

TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND
RETENTION ACT**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to support the Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act. I am introducing this legislation today to address a pressing need in school districts across the country—the need for teachers at all levels.

Local school districts all over the country are struggling with a teacher shortage that shows no signs of abating in the near future. Urban, rural and suburban districts are all struggling, to different degrees, with this problem caused by a combination of demographic trends and a low teacher retention rate.

The children of the Baby Boomers, or the “Baby Boom Echo,” resulted in a 25% increase in our nation’s birth rate that began in the mid-1970s and reached its peak in 1990 with the birth of 4.1 million children. The children of the Baby Boom Echo are flooding our schools—in the fall of 2000, 53 million young people entered our nation’s public and private classrooms and, for the fourth year in a row, set a new national enrollment record for elementary and secondary education. The record 2000 enrollment reflects an increase of 6.5 million, or 14% since fall 1990.

Furthermore, the U.S. is on the verge of a massive wave of retirements as the large cohort of experienced teachers who were hired in the late 1960s and 1970s begin to leave the profession. A total of 2.2 million teachers are needed to meet enrollment increases in the next 10 years and to offset the large number of teachers who are preparing to retire. The nationwide shortage of teachers is already particularly pronounced in the disciplines of science, math, special education, and foreign languages.

Unfortunately, young teachers are leaving the profession at an alarming rate. Local school administrators are working overtime to find the qualified teachers they need, but their toughest problem is keeping them once hired. Our recent booming economy, which has benefited Americans at all levels, has drawn quality teachers to higher-paying, lower-stress jobs in the private sector. Twenty-two percent of all new teachers leave the profession in the first three years. Studies show that teachers are much more likely to remain in the field of education throughout their career if we can help them through the first three years.

Local school districts are already feeling the effects of this trend. Last year, I conducted a survey of school districts within the Third Congressional District in Kansas, and the principals reported to me that 92% of elementary schools, 95% of junior high/middle schools and 75% of high schools reported they were able to fill all teaching positions with qualified teachers. Furthermore, the principals fully expect this problem to continue—75% of all schools reported they anticipate difficulty hiring qualified teachers in the future, including 90% of the middle school and junior high schools.

It is time for the federal government to assist states and local school districts in attract-

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ing and keeping qualified teachers. It is also time to recognize that recruiting and retaining good teachers is a national priority worthy of federal investment.

Mr. Speaker, today with several of my colleagues I am introducing the Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act. This bill would forgive 100% of federal student loans (up to \$10,000) over five years for any newly qualified educator who: teaches in a low-income school, teaches special education, or teaches in a designated teacher shortage area (as defined by the state departments of education). The provisions of this bill would apply to all Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Direct Loans (DL).

I encourage my colleagues to hear the requests of their school districts and join me in cosponsoring this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on January 30 and 31 and February 6, 7, and 13, I was unable to cast my votes on rollcall votes: No. 5, on motion to suspend and pass H.R. 93; No. 6 on motion to suspend and agree to H. Con. Res. 14; No. 7 on motion to suspend and agree to H. Con. Res. 15; No. 8 on approving the journal; No. 9 on motion to suspend and pass H.J. Res. 7; No. 10 on motion to suspend and agree to H. Res. 28; No. 11 on motion to suspend and pass H.R. 132; No. 12 on motion to suspend and agree to H. Res. 34; and No. 13 on motion to pass H.R. 2. Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted “aye” on rollcall votes 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13.

HONORING MARY ANNE KELLY

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mary Anne Kelly for her great commitment to community and family involvement. Kelly will be recognized next week by the Powhatan and Pocahontas Regular Democratic Club for her work on behalf of her community in Long Island City and Astoria, New York.

Kelly’s love for and roots in Queens are deep and long lasting. She was born in St. John’s hospital, then located to Long Island City, where she was raised as the only child of loving parents, Florence and Lawrence Creamer of Astoria. She graduated from St. Joseph’s Grammar School in Astoria with honors and was the recipient of the Math Medal. Mary Anne then attended St. Jean the Baptiste High School in Manhattan where she participated in numerous activities and did volunteer work with the New York Foundling Home. She said that although it was often heart wrenching, it was a wonderful feeling to be able to help infants and toddlers. It was a true labor of love.

