China is saber-rattling to try to keep us from protecting our national interests. Maybe they are trying to keep us from assisting our friends in Taiwan. Perhaps China is testing our new President to see what he is made of.

President Bush should make it clear, we will defend our national interests. We will make sure Taiwan can defend itself. We should sell Taiwan the Aegis cruisers and the Patriot missiles they need to defend themselves.

Madam Speaker, China should not test America. It is in China’s interest to return that plane and its crew to us immediately.

ELIMINATING RED TAPE AND OFFERING FULL HEALTH CARE CHOICES FOR MILITARY DEPENDENTS

(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. Madam Speaker, the dedication of our military spouses is invaluable, and I want to ensure that they are treated right with respect to health care.

Currently, military dependents who use one of the military’s choice-related health plans do so believing that they can choose their doctor. But when they become pregnant, they can be forced to change from a civilian provider to an on-base doctor even for delivery.

It is essential that a woman be comfortable with her doctor for this experience. To force a woman to change doctors at a time as critical as pregnancy is unacceptable.

That is why I am introducing legislation to eliminate burdensome red tape and to put women back in charge of their pregnancy-related health care plans.

If we want to continue to attract the high-quality people for our armed services, the people who defend this country and are defending us now, we must make sure they have all the health care provisions they should be entitled to.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that she 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.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

CHESAPEAKE BAY OFFICE OF NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION

Mr. GILCHREST. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 642) to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk reads as follows:

H.R. 642
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CHESAPEAKE BAY OFFICE.

(a) REAUTHORIZATION OF OFFICE.—Section 307 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Authorization Act of 1992 (15 U.S.C. 1514d) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 307. CHESAPEAKE BAY OFFICE.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—(1) The Secretary of Commerce shall establish, within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an office to be known as the Chesapeake Bay Office (in this section referred to as the ‘Office’).

"(2) The Office shall be headed by a Director who shall be appointed by the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Chesapeake Executive Council. Any individual appointed as Director shall have knowledge and experience in research or management efforts in the Chesapeake Bay area.

"(3) The Director may appoint such additional personnel for the Office as the Director determines necessary to carry out this section.

"(b) FUNCTIONS.—The Office, in consultation with the Chesapeake Executive Council, shall—

"(1) provide technical assistance to the Administrator, to other Federal departments and agencies, and to State and local government agencies in—

"(A) assessing the processes that shape the Chesapeake Bay system and affect its living resources;

"(B) identifying technical and management alternatives for the restoration and protection of living resources and the habitats they depend upon; and

"(C) monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of management programs in the Chesapeake Bay area;

"(2) develop and implement a strategy for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that integrates the science, research, monitoring, data collection, regulatory, and management responsibilities of the Secretary of Commerce in such a manner as to assist the cooperative, intergovernmental Chesapeake Bay Program to meet the commitments of the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement; and

"(3) coordinate the programs and activities of the various organizations within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Chesapeake Bay Regional Sea Grant Programs, and the Chesapeake Bay units of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System, including—

"(A) programs and activities in—

"(i) coastal and estuarine research, monitoring, and assessment;

"(ii) fisheries research and stock assessments;

"(iii) data management;

"(iv) remote sensing;

"(v) coastal management;

"(vi) habitat conservation and restoration; and

"(vii) atmospheric deposition; and

"(B) programs and activities of the Cooperative Oxford Laboratory of the National Oceanic Service with respect to—

"(i) nonindigenous species;

"(ii) estuarine and aquatic species pathology;

"(iii) human pathogens in estuarine and marine environments; and

"(iv) ecosystem health.

"(B) Support.—The Office shall coordinate the activities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with the activities of the Environmental Protection Agency and other Federal, State, and local agencies.

"(5) establish an effective mechanism which shall ensure that projects have undergone appropriate peer review and provide other appropriate means to determine that projects have acceptable scientific and technical merit for the purpose of achieving maximum utilization of available funds and resources to benefit the Chesapeake Bay area.

"(6) remain cognizant of ongoing research, monitoring, and management projects and assist in the dissemination of the results and findings of those projects; and

"(7) submit a biennial report to the Congress and the Secretary of Commerce with respect to any new National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration activities in the Chesapeake Bay; and

"(ii) the integration of those activities with the activities of the partners in the Chesapeake Bay Program to meet the commitments of the Chesapeake 2000 agreement and subsequent agreements.

