

provided those who lost their jobs in the wake of the attacks of September 11 with the ability to pay rent, put food on their table, buy school books for their children, while trying to get by in these difficult times.

Specifically, the bill extended unemployment benefits from 26 to 78 weeks, provided 26 weeks of unemployment insurance benefits for workers who would not otherwise qualify, extended Job Training Benefits from 52 to 78 weeks, provided up to 78 weeks of federally subsidized COBRA premiums, and provided temporary Medicaid coverage for up to eighteen months to those workers without COBRA coverage. Many of these benefits would have served Americans well had they been included in this Conference Report.

I am, however, pleased with the large increase to the National Institutes of Health by targeting \$23.3 billion, which helps meet our pledge to double fiscal 1998 spending on NIH by fiscal 2003.

The bill addresses the new threats that the nation faces by increasing the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) by increasing funding 11% above last year. Also, it maintains the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) at the FY 2001 level, an increase of \$300 million over the President's request. Finally, it rejects proposed enrollment cuts to Head Start, preventing potential cuts of as many as 2,500 children from the program. Finally, the support I received for Houston in fighting prostate and breast cancer—with \$290,000 for minority testing centers and \$150,000 for Sisters Network—will help save lives.

Overall, this bill, while not perfect, addresses many of the problems that we currently face and fulfills our obligations to the American people. I support it, and I urge my colleagues to also support it.

THE NATIVE AMERICAN BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER TREATMENT TECHNICAL AMENDMENT ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by thanking Chairman TAUZIN for allowing S. 1741, introduced by my good friend Senator JEFF BINGAMAN, to be considered by the House. I have appreciated working with him to bring S. 1741 to the floor and know that the issue of early detection and prevention holds a personal closeness to the both of us and to other members of this body.

On April 3, 2001, I introduced H.R. 1383, the companion to S. 1741, along with Representatives WATTS, HAYWORTH, SHERROD BROWN, CAMP, DELAURO, KENNEDY, KILDEE and over one hundred bi-partisan co-sponsors.

The consideration of this legislation today represents the diligent and bi-partisan work over the last month and within the past few weeks and hours, by several Members of Congress and their staffs. The work of these individuals ensures that a simple but very im-

portant technical correction to the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment and Prevention Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-354) will allow coverage of breast and cervical cancer treatment to Native American women.

Mr. Speaker because of a technical definition in P.L. 106-345, American Indian and Native Alaskan women were and currently are excluded from this law's eligibility for treatment. And, as states determine whether to expand their Medicaid programs to provide breast and cervical cancer treatment as an optional benefit, passage of this legislation will ensure Native American and Alaskan Women are included to receive treatment.

It is estimated that during 2001, almost 50,000 women are expected to die from breast or cervical cancer in the United States despite the fact that early detection and treatment of these diseases could substantially decrease this mortality. While passage of last year's bill made significant strides to address this problem, it failed to do so for Native American women and that is why we are here today.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues, especially Representatives WATTS, SHERROD BROWN, WAXMAN, CAMP, and HAYWORTH for working with me to bringing S. 1741 to the floor today. I especially want to thank Jack Horner of Representative J.C. WATT's Republican Conference staff, Tim Westmoreland of HENRY WAXMAN's office, Katie Porter of SHERROD BROWN's office, and Tony Martinez and Mike Collins of my office for their vigilant and diligent work to ensure that this legislation did not fall victim to the end-of-the-year crunch.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this bi-partisan and important legislation so that we may send it to the President for his signature to ensure that Native American and Native Alaskan women are not denied life-saving breast and cervical cancer treatment.

ESTABLISHING FIXED INTEREST RATES FOR STUDENT AND PARENT BORROWERS

SPEECH OF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my support for S. 1762, which will provide students with low interest rates on Federal student loans, while preserving the health of the student loan industry by ensuring the current and future participation of lenders in this market. By helping lenders stay in the student loan markets, we are making sure that qualified students will have access to a higher education, regardless of their financial background.

S. 1762 represents a carefully brokered compromise between those representing the needs and interests of students, and those representing the lending industry. This compromise essentially fixes a problem that would have arisen in 2003 in the student loan interest rate formula that, according to the lending

community, would have dried up resources for students needing funds for college by potentially reducing returns for such loans below the cost of issuing such loans. The fix that was worked out preserves the current interest rate formula that determines how much lenders receive from the Federal government, while locking in today's very low interest rates for students.

