

leadership of the District recognize the benefits of having an impartial arbiter, free from the pressures of politics, managing their finances—something I strongly believe my community can benefit from as well.

When I first introduced this bill the territory's long-term debt totaled \$1 billion. Fiscal crises have been narrowly averted through repeated borrowing. Such borrowing and debt creation has led to the \$3 billion debt reported by Governor De Jongh in April of this year—a practice he has already stated he will not continue.

There are those, Mr. Speaker, who will ask why I am doing this at this time, particularly because the islands just 7 months ago, inaugurated a new governor whose background is in financial management and who has been a good friend and political ally. I want to be perfectly clear that I have every confidence in Governor John de Jongh and his administration and believe that they will do a first rate job of managing the territory's finances. He has already begun to do so.

I am re-introducing this bill because my constituents continue to see it as a necessary measure, and because, like the CFO in Washington, DC, it can assist our governor in his stated goal of paying our obligations and bringing the territory's finances into balance. It would also be a way to provide apolitical and indisputable information on the financial state of our government, as well as bridge any divisions between the administration and the legislature in the interests of expediting a positive and sustainable agenda for the people of the Virgin Islands.

As also happens up here, there is often disagreement between the Governor (and his financial team) and the Legislature as to the precise fiscal condition of the territory and the true revenue projections for the coming fiscal year. A CFO, in my view, would take the uncertainty out of this equation and allow our legislature and governor to work better together because they would both get their numbers from the same independent source. Additionally, the departments of government, semi-autonomous agencies and labor unions would be better able to plan, and the people of the Virgin Islands in general would have information on how the millions of federal dollars coming to the Virgin Islands are being spent.

The bill as being passed today contains certain changes. I have revised it with respect to providing a financial management system because such a system is already in the process of being implemented.

In recognition of and in deference to the upcoming constitution to be drafted by the people of the Virgin Islands, the bill before us calls for the term of the Chief Financial Officer to expire at the implementation of a ratified Virgin Islands Constitution or in 5 years, whichever comes first.

All four previous Constitutional documents have contained a provision similar to what is proposed in this legislation, and it is my hope that our Fifth Constitutional Convention will present a document for the ratification of the people of the Virgin Islands that will make this legislation unnecessary.

In conclusion Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend and colleague, the Chairman of the Resources Committee, the gentleman from West Virginia, NICK RAHALL, without whose support this bill would not be on the floor today. I also want to thank my friend Ranking Member DON YOUNG for his support as well.

Mr. Speaker, it has been said that "heavy is the burden that one who is called to lead bears". Pursuing enactment of this bill has not been an easy burden to bear but is an important one, which I am proud to bear. I urge my colleagues to support passage of H.R. 2107.

INTRODUCTION OF THE POSITIVE  
BEHAVIOR FOR EFFECTIVE  
SCHOOLS ACT

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, educators and the general public cite disciplinary problems as the greatest challenge facing schools. Often schools respond to problem behavior with suspensions and expulsions, or by removing persistent troublemakers from the school. But research shows that punitive approaches to discipline do not work, and further, that they disproportionately harm students of color and students with disabilities.

One effective approach now being adopted by education agencies around the country is schoolwide Positive Behavior Supports (PBS). Research shows that schools implementing PBS can experience anywhere from a 20 to 60 percent reduction in disciplinary problems, an improved social climate, and increases in reading and math scores on standardized tests.

This Congress I toured Monmouth-Roseville Junior High, a PBS school in my Illinois Congressional district. I was amazed by how effectively the school decreased the number of expulsions and suspensions, and increased student attendance, classroom instructional time, and academic engagement. Even more impressive, there was an overall sense of shared responsibility for the success of the school.

Madam Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Positive Behavior for Effective Schools Act.

This bill amends the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to provide the flexibility and technical assistance schools need to expand the use of positive behavior supports and other early intervening services to create a school climate that is highly conducive to learning, reduces discipline referrals, and improves academic outcomes. Specifically, this bill:

Allows State and Local Education Agencies to use Title I funding to implement schoolwide PBS.

Supports Safe and Drug Free Schools' programs that improve the whole school climate, prevent disciplinary problems, violence, illegal use of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs, and that involve parents and communities in school programs and activities.

Trains teachers in the behavioral learning of kids and in methods that improve school climate.

Establishes an office of specialized instructional support services in the Department of Education to administer and coordinate support services in schools.

I urge my colleagues to look at the proven results of PBS and the positive impact it has on the entire school. Not only are we finding safer school climates in schools where PBS is

implemented, but we are also seeing a decrease in dropout rates, a more accurate classification of special education students, improved test scores, home and family life, and more productive students who are better prepared to enter the professional world after graduation.

Additionally, PBS assists education agencies with the challenges they face in meeting the requirements of No Child Left Behind, ultimately leading to a better educational experience for our kids. Educators, parents, mental health experts and academics all agree that positive behavior supports are good for schools, good for teachers and good for students.

This legislation is endorsed by the Advocacy Institute; American Counseling Association; American Music Therapy Association; American Occupational Therapy Association; American Psychological Association; American School Counselor Association; The Arc of the United States; Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law; Center for Behavioral Education & Research in the UConn Neag School of Education; Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder; Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders; Learning Disabilities Association of America; Illinois PBIS Network; Mental Health America; National Alliance on Mental Illness; National Association for Children's Behavioral Health; National Association of State Directors of Special Education; National Down Syndrome Congress; School Social Work Association of America (SSWAA); and United Cerebral Palsy.

