

benefits for this group of children, SSA would have to show evidence that the child's condition no longer existed, or that it had significantly improved and no longer impaired the ability to function. An estimated 30,000 children turning 18 have already been cut off all SSI benefits because of this loophole. The amendment leaves intact the new law's provision of a mandated review of all children turning 18.

The bill also proposes to expand allowable expenditures from Dedicated Savings Accounts (DSAs). Dedicated Savings Accounts are funds that are set up by parents or representative payees for disabled children who are eligible to receive past-due monthly SSI benefits (if the payment is six times or more the monthly benefit). Current law restricts the use of these funds for certain items. Consequently, many disabled children have gone without basic needs (e.g., food, shelter, clothing) while their SSI applications were pending. My bill expands the list to include items essential to maintaining a child at home with parents or guardians.

I hope that my introduction of the Disabled Children's Fairness Act of 1998 will call attention to the responsibility of this Congress to revisit the impact of federal welfare reform on low-income disabled children and their families.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO JEFF GOLIMOWSKI

#### HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 1998*

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations and recognize the stellar achievement of Jeff Golimowski, a senior at Newport High School in Newport, Oregon. Jeff has been named the first place National winner of the Veterans of Foreign Wars "Voice of Democracy" essay competition.

In his winning essay he gave ample proof of his good citizenship, and he showed his concern for making his voice heard in our democracy. Out of over 100,000 students participating in this, the 51st year of the competition, his essay was singled out. I can see why.

Jeff embodies the ideals that we as a society try to teach our young. As a product of our public school system, he represents a commitment to patriotism and high-minded idealism. As an American, he displays a respect for our collective past and a shining enthusiasm for our future.

Jeff, if you ever want a job as a speech-writer, give me a call. Congratulations and good luck in all your future endeavors.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE E-RATE POLICY AND CHILD PROTECTION ACT OF 1998

#### HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 1998*

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the E-Rate Policy and Child Protection

Act of 1998. Mr. Speaker, the Telecommunications Act of 1996 contained a provision that I had battled for and advocated for many years. The concept was straightforward: make America's schools and libraries eligible for universal service funding so that these educational entities could receive discounted rates for telecommunications services. During FCC implementation of this provision, I coined the term "E-Rate"—for "education rate"—to describe a system of discounts for telecommunications services that would allow schools and libraries to enter the digital age and better prepare our citizens for the knowledge-based economy of the future.

As a nation, we did the job of preparing previous generations to compete in the Industrial Era. From the founding of our republic, the common school movement and leaders such as Horace Mann provided the impetus for the ideal that each and every American should be entitled to an education, regardless of economic status.

America cannot leave kids from middle class working families out of the knowledge-based economy and still hope to retain its economic standing in a fiercely competitive global environment. At the turn of the 20th Century, 10 of the 12 largest companies in America were natural resource companies. As we enter the 21st Century, the 10 largest and most rapidly expanding industries in the world are brainpower industries; telecommunications, computer software, microelectronics, biotech, material-science, among others. The E-Rate is an essential program for our country's economic future.

Now that the E-Rate program is being implemented, some concerns have been raised about access to material on the World Wide Web that is inappropriate or unsuitable for children. I have long believed that technology can often offer a solution to some of the problems that technology creates. Software filtering technology and other blocking technology can help to provide some protection in schools to shield children from inappropriate online fare. Other solutions may also mitigate against minors gaining access to Web sites that parents and educators feel are indecent and want to shield from young children.

I believe that the digital age will present both promise and problems. I also believe that we can embrace technological change, use it to empower our citizens and also face the challenges that technology poses for us. The purpose of the legislation that I am offering today is to ensure that local school and library officials think through the many issues of online access, and implement a policy for addressing access by children. This legislation will ensure that before schools and libraries obtain E-Rate funding in the future that they establish some policy governing access by minors.

#### A TRIBUTE TO ALBERTO FIBLA

#### HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 1998*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Cuban who is now, also, a great American and a constituent of mine, Dr. Alberto Fibla, who is a true inspiration to all of us.

Dr. Fibla survived over 20 brutal years in jail as a political prisoner under the Castro dictatorship.

When Dr. Fibla recently became a United States citizen, one of his first acts was to seek to register with the Army and Navy. Dr. Fibla wanted to volunteer as a physician to serve this country to assist in America's efforts in the Persian Gulf region. Unfortunately, Dr. Fibla was turned away because he exceeded the age requirement. However, I believe that Dr. Fibla's efforts to join the armed forces should be applauded.

It is easy to take the personal privileges and great freedoms we enjoy in this great country, the United States of America, for granted. Often it is the patriotism shown by new citizens, such as Dr. Alberto Fibla, that remind us of the importance of our liberty and freedoms.

Thank you, Dr. Fibla, for your commitment to the defense of the United States. You are truly a great American.

#### INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3440

#### HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 1998*

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 3440, the Alternative Routes to Teacher Certification Act of 1998 which will help our local school districts recruit and license highly-qualified professionals with significant work experience to teach in our nation's schools.

Congress will reauthorize the Higher Education Act this spring, and an important part of the reauthorization is teacher training. We have the opportunity to restructure how our nation recruits, trains, and support teachers and we are not only faced with the challenge of maintaining the supply of teachers, but also with ensuring that our children have access to the highest quality teachers.

If current trends continue, American schools will need to hire more than two million teachers in the next decade to educate an increasing number of students and to replace teachers who retire or leave the profession.

In addition, there are too many teachers who do not know their subject matter well enough to teach it to our students. This is a real problem in our urban and rural areas, which face significant difficulties in recruiting qualified teachers. In high poverty schools, 40% of math teachers, 31% of English teachers, and 20% of science teachers are instructing in subjects in which they hold neither a college major or minor.

The recently released TIMMS scores in which our nation's 12th graders scored near the bottom internationally in math and science highlights the importance of having fully qualified teachers. We can and must do better.

There are highly qualified individuals who have already earned bachelor's degrees and serve in other occupations who are interested in pursuing a teaching career—in 1996, ten percent of all teachers at the elementary or secondary level worked in an occupation outside of education in the previous year.

I think that teaching is one of the most important professions in this country, and I support high standards for teachers, but I think that we should reduce barriers to getting these highly qualified individuals into the classroom.

My bill will award grants to local school districts and teacher training programs that develop alternative routes to certification programs that open the teaching profession to individuals with professional experience who have the desire to teach.

My bill will empower local school districts that are facing teacher shortages or subject-area shortages to develop bold and innovative programs that recruit and prepare these highly qualified individuals to teach in our elementary and secondary schools.

These individuals could include education paraprofessionals, former military personnel, mid-career professionals, or returned Peace Corps volunteers. It can also include recent college graduates who have a record of academic distinction and hold a BA in the academic subject area in which they plan to teach.

These individuals bring distinctive and diverse life experiences into the classroom, which can enrich the curriculum and school and enhance the quality of our educational system.

My bill will also encourage States to develop more rigorous assessments certification and teacher licensing exams based on subject-matter knowledge, teaching knowledge, teaching skills and other performance-based examinations.

I am joined by my colleagues JIM MORAN, CAL DOOLEY, RON KIND and ANNA ESHOO. I urge your support for this important bill.

#### DISMAY OVER OREGON'S DEATH WITH DIGNITY LAW

#### HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 1998*

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in dismay over the Oregon Health Service Commission's decision to use taxpayers' money to end the lives of Medicaid recipients. This decision, an inevitable outcome of the state's Death with Dignity law, devalues the lives of the poor and forces their neighbors to contribute to their demise. Our forefathers believed, as do I, that the value of human life is not found in circumstance, lest poverty or frailty diminish it, but from God who gives each of use the will to overcome the indignities of life. On this point, I want to share the thoughts of Krista Kafer of Colorado.

"The Oregon Health Services Commission's decision to spend taxpayers' money to finance the killing of terminally ill poor people will no doubt revive the debate over euthanasia. We will once again hear proponents talk about the need for 'death with dignity.' If Oregonians are shocked that they may actually help kill the undignified dying poor, then they should call to memory the slippery slope argument they once ignored. They should have questioned the concept of 'death with dignity' a few months ago.

"That we should die to escape indignity or kill to alleviate it is a dangerous concept indeed. Of those who espouse such a morbid conviction, one might inquire further: When there is so much indignity in life, why prescribe death only to the dying? Indignities abound from morning to night, even in sleep, in spite of our constant, desperate efforts to

sanitize, deodorize and conceal them. No better than our animal friends, we cannot escape certain realities of our existence from birth to decay. Indignity is inescapable.

