

Mr. Chairman, this is a flawed bill which fails in almost every count, but particularly in health research and education. Rather than invest in our nation's potential, this bill tracks a flawed budget resolution which sacrifices our domestic priorities for the benefit of tax cuts, fails to adequately retire national debt and engages in fiscal chicanery. As such, I cannot support the bill as presented.

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to reluctantly oppose the amendment offered by Representative SCHAFFER. This amendment has a good objective but takes its funding from a valuable program that provides real learning opportunities to so many children and their parents.

Mr. Chairman, I have long called for the federal government to fully fund its commitment to IDEA. During the past four fiscal years, the Republican majority in Congress has increased funding for IDEA by 115 percent, or \$2.6 billion, for the federal share in Part B of IDEA. Even with the increase, however, the funding equals only 12.6 percent of the average per pupil expenditure to assist children with disabilities. We must do better.

Indeed, we passed a bill this year H.R. 4055 that calls for the federal government to meet its obligation to special education within ten years. The bill would authorize increases of \$2 billion a year over the next 10 years to meet the federal commitment of 40 percent by 2010.

The money to fully fund IDEA must come from somewhere. What this means is that some difficult decisions have to be made.

In this case though, reducing the funding for the Even Start Program is the wrong decision. The Even Start Program provides opportunities for parents lacking a high school diploma or GED and their children to receive instruction in basic skills, support for their children's education, and early childhood education for those participating in the program.

There is a great deal of unmet need in the family literacy field. The appropriation in the bill will help ensure we can help more families break the cycle of illiteracy and poverty and become self-sufficient. While we need additional funding for IDEA, we also need to increase spending for quality literacy programs. In fact, by taking money from literacy programs such as Even Start actually defeats the purpose of the programs. We should be trying to reduce the need for special education by investing in early childhood literacy programs.

The best argument against this amendment is that we know that family literacy works. Parents are the key to their child's academic success. The more parents read to their children and actively participate in their education, the greater the probability that their children will succeed in school. We should not be cutting funding for this important program.

I firmly believe that the amount of federal funding that goes to IDEA must be increased. Having said that, however, we need to be responsible about where we get the money to increase funding for IDEA. Even Start is not the place to take money away.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the Schaffer amendment.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Chairman, in a time of unprecedented economic growth and surplus, the majority supported bill shortchanges every American citizen in our country. Republicans have systematically cut funding for a number of important initiatives in the Presi-

dent's budget. And, despite the fact that Americans ranked education—over health care, tax cuts or paying down the national debt—as their highest priority for additional federal funding, this bill falls short of providing \$3.5 billion of the President's request for education programs alone.

This bill fails to provide funding for the President's School Repairs initiative of \$1.3 billion in loan subsidies and grants to repair up to 5,000 aging and neglected public schools. Natural disasters and inadequate funding to provide maintenance have contributed to the decay of Guam's aging public schools. As a result, thousands of Guam's students are crowded into makeshift classrooms or in temporary buildings. The most dramatic example of this is the temporary closure of an entire elementary school in my District of Guam. Last year, C.L. Taitano Elementary School was shut down for repair because it could no longer meet the local safety codes required to keep its doors open. In the interim repair period, nearly all the students were shifted to temporary buildings—trailers. This interim is expected to last more than a year. Having classrooms housed in trailers is simply unacceptable. Having an entire elementary school in trailers is an abomination. All American students deserve a decent education; Guam is no exception. Guam's schools are in dire need of repairs now.

This bill fails to support our school children and teachers by providing funding needed for the President's Class-Size Reduction initiative to hire 100,000 new teachers by FY 2005. This in effect repeals the bipartisan agreement on class size reduction and jeopardizes the Federal commitment to hire as many as 20,000 new teachers next year.

This bill cuts funding for ESEA Title I grants for local education agencies by more than \$400 million from the President's request of \$8.4 billion. Title I helps over 11 million disadvantaged school children gain skills in core academic subjects and helps them achieve to high academic standards. This would eliminate services to more than 650,000 low income students. In FY 2000, Guam's schools received \$5.3 million in Title I grants. The FY 2001 request for Guam is \$5.6 million.

This bill cuts \$51 million from the President's request of \$650 million for the Safe and Drug Free Schools Program. Fully funding the President's request would enable the expansion of the Safe School/Healthy Students school violence prevention initiative to an additional 40 school districts.

This bill freezes the FY 2001 appropriations for Bilingual Education to FY 2000 levels. At \$248 million, this is a decrease of \$48 million from the President's request of \$296 million.

Approximately 3.4 million students enrolled in schools through the nation have difficulty speaking English. From 1990 to 1997, we saw a 57% increase in limited English proficient (LEP) students. With continued growth in the school enrollments of LEP students, we will have to turn away more than 100 qualified school districts and deny desperately needed services to approximately 143,000 LEP students.

This bill also shortchanges labor and health programs which will put American workers and seniors at risk. Although the national unemployment rate is at its lowest level in 30 years, not all corners of the United States are experiencing the benefits of a robust economy. In

Guam, unemployment is at 14%, nearly 3.5 times the national average of 3.9%. The unemployment forecast for 2000 is expected to be even higher. We need to safeguard programs that provide training and relief for all American workers.