The formula will change in 2006 so that the interest rate students pay will be fixed at 6.8 percent, which is an historically low interest rate for students, and will eliminate confusion among borrowers of student loans regarding changing interest rates and formulas. With the changes in S. 1762, students benefit by getting guaranteed low interest rates, and by having the availability of funds for loans, and the stability of the student loan industry ensured.

As I mentioned, S. 1762 is supported by groups representing students and lenders alike, as well as student financial aid administrators. We have received letters of support from the United States Student Association, the State Public Interest Research Groups, the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, the American Council on Education, the Consumer Bankers of America, and the Education Finance Council.

Passage of S. 1762 is crucial for ensuring the availability of funds for qualified students to go to college. As we know, more and more students are going to college these days, and more are doing so with the help of student loans. S. 1762 will mean that more students can go on to college and will be more able to participate in the 21st century.

I urge a "yes" vote for S. 1762.

ECONOMIC SECURITY AND WORKER ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this second deeply flawed economic stimulus bill.

The measure before us today represents a modest improvement over the first stimulus bill, but it is still inadequate. While the bill would extend unemployment benefits for an additional 13 weeks, it does nothing to help part-time and low-wage workers.

And while this version of the Republicans' partisan stimulus bill appears to provide more assistance to laid-off workers so that they can keep their health insurance, it would, in fact, provide them and their families with little help. Serious concerns have been raised about the administration of the proposed 60 percent refundable tax credit for health insurance premiums, but even if such assistance could be smoothly administered, it would in many cases not provide enough help to many families—who would still be unable to afford to pay their health insurance premiums. Such premiums cost, on average, about \$220 a month for an individual and \$580 a month for a family. Moreover, concerns have been raised that enactment of such a credit could undermine our

country's existing system of predominantly employer-provided health insurance.

In addition, the legislation before us still provides an inadequate level of funding to States to help them deal with the crisis. The National Governors' Association estimates that the combined budget shortfall for all 50 States could exceed \$50 billion in 2002. Some provisions in the bill before us would actually exacerbate the fiscal challenge facing many states—the proposal to allow larger tax write-offs for purchases of new equipment, for example, which has been estimated to reduce state revenues by more than \$5 billion next year alone.

Finally, this latest bill still allocates much of its "economic stimulus" to tax cuts for corporations and upper-income households. While this Republican stimulus bill would not repeal the corporate alternative minimum tax, it would effectively eviscerate it. This latest stimulus bill would also speed up the phase-down of marginal tax rates for taxpayers in the upper tax brackets—just like the first stimulus bill. Moreover, while the argument for these tax cuts is that we need to spur additional investment in businesses and factories, this argument rings hollow given that businesses are currently struggling to eliminate the excess capacity that exists in many industries. I believe that the most effective stimulus the federal government can provide at this time is to expand demand for goods and services—and that the most effective way to expand that demand is to make up some of the lost income in households that have been hit by recent lay-offs.

In short, I believe that, like the first economic stimulus bill rammed through the House by the Republican leadership in October, this legislation is both unfair and unwise. It does too little to help the people who have been laid off and too much to help the people who are well off. Moreover, it does too little to stimulate the economy in the coming year and loses too much revenue in subsequent years. I urge my colleagues to vote against this poorly crafted legislation.

HUMANITY'S GREATNESS IN A
TIME OF PERIL

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention to my colleagues, a thoughtful article by Frank Kelly that appeared in the Santa Barbara News-Press, entitled "Humanity's Greatness in a Time of Peril" on November 25, 2000.

Mr. Frank K. Kelly has been a journalist, a speechwriter for President Truman, Assistant to the Senate Majority Leader, Vice President of the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, and Vice President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article:

[From the Santa Barbara News-Press, Nov. 25, 2001]

VOICES—HUMANITY'S GREATNESS IN A TIME OF PERIL

(By Frank K. Kelly)

In a time of trouble and sorrow, with fears of terrorism shadowing the future, 500 human beings gathered in Santa Barbara on Nov. 9 to honor two young leaders who have shown courage and compassion in lives of high achievement. The gathering was described as "An Evening for Peace," but it was far more than that. It was a celebration, a tremendous manifestation, of the creative powers of humanity.

