

grant program to encourage the use of assistance dogs by members of our Armed Forces and veterans.

Tens of thousands of our service members and veterans are struggling to cope with physical or mental health disabilities. Assistance dogs help these men and women lead more independent lives, assisting with mobility and balance, retrieving and carrying objects, responding to sounds, getting help, and providing social interaction and companionship. Trained dogs also offer many therapeutic benefits to soldiers and veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder by elevating their moods, building confidence, and reducing stress, all of which assist them in their transition back to civilian life.

Nonprofit organizations that train and provide assistance dogs to help our military personnel and veterans are receiving more and more requests. Groups throughout the country—including Hawaii Fi-Do Service Dogs in my congressional district—train and provide dogs for returning soldiers and veterans but rely on fundraising and volunteer staff to meet the growing demand.

The K-9 Companion Corps Act would provide competitive grants to build the capacity of nonprofit organizations whose mission is to address the physical and mental health needs of the men and women who have served our nation so honorably through the dogs they train and provide.

I thank my former colleague, Congressman Ron Klein of Florida, for his work on this bill last Congress and for his unwavering commitment to our military personnel, veterans, and their families.

TRIBUTE TO GREAT COMEBACKS TONY SNOW WINNER JUSTIN BLUM

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my constituents, Justin Blum of Florence, South Carolina. Justin has been selected as the Great Comebacks Tony Snow Public Service Award recipient for 2010. This award, named in memory of the former White House advisor and news broadcaster who passed away from colon cancer, was created to honor extraordinary individuals who are passionate about serving their country while dealing courageously with debilitating intestinal diseases and ostomy surgery.

The Great Comebacks Program is sponsored by ConvaTec in partnership with the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation (CCFA), the United Ostomy Associations of America, Inc. (UOAA) and the Intestinal Disease Education and Awareness Society (IDEAS). Each year, Great Comebacks presents awards to individuals throughout the United States who have struggled with a chronic intestinal condition and have exhibited extraordinary strength and courage for managing to live full and productive lives despite daily struggles. Today, there are more than 700,000 men, women and children throughout our country affected by the very conditions that can result in an ostomy.

Following a 21-year history of ulcerative colitis, Mr. Blum opted for ostomy surgery while a Major on active duty in the Army. The words

"I can't" have never been part of Mr. Blum's vocabulary and he uses his ostomy to set an example to others that anything is possible in life if you set your mind to it. This drive allowed Mr. Blum to complete 21 years of active Army service before retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and to tackle his next goal of becoming a JROTC instructor. He is currently in his 15th year as a JROTC instructor at Marlboro County High School in Bennettsville, South Carolina and in this capacity has worked with more than 5,000 at-risk students.

Mr. Blum credits his wife for providing him with the emotional and physical support needed to transition to "life" as a permanent ostomate. He also credits his Wound Ostomy Care (WOC) nurse, Cindy Norris with performing selfless acts on behalf of her clients and for always being available to him.

Commenting on his ostomy, Justin says, "The best advice I have given other ostomates is that they are very fortunate and are now in a position to accomplish anything. As an ostomate, they are cured from previous afflictions like colitis or Crohn's and they have been provided a second chance for life. They can set an example for all to emulate by making a difference in the lives of others who do not have the motivation and self-esteem they are experiencing."

I urge my colleagues to take the time to meet with some of the Great Comebacks award recipients. Their personal stories, like Justin's, are inspirational and will heighten your awareness about some of the huge strides being made by people living with intestinal diseases or recovering from ostomy surgery.

THE FAMILY EDUCATION FREEDOM ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Family Education Freedom Act, a bill to empower millions of working and middle-class Americans to choose a non-public education for their children, as well as making it easier for parents to actively participate in improving public schools. The Family Education Freedom Act accomplishes its goals by allowing American parents a tax credit of up to \$5,000 for the expenses incurred in sending their child to private, public, parochial, other religious school, or for home schooling their children.

The Family Education Freedom Act returns the fundamental principal of a truly free economy to America's education system: what the great economist Ludwig von Mises called "consumer sovereignty". Consumer sovereignty simply means consumers decide who succeeds or fails in the market. Businesses that best satisfy consumer demand will be the most successful. Consumer sovereignty is the means by which the free market maximizes human happiness.

