

However, there lacks sufficient oversight tools to monitor how Federal transportation money is being spent at the State and local levels. More than 80 percent of comparative studies have found that contracting-out engineering, design and inspection costs of transportation projects cost more than doing this work in-house. The taxpayers could have saved some money and gotten a similar quality if state and local engineers handled the projects.

Furthermore, skilled and dedicated professionals have been leaving State and local governments for private sector, not only because salaries are higher and career opportunities are greater, but it is also because transportation departments have been reducing their staffs, holding down their pay and contracting-out the most interesting work.

Now that the "baby boom" generation of engineers is preparing to retire, State and local transportation departments need to take action to retain existing engineering and technical employees and to recruit skilled and dedicated professionals to take the place of those who are leaving.

Because of the oversight deficiency and an intention to keep professional engineers with the State and local transportation departments, I would like to introduce H.R. 1980, The Safety, Accountability, and Funding Efficiency for Transportation Act of 2003, to encourage State and local agencies that carry out surface transportation projects to conduct a cost-benefit analysis before procuring architectural, engineering and related services from a private contractor.

By conducting the cost-benefit analysis, a State's and the Federal Government agency will be able to determine if using private contractors is cost effective and if it is in the public interest to use a private contractor or in-house resources when procuring such services.

My constituents through National Association of State Highway and Transportation Unions, the AFL-CIO's Department of Professional Employees, AFSCME, Service Employees International Union and the Communications Workers of America, have shown their support for H.R. 1980, Safety, Accountability, and Funding Efficiency for Transportation Act of 2003.

The heart of this bill is to require government agencies to prepare cost benefit analysis for private contracts with a Federal funding value of \$100,000 or more. The analyses must contain the cost comparison of a proposed project if it is done by a private contractor and a government agency.

In my opinion, it is now time to put accountability in utilizing the taxpayers' hard-earned money at State and local levels, especially in spending Federal transportation funds.

THE HONORABLE JOHN J. RHODES

HON. J. D. HAYWORTH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2003

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, as is the case with so many colleagues past and present, I am honored to have the friendship and good counsel of the distinguished former House Republican Leader, the Honorable

John J. Rhodes of Arizona. It is my personal privilege also to count John Rhodes as a constituent of the Fifth Congressional District of Arizona.

John Rhodes' many contributions to our state, to our nation, and to this institution of representative government are widely documented and recognized, most recently by his deserved selection to be among the first recipient of the congressional Distinguished Service Award last week.

The bestowment of that award inspired many congratulatory expressions about the life and career of John Rhodes.

CONGRATULATING FARRAGUT HIGH SCHOOL, THE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY OF KNOXVILLE AND WEBB SCHOOL OF KNOXVILLE FOR THEIR 2003 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORIES

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2003

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the student athletes of three Knox County high schools for their recent accomplishments during State Championships. The Farragut Admirals captured the State Title in Class AAA Baseball and Class AAA Boys Soccer while the Christian Academy of Knoxville Warriors won the Boys TSAA Class A-AA Soccer Title and the Webb School of Knoxville Girls Tennis Team took the State Title in Division II Singles and Double categories. I congratulate all the athletes who never gave up and worked tirelessly for these titles. I also congratulate the coaches and parents whose encouragement and instruction made their success possible.

Although no championship season can be easily summarized, I believe these impressive teams have earned specific mention here on the Floor of the House of Representatives.

For the previous three years, the Farragut High School Baseball team had ended their season as the State runners-up, but the 2003 season ended with more than just a well-deserved State AAA Championship. They also set a remarkable new State record with an unprecedented 48-1 season leaving them ranked 4th in the entire Nation. This is truly a remarkable program and I look forward to hearing of many future victories.

The Tennessee AAA Boys High School Soccer Championship game pitted two outstanding Knox County schools against each other when the Farragut Admirals faced off against the Bearden Bulldogs. The skill, intensity and determination of both teams were clearly evident throughout the game. It was Farragut, however, that in double overtime took the championship with a 3-1 victory. Both schools set a new standard for AAA Soccer in Knox County and I commend each of these fine athletes.

For the Christian Academy of Knoxville Boys Soccer team, earning the Tennessee Secondary School Association's (TSAA) State Championship title was a milestone in the school's athletic program and a testimony to each player's commitment to excellence. Their 1-0 victory over Chattanooga Christian School was the culmination of a hard fought season

where the Warriors finished 17-2-3. This may have been the school's first State championship in soccer, but I am confident it will not be their last.

