

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY ACT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Children's Access to Technology Act providing the disadvantaged children of this country with the technology they need to succeed in life. My legislation will provide Title I schools with additional financial resources to modernize their Internet delivery tools. Specifically, this legislation will utilize any unspent e-rate funding to provide Title I schools with a maximum \$25,000 award to modernize their Internet labs.

Mr. Speaker, the e-rate program has been very effective in bringing the Internet to libraries and classrooms across America. As a strong supporter of that program, I was disturbed to learn that crucial e-rate funding was going unspent because recipients were not following through with their paperwork confirming receipt of service. The Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) is working to improve the timely utilization of authorized grants to approved school and library systems, but there will always be some unexpended funds in the program.

Because any unspent e-rate funding is lost at the end of each program year, my legislation will create a new funding mechanism, using any unspent monies, that will allow Title I schools to update their computer hardware. Specifically, the legislation directs the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to establish a lottery system for Title I schools to enter and be eligible to receive up to \$25,000 to modernize their computer hardware.

In light of President Bush's commitment to strengthen and streamline the e-rate program, I believe we must ensure that all funding made available through the USAC be spent on improving our children's access to new and innovative technology. While I understand USAC has taken steps to speed the grant process and close the unexpended funding gap, I still believe there will always be some unallocated funding at the end of each program year. In these instances, my legislation will provide an additional benefit to truly needy schools that are struggling to improve the delivery of Internet services to their students.

Our children are our future; without innovating new approaches to provide better tools in our classroom, the now-passable digital divide will become an impenetrable digital barrier, unbreachable no matter how much funding we throw at the problem.

Mr. Speaker, this is a complimentary piece of education legislation when compared with President Bush's proposals and will further enhance the educational opportunities of our children.

NOTCH BABY HEALTH CARE RELIEF ACT

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, today I am again introducing legislation to assist the over 6 million senior citizens who have been negatively impacted the Social Security Amendments of 1977. Seniors born between the years of 1917 and 1926—the Notch Babies—have received lower Social Security monthly payments that those seniors born shortly before or after this ten year period. My legislation, the Notch Baby Health Care Relief Act, will offset the reduction in Social Security benefits by providing a tax credit for Medicare Part B premiums.

The approach taken in this bill is different than taken by my Notch Baby Act of 2001 or in any other Notch bill that has been introduced. This legislation is particularly noteworthy because it was suggested to me by one of my constituents—adjust Medicare Part B premiums for senior citizens born between the years 1917 and 1926, their spouses and their widows or widowers. The bill also eliminates the Medicare Part B premium late enrollment penalty for these individuals.

As health care expenses can take up a large portion of a senior's retirement income, this tax credit can go a long way to both correct the inequity caused by the Notch and to help seniors meet their health care needs. I urge my colleagues to review the Notch Baby Health Care Relief Act, to discuss this legislation with the seniors in their districts, and to join me in cosponsoring this important legislation.

HONORING THE CONCLUSION OF ALAMEDA BOARD OF EDUCATION TRUSTEE ANNA ELEFANT'S TEN- URE ON THE SCHOOL BOARD

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Anna Elefant on the completion of her second term as trustee of the Alameda Board of Education.

An eight-year veteran on the school board, Ms. Elefant has the maximum number of terms allowed under district term limits. In 1997 and 2001 she served as Board President, and as Board Chair of the successful 2001 "Measure A" School Parcel Tax Campaign.

Ms. Elefant has also served the Board as a member of the Superintendent's Woodstock Child Development Center Advisory Team, as Board Representative to the California School Age Families' Education program at Island

High School, as Board Chair of the search for a new superintendent of schools in 2000, and as Board Representative to the City of Alameda Economic Task Force.

Ms. Elefant is a passionate advocate of educational excellence. She has supported innovative programs such as year-round education, developmental education, and open enrollment for special programs.

A persistent lobbyist, she has worked at state and local levels to increase funding for the Alameda Unified School District. In November of 2001 she successfully rallied the community to pass the city's first school funding parcel tax. She provided courageous leadership to settle a historic 3-year closed salary contract, and helped district employee groups in rebuilding trust in the district.

The mother of three children attending Alameda public schools, Ms. Elefant was the first PTA co-president of Bay Farm Elementary School when it opened its doors in 1992.

I am honored to commend Anna Elefant for her years of service to the Alameda Board of Education. A dedicated member of the Board of Education, Elefant has continually worked to expand the District's vision of meeting the educational needs of all students.

SOCIAL SECURITY PRESERVATION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to protect the integrity of the Social Security trust fund by introducing the Social Security Preservation Act. The Social Security Preservation Act is a rather simple bill which states that all monies raised by the Social Security trust fund will be spent in payments to beneficiaries, with excess receipts invested in interest-bearing certificates of deposit. This will help keep Social Security trust fund monies from being diverted to other programs, as well as allow the fund to grow by providing for investment in interest-bearing instruments.

The Social Security Preservation Act ensures that the government will keep its promises to America's seniors that taxes collected for Social Security will be used for Social Security. When the government taxes Americans to fund Social Security, it promises the American people that the money will be there for them when they retire. Congress has a moral obligation to keep that promise.

The return of massive federal deficits, and the accompanying pressure for massive new raids on the trust fund, make it more important than ever that Congress protect the trust fund from big spending, pork-barrel politics. I call upon all my colleagues, regardless of which proposal for long-term Social Security reform they support, to stand up for America's seniors by cosponsoring the Social Security Preservation Act.

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