Currently, consumers are less than sovereign in the education "market." Funding decisions are increasingly controlled by the federal government. Because "he who pays the piper calls the tune," public, and even private

schools, are paying greater attention to the dictates of federal "educrats" while ignoring the wishes of the parents to an ever-greater degree. As such, the lack of consumer sovereignty in education is destroying parental control of education and replacing it with state control. Loss of control is a key reason why so many of America's parents express dissatisfaction with the educational system.

According to a survey conducted by Education Next/Harvard PEPG, the majority of Americans support education tax credits. This poll also found strong support for education tax credits among liberals, moderates, conservatives, low-income individuals, African-Americans, and public-school employees. This is just one of numerous studies and public opinion polls showing that Americans want Congress to get the federal bureaucracy out of the schoolroom and give parents more control over their children's education.

Today, Congress can fulfill the wishes of the American people for greater control over their children's education by simply allowing parents to keep more of their hard-earned money to spend on education rather than force them to send it to Washington to support education programs reflective only of the values and priorities of Congress and the federal bureaucracy.

The \$5,000 tax credit will make a better education affordable for millions of parents. Madam Speaker, many parents who would choose to send their children to private, religious, or parochial schools are unable to afford the tuition, in large part because of the enormous tax burden imposed on the American family by Washington.

The Family Education Freedom Act also benefits parents who choose to send their children to public schools. Parents of children in public schools may use this credit to help improve their local schools by helping finance the purchase of educational tools such as computers or to ensure their local schools can offer enriching extracurricular activities such as music programs. Parents of public school students may also wish to use the credit to pay for special services, such as tutoring, for their children.

Increasing parental control of education is superior to funneling more federal tax dollars, followed by greater federal control, into the schools. A recent review of the relevant research conducted by Andrew J. Coulson of the CATO Institute shows that increasing parental controls increases academic achievement, efficiency, the orderliness of the classrooms, and the quality of school facilities. Not surprisingly, graduates of education system controlled by parents tend to achieve higher levels of education and earn more than their counterparts in bureaucratically controlled education systems.

Clearly, enactment of the Family Education Freedom Act is the best thing this Congress could do to improve public education. Furthermore, a greater reliance on parental expenditures rather than government tax dollars will help make the public schools into true community schools that reflect the wishes of parents and the interests of the students.

The Family Education Freedom Act will also aid those parents who choose to educate their children at home. Home schooling has become an increasingly popular, and successful, method of educating children. Home schooled children out-perform their public school peers

by 30 to 37 percentile points across all subjects on nationally standardized achievement exams. Home schooling parents spend thousands of dollars annually, in addition to the wages forgone by the spouse who forgoes outside employment, in order to educate their children in the loving environment of the home.

Ultimately, Mr. Speaker, this bill is about freedom. Parental control of child rearing, especially education, is one of the bulwarks of liberty. No nation can remain free when the state has greater influence over the knowledge and values transmitted to children than the family.

By moving to restore the primacy of parents to education, the Family Education Freedom Act will not only improve America's education, it will restore a parent's right to choose how best to educate one's own child, a fundamental freedom that has been eroded by the increase in federal education expenditures and the corresponding decrease in the ability of parents to provide for their children's education out of their own pockets. I call on all my colleagues to join me in allowing parents to devote more of their resources to their children's education and less to feed the wasteful Washington bureaucracy by supporting the Family Education Freedom Act.

TWO WEEKS CONTINUING RESOLUTION

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, just last week, Congress passed a two-week Continuing Resolution to cut spending and keep the government running. Now, in all my years as an elected official I have never seen a CR (Continuing Resolution) last as little as two weeks!

I clearly see that on Capitol Hill these days it is only the big dogs that get to eat at the table! The Republican Party, while slamming through tax cuts for the rich last December is leading the charge for tens of billions of dollars in budget cuts for job training programs, environmental protection, disease control, programs to assist homeless veterans; transportation and infrastructure (including cuts to high speed rail and Amtrak), crime protection, education programs and dozens of other critical Extension of Remarks areas for our country.

As always, if these cuts do pass, they will fall on the shoulders on the working poor and middle class. It is obvious that Republican lawmakers in the House remain indifferent to the suffering the cuts could bring to the American people. Moreover, as shown in a study conducted by Moody's Analytics, their budget plan also jeopardizes American jobs and our country's economic future by rolling back investments that would help the private sector to grow and put people back to work!

