

AMENDING INTERNAL REVENUE
CODE TO REQUIRE 527 ORGANIZA-
TIONS TO DISCLOSE POLITICAL
ACTIVITIES

SPEECH OF
HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2000

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, tonight the House of Representatives has the opportunity to ensure that meaningful campaign finance reform is passed in time for this year's election. H.R. 4762 is the campaign finance bill with the best chance to pass both Chambers and be signed into law that has reached the floor in years. Last week, when I testified before the Ways and Means Committee, I said that I would help lead the fight to pass legislation that would rein in the section 527 groups if the House could not pass more comprehensive disclosure legislation. I will do so tonight. In this case, we cannot afford to make the perfect the enemy of the good.

Section 527 organizations, set up under section 527 of the Tax Code, are established to engage in political activities, which influence our political process by funding election-related communications without having to disclose their donors. H.R. 4762 is needed because current campaign laws are wholly unable to adequately regulate the torrent of political advertising by groups exploiting this loophole in both our tax and election laws. Huge sums of money are being spent to influence the election system. While spending by individuals has been protected by Supreme Court rulings and the problem of soft money continues because a lack of will by Congress to address it, we now have a troubling new trend in campaign finance spending by groups operating under unique designations in our tax code such as section 527.

While I would have liked to cover more groups engaging in electioneering communications, I am pleased that we will have the opportunity to pass significant legislation that will tackle the 527 stealth political organization problem. I worked very hard with my colleagues in both the House and Senate to develop broader legislation. I extend my thanks to Senators MCCAIN, SNOWE, LIEBERMAN, and FEINGOLD, and Representatives HOUGHTON, SHAYS, GRAHAM, MEEHAN, and DOGGETT for their efforts. We explored many possible alternatives, and I believe that we have laid the groundwork for further legislation in this area.

Tonight we will vote on H.R. 4762, language taken from Senator JOHN MCCAIN's legislation, which has already passed the Senate. This legislation requires section 527 organizations, that have gross receipts of more than \$25,000 dollars, to disclose their top donors. Whether or not we agree with the message of any advertisement campaign, I hope we can agree that voters have the right to know who is paying for any campaign-related ad and who is trying to influence their vote. Our Constitution protects every American's right to be heard. Yet today, more than ever, voters are faced with new-style political organizations, operating free from coverage by Federal election law, that are spending millions on campaign ads without having to disclose their donors. The 2000 general election cycle is fast approaching and section 527 political groups are expanding at a rapid pace and could be a dominant force in the 2000 election.

I am convinced this bill will curb some of the most blatant abuses, and will allow the public

to know who is supporting these groups that are now operating behind a veil of secrecy. I urge you to join me in supporting H.R. 4762 in an effort to restore integrity to our election process and return the election process to the American people. It is a real step forward, and we should take it.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDI-
CIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES/
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4690) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Chairman, I have discussed with the gentleman from Kentucky the fact that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is conducting an economic mitigation study associated with the Lower Snake River in my congressional district. In addition, NMFS may direct the Corps of Engineers to conduct an engineering study on how to breach the dams.

Language addressing Corps funding for such a study is included in H. Rept. 106-693, the report accompanying the Fiscal Year 2001 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill (H.R. 4733). The report states, "The amount provided for the Columbia River Fish Mitigation program does not include funds for engineering and design, or other post-feasibility phase activities, associated with breaching Lower Snake River dams." It is my understanding that it is the intent of the Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies subcommittee that no funds are included for NMFS for engineering and design, or other post-feasibility phase activities including economic mitigation studies associated with breaching the Lower Snake River dams.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDI-
CIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4690) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Chairman, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has yet to release its biological opinion for the Lower Snake River. Ultimately, it will be the Congress that decides whether to breach the Snake River dams. The amount provided in H.R. 4690 does not include funding for engineering and design, or other post-feasibility phase activities including economic mitigation studies, associated with breaching the Lower

Snake River dams. I appreciate the Gentleman's concerns on this matter, and thank him for bringing this issue to my attention.