Two Peace Leadership Awards were presented that evening by the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. One went to Hafsat Abiola, founder of the Kudirat Initiative for Democracy, a dauntless advocate for human rights throughout the African continent. A beautiful young woman with a delicate face, she spoke of the struggles she had endured and the triumphs that had been achieved. When she finished, the people in the banquet room rose to their feet in a spontaneous ovation.

The second Peace Leadership Award was given to Craig Kielburger, founder of the Free the Children organization, who initiated a movement that led to the release of thousands of children from conditions of labor enslavement. He created it when he was 12 years old, stirred by the tragic fate of a boy from Pakistan who was sold into bonded labor and killed when he protested against the treatment of children in his country. When Kielburger, now 18, completed his speech, he also received an ovation.

Bursts of affection and admiration flashed around that enormous room in wave after wave. When the two young leaders expressed their confidence in humanity's future, it was evident that their experiences had increased their awareness of the goodness and generosity existing in so many members of the human species. They had a glow of love and respect around them.

There were hundreds of students in that huge room, students from high school and colleges, students with a wide range of gifts and ambitions, students from many ethnic backgrounds. Their faces were shining with excitement. They were clearly inspired by the two young leaders who were being acclaimed.

I was among the hundreds of older persons who participated in that gathering of glorious beings. I lived through four wars and I had witnessed terrible sufferings. Yet I also witnessed noble acts in many places. In spite of wars and other calamities, in spite of terrorism and all the threats that existed, I was sure that human beings would go from height to height, achieving more in each generation.

The celebration on Nov. 9 convinced me again that Thomas Merton was right when he asserted in one of his books that it is "a glorious destiny to be a human being." I saw the light of that glory in the faces of the young and the old when they leaped to their feet to respond to a Nigerian woman and a Canadian man.

I was grateful for the privilege of being in that room on that marvelous night. I was grateful for the work of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation in bringing so many wonderful persons together. I was grateful for the fact that I had participated in founding it and supporting it for 20 years.

I felt an exultance, which reminded me of the surge of joy I had felt when I took part in the liberation of Paris in August of 1944. I

had never expected to ride into that city as a member of a victorious army. I had never expected to be embraced by so many people, to be hailed as a liberator. It was an ecstasy I had not earned. It was one of many gifts showered upon me in a fortunate life.

On the night of Nov. 9, I felt the exaltation that comes when many people are celebrating the mystery and the wonder of being human. We rejoiced together, we felt the endless possibilities for greatness that can occur when people acknowledge their unity in the spirit of love. We became fully aware that hatred and cruelty can be overcome, and there can be peace and justice in this world for all.

I strongly believe that every one who was in that room that night will carry the starburst of that celebration in their lives through all the pains and problems of the coming years. I thrill to the hope that a tremendous Age of Fulfillment is dawning for the whole human family.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY HONORS
WORLD TRADE CENTER VICTIM
MR. FOX WITH A POEM WRITTEN
BY HIS DAUGHTER JESSICA

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize Plainsboro, New Jersey resident and World Trade Center victim, Jeffrey L. Fox with a poem written by his thirteen year old daughter, Jessica. Jessica asked that I share her poem with the world and I am honored to do so:

A PLACE OF MEMORIES

The gleaming towers stood in the sky,
Majestic looking and up so high.
The sun shines down on towers so great,
No one knowing about their awful fate.

Without a warning a plane hit hard.
New York would be forever scarred.
Minutes later, another plane crashed,
Leaving the second tower extremely
smashed.

The towers crumbled down to Earth
Because two planes crashed in their berth.
People beneath the towers ran.
Now the towers no longer stand.

The rescue workers worked non-stop,
Searching the rubble bottom to top.
People pulled out became less and less
And using their strength became a test.

The gleaming towers stood in the sky,
Majestic looking and up so high.
Where the twin towers used to be
Is now a place of memory.

At this time in our Nation's history, when we struggle to find solace and draw lessons from acts of terror against us, we gain strength and perspective from those families these atrocious acts left behind. We find strength in the memory of Jeffrey Fox and in the words of his brave and courageous daughter.

Mr. Speaker, again, I rise to honor the Fox family and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing their legacy to our community and New Jersey.