"(c) CHESAPEAKE BAY FISHERY AND HABITAT RESTORATION SMALL WATERSHED GRANTS PROGRAM.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Chesapeake Bay Office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (in this section referred to as the ‘Director’), in cooperation with the Chesapeake Executive Council, shall carry out a community-based fishery and the restoration of fisheries and habitats in the Chesapeake Bay.

"(2) PROJECTS.—

"(A) SUPPORT.—The Director shall make grants under this subsection to pay the Federal share of the cost of projects that are carried out by entities eligible under paragraph (3) for the restoration of fisheries and habitats in the Chesapeake Bay.

"(B) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share under subparagraph (A) shall not exceed 75 percent.

"(C) TYPES OF PROJECTS.—Projects for which grants may be made under this subsection include—

"(i) the improvement of fish passageways;

"(ii) the creation of natural or artificial reefs or substrata for habitats;

"(iii) the restoration of wetland or sea grass;

"(iv) the production of oysters for restoration projects; and

"(v) the prevention, identification, and control of nonindigenous species.

"(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The following entities are eligible to receive grants under this subsection:—

"(A) The Government of a political subdivision of a State in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and the government of the District of Columbia.

"(B) An organization in the Chesapeake Bay watershed (such as an educational institution or a community organization) that is described in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code; and

"(ii) that will administer such grants in coordination with a government referred to in subparagraph (A).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

5331

April 3, 2001

Madam Speaker, I want to quote one more person in this dialogue we are dealing with, and for working with us to make sure that this bill passed the committee and will now pass the House and eventually the Senate, not only because the quality of their environment is reduced, but because they are overharvested by way too many times.

So what does that do to the rockfish at the top of the food web? The rockfish do not have enough menhaden to eat. So what do the rockfish do? They go after the crabs.

What I am trying to explain here is as soon as human activity, which causes too many nutrients in the Chesapeake Bay, interrupts or disrupts the ecosystem or the food web, we need to employ some quality legislation to understand the mechanics of the natural processes. That is what this bill tries to do.

The second requirement of this bill would be to establish a community-based fishery and habitat restoration small grant program for the Chesapeake Bay watershed, a small grant program for activities to understand the mechanics of the food web that we have disrupted.

How do we get back into bringing that food web back into what it was originally designed for? It was designed; it has a design to it. Sometimes we refer to it in the Chesapeake Bay region as the mechanics of creation. If we can understand that, we can fix these problems.

So the small watershed grants will plant grass to improve the quality of the water; build oyster reefs to filter some of those nutrients; stabilize shore lines, I think the way they are supposed to be stabilized so they can be a habitat for other wildlife; and spawning areas for fish.

As a representative of the district that surrounds the Chesapeake Bay, I am well aware of and appreciate the quality of the work done by the Chesapeake Bay office. I commend Judith Freeman, director of the Chesapeake Bay Office, for her efforts to improve the environmental quality and public stewardship of the bay.

The Chesapeake Bay is vitally important to our district and the mid-Atlantic States. Every corner of Maryland’s first district is dependent in one way or other on the health of the Chesapeake Bay. From the State capital in Annapolis, home of constituents as diverse as the United States Naval Academy, recreational boaters, to the Eastern Shore, where thousands of watermen rely on the health of the bay to sustain their families, the Chesapeake Bay is a focal point of life for my constituents; therefore, the success of the Chesapeake Bay Office is of critical concern to them and myself.

Madam Speaker, I want to quote one more person in this dialogue we are
having here, and that is Rachel Carson, the author of the book that exploded the environmental movement. Rachel Carson always found it a strange phenomenon that individual people when you talk to them about science consider the only people concerned were scientists locked away in some obscure laboratory, and they very rarely ever left that scientific perspective. Madam Speaker, science is a wonderful form of dialogue and conversation not only for us, but certainly for young children in school. To understand what keeps life on this planet alive is an extraordinary thing that all of us should talk about a little bit more.

Madam Speaker, I urge an aye vote on this important legislation.

Madam Speaker, I also want to thank my colleagues from Maryland and the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) for their support.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I support H.R. 642, a noncontroversial bill, which would reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and as indicated by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST), chairman of the Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans, who has aptly demonstrated not only his commitment to this particular piece of legislation, but certainly his knowledge about the mechanics of it and the necessity for it.