Mrs. Kelly had every intention of entering Hunter College with the goal of becoming a Math teacher, as she loved working with children. However, the New York Telephone Company offered a wonderful opportunity to her, and she opted for the business world—a choice she does not regret. She worked for eight years in the commercial department, the last five years as a business representative. Kelly also served as her office’s union representative.

In the summer of 1956, a mutual friend introduced Mary Anne to a wonderful man. Now after 43 years of marriage to Peter Kelly, Mary Anne claims that summer day was the luckiest day of her life. They were married in June of 1958 and had three marvelous children: Peter, now a Civil Court Judge, Anne-Marie, my talented Director of Constituent Service, and Carleen. In addition, they have a loving daughter-in-law Cathy, a terrific son-in-law Robert, and have been blessed with four beautiful grandchildren Christian, Bobby, Brian and Meghan.

Kelly’s involvement with politics started with a phone call from Denis Butler who had decided to run for Democratic leader in Astoria. He invited her to run with him as female co-leader. They had known each other through their mutual involvement in church and Home School activities. Kelly was Vice President of the Rosary Society and had chaired many successful fundraisers for their school. That phone call was the beginning of a wonderful political union and a friendship that lasted through 30 years of service to their community and clubs. They have the honor of being the two leaders, male and female, in Queens who remained in office longer than any other political team. Although Kelly is no longer a Democratic District Leader, a title her daughter Anne-Marie Anzalone now holds, she will always remain devoted to her community and the Pocahontas and Powhatan clubs whose members have been so supportive over the years.

As an elected official, I appreciate the work and dedication of people like Mary Anne Kelly to democracy and good government. Mary Anne is the person who carries the petitions, stuffs the envelopes, helping to elect hundreds of talented men and women to all levels of government, from Queens courts to U.S. President.

Mr. Speaker, please join me recognizing Mrs. Mary Anne Kelly for her lifetime of service to the communities of Astoria and Long Island City, New York.

HONORING JOLIET JUNIOR
COLLEGE (JJC)**HON. JERRY WELLER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Joliet Junior College (JJC) as they celebrate their 100 year anniversary and the unveiling of the U.S. Postal Service post card honoring JJC.

JJC is America’s oldest public community college. It began in 1901 as an experimental

postgraduate high school and was the "brain child" of J. Stanley Brown, Superintendent of Joliet Township High School, and William Rainey Harper, President of the University of Chicago. The college's initial enrollment was six students.

Brown and Harper's innovation created a junior college that academically paralleled the first two years of a 4-year college or university. The junior college was designed to accommodate students who wanted to remain within the community and still pursue a college education that was affordable. Today, Brown and Harper's vision has spread across the nation and has become a vital part of our economic prosperity and our cultural awareness.

Community Colleges have stood the test of time, meeting the challenges of recovery from depression and war, opening their doors to over 2.2 million veterans since World War II and teaching a generation of baby boomers. Now, our community colleges are faced with a myriad of new challenges as they enter their second century.

On February 20, 2001, the United States Postal Service will issue and unveil a post card in honor of the 100th anniversary of JJC and to also honor all of America's Community Colleges. It is my hope that this post card will reaffirm to the American public the value of a good education and will remind us here in Joliet how lucky we are to have JJC in our backyard.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to identify and recognize other institutions in their own districts whose actions have so greatly benefited and strengthened America's communities.

H.R. 599: MEDICARE MENTAL ILLNESS NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced H.R. 599, the Medicare Mental Illness Non-Discrimination Act. In reference to my extension of remarks concerning this legislation (on page E156 of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD), I ask that a letter in support of H.R. 599 from Dr. Daniel B. Borenstein, President of the American Psychiatric Association (APA), be added in the RECORD. I submit the following letter from the APA into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, February 8, 2001.

Representative MARGE ROUKEMA,
Rayburn Building, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE ROUKEMA: On behalf of the American Psychiatric Association (APA), the medical specialty representing more than 40,000 psychiatric physicians nationwide, I am writing to offer our heartfelt thanks for your sponsorship of legislation to end Medicare's historic discrimination against patients with mental illness.

As you know, Medicare currently requires patients seeking outpatient treatment for mental illness to pay 50 percent of their care out of pocket, as opposed to the 20 percent copayment charged for all other Medicare Part B services. This is simply a policy of

discrimination by diagnosis that inflicts a heavy toll on Medicare patients who, for no fault of their own, happen to suffer from mental illness.