SUPPORT FOR GAMBIA

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I show of friendship and support for the African continent. During the December recess, I visited the West African nation of the Gambia with several of my colleagues and discovered a country full of hope and motivation for advancing their country's welfare and future potential. In light of this body's efforts to pass legislation that would increase and better our economic relationship with the African continent, I was deeply impressed and my hope for Africa buoyed by the dynamism I saw in Gambia's duty-free import zone and its booming tourist industry.

In this regard, I would like to submit into the record a recent Editorial in The Journal of Commerce newspaper by Viola Herms Drath "Emphasis should be on Africa's role models" that praises Gambia, as one of a handful of African nations, that is developing systems for its own internal development seeking trade and not aid. While much work remains to be done in terms of ameliorating the country's transportation and technological infrastructure, the Gambia is well on its way toward developing constructive partnerships that will enable them to sustain and increase their development potential. I am happy to draw attention to the Gambia's very positive achievements and look forward to lending them this chamber's continued support and encouragement.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-
FAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN
DEVELOPMENT, AND INDE-
PENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4635) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer an amendment to increase the appropriation for the Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS, or HOPWA, program by \$18 million. This is \$10 million less than the President requested, and far less than is truly needed to adequately fund this vital program, but represents the amount necessary to ensure that those already in the program do not receive a cut in service. I am delighted by the bipartisan nature of this amendment and I would like to thank Mr. SHAYS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. HORN, Mr. FOLEY, and Mr. CUMMINGS for joining me in offering this amendment and demonstrating the bipartisan support that this program enjoys.

Mr. Chairman, at any given time, one-third to one-half of all Americans living with AIDS are either homeless or in imminent danger of losing their homes. These are people who face discrimination, or have lost their jobs due to illness or, most cruelly, must choose between expensive, life-saving medications and other necessities such as shelter.

This is where HOPWA comes in. HOPWA is the only federal housing program that specifically provides cities and states with the resources to address the housing crisis facing people living with AIDS. Among the services HOPWA delivers are rental assistance, help with utility payments, and information on low-income housing opportunities.

It is also a crucial element in the effective treatment of HIV and AIDS. There is a clear link between stable housing and the ability of individuals living with HIV to live long and healthy lives. Some people have responded so well to new therapies that they have been able to go back to work after years on disability. However, these treatments require a stable living environment to be effective. To deny individuals the means to get healthy would be a terrible cruelty.

HOPWA is a locally controlled program that provides communities the flexibility to implement the strategies that best respond to local housing needs. It also supplies a low-cost alternative to acute-care hospital beds, typically paid for with Medicaid dollars, which are often the only available shelter for people living with AIDS. In fact, whereas an acute-care facility would cost, on average, between \$1,085 a day under Medicaid, assistance under HOPWA averages just \$55 to \$110 a day. So, HOPWA is not just compassionate, it is cost-effective. Currently, FY 2000 funds are serving thousands of people in 67 communities and 34 states. This is a well-run, far-reaching and successful program.

But as the success of HOPWA grows, so too does the need for funding. As a result of recent advances in care and treatment, the people currently being housed are living longer and the waiting lists for these programs are growing even longer. HOPWA would require an increase just to keep up with inflation, but on top of these strains on the program, 4 new cities will qualify for funds this year, stretching resources even thinner. The \$18 million we ask for in this amendment, \$10 million less than the President requested, is the bare minimum required if we are to ensure that those currently in the program are not threatened with a cut in service.

As for the offset, let me be clear. This is not an attack on polar research. I am a very strong supporter of scientific research and I am disappointed that more money was not provided for it throughout the bill. However, under the budget rules, we must find an offset and a slight cut to the Polar and Antarctic research program, which receives a significant increase in this bill over last year, will do minimal harm to our research programs while providing very significant benefits to the HOPWA program and the people it serves. I would also add that there are eleven other agencies that supplement the work of NSF in the arctic, spending roughly \$150 million a year, so this slight decrease will not damage our long-term research goals.

Unfortunately, under these budget rules we are forced to pit one program against another. If we were not locked into the unrealistic caps

placed on us by the Budget Resolution, I would advocate a large increase in both HOPWA and polar research. However, this is the hand we have been dealt and we must select our priorities.

The housing crisis facing people living with HIV/AIDS exacts an enormous toll on individuals, their families, and communities across the country. HOPWA dollars help lessen this toll. Without proper funding for HOPWA, people with HIV and AIDS will continue to die prematurely in hospital rooms, shelters, and on the streets of our cities. I urge the adoption of this amendment.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL
AND COMMUNITY SERVICE
AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2000

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2000

Mr. LARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of The National and Community Service Amendments Act of 2000, of which I am a proud original co-sponsor, was introduced last week in the House by two of my distinguished colleagues, Mr. SHAYS of Connecticut and Mr. ANDREWS of New Jersey. The bill would reauthorize the Corporation for National Service and the programs it administers: the National Senior Service Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America. The bill has been drafted in close consultation with more than 200 community service groups.

This legislation is a simple extension of the existing program with a few improvements:

Codifies the cost-cutting agreement reached with Senator GRASSLEY in 1996. The Corporation for National Service has lowered its cost per-member to \$15,000 for FY 99, including a \$4,725 education award to finance college or repay student loans; and a mere \$7,421 for a living allowance.

Expands the cost-cutting "Education Award Only" model, where the Corporation provides only the education award, and the sponsoring organization provides all other support.

Eliminates controversial AmeriCorps grants to other federal agencies.

AmeriCorps, the domestic Peace Corps, engages more than 40,000 Americans in intensive, results-driven service each year. AmeriCorps members are tackling critical problems like illiteracy, crime and poverty. They have taught, tutored or mentored more than 2.6 million children, served 564,000 at-risk youth in after-school programs, operated 40,500 safety patrols, rehabilitated 25,179 homes, aided more than 2.4 million homeless individuals, and immunized 419,000 people.

In Connecticut, more than 1,200 residents have served their communities through AmeriCorps.

AmeriCorps helps solve critical problems in an effective way. It creates \$1.66 worth of benefits for each \$1.00 spent. And for every full-time AmeriCorps member, 12 regular and occasional unpaid volunteers are recruited and mobilized. AmeriCorps is, indeed, effectively preparing young people for the future and strengthening local communities.

Furthermore, AmeriCorps also funds a great number of important projects that foster involvement and learning in technology by chil-

dren and adults. One of these is Project FIRST (Fostering Instructional Reform through Service and Technology Initiatives), whose role it is to increase access to technology and its educational benefits in the nation's least-served schools. Another way AmeriCorps is involved with technology is through TechCorps, a national non-profit organization that is driven and staffed primarily with technologically proficient volunteers.

I believe these programs are important, because even though American technology is propelling the nation's economy to unprecedented heights, growing concern remains for those who are not benefiting from this prosperity. For those left behind by the advancing technology, the divide growing between the "haves" and "have-nots" is increasing at an alarming rate, as demonstrated by the Department of Commerce in its July 1999 report, "Falling through the Net."

These AmeriCorps programs bring technology to underserved populations and address weaknesses in our economy, such as unequal access to technology, teacher training, and evaluation.

However, I do not believe AmeriCorps is essential just because it can help close the "digital divide." It is essential because it exposes young people to the ideal of serving their community and their nation. Collin Powell has succinctly captured this idea of community service by stating, "For some of our young people, preserving our democratic way of life means shouldering a rifle or climbing into a cockpit or weighing anchor and setting out to sea. For others, it means helping a child to read or helping that child to secure needed vaccinations or it means building a park or helping bring peace to a troubled neighborhood or helping communities recover from natural disasters or reclaiming the environment."

Harris Wofford, former United States Senator and now head of the Corporation for National Service, echoes Powell's thoughts, "Our country needs more . . . patriotism. AmeriCorps encourages and inspires this patriotism on the home front."

Finally, a quote by Vaclav Havel, I believe, explains the need to have an AmeriCorps, "The dormant goodwill in people needs to be stirred. People need to hear that it makes sense to behave decently or to help others, to place common interest above their own, to respect the elementary rules of human coexistence. Goodwill longs to be recognized and cultivated."

This, I believe, is the essential value of national service, and by extension, of AmeriCorps. Serving is as important and rewarding as being served. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support this bill and hope that the House Leadership allows us to act quickly on this critical legislation.

HONORING MICHAEL JOSEPH
BOWLER OF CALIFORNIA

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2000

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, today I call attention to the extraordinary work of the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America and to an exceptional individual from my state of California—Mr. Michael Joseph Bowler, winner of