Since 1992, the Chesapeake Bay Office has functioned effectively to incorporate NOAA’s impressive scientific research and marine resource management programs into the comprehensive Federal and multi-state effort to restore the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. It is one of the best examples I know of that demonstrates how NOAA brings science and service together.

H.R. 642 would provide a much-needed increase in funding for this office. The bill would also authorize some new activities, many of which have been outlined already by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST), most notably a local fishery and habitat restoration grant program, which will promote new opportunities for NOAA to contribute throughout the bay.

The legislation has received strong bipartisan support from the entire Maryland Congressional delegation. The administration also supports H.R. 642, and I urge an aye vote on this common sense good piece of legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GILCHREST. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA).

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I, first of all, want to thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST), the sponsor of this legislation for yielding the time to me and obviously for sponsoring the legislation.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 642, the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office Reauthorization. The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST), my good friend, should be commended for this fine legislation. In addition, I offer my congratulations to the gentleman as he embarks as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans.

It is only appropriate that the first legislation considered by his subcommittee is this bill, which will benefit and improve the Chesapeake Bay.

I want to also thank my colleagues from Maryland, I see the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) over there and I see the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD), and I want to thank the others who have supported this legislation.

The Chesapeake Bay, our Nation’s largest estuary, is an incredibly complex ecosystem. The bay is one of our Nation’s most valuable natural resources. Its rich ecosystem, with rivers, wetlands, trees, and the bay itself, supports and provides a natural habitat for over 3,600 species of plants, fish, and animals.

We know that about 15 million people now live in the bay watershed, which include parts of six States and the entire District of Columbia. These persons are at all times just a few steps from one or more of the 100,000 stream and river tributaries ultimately draining into the bay. Every person, plant and animal within this watershed depends on each other to help the Chesapeake Bay system thrive and function properly. These complex relationships are countless.

NOAA’s Chesapeake Bay Office was first created in 1992 to coordinate NOAA’s efforts under the Chesapeake Bay Program, which was a unique regional partnership of State and Federal Government agencies that has been encouraging and directing the restoration of the bay since 1983.

I am pleased that important progress has been made in renewing the bay since the Chesapeake Bay Agreement was signed in 1983. Restoration efforts, led in part by the dedicated scientists at NOAA, have had a profound impact on the health and vitality of the bay. Scientific research has led to a better understanding of the bay, including how it works, and what must be done to continue its restoration.

The NOAA’s Chesapeake Bay Office brings incredible scientific knowledge and expertise. They are involved in protecting and preserving the Chesapeake Bay in many ways, from rebuilding oyster reefs to restoring critically important estuarine and wetland vegetation. However, we still have a long way to go before we reach our goals for a completely restored Chesapeake Bay. Many questions about the future of the bay remain unanswered. For example, blue crabs, perhaps the best-known and most important resource of the bay, have been below the long-term average level for several years.

The oyster harvest has declined dramatically. Further efforts to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution are needed.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased that this legislation today will help us address these concerns. It will allow us to move towards the goal of a restored Chesapeake Bay. H.R. 642 will provide the NOAA’s Chesapeake Bay Office with the necessary resources and authorization to continue to lead the way towards long-lasting environmental restoration of the bay.

Madam Speaker, we must preserve and protect the Chesapeake Bay, and I do support H.R. 642. I urge its swift passage.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, to prove this is not simply a Maryland State concern, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) for yielding the time.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank also the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST), because he and I cochair the Chesapeake Bay watershed Task Force, and I want to thank him and the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) for their dedication to protecting the Chesapeake Bay.

The bill before us today reauthorizes the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Chesapeake Bay Office through 2006. The Chesapeake Bay Office was established in 1992 to provide a focal point for NOAA’s efforts and those efforts undertaken by partners of the Chesapeake Bay Program.

For nearly 10 years now, the Chesapeake Bay Office has played a vital role in coordinating efforts between NOAA and Federal and State governments in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. It has acted as a positive force in managing and preserving this unique natural treasure.

This legislation before us not only authorizes the appropriations for the Chesapeake Bay Office, but it also begins a new small grant program. Local governments and community organizations such as educational institutions or community organizations within the Chesapeake Bay watershed would be eligible for grants which may make improvements to fish passageways, create natural or artificial reefs for habitats, restore wetlands or sea grass or produce oysters for restoration projects.

