize the financial responsibility students have made by allowing the student loan deduction for the life of the loan.

This will do two things: It will encourage individuals to go to college or graduate school, and it will reduce the cost of an education. Mr. Speaker, I believe very strongly that the way to achieve the American Dream is through education, and that everyone should have this opportunity.

It is absolutely essential that we continue to invest in our most important hope for our children—education. I urge my colleagues to support my bill, H.R. .

PUBLICATION OF THE RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, 107TH CONGRESS

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

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I am submitting the attached Committee on Ways and Means rules for the 107th Congress for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD pursuant to House Rule XI, Clause 2(a)(2).

The Committee adopted these Rules on February 7, 2001.

If you have any questions please contact John Kelliher at x69150.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—MANUAL OF RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS FOR THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS, ADOPTED FEBRUARY 7, 2001

(Prepared for the use of the Committee on Ways and Means by its staff)

FOREWORD

This manual has been prepared to assist Members of the Committee on Ways and Means, its staff, and the public. It presents in two parts various rules that affect the organization and procedures of the Committee on Ways and Means. Part I contains rules adopted by the Committee for the 107th Congress. Part II contains selected Rules of the House of Representatives, which are also a part of the rules of the Committee, affecting all standing committees of the House.

PART I.—RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS FOR THE 107TH CONGRESS

Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, provides in part:

* * * 1. (a)(1)(A) Except as provided in subdivision (B), the Rules of the House are the rules of its committees and subcommittees so far as applicable.

(B) A motion to recess from day to day, and a motion to dispense with the first reading (in full) of a bill or resolution, if printed copies are available, each shall be privileged

in committees and subcommittees and shall be decided without debate.

(2) Each subcommittee is a part of its committee and is subject to the authority and direction of that committee and to its rules, so far as applicable.* * *

* * * 2. (a)(1) Each standing committee shall adopt written rules governing its procedure. Such rules—

(A) shall be adopted in a meeting that is open to the public unless the committee, in open session and with a quorum present, determines by record vote that all or part of the meeting on that day shall be closed to the public;

(B) may not be inconsistent with the Rules of the House or with those provisions of law having the force and effect of Rules of the House * * *.

In accordance with the foregoing, the Committee on Ways and Means, on February 7, 2001 adopted the following as the Rules of the Committee for the 107th Congress.

A. GENERAL

Rule 1. Application of Rules

Except where the terms "full Committee" and "Subcommittee" are specifically referred to, the following rules shall apply to the Committee on Ways and Means and its Subcommittees as well as the respective Chairmen.

Rule 2. Meeting Date and Quorums

The regular meeting day of the Committee on Ways and Means shall be on the second Wednesday of each month while the House is in session. However, the Committee shall not meet on the regularly scheduled meeting day if there is no business to be considered.

A majority of the Committee constitutes a quorum for business; provided however, that two Members shall constitute a quorum at any regular scheduled hearing called for the purpose of taking testimony and receiving evidence. In establishing a quorum for purposes of a public hearing, every effort shall be made to secure the presence of at least one Member each from the majority and the minority.

The Chairman of the Committee may call and convene, as he considers necessary, additional meetings of the Committee for the consideration of any bill or resolution pending before the Committee or for the conduct of other Committee business. The Committee shall meet pursuant to the call of the Chair.

Rule 3. Committee Budget

For each Congress, the Chairman, in consultation with the Majority Members of the Committee, shall prepare a preliminary budget. Such budget shall include necessary amounts for staff personnel, travel, investigation, and other expenses of the Committee. After consultation with the Minority Members, the Chairman shall include an amount budgeted by Minority Members for staff under their direction and supervision. Thereafter, the Chairman shall combine such proposals into a consolidated Committee budget, and shall present the same to the Committee for its approval or other action. The Chairman shall take whatever action is necessary to have the budget as finally approved by the Committee duly authorized by the House. After said budget shall have been adopted, no substantial change shall be made in such budget unless approved by the Committee.

Rule 4. Publication of Committee Documents

Any Committee or Subcommittee print, document, or similar material prepared for public distribution shall either be approved