

COMPARISON OF H-2A ADVERSE EFFECT WAGE RATES 1997-2000—Continued

State	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 <sup>1</sup>
Washington .....	6.87	7.08	7.34	7.64	8.14
West Virginia .....	5.68	5.92	6.28	6.39	6.60
Wisconsin .....	6.56	6.85	7.34	7.65	8.07
Wyoming .....	6.01	6.54	6.48	6.79	7.26

<sup>1</sup> Not approved by the Department of Labor.

Mr. Speaker, I also include for the RECORD a statement labeled 21st Century Higher Education Press Conference dated March 22, 2001.

21ST CENTURY HIGHER EDUCATION INITIATIVE

It is with great pleasure that I join my Democratic Colleagues by introducing the "21st Century Higher Education Initiative." Since 1837, Historically Black Colleges and Universities have played a vital role in producing this nations most influential African-American leaders. People such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Thurgood Marshall, Oprah Winfrey, Barbara Jordan and Langston Hughes all graduates of HBCU's have inspired a generation of young people of all races. Today, HBCU's and other minority serving institutions continue to produce highly qualified students that fill key positions in the public and private sector. For instance, HBCU's are now responsible for producing 28 percent of all bachelor's degrees and 15 percent of all master's degrees earned by African-Americans.

While these numbers are encouraging, more must be done to ensure that minority students are not locked out of the higher education debate. The "21st Century Higher Education Initiative" more than doubles funding for Title III and Title V and increases the maximum Pell Grant award from \$3,750 to \$7,000 over three years. Increasing funding for Title III and V will close the funding gap between minority and non-minority serving institutions. Increasing the maximum Pell grant award will make the burden of paying for college easier for poor minority students who can't afford to attend college.

The 21st Century Education Initiative also includes dramatic increases for Supplemental Equal Opportunity Grants (SEOG) and Federal Work Study by increasing each program by \$300 million over the next three years. Both programs play a critical role in lives of students who are often the first person in their family to attend college. Also included in the bill are increases for TRIO and GEAR-UP which encourage minority students from underserved communities to attend college. TRIO and GEAR-UP have a long track record of preparing minority students for college through academic enrichment and mentorship activities.

The bill also includes funding to preserve buildings on the National Register of Historic Places by authorizing \$60 million a year for facilities most in need of repair. In addition, the bill addresses the critical need for qualified minority teachers by authorizing \$30 million for a new program that will strengthen teacher preparation programs at minority serving institutions. The 21st Century Higher Education Initiative also takes in account reports from the National Telecommunications & Information Administration (NTIA) and the Benton Foundation regarding the Digital Divide. The initiative would create a \$250 million program based on proposals by Senator Cleland and Congressman Towns that would provide equipment, wire campuses and train students for careers in technology. Providing increased funding for technology at HBCU's will ensure that

young African-American students are given every opportunity to compete on a leveled playing field.

In closing, the Democratic party has sent a clear signal to members of the House and Senate, educating minority students from under-served communities is at the top of our agenda. We look forward to working with our colleagues from across the aisle and the Administration in passing legislation that "leaves no child behind." Increasing funding for HBCU's, HSI's and TCC's will not only benefit the minority community but provide our nation with experienced and talented young people who are prepared to compete in today's global workforce.

BREAST CANCER PRESCRIPTION DRUG FAIRNESS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FERGUSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GRUCCI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRUCCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss a serious health issue that potentially affects the lives of every woman on Long Island. Breast cancer is the most common form of cancer among women in the United States, and Long Island's breast cancer rates are the highest in the Nation, 20 percent higher than the national average. Today, many lack the coverage for prescription drugs and face severe financial problems in affording the medications they need to defeat this dreadful and horrible disease.

Being diagnosed with breast cancer is a devastating experience for a woman and her family. Yet breast cancer victims on Medicare and those without any coverage have a tough time or simply cannot afford the medications they need. The bipartisan Breast Cancer Prescription Drug Fairness Act that I along, with the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY), introduced would end that. H.R. 758 aims to make prescription drugs available to Medicare beneficiaries and seeks to allow those without medical coverage to buy into the system. Right now women on Medicare receive their breast cancer medication for \$58 a month whereas women without coverage must pay \$105 a month. In 1998, 18 percent of all New York women between the ages of 18 and 64 were uninsured. In 2001, approximately 2,200 New York women diagnosed with breast cancer would be uninsured. With 85 percent of breast cancer victims over the age of 55, this bill gives Medicare recipients the purchasing power to buy prescription drugs at a much lower price.

This bill is about saving women's lives. No one fighting breast cancer

should have to choose between buying food or the medication that will save their lives. Until a cure for this horrible disease is discovered, we must do all that we can to give breast cancer victims every opportunity to beat this disease.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon my colleagues to join the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) and myself as a cosponsor of the Breast Cancer Prescription Drug Fairness Act.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE UNITED STATES GROUP OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1928a and clause 10 of rule I, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the United States Group of the North Atlantic Assembly:

- Mr. DEUTSCH of Florida,
- Mr. BORSKI of Pennsylvania,
- Mr. LANTOS of California, and
- Mr. RUSH of Illinois.

There was no objection.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ACKERMAN (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of health reasons.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of illness.

Mr. BECERRA (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of personal business.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. SKELTON) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

- Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.
- Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.
- Mr. SKELTON, for 5 minutes, today.
- Mr. LUTHER, for 5 minutes, today.
- Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, for 5 minutes, today.
- Mr. INSLEE, for 5 minutes, today.
- Mr. FORD, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. REHBERG) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)