Your legislation would end this discrimination by requiring that Medicare patients pay only the same 20 percent copayment for mental illness treatment that they would pay when seeking any other medical treatment, including, for example, treatment for diabetes, cancer, heart disease, or the common cold. APA commends you for your continued dedication to persons with mental illness, and we join you in urging Congress to end Medicare's discriminatory coverage of mental illness treatment.

Thank you for your sponsorship of this most important bill. We look forward to working with you to secure its ultimate enactment.

Sincerely,

DANIEL B. BORENSTEIN, M.D.,

President.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO STRENGTHEN AND IMPROVE THE BENEFITS PROVIDED TO SMALL BUSINESSES UNDER INTERNAL REVENUE CODE SECTION 179

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the "Small Business Expensing Improvement Act of 2001," legislation to assist small businesses with the cost of new business investment. I am pleased to be joined in this effort by my colleague on the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. TANNER.

Small businesses truly are the backbone of our economy, representing more than half of all jobs and economic output. We should not take small business vitality for granted, however. Rather, our tax laws should support small businesses in their role as the engines of innovation, growth, and job creation.

The legislation we are introducing today will improve our tax laws to make it easier for small businesses to make the crucial investments in new equipment necessary for continued prosperity. Under Code Section 179, a small business is allowed to expense the first \$24,000 in new business investment in a year. Our legislation will increase this amount to \$35,000, beginning in 2001. Furthermore, our bill will index this amount to ensure that the value of this provision is not eroded over time.

This legislation will also allow more small businesses to take advantage of expensing by increasing from \$200,000 to \$300,000 the total amount a business may invest in a year and qualify for Section 179. It is important to note that this amount has not been adjusted for inflation since its enacting into law in 1986.

The "Small Business Expensing Improvement Act" also improves the small business expensing provision by following the recommendations of the IRS National Taxpayer Advocate in his 2000 Annual Report to Congress. Specifically, our legislation makes residential rental personal property and off-the-shelf computer software eligible for expensing under Section 179.

Mr. Speaker, in times of economic uncertainty, we must do all we can to encourage new investment and job creation. The "Small Business Expensing Improvement Act of 2001" will help accomplish this worthy goal, and I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE RE-INTRODUCTION OF THE WARTIME PARITY AND JUSTICE ACT OF 2001

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday I will enjoy the privilege of joining with citizens in Los Angeles at the historic Japanese American National Museum dedicated in its mission to "remembering our history to better guard against the prejudice that threatens liberty and equality in a democratic society," in commemorating the Day of Remembrance. Truly by reflecting on our history we secure the promise of the "streets of gold" that our ancestors dreamed about. An America ripe with opportunity for all people—and a spirit refined by our struggles to build a brighter future as we secure the riches of the blessings of liberty.

On Saturday, we will gather to remember a solemn past so we can look onward towards a future of promise. We look back solemnly to a relocation center at Rohwer Arkansas where a young boy was forced to spend much of his childhood. But we see a more promising future as this boy, Los Angeles' very own, George Takei, overcame that experience to become a household name as an original cast member of one of America's most celebrated television programs. We look back solemnly at a relocation center called Heart Mountain in Wyoming where another innocent young boy was stripped of his freedom. But we see a more promising future as this boy, Norman Mineta, became the first Asian Pacific American ever to serve on a presidential cabinet. We look back solemnly as mothers and fathers stood behind barbed wires branded as traitors to the very flag for which their sons fought as valiant soldiers of the 442nd Combat Regiment. They helped secure our freedom even as we robbed that very freedom from their loved ones. But we look to a more promising future as last year President Clinton finally awarded this country's highest military citation, the Medal of Honor, to 22 of these heroes. Those medals are just a dim reflection of the brilliance of their courage and resilience. We can never repay their sacrifice for our nation.

These are the ones who have worked tirelessly to bring us where we are today. But there is still much more work that needs to be done. This year's Day of Remembrance theme behind which we gather, "Building a Stronger Community Through Civil Rights and Redress" is appropriately fitting as we work together towards the America we dream of today. Together we have achieved much but there is still much more left to do. I am proud to continue our struggle for civil rights. Along with