These projects could advance the essential knowledge and information
that is necessary in order for us to restore our Nation's most cherished waterway, the Chesapeake Bay, which not only has significant environmental impact on Virginia and many other States, but also contributes enormously to our recreational activities and to our economy. I, therefore, Madam Speaker, urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN).

Mr. CARDIN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD), my friend, for yielding this time to me and for his leadership in moving this legislation, and also the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST), my colleague, in working together to bring forward this very important reauthorization legislation that will help continue the Federal partnership in restoring the Chesapeake Bay, the largest estuary in our Nation.

In 1990, original authorizations for NOAA's participation was passed by this Congress, and since that time, NOAA has been an instrumental partner in our efforts that involve not only the State of Maryland, but our surrounding States; not just State government, but local governments; not just government, but the private sector. We have worked together in partnership and have made tremendous progress in restoring the Chesapeake Bay.

This legislation not only reauthorizes NOAA's participation, but establishes small grant programs to local governments, community organizations, educational institutions to restore fish and habitats.

Madam Speaker, I say personally I know the groups that qualify for these funds. They are out there every day helping us restoring the waters and stirring up the waters, helping us in a major way. This legislation will mean that there will be additional resources available to these local groups to help them.

The legislation also provides for a 5-year study, which I think is extremely important on the multispecies management plan. For too long, we have been looking at individual species. This legislation will allow us to look at all the species within the bay as to how they interact with each other.

We increase the authorization to $6 million through fiscal year 2006; and in combination, this legislation will increase NOAA's participation in partnership to restore the bay.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate all for moving this legislation so early. It will help us in our efforts not only in Maryland, not only in the communities that surround the Chesapeake Bay, but as a model for our Nation as to the right way to clean up a major body of water, a multijurisdictional body of water.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

Mr. GILCHREST. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to urge everyone to vote aye on this question. I want to congratulate the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) for this very fine piece of legislation.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILCHREST. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) once again, and certainly the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) for helping us with this legislation.

One last very brief comment on the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The Chesapeake Bay itself, about 100 years ago, at the turn of the century, we took out of the bay on an annual basis up to 15 million bushels of oysters, 15 million. It was the engine that drove the economy of the State of Maryland and Virginia and, to some extent, Pennsylvania, for the commercial harvest, for the recreational activities, for all the spin-off economic resources that depended on the Chesapeake Bay, 15 million bushels of oysters. We are, in a good year now, in a very good year, down to 300,000 bushels of oysters.

With this legislation, we can understand the nature of the mechanics of the ecosystem, how the food web works. Human activity degraded the bay; human ingenuity will restore it.

I urge an aye vote on H.R. 642.

Mr. GILCHREST. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. Emerson). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) for the consideration of the Sergeant at Arms.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 768) to amend the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 to make permanent the favorable treatment of need-based educational aid under the antitrust laws. The Act may be cited as the "Need-Based Educational Aid Act of 2001".

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Need-Based Educational Aid Act of 2001".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS.

(a) Amendments to the Improving America's Schools Act of 2001. The Act also amends the Improving America's Schools Act of 2001 to establish a permanent multistate grant program for need-based educational aid, to make permanent the favorable treatment of need-based educational aid under the antitrust laws.

(b) Repeal of Temporary Program. The Act repeals the temporary program under the Improving America's Schools Act of 2001. The Act also amends the Improving America's Schools Act of 2001 to make permanent the favorable treatment of need-based educational aid under the antitrust laws.

(c) Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon its enactment into law.

(d) Fiscal Year. This Act shall apply to fiscal year 2001 and subsequent fiscal years.

Section 568(d) of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (15 U.S.C. 1 note) is repealed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. Emerson). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 768, the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 768) to amend the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 to make permanent the favorable treatment of need-based educational aid under the antitrust laws.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, today the House considered H.R. 768, the Need-Based Educational Aid Act of 2001. This bill was introduced by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH). It makes permanent an antitrust exemption that allows universities to agree on common standards of need when awarding financial aid.

This exemption has been passed on a temporary basis several times without controversy, and the current version is set to expire at end of September. It appears to be working well, and I am hopeful that it now can be made permanent.