

and he recognizes that NET Corps better prepares teachers to address these challenges. I am proud to have him as a cosponsor, and I look forward to working with him to pass this important legislation.

Finally, let me say that since introducing this legislation, I have been contacted by countless high-tech employees, teachers, and parents who support this legislation. They are part of what I call the NET Corps movement.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in this movement. Our children's futures depend upon it.

BLACK BERETS FOR U.S. ARMY SHOULD BE MADE IN AMERICA

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

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to once again bring attention to the issue of the decision by the Army Chief of Staff to issue black berets as standard issue head gear to all Army personnel. Until this decision was made, the black beret had been the outward symbol of the Army Rangers, one of the most elite fighting forces within the United States armed services. While much has been said regarding the decision, I believe that even more needs to be said, particularly regarding the decision to bypass the Barry amendment and purchase the bulk of the berets totaling nearly \$35 million from Communist China.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when the small businesses of our Nation are struggling for new business, it is a travesty that our own government has chosen to bypass the Buy American Rule in order to meet an arbitrary deadline. While the 225th birthday of the United States Army should be marked with great celebration, I do not believe that the men and women who so faithfully serve in the Army would want the day marked by having to wear a beret that says "Made in China."

I recently received a letter written by a small businessman from Sanford, North Carolina, and I will submit this letter for inclusion in the RECORD.

Mr. Brooks Pomeranz is president of Cascade Fibers Company, a small mill that in a matter of a few short months could convert its cutting and sewing operation into a mill that could have produced at least a part of the beret order for the United States Army. He writes, and I quote him: "With the decline of U.S. textiles and U.S. textile mills closing every month, it is unconscionable that our government is contracting foreign companies to manufacture these berets. With just a portion of this business being contracted to my company would enable us to keep 80 families from losing a vital in-

come for their children. Our quality is outstanding and our service is superior. Eighty families, 80 moms, 80 dads and countless children whose livelihood would continue if this bill were given even a portion of the order for new berets. Instead, those berets will be made by men and women in China who work under the worst possible working conditions for merely pennies per day. The same men and women who are told that they are not allowed to worship as they please and who are told that they cannot have more than one child. And, at the center of all of this is the undeniable fact that United States tax dollars would go to a communistic government to be used for the purpose of weapons from our enemies to threaten and intimidate not only the people of the United States, but also our allies. This should concern all Americans."

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO) and the Committee on Small Business on the House side for holding next week's hearings on this issue, and I want to call on the House Committee on Armed Services on which I serve to seek possible remedies to this problem before it is too late. The men and women of the United States Army and small business owners around the country deserve at least that much.

Mr. Speaker, the letter I referred to earlier follows:

CASCADE FIBERS COMPANY,
Sanford, NC, March 21, 2001.

Hon. WALTER B. JONES,
House of Representatives, Cannon Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN JONES: I am the president of Cascade Fibers, a small textile company in Sanford NC employing 80 associates. Cascade Fibers, a cut and sew textile business, makes table linens, table skirting, placemats, napkins, and aprons for the hospitality, rental laundry, and retail markets. Our quality is outstanding, and our service is superior. But with large corporations buying out smaller companies, and with the growth of overseas napery being sold at a much cheaper price, Cascade Fibers is experiencing a very difficult time competing in this market, and our time may soon be running out.

I am including articles that I have recently read regarding berets that our military will be wearing that are to be manufactured overseas so that our soldiers will have them for the US Army's 226th birthday on June 14th. With the decline of US textiles and US textiles mills closing every month, it unconscionable that our government is contracting foreign companies to manufacture these berets. With a portion of this business being contracted to Cascade Fibers, would enable us to keep 80 families from losing a vital income for their children. Our quality is outstanding and our service is superior.

I am asking for your help ASAP to help me promote my company to the right contacts to be able to receive a portion of this business. Anything that you can do will be greatly appreciated by these American families so they can continue to provide for their children.

Sincerely,

BROOKS POMERANZ,
President.

COMMUNITY, MIGRANT AND HOMELESS HEALTH CENTERS

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, Community, Migrant and Homeless Health Centers provide cost-effective, quality health care to our country's poor and medically underserved. They act as a vital safety net for our health delivery system and reduce health disparities that large portions of our populations experience.

These centers are nonprofit, community-owned and operated, and serve all 50 States. They provide health care to those who otherwise could not have access to it, serving one in 12 rural citizens, nine in 8 low-income Americans, and one in 10 uninsured Americans. Surely this is something that this House in a bipartisan manner can support.

I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) who will follow and speak on this same issue.

Mr. Speaker, I represent a rural area; and much of my district has very limited access to health care. Centers in my district operating in Salem, Vandalia, and Springfield, Illinois, have made vital health services available to the community. By serving a specific area, the centers can tailor their services to the specific needs of the community and work with the schools, businesses, churches and community organizations to provide the best care possible.

Community health centers are cost-effective in a viable way to bring quality health care to underserved populations. Increasing Federal funding will enable community health centers to expand and reach more of the uninsured. That is why I support the Reach bill, which would double the budget for community health centers.

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But it is also an inexpensive way to get preventative and primary health care to those who have fallen through our health care delivery system.

I encourage all our colleagues to support this vital program that helps so many.

URGING SUPPORT FOR H.R. 6, THE MARRIAGE PENALTY AND FAMILY TAX RELIEF ACT

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

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we will cast a very important vote here in the House. We will take up the second component of the President's comprehensive tax relief package, H.R. 6,