Madam Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent to enter into the RECORD a letter of support from these organizations.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting positive behavior in schools by cosponsoring the Positive Behavior for Effective Schools Act, and work with me to advance this important piece of legislation.

AUGUST 3, 2007.

Hon. PHIL HARE,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE HARE: The undersigned national organizations are pleased to offer our strong support for the Positive Behavior for Effective Schools Act of 2007. We share your goals of enhancing student outcomes and improving school climate through the promotion of school wide positive behavior supports (PBS). The legislation provides a welcomed opportunity to strengthen the education system by helping address student's social and emotional barriers to learning.

As you well know, school wide positive behavior support initiatives help reshape school climates into more conducive learning environments appreciated by students, staff and school personnel. School wide positive behavior supports help reduce discipline problems as well as improve academic outcomes, including test scores. Your home state of Illinois is a pioneer in creating a statewide comprehensive PBS initiative, with implementation in about 600 public schools and research demonstrating its support for school success.

The Positive Behavior for Effective Schools Act will go a long way towards fostering effective learning environments. It gives schools the tools and opportunity to change how schools respond to students, reinforce desired behaviors and eliminate inadvertent reinforcements for problem behavior to help realize the goals of academic and social success for all students. Specifically, the

legislation allows and encourages schools and localities to support PBS as well as supports research, technical assistance and related school reform activities that improve school climate. Additionally, the legislation would establish a new office within the Department of Education that would help coordinate and administer activities assisting specialized instructional support personnel who provide a critical role in the link between social and academic outcomes for students.

Once again we applaud you for introducing this important legislation and look forward to working with you to secure its enactment. Sincerely,

American Counseling Association, American Music Therapy Association, American Occupational Therapy Association, American Psychological Association, American School Counselor Association, The Arc of the United States, Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders, Learning Disabilities Association of America, Mental Health America, National Alliance on Mental Illness, National Association for Children's Behavioral Health, National Association of State Directors of Special Education, National Down Syndrome Congress, School Social Work Association of America, United Cerebral Palsy.

ON THE PASSING OF DR.  
SYLVESTER McDONALD

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Friday, August 3, 2007

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise at this moment of deep sadness on the passing of Dr. Sylvester McDonald of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. On behalf of my family, staff and the 110th Congress of the United States of America, I extend my most heartfelt sympathies to the family and friends of Dr. McDonald, affectionately known as "Dr. Mac." To those of us who grew up with his children and their extended family he was the much beloved, "Uncle Syl."

Dr. Sylvester O. McDonald was born on September 12, 1919, to John and Madalene McDonald in Kingston, Jamaica. In 1941, he left Jamaica to study at Howard University, where he met and married Eirene Canegata in 1943. This union lasted 60 years and produced 4 children: Genevieve (Rosie) Lambert, Judith Richardson, John McDonald, and Michael McDonald.

After graduation from Howard University Medical School in June 1949, and completion of an internship at Harlem Hospital in New York City, he came to St. Thomas where he joined the Municipal Hospital Staff on August 1, 1950. He continued his work there until June 1953, when he entered the U.S. Army where he served until October 1955. Upon his return to St. Thomas, he joined the staff of the Knud Hansen Hospital.

In 1958, he left St. Thomas to begin a Residency in Orthopedic Surgery at Queens Hospital Center in Jamaica, New York and the Hospital for Crippled Children in Newark, New Jersey. Upon completing the residency in 1962, he rejoined the hospital staff at Knud Hansen Hospital.

During his service with the Health Department he served in many capacities including Acting Commissioner of Health, Chief of Surgery, Medical Director and Orthopedic Consultant to Charles Harwood Hospital in St. Croix from 1962 through 1974. There he held Orthopedic Clinics on a weekly basis and performed Orthopedic Surgery when necessary. He also served as President of the Virgin Islands Medical Society, Vice President of the Executive Committee, member of the Clinical Pathological Conference Committee and member of the Accreditation Committee. Professional affiliations include the American Academy of Family Physicians, National Medical Association, and American Medical Association.

He also carried on a private practice in family medicine where he treated all who sought his help with utmost respect, courtesy, and patience. He retired from the Hospital in October 1982 and from private practice in 1985. In 1982, he began his service as Campus Physician at the University of the Virgin Islands which he continued until he was unable to do so.

Throughout his life, "Dr. Mac," as he was affectionately known, remained a very spiritual person. After his retirement, he attended Mass and Holy Communion daily, and served as a Eucharistic Minister at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish.

His favorite pastimes were spending time with his family, his daily walks and a swim or soak on Magens Bay.

Dr. Mac was one of the most revered physicians in the Virgin Islands. During his distinguished medical career, and through his various executive positions, he remained the epitome of the family and community doctor.

The entire Virgin Islands has been truly blessed to have had such a skilled physician and caring and compassionate human being as a part of our lives. We will be forever grateful for the legacy "Dr. Mac" has left behind—a legacy that will surely continue to inspire and positively impact future generations of physicians, healthcare professionals and all Virgin Islanders.

Madam Speaker, I know that entire Congress joins my family and me in wishing Dr. Mac's family the fullness of God's love and peace during this difficult time of grief. May they all be sustained by the many wonderful memