

national science and technology. Naming the auditorium for Mr. Schiff memorializes Steve and his legacy of support for the scientific community of New Mexico and the United States. Steve Schiff lived a full life of achievement that epitomized service to the local community and to the Nation at large.

As a young man, Steve enlisted in the Air Force and eventually became a full colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

As a young attorney, he worked as an assistant district attorney for Bernalillo County and ultimately rose to become the district attorney.

Mr. Speaker, Steve Schiff had a long and admirable career in public service, and we have a number of our distinguished colleagues who would like to speak in tribute to Mr. Schiff.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. SKEEN), our senior Representative.

(Mr. SKEEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, as Members know, our citizens of the great State of New Mexico mourned the death of Congressman Steve Schiff earlier this year. Steve was one of the most distinguished colleagues of this honorable body we proudly call the "people's" House of Representatives.

Changing the name of the auditorium at Sandia Technology Transfer Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico to the Steve Schiff Auditorium will provide New Mexicans and all who visit the center with a continuing tribute to this great Congressman, Steve Schiff.

Steve was dedicated to his constituents, and he worked hard to represent their interests in Congress. All of us remember Steve Schiff for caring so much, for trying so hard and for doing so much for his district, our State and country.

As chairman of the House Committee on Science Subcommittee on Basic Research, Steve led efforts to improve the Nation's economic and military strength into the 21st century through the support of robust national science and technology infrastructure.

Steve represented the first congressional district of New Mexico, which includes Sandia Laboratory. And as many of my colleagues know, Steve was a leading advocate for the use and transfer of technology developed at federally supported institutions for use in the private sector.

Naming this building in Steve Schiff's honor is most appropriate to recognize the memory of Steve and his contribution toward the enhancement of our quality of life through his support of technology transfer.

I ask my colleagues to strongly support this bill.

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Mr. REDMOND. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from the

first Congressional District of New Mexico (Ms. WILSON).

(Ms. WILSON asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, it is a real pleasure to rise in support of this bill to rename the auditorium at the Technology Transfer Center of the Sandia National Laboratories the Steve Schiff Auditorium.

The first time I met Steve Schiff was about 3 weeks after I moved to New Mexico. We had a little reception at our home for our wedding, and my husband invited a friend of his from the Air National Guard named Steve Schiff. He was humble, he was focused on public service, he was a good and a great man, and it is often harder to be a good man than to be a great man.

In 1994, when he was up for reelection, he asked me to chair, or co-chair, his finance committee, and I quickly understood that his asking me to chair his finance committee had less to do with his needing my help than my needing his and his belief in stewardship of young people in this country and in the Republican Party in New Mexico.

At that time, I went into his campaign headquarters and was signing hundreds of letters to people who might donate to his campaign; and he walked in and he said, "Well, Heather, you know, you don't need to sign all those letters yourself. If you hadn't noticed, there are a lot of Steves around here." Well, the truth is that we all know that there are not many Steves around here. He was a unique and valued individual, an honored Member, former Member, of this body, and I know all of us miss him dearly.

He was known for his humility and also for his humor. He told many, many stories about service in the public interest; and he gave a good name to being a public servant. It is more difficult to be good than to be great, and Steve Schiff was an example to us all.

I would urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILCREST). Without objection, the previous question is ordered.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. REDMOND. Mr. Speaker, on that, I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule 1, further proceedings on this matter are postponed.

## SAVE THE "E-RATE"

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks, and include extraneous material.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the telecommunications industry is holding hostage the future of every single child in America. We all know our classrooms and libraries must be wired to the Internet for our children to have the skills to compete in the 21st century, but this must happen today if our children are to become the leaders of tomorrow. Over half of all jobs in the future will require computer and networking skills.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 specifically provided such services to our schools and libraries at discount rates. Over 30,000 schools and libraries have applied for this education rate, including 59 from my own congressional district. Yet now, just as this important program is getting off the ground, the telecommunications industry, which has profited by billions of dollars from this act, is reneging on its part of the deal, with the full support of the Republican leadership of this House.

It is shameful. We cannot let corporate greed put an end to this historic effort to meet a critical national need. I urge my colleagues to stand up on behalf of our children and support the E-rate.

[From the School Board News, June 9, 1998]  
TO THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY, CONGRESS, AND THE FCC: DON'T PULL THE PLUG ON AMERICA'S CHILDREN

(By Anne L. Bryant)

When Congress was debating new telecommunications legislation a couple of years ago, NSBA was there lobbying to make sure the law included a plan so schools and libraries can afford to provide Internet access, distance learning, and other technologies.

When the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) began drafting the regulations to put the e-rate into effect, NSBA lobbyists were there to make sure the e-rate would provide a deep enough discount and to ensure that schools could use the discount for a wide variety of services with few limitations.

NSBA and other education groups were key players in the FCC's negotiations with the telecommunications industry and utility regulators to come up with a plan to finance the e-rate that all parties agreed to.

And now that the e-rate is under attack, NSBA is there, working with a coalition of education groups, to make sure it is not held hostage in a "telecommunications war" as long distance and local phone companies fight over market share.

Since NSBA and five other education groups launched the "Save the E-Rate Campaign" last month, school officials from across the country generated 10,000 letters to members of Congress, the FCC, and telecommunications companies to support full funding for the e-rate.

Despite earlier statements from the FCC that it would provide up to \$2.25 billion a year for the e-rate discounts, first-year funding now is likely to be in the range of \$1.75 billion.

Schools and libraries that have applied for the e-rate have requested a total of \$2.02 billion, and the Schools and Libraries Corp. (SLC) is carefully reviewing all the applications to make sure that the discounts are

used for eligible costs. If there is not enough money in the fund to finance all the applications, FCC Chairman William Kennard says schools in poor and rural communities will get first priority.

Local school boards' overwhelming support for the discounts underscores how crucial the e-rate is to ensure that our students can be full participants in the Information Age. Without the e-rate, the gap between the technology haves and have nots will continue to grow.

The SLC received more than 30,000 applications for the e-rate before the April 20 deadline. These applicants have developed extensive technology plans and have lined up local funding sources to support their part of the bargain. They are counting on these discounts to start July 1 so they can begin providing services to the students they serve.

Just as this important program is getting off the ground, the telecommunications industry is backing off from its commitment to contribute enough to the FCC's Universal Service Fund to pay for the discounts.

Certain long-distance telephone companies—AT&T, MCI, and Sprint—are undermining the program by charging their customers higher rates and blaming the increases on the e-rate. Other companies—SBC, BellSouth, and GTE—have filed a lawsuit that, if successful, could destroy the e-rate program.

The fact is, the Telecommunications Act of 1996 cut the access fees the long distance carriers are charged to connect with local telephone systems. These fees will be cut even further in July.

The savings from these fee reductions would offset the long distance companies' contributions to the Universal Service Fund to finance the e-rate and also allow the companies to pass along the savings to customers. In addition, these companies, have the opportunity to make a profit by winning contracts to serve schools and libraries.

Despite earlier agreements, however, AT&T has raised its long distance rates, and now claims it won't be able to contribute to the Universal Service Fund unless it adds a surcharge to customers' phone bills.

This ploy has gotten the attention of consumer groups, who now have asked the FCC and Congress to delay implementation of the e-rate until the issue of access charge reductions is resolved.

A coalition that includes the Consumer Federation of America, Consumers Union, and groups representing business telephone users wrote to the FCC May 21 requesting another \$1 billion be cut annually from the access charges. They claim that is the amount consumers are being asked to pay in unrelated new line-item charges that began showing up on long-distance bills earlier this year. The groups want the e-rate to be halted until new fees are imposed to pay for it.

That would be a grave mistake. The e-rate must not be delayed or reduced. The FCC and Congress should not break their promise at the eleventh hour.

We must not let the nation's schools be held hostage to policy disputes among various sectors of the industry, government policymakers and regulators, unrelated businesses, and consumer groups. Schools and libraries—and the thousands of students, teachers, parents, and community members they serve—are consumers, too.

There is a huge demand for the e-rate. Our children's—and our nation's—future requires that our schools have access to the telecommunications services they will need to succeed in the 21st century.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, June 9, 1998.

Hon. WILLIAM E. KENNARD,  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC

DEAR CHAIRMAN KENNARD: We are writing to you today to express our utmost concern and support for the education rate (E-rate) created by the Telecommunications Act of 1996. It is absolutely imperative that you, as Chairman of the F.C.C., work with your fellow Commissioners to implement the intentions of Congress regarding this initiative and ensure that the E-rate receives the comprehensive funding that it has been promised. It is vital that you hear of the positive support that the E-Rate program has in Congress, as well as the valuable and practical impact that the program will directly have in all of our communities. We urge you and the Commission to ensure that funds allocated to the E-rate meet the demand that has already been demonstrated by schools and libraries in the 30,000 applications submitted thus far.

Despite the adverse message that has been relayed by a small number of Members of Congress, the E-rate has overwhelming endorsement in the House, Senate, and in communities nationwide. By creating the E-Rate, Congress clearly enumerated its commitment to guarantee that each child and community have the tools necessary to become technologically capable of participating in the global marketplace. The influx of advanced technology in our society makes it imperative for our schools and libraries to have adequate technology with which to teach the youth of our future. The E-Rate program provides discounts to schools and libraries for a limited number of services. Internal wiring, one of the most integral endeavors eligible for E-Rate discounts, would enable countless local schools and libraries access to the information superhighway.

The E-rate, financed through reductions in the regulatory fees assessed to telephone companies, is a positive and beneficial program which encourages the economic development of infrastructure for both schools and libraries. However, the uncertainty of such funding now becoming a reality greatly concerns us—the overall impact on Massachusetts would be devastating if E-Rate discounts were not provided for the projects proposed statewide. The Massachusetts Department of Education has begun the initial implementation of a statewide dial-up Internet access network for all Massachusetts educators. Though there are already over 20,000 educators who have registered for this service, without financial assistance through the E-Rate program, thousands more will be denied of a tremendous opportunity to access the Internet and ensure that they will be able to transfer information and technological skills to their classrooms.

The negative publicity that has surrounded the implementation of this program is distressing, and despite some naysayers, the program has attained solid support from local communities, educators, students, and many businesses. This effort must not be compromised nor delayed by the potential ongoing debates and criticisms that are fueled and based on misinformation. The message from local communities has been resoundingly clear—our students need to be exposed to technology and have access to as much information as possible in order to be successful and to function in modern society. The E-Rate is a prime means by which the federal government can offset, and often times initiate, the inception of high tech infrastructure in our schools and libraries.

We urge you to not impede or delay decisions to grant many Massachusetts schools and libraries with the funding needed to ac-

cess technology. Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you in the very near future and to working with you to promote the E-Rate program and the goals that it aims to achieve.

Very truly yours,

RICHARD E. NEAL.  
JOHN W. OLVER.  
JOE P. KENNEDY, II.  
WILLIAM DELAHUNT.  
JIM P. MCGOVERN.  
MARTY MEEHAN.  
JOE MOAKLEY.

#### E-RATE PROGRAM PROVIDES HOPE AND PROMISE TO STUDENTS AROUND THE COUNTRY

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the E-rate program, which provides hope and promise to students, parents, and schools all over this country.

I have here letters in support of the School and Libraries Telecommunications Discount, and they are from school districts across the 22nd Congressional District of California. These letters clearly state the deep need that exists for these discounts and the losses which will be incurred if the program is repealed.

Dr. Gale Tissier, the Santa Maria Bonita School District superintendent writes, "Without the E-rate, our community will not be able to provide technology and Internet access for our students and families."

In the small district of Shandon, Superintendent Summers states, "Without this program we will continue to struggle with what little obsolete facilities and equipment we currently have."

Funding of the E-rate was part of a deal reached by Congress, the telephone companies, schools and libraries as part of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. I call on the phone companies to live up to this agreement and fund the program without burdening their customers. I call on Congress to support the E-rate and prepare today's students for the challenges and the opportunities of tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD letters that I referred to in my remarks.

SANTA MARIA-BONITA SCHOOL DISTRICT,  
Santa Maria, CA, June 17, 1998.

Hon. LOIS CAPPS,  
House of Representatives, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN CAPPS: I am writing to ask your support for full funding of the Schools and Libraries Discount Program that has been put in place as a result of the passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. That program has come under attack in recent weeks. I am concerned that the tremendous opportunity it provides to help all students in America gain equal access to the benefits of modern technology and the Internet might be lost in the debate.

While the FCC has ordered funds for the support of this program to be collected, the