

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

MARRIAGE PENALTY AND FAMILY TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6, the Marriage Penalty and Family Tax Relief Act, because I firmly believe that Congress should provide meaningful relief from the tax burden on Rhode Island's married couples.

However, we can and should improve upon this measure as it makes its way through the legislative process. In particular, the benefits of the bill must be targeted more directly to lower- and middle-income families who are currently penalized for being married. Further, the underlying bill does little to adequately adjust the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT), which increasingly affects the middle class. As a result, too many middle-income families remain unprotected from having most of the promised benefits of the bill taken away.

I have additional concerns that this Congress has yet to finalize its work on a budget framework this year. We also have little perspective on how this legislation will fit into our other collective commitments to extend the solvency of Social Security and Medicare and reduce our national debt. Congress needs to enact a budget that honors our commitments and our continued need to invest in education, law enforcement, the environment, health care and national defense, before enacting a large tax cut.

For these reasons, I will support both the Democratic alternative and the motion to recommit. The substitute not only takes a large step toward eliminating the marriage penalty, but also would provide substantial tax cuts to all working families in a responsible budget framework. Specifically, this measure would create a new bracket for married couples, increase the standard deduction for married couples and adjust the AMT. Finally, the motion to recommit seeks to provide an immediate tax cut to boost our economy and help those families who need assistance now.

Again, while I support final passage of this legislation because I believe hardworking Americans deserve some relief from the marriage penalty, I hope that this flawed bill will be improved in the Senate to ensure lower- and middle-income couples benefit as well. And more than anything, I urge my colleagues to focus on crafting a budget and tax cut framework that rewards hard-working taxpayers, while ensuring that our debt is paid down, Social Security and Medicare remain strong, and our national priorities like education and health care are not shortchanged.

MARRIAGE PENALTY AND FAMILY TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday March 29, 2001

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for H.R. 6, the Marriage Penalty and Family Tax Relief Act of 2001. This bill will not only do away with the unfair tax burden on married couples, but it will also double the per-child tax credit from \$500 to \$1,000. For the 25 million married couples saddled with the marriage penalty, for low and middle income parents, and for their children, this relief will not come a minute too soon.

No one should be penalized for being married. No family should be penalized for having a stay at home parent. Yet without this critical legislation we would miss an opportunity to do right by the people who sacrifice everyday to not only make a home for their family but also to pay their share of taxes. Following up on our passage of H.R. 3, this bill is another big step in the right direction.

Relief from the marriage penalty, a greater child tax credit and lowered marginal tax rates, will mean real help for real families. When fully phased in, a married couple with 2 children earning \$35,000 filing jointly will save over \$1,800 dollars a year. That's real money to invest in their children's education, pay the bills, and save for the future.

This bill is pro-marriage, pro-child, and pro-family. Not just young married couples and families, but older ones, too. The numbers don't lie. H.R. 6 would give 6 million seniors marriage tax penalty relief in 2002 and increase to 9 million seniors in 2010.

I urge my colleagues to vote for the Marriage Penalty and Family Tax Relief Act of 2001. Vote to support our nation's families.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAROLYN
CRAYTON, THE FOUNDER AND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF BOTH
THE KEEP MACON-BIBB BEAU-
TIFUL COMMISSION AND THE
MACON, GEORGIA INTER-
NATIONAL CHERRY BLOSSOM
FESTIVAL

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 30, 2001

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Mrs. Carolyn Crayton, the founder and executive director of both the Keep Macon-Bibb Beautiful Commission and the Macon, Georgia International Cherry Blossom Festival. She has dedicated herself to commu-

nity service, ensuring that our communities stay clean and beautiful.

She has worked tirelessly since 1964 as the Founder and Executive Director of Keep Macon-Bibb Beautiful Commission. Carolyn has been the recipient of the Keep America Beautiful's Leadership Award and the Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson Award. She was also awarded the Queen Mother's Award, which was presented by the Keep Britain Tidy Group, this being the only time this honor was awarded outside the United Kingdom. Carolyn was invited to appear on Good Morning America in 1984, as one of several people who have made a difference in their community. In 1988, she received the Georgia Clean and Beautiful Woman of the Year Award, which is now named the Carolyn Crayton Award.

Carolyn is also responsible for founding the Georgia International Cherry Blossom Festival. Carolyn's dedication and hard work are the reason we are able to enjoy the Cherry Blossom Festival and all the beautiful cherry blossom trees. She and her organization are responsible for their presence in the State of Georgia. She has received a Certificate of Merit from the Georgia Garden Clubs of Georgia and the Ladies Home Journal Heroine Award. Carolyn has done such a wonderful job with the production and management of the Georgia International Cherry Blossom Festival, she was named the Festival Director of the Year in Georgia in 1995. One year later she was inducted into the International Festivals and Events Association's Hall of Fame. In 1999, she received the Deen Day Smith Award.

Unfortunately, Carolyn is retiring this year. I would like to recognize and commend her for all the hard work she has done for the State of Georgia, more specifically Macon. She has selflessly given her time and effort as an active community leader and should be an example to all of us.

Carolyn and her husband Lee are dear friends and I am very proud of the great contribution they have both made to the State of Georgia.

CONGRATULATING CLOUD COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 30, 2001

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, March Madness means many things to many people. In the quest for college basketball's holy grail, March represents the time when champions are crowned in all divisions. This week, I am proud to congratulate the Cloud County Community College women's basketball team from Concordia, Kansas. This past Saturday, the lady Thunderbirds won the National Junior College Athletic Association national title.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.