I also want to congratulate Webb School of Knoxville's State Division II tennis champions Whitney Chappell, Elizabeth Gooze and Berkeley Brock for their victories. Whitney's Singles Championship match took over three hours and was a remarkable demonstration of both skill and stamina. Elizabeth and Berkeley defeated a doubles team from St. Mary's in just two sets, and showed the same level of excellence and determination as their Single's teammate Whitney. Each of these young ladies has raised an already high standard of excellence in athletics at Webb School.

Regardless of the sport, high school athletics provide a tremendous opportunity for our young people to learn and enhance their leadership abilities while also learning the value of teamwork. These young people, along with their peer athletes from other schools, will gain far more than trophies for their efforts. Their dedication to excellence will prepare them for every challenge they will face in the future and their commitment to both physical and mental excellence will serve them well their entire lives.

With or without championship victories, we congratulate every student athlete for their efforts to improve themselves. Every parent, teacher and coach is proud of these young people's hard work and commitment.

Finally, I also want to congratulate those students who commit themselves to excellence in areas off the athletic field. Regardless of the student's interest or skill, if he or she strives to reach beyond what is required, I am sure every Member of this body joins me in saying that we are proud of them and we wish them the absolute best in all they set out to achieve.

THE FOREIGN AID LIMITATION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Foreign Aid Limitation Act. This bill limits the ability of the Executive Branch to use the Exchange Stabilization Fund (ESF) to distribute largesse to foreign countries without the approval of Congress.

The Foreign Aid Limitation Act prohibits the Secretary of the Treasury from using the ESF to make a loan or extend credit to any foreign government or entity for an amount exceeding \$250,000,000. The bill also forbids the ESF from being used to finance a loan or to extend credit, to any foreign government or entity for a period exceeding 60 days. The 60-day limitation can be waived if the President certifies in writing to the Chair and ranking members of the relevant House and Senate Committees that the United States obtained an assured source of repayment before making the loan or extending the credit. Finally, the bill prohibits the use of the ESF to make loans or extend credit in an amount exceeding \$1,000,000,000 to a foreign government or entity without express statutory authorization. This provision can also be waived if the President certifies in writing to the heads of the relevant committees that the loan is necessary to

address a financial crisis threatening the United States and Congress does not pass a joint resolution disapproving the loan or credit.

Mr. Speaker, these provisions all passed Congress as "riders" on appropriations bills in the 1990s. However, they have not been included in the appropriations bills for the past several years. It is long past time for Congress to make these provisions permanent. Over the past several years there has been great controversy over the use of the Exchange Stabilization Fund. This fund was created in the 1930s to help stabilize the exchange value of the dollar, yet it has mutated into a "slush fund" used by the executive branch to funnel money to foreign governments and even foreign companies free of congressional oversight.

In particular, there was great controversy over the Clinton administration's use of the ESF to finance the Mexican bailout without Congressional approval in 1995. Today, there is a similar controversy over the use of the ESF in the Iraq rebuilding process. Ensuring the fund is only used for narrow purposes will help end the controversy by bringing greater transparency to the disbursement of foreign aid. Even supporters of a vigorous foreign aid program should support restoring Congress' rightful role as appropriator and overseer of foreign aid funds.

Mr. Speaker, it long past time for Congress to begin reasserting its constitutional role in the appropriation of funds for foreign aid programs. For too long, the Exchange Stabilization Fund has allowed the executive branch to commit the American taxpayer to supporting foreign governments without even consulting with Congress. I hope all my colleagues will join my efforts to end this practice by cosponsoring my Foreign Aid Limitation Act.

SMALL BUSINESS TELEWORK ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by my colleagues, Representatives FROST, ABERCROMBIE, ISSA, RUSH, ROSS, WYNN, BLUMENAUER, MILLENDER-MCDONALD, FILNER, UDALL (NM), and JO ANN DAVIS (VA), in introducing the Small Business Telework Act to assist our nation's small businesses in establishing successful telework programs for their employees.

Across America, numerous employers are responding to the needs of their employees and establishing telework programs. In 2000, there were an estimated 16.5 million teleworkers. By the end of 2004, there will be an estimated 30 million teleworkers, representing an increase of almost 100 percent. Unfortunately, the majority of growth in new teleworkers comes from organizations employing over 1,500 people, while just a few years ago, most teleworkers worked for small to medium-sized organizations.

