

community. We look forward to her continued contributions. I value her longtime friendship and appreciate all she does for others.

“SAY ‘NO’ TO UNESCO” ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States should not rejoin the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Mr. Speaker, in 1984 President Ronald Reagan withdrew the United States from membership in that UNESCO, citing egregious financial mis-management, blatant anti-Americanism, and UNESCO's general anti-freedom policies. President Reagan was correct in identifying UNESCO as an organization that does not act in America's interest, and he was correct in questioning why the United States should fund 25 percent of UNESCO's budget for that privilege.

Those calling for the United States to rejoin UNESCO claim that the organization has undertaken fundamental reforms and therefore the United States should re-join. It is strange that in the 18 years since the United States left UNESCO, we only started reading about the beginnings of reform in the year 2000. Are we to believe that after nearly two decades of no change in UNESCO's way of mis-managing itself things have changed so much in just two years? Is it worth spending \$60 million per year on an organization with such a terrible history of waste, corruption, and anti-Americanism?

Mr. Speaker, even if UNESCO has been “reforming” its finances over the past two years, its programmatic activities are still enough to cause great concern among those of us who value American sovereignty and honor our Constitution. Consider the following as a partial list of UNESCO's ongoing highly questionable activities:

UNESCO meddles in the education affairs of its member-countries and has sought to construct a U.N.-based school curriculum for American schools.

UNESCO has been fully supportive of the United Nations' Population Fund (UNFPA) in its assistance to China's brutal coercive population control program.

UNESCO has designated 47 U.N. Biosphere Reserves in the United States covering more than 70 million acres, without Congressional consultation.

UNESCO effectively bypasses Congressional authority to manage federal lands, by establishing management policies without Congressional consultation of approval.

Mr. Speaker, I hope all members of this body will join me in opposing renewed U.S. membership in the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization by co-sponsoring this “Say ‘No’ to UNESCO” act.

HONORING WILLIAM H. CARBONE FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CONNECTICUT JOB CORPS CENTER

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the Connecticut Job Corps Center in honoring one of our community's most active leaders and my dear friend, William H. Carbone. For his outstanding contributions and invaluable assistance, Bill will receive an honorary membership in the Job Corps Alumni Association as the Connecticut Job Corps Center celebrates the graduation of eighty students.

Since its inception only six years ago, the Connecticut Job Corps Center has helped hundreds of students between the ages of sixteen and twenty-four develop the skills and training they need to obtain jobs that will allow them to provide for themselves and their families. By building partnerships with businesses throughout Greater New Haven, students who successfully complete the Center's rigorous program have access to real careers.

Upon the announcement of its opening in 1996, the Center found an immediate advocate and resource in Bill Carbone. Knowing that young people who have access to job training and a job are likely to stay away from the state's correctional system, Bill initially contacted the Center in an effort to provide a positive step for young people completing the Alternative Incarceration Program. Through this effort, three Job Corps Judicial Liaisons have guided nearly two hundred young people to successfully participate in the Connecticut Job Corps Center's judicial program. Many of these young people have attained their GED, completed vocational training, obtained jobs and so much more. Bill's efforts have created invaluable opportunities for these young people, giving them one of life's most precious gifts—hope.

Our communities would not be the same without the generosity and compassion of those who dedicate themselves to enriching the lives of others. Throughout his career, Bill has worked hard to ensure that some of our community's most vulnerable citizens have access to opportunity. The Greater New Haven area is certainly fortunate to have an individual like Bill working on our behalf. He is a true community treasure.

It is with my deepest thanks and appreciation that I rise today to join the Connecticut Job Corps Center in paying tribute to William H. Carbone. His unwavering support and tireless efforts have touched countless lives and has left an indelible mark on this community.

IN SUPPORT OF THE LOW INCOME FAMILIES FLOOD INSURANCE ACCESS ACT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in June of 2001, Texas and other States witnessed the

damage wrought by Tropical Storm Allison after it swept through Texas and up the East Coast, and the importance of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) really hit home. Thousands of my constituents suffered substantial flood damage to their homes and businesses, but many of these losses were mitigated because they had federal flood insurance.

Unfortunately, not all my constituents who needed flood insurance could afford to purchase a policy. Because of a recent redraw of Houston's Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) many of my low-income folks were brought into the 100-year flood plain, but could not afford the insurance. As a consequence of my constituents' experience, I rise today to introduce the Low Income Families Flood Insurance Access Act.

This legislation helps bridge the insurance gap between those that can afford a flood policy and those that cannot. The bill would provide discounted flood insurance over a five-year term for low-income homeowners or renters whose primary residence is placed within a Special Flood Hazard Area (flood plain) by a redraw of the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). If their property is worth no more than \$75,000, they would be eligible to receive a 50% discount on their flood insurance premiums for a five-year period.

It also provides for limited retroactivity if their residence is placed within the flood plain within two years of the enactment of the legislation; otherwise, the five years would begin upon the placement of the property within the flood plain. I hope that this legislation will not only increase participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), but make this program more affordable for the economically disadvantaged. It provides an incentive for those who are most vulnerable to huge losses in floods to get the protection they need at a price they can afford.

The NFIP plays a crucial role in lessening the impact of a major flooding disaster, but to make the program operate most effectively we need greater participation. I believe my legislation will extend the helping hand associated with flood insurance down to those people in greatest need of assistance.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we can speed this bill through the 108th Congress.

MILITARY RETIREE HEALTH CARE TASK FORCE ACT

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to introduce the Military Retiree Health Care Task Force Act of 2003. This legislation will establish a Task Force that will look into all of the health care promises and representations made to members of the Uniformed Services by Department of Defense personnel and Department literature. The Task Force will submit a comprehensive report to Congress which will contain a detailed statement of its findings and conclusions. This report will include legislative remedies to correct the great injustices that have occurred to those men and women who served their country in good faith.