This bill not only ignores the \$275 million requested increase for the second year of the five-year plan to provide universal re-employment services to all America, it cuts \$593 million or 30% below the President's request and 19% cut below the FY 2000 level.

Seventy-six million baby boomers will begin reaching retirement age eight years from now. The population of those over age 85, who often need the greatest care, is expected to increase by 33% in the next 10 years. The urgency to prepare for the needs of our aging population is critical.

This bill eliminates \$36 million in the HCFA budget for the Nursing Home Initiative. This would safeguard the delivery of quality health care in nursing homes across the nation through state surveying and certification reviews.

This bill eliminates the President's \$125 million request for the Community Access Program to address the growing number of those workers without health insurance. Approximately 44.5 million Americans were uninsured in 1998—24.6 million of those uninsured were workers.

We cannot ignore the needs of our diverse community! The education, health, and social well-being of our nation is at stake. This bill neglects to recognize the most fundamental needs of our communities. For all these reasons, I strongly oppose the passage of this bill.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS) having assumed the chair, Mr. PEASE, Chairman pro tempore of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4577) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

□

REPORT ON WEKIVA RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Resources:

To the Congress of the United States:

I take pleasure in transmitting the enclosed report for the Wekiva River and several tributaries in Florida. The report and my recommendations are in response to the provisions of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Public Law 90-542, as amended. The Wekiva study was authorized by Public Law 104-311.

The National Park Service conducted the study with assistance from the Wekiva River Basin Working Group, a committee established by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to represent a broad spectrum of environmental and developmental interests. The study found that 45.5 miles of river are eligible for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (the "System") based on free-flowing character, good water quality, and "outstanding remarkable" scenic, recreational, fish and wildlife, and historic/cultural values.

Almost all the land adjacent to the eligible rivers is in public ownership and managed by State and county governments for conservation purposes. The exception to this pattern is the 3.9-mile-long Seminole Creek that is in private ownership. The public land managers strongly support designation while the private landowner opposes designation of his land. Therefore, I recommend that the 41.6 miles of river abutted by public lands and as described in the enclosed report be designated a component of the System. Seminole Creek could be added if the adjacent landowner should change his mind or if this land is ever purchased by an individual or conservation agency who does not object. The tributary is not centrally located in the area proposed for designation.

I further recommend that legislation designating the Wekiva and eligible tributaries specify that on-the-ground management responsibilities remain with the existing land manager and not the Secretary of the Department of the Interior. This is in accordance with expressed State wishes and is logical. Responsibilities of the Secretary should be limited to working with State and local partners in developing a comprehensive river management plan, providing technical assistance, and reviewing effects of water resource development proposals in accordance with section 7 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

We look forward to working with the Congress to designate this worthy addition to the National Wild and Scenic River System.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON,
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 13, 2000.

□

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 4578, DEPARTMENT OF
THE INTERIOR AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2001

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 524 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 524

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the

Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4578) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived except as follows: beginning with "Provided further" on page 18, line 6, through line 19. Where points of order are waived against part of a paragraph, points of order against a provision in another part of such paragraph may be made only against such provision and not against the entire paragraph. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any proposed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. During consideration of the bill, points of order against amendments for failure to comply with clause 2(e) of rule XXI are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

□ 2130

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for purposes of debate only.

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 524 would grant an open rule waiving all points of order against consideration of H.R. 4578, the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2001.

The rule provides one hour of general debate, to be equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

The rule provides that the bill will be considered for amendment by paragraph, and waives clause 2 of rule XXI (prohibiting unauthorized or legislative provisions in an appropriations bill) against provisions in the bill, except as otherwise specified in the rule.

The rule also waives clause 2(e) of rule XXI (prohibiting non-emergency designated amendments to be offered to an appropriations bill containing an emergency designation) against amendments offered during consideration of the bill.

The rule authorizes the Chair to accord priority in recognition to Members who have preprinted their amendment in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. In addition, the rule allows the chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes during consideration of the bill, and to reduce the voting time to 5 minutes on a postponed question if a vote follows a 15-minute vote.

Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of H.R. 4578 is to provide regular annual appropriations for the Department of the Interior, except the Bureau of Reclamation, and for other related agencies, including the Forest Service, the Department of Energy, the Indian Health Service, the Smithsonian Institution, and the National Foundations of Arts and Humanities.

H.R. 4578 appropriates \$14.6 billion in new fiscal year 2001 budget authority, which is \$303 million less than last year and \$1.7 billion less than the President's request. Approximately half of the bill's funding, \$7.3 billion, finances Department of the Interior programs to manage and study the Nation's animal, plant, and mineral resources, and to support Indian programs.

The balance of the bill's funds support other non-Interior agencies that perform related functions. These include the Forest Service in the U.S. Department of Agriculture; conservation and fossil energy programs run by the Department of Energy; the Indian Health Service, as well as the Smithsonian and similar cultural organizations.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, as a Westerner, I applaud several limitations on funding contained in this bill. One, for example, would prohibit the use of funds for lands managed under any national monument designation executed since 1999. These lands are already in Federal ownership, and may still be managed under their previous land management status.

For example, just last week the Clinton administration designated 200,000 acres along the Columbia River in my district known as the Hanford Reach, designated that as a national monument. This action pulled the plug on an extended series of negotiations among local, State, and Federal officials seeking to develop a shared partnership to manage the Hanford Reach for future generations.