

THE NEW ADMINISTRATION IS
GOOD FOR EVERYONE

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the current administration for its willingness, its simple willingness, to consider the economic consequences of previous executive regulations.

The Clinton administration promulgated new and somewhat draconian mining regulations in spite of the unforeseen economic hardships, especially in Nevada, that they would create, and in spite of the recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences study which stated that new Federal mining regulations were not necessary. Yet the previous administration went ahead, thinking it knew better than anyone else.

Well, finally, Nevadans and, may I say, all Americans can have faith that their Federal Government will not rush headlong into issuing new rules without listening to the public and to the experts.

It is nice to see the American people will once again have a say in their democracy, the way our Founding Fathers had envisioned it; the proper function of our Federal Government.

APPOINT U.S. ATTORNEY WITH
D.C. ROOTS

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, Wilma Lewis, the first woman in the history of the Nation's capital to be U.S. attorney, is leaving the office she has served with great distinction. From prosecution of hard-core street crime to complex white-collar violations, U.S. Attorney Lewis has left an extraordinary record.

She and her predecessor, Eric Holder, who went on to become Deputy Attorney General, had more in common than their background as the first African Americans to be appointed. They were both longtime Washingtonians who were also very able lawyers.

Most of the jurisdiction of the U.S. attorney here is D.C. criminal and civil law that elsewhere lies with a local prosecutor. Mayor Williams, Council Chair Cropp, and I have written President Bush to ask that he appoint as U.S. attorney a distinguished lawyer with deep roots in the D.C. community, as Ms. Lewis and Mr. Holder had. That is the way to be sure that not only Federal law is carried out, but that crime keeps coming down, as U.S. Attorneys Lewis and Holder assured.

FAMILY CARE TAX CREDIT ACT
WILL LESSEN TAX BURDEN

(Mr. RYUN of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, providing help to families is one of the biggest reasons that I ran for Congress. I look forward to voting this week and eliminating the unfair marriage tax penalty and doubling the per-child deduction, but I believe we should do more to help families with tax relief, and I go one step further.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I have introduced the Family Care Tax Credit Act, which would lessen the tax burden on families who care for children or loved ones. Currently we give tax credit to families who pay for day care and other services, but families who have a parent taking care of their children are left on their own. My plan gives a fair and balanced approach to child care tax credits by giving help to all middle-income families with children.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken with parents in Kansas who tell me that they would like to stay home with their children, but they simply cannot overcome the economic barriers caused by the current Tax Code. My plan would simply remove one of those barriers. I am thankful that this week we will have the marriage penalty as a past memory, but believe that we can and should do more to help families.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6 p.m. today.

VETERANS OPPORTUNITIES ACT
OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 801) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve programs of educational assistance, to expand programs of transition assistance and outreach to departing servicemembers, veterans, and dependents, to increase burial benefits, to provide for family coverage under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 801

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Veterans Opportunities Act of 2001".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. References to title 38, United States Code.

TITLE I—EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE
PROVISIONS

Sec. 101. Increase in maximum allowable annual Senior ROTC educational assistance for eligibility for benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill.

Sec. 102. Expansion of work-study opportunities.

Sec. 103. Inclusion of certain private technology entities in the definition of educational institution.

Sec. 104. Expansion of special restorative training benefit to certain disabled spouses or surviving spouses.

Sec. 105. Distance education.

Sec. 106. Technical amendments to the Montgomery GI Bill.

TITLE II—TRANSITION AND OUTREACH
PROVISIONS

Sec. 201. Authority to establish overseas veterans assistance offices to expand transition assistance.

Sec. 202. Timing of preseparation counseling.

Sec. 203. Improvement in education and training outreach services for separating servicemembers and veterans.

Sec. 204. Expansion of outreach efforts to eligible dependents.

Sec. 205. Improvement of veterans outreach programs.

TITLE III—MEMORIAL AFFAIRS,
INSURANCE, AND OTHER PROVISIONS

Sec. 301. Increase in burial benefits.

Sec. 302. Family coverage under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance.

Sec. 303. Retroactive applicability of increase in maximum SGLI benefit for members dying in performance of duty on or after October 1, 2000.

Sec. 304. Increase in amount of assistance for automobile and adaptive equipment for certain disabled veterans.

Sec. 305. Increase in assistance amount for specially adapted housing.

Sec. 306. Revision of rules with respect to net worth limitation for eligibility for pensions for veterans who are permanently and totally disabled from a non-service-connected disability.

Sec. 307. Technical amendments.

SEC. 2. REFERENCES TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of title 38, United States Code.

TITLE I—EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE
PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. INCREASE IN MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE ANNUAL SENIOR ROTC EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR BENEFITS UNDER THE MONTGOMERY GI BILL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Sections 3011(c)(3)(B) and 3012(d)(3)(B) are each amended by striking "\$2,000" and inserting "\$3,400".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of