RECOGNIZING YVONNE AUSTIN

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Yvonne Austin of Grove City, Ohio. Yvonne has been selected as a 2010 Great Comebacks Award recipient for the Central Region. Each year, Great Comebacks presents regional awards to 12 individuals throughout the United States who have struggled with a chronic intestinal condition and have exhibited extraordinary strength and courage for managing to live full and productive lives despite daily struggles.

An 18-year-old freshman in college, Yvonne was balancing two jobs with her education, while secretly struggling with symptoms she could not explain. A year later, she finally sought medical advice and was diagnosed with Crohn's disease. Despite this diagnosis Yvonne was determined not to let the disease hinder her tenacious work ethic or interrupt her active lifestyle.

With a great desire for travel, Yvonne set out to explore the world. Her adventurous spirit led her to the Great Barrier Reef, spending her time scuba diving, swimming with sharks, and even taking up waterskiing. However, Crohn's disease continued to invade her life with painful flare-ups and numerous hospitalizations. After 15 years of managing her symptoms with medications, Yvonne consented to a temporary ileostomy in 2002 and opted for a permanent ileostomy in 2004.

Three friends nominated Yvonne for the Great Comebacks Award, describing her as a confident and inspirational woman who radiates positive energy and goes the extra mile for her family and friends. Yvonne's friends also recalled how she quickly rushed to the aid of a friend's mother who had received an emergency ostomy.

Today, Yvonne is a successful mortgage banker, and led by her adventurous spirit has for the past three years been a nationally-ranked competitive water skier. She is also an avid golfer, fundraises for the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation, and volunteers at a local children's hospital to provide support to parents and children who are living with an intestinal disease and/or an ostomy. Yvonne believes faith, humor and a positive attitude can overcome any adversity.

MAKE COLLEGE AFFORDABLE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to help millions of Americans afford higher education by introducing the Make College Affordable Act of 2011, which makes college tuition tax deductible. Today the average cost of a college education is over 30 thousand dollars per year! These high costs have left many middle class American families struggling to afford college for their children, who are often ineligible for financial aid. Therefore, middle class students have no choice but to obtain student loans, and thus leave college saddled with massive debt.

Even families who plan and save well in advance for their children's education may have a difficult time because their savings are eroded by taxation and inflation. The Make College Affordable Act will help these middle class students by allowing them, or their parents or guardians who claim them as dependents, to deduct the cost of college tuition as well as the cost of student loan repayments.

The Make College Affordable Act will also help older or nontraditional students looking to improve their job skills or prepare for a career change, by pursuing higher education. In today's economy, the average American worker can expect to change jobs, and even careers, several times during his or her working life, making it more important than ever that working Americans be able to devote their resources to continuing their educations.

Helping the American people use their own money to ensure every qualified American can receive a college education is one of the best investments this Congress can make in the future. I therefore urge my colleagues to help strengthen America by ensuring more Americans can obtain college educations by co-sponsoring the Make College Affordable Act.

RECOGNIZING GREG SEGHEZZI

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Greg Seghezzi of Grass Valley, California.

Greg was well-known in the Grass Valley community, and it would be hard to find many who didn't know and care for him. He was a member of the Grass Valley Rotary Club, the Chamber of Commerce and an active member of the men's ministry at Twin Cities Church. Greg had an uncompromising and uncommon work ethic: having owned a wine store and catering business as well as working as a realtor in Nevada County. He was the quintessential example of the American entrepreneur and innovator. Going far beyond being a successful businessman, Greg was also a dedicated servant to his community: donating food, supplies and hundreds of hours in the kitchen cooking for local fundraisers and special events.

For all of his success in the public arena, the single greatest joy in Greg's life was his family. Greg and Angie, his wife of 26 years, raised four outstanding children: Antonio, Gianna, Roman and Dominica. Whether it was driving across the state chasing volleyball matches and diving meets, or providing a strong and guiding example of hard work and fine values, Greg's largest investment of his time and energy went to loving and caring for his family in every way possible.

Mr. Speaker, men like Greg Seghezzi don't quickly fade from memory, nor can they ever be replaced. Whether through his professional life, or his personal dedication to his family and community, Greg touched many lives in our community; lives that he undoubtedly changed for the better and it is my honor to rise in his memory today.