By not taking advantage of modern technology and establishing successful telework programs, small businesses are losing out on a host of benefits that will save them money, and make them more competitive. The reported productivity improvement of home-based teleworkers averages 15 percent trans-

lating to an average bottom-line impact of \$9,712 per teleworker. Additionally, most experienced teleworkers are determined to continue teleworking, meaning a successful telework program can be an important tool in the recruitment and retention of qualified and skilled employees. By establishing successful telework programs, small business owners would be able to retain these valuable employees by allowing them to work from a remote location, such as their home or a telework center.

In addition to the cost savings realized by businesses that employ teleworkers, there are a number of related benefits to society and the employee. For example, telecommuters help reduce traffic and cut down on air pollution by staying off the roads during rush hour. Fully 80 percent of home-only teleworkers commute to work on days they are not teleworking. Their one-way commute distance averages 19.7 miles, versus 13.3 miles for non-teleworkers, meaning employees that take advantage of telework programs are, more often than not, those with the longest commutes. Teleworking also gives employees more time to spend with their families and reduces stress levels by eliminating the pressure of a long commute.

Mr. Speaker, our legislation seeks to extend the benefits of successful telework programs to more of our nation's small businesses. Specifically, it establishes a pilot program in the Small Business Administration (SBA) to raise awareness about telework among small business employers and to encourage those small businesses to establish telework programs for their employees.

Additionally, an important provision in our bill directs the SBA Administrator to undertake special efforts for businesses owned by, or employing, persons with disabilities and disabled America veterans. At the end of the day, telework can provide more than just environmental benefits and improved quality of life. It can open the door to people who have been precluded from working in a traditional office setting due to physical disabilities.

Our legislation is also limited in cost and scope. It establishes the pilot program in a maximum of five SBA regions and caps the total cost to five million dollars over two years. It also restricts the SBA to activities specifically proscribed in the legislation: developing educational materials; conducting outreach to small business; and acquiring equipment for demonstration purposes. Finally, it requires the SBA to prepare and submit a report to Congress evaluating the pilot program.

Several hurdles to establishing successful telework programs could be cleared by enacting our legislation. In fact, the number one reported obstacle to implementing a telework program is a lack of know-how. Our bill will go a long way towards educating small business owners on how they can draft guidelines to make a telework program an affordable, manageable reality.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2691) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes:

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support today for this modest bipartisan amendment offered by Reps. SLAUGHTER, SHAYS, DICKS, and LEACH to increase funds for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

As a Member of the Congressional Arts Caucus, and a longtime supporter of the arts at the state level in California, I value the tremendous role arts funding and arts education programs play in the lives of our children and friends.

Several academic studies demonstrate the connection between music, dance, visual arts, and the development of the human brain. It is well known among researchers that arts education cultivates critical thinking skills that are so important in our information-age economy.

My congressional district was fortunate to receive NEA and NEH grants this year. Some of the recipients include:

Performing arts educational outreach programs at schools in my district combined with the assistance with one of the region's most respected theaters; A program to support the Chinese Community Initiative in arts education; Artist-in-residence programs in elementary schools to encourage student and teacher involvement; A program in my district that incorporates traditional music and dance from diverse cultures to improve student relations, coordination and memory; and an amateur chamber orchestra, and a symphony association program to bolster musical knowledge and skills for ethnically diverse student population.

As a parent of two young children, I am particularly interested in the most recent research. Children who learn to read music or play an instrument show improved proficiency in math and science. To further proficiency in history, I was proud to join a letter of support to House Appropriators last month that would increase funding to the NEH budget for its We the People Initiative, which is designed to boost American knowledge and appreciation for our history, culture and civic traditions.

This increase of \$15 million under the Interior Appropriations for the NEA and NEH will go to fund so many rich programs offered and so many opportunities for us all.

Last year, an economic study conducted by Americans for the Arts found that America's nonprofit arts industry generates \$134 billion in annual economic activity. This number includes full time jobs, household income and local, state and federal tax revenue. This study includes more than \$80 billion in event-related spending by audiences. This is additional clear evidence that opportunities funded through NEA and NEH continue to bring us to new levels in our economy, culture, language, music, art and life.