"There are moments so undignified that no one dares peak of them in casual conversation or popular entertainment. Commercials show people with forks or beverages, but rarely eating or drinking, because chewing and swallowing are not pretty. Eating is not glamorous. Neither is sneezing, scratching, hiccuping, burping, nose blowing, acne, giving birth, and other acts that I cannot even mention. Beans anyone?

"Great figures in history, George Washington, Clara Barton, Mother Teresa, Martin Luther King, Jr., were men and women of dignity not because they did not do these things, but because they were courageous, benevolent, and honorable. They accomplished extraordinary things while remaining bound by their human imperfections. They were men and women of integrity and, therefore, of dignity. History judges the measure of men not by their physical being, but by the quality of their hearts.

"My uncle spent the last 3 months of his life in a hospice, dying of cancer. He told my parents that between visits with friends and family, he spent the hours praying for people that he loved. Bedridden, breathing oxygen through a tube, suffering with pain and discomfort, my uncle spent his last days thinking of others, doing what he could to serve them. People say they don't want to be remembered that way, but this is how I will remember my uncle, a selfless, kind man, whose dignity in death was far greater than many will possess in life."

Dignity is about character which is not diminished by frailty. The term "dignity in death" is simply a euphemism used to legitimize the killing of the weak, the desperate, and now, the poor.

#### TRIBUTE TO SOUTHWESTERN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

#### HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 1998*

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor the Southwestern Missionary Baptist Church of Chicago, Illinois on the occasion of the celebration of their 70th year Church Anniversary.

On March 6, 1928, God called together eight individuals for the purpose of establishing a church to the glory of God. That church soon became known as the Southwestern Missionary Baptist Church. The Reverend B. H. January was called as the first pastor of Southwestern Church. Reverend January served faithfully and with distinction for over 27 years before his retirement. He was succeeded in leadership of Southwestern by the Reverend Eugene M. Dillard.

Under the ministry of Reverend Dillard, Southwestern moved to its present location at 8638 South Michigan Avenue. Reverend Dillard retired from the ministry in October, 1966. The Reverend William Conley served as the third pastor of Southwestern from 1966 until 1974 and initiated the church's first Building

Fund. The Reverend Leon Edwards was called as the fourth pastor in July, 1974. Reverend Edwards served with much pride and commanded the respect of all. Under the leadership of Reverend Edwards, Southwestern was able to complete the construction of its new church facility. On January 27, 1997, God called Reverend Edwards home to rest.

The Reverend Dwight D. Craig, assistant Pastor under Reverend Edwards was installed as the fifth pastor of Southwestern on June 29, 1997. Reverend Craig has continued to build on the legacy of his predecessors. Souls have been saved and healed; they that were bound have been set free; the discouraged have gained courage; and the weak have been made strong.

Mr. Speaker, Southwestern has been an anchor in the First Congressional District, the State of Illinois and indeed the nation. I am honored to recognize the historic anniversary celebration of the Southwestern Missionary Baptist Church and am privileged to enter these words into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United States House of Representatives.

#### GOVERNOR WILSON ABOLISHES AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

#### HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 1998*

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, yesterday California Governor Pete Wilson issued an executive order that institutes a provision of State Proposition 209 which abolishes affirmative action. I commend Governor Wilson for his commitment to abolishing policies that favor any group for reasons other than merit.

This has been an uphill battle for Governor Wilson. California voters passed Proposition 209 in 1996, yet officials were unable to enforce the measure because of a clause in the State Constitution that requires agencies to continue to enforce affirmative action programs until they are negated by an appellate court decision.

Last fall, a federal court ruled that any law mandating that state contractors favor companies owned by minorities or women is unconstitutional. After contemplating a request to reconsider this decision, the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the federal court ruling earlier this week, giving Governor Wilson the go-ahead to issue his executive order.

Mr. Speaker, Governor Wilson's order paves the road for other states looking to abolish affirmative action programs and allows us to turn our attention to the federal level. Congressman CHARLES CANADY (R-FL) has introduced H.R. 1909, the Civil Rights Act of 1997. This bill provides equal protection of the law and prohibits discrimination and preferential treatment on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in federal actions.

I urge my colleagues to take a close look at this legislation. Mr. Speaker, it is time for us to follow California's lead and reward individual's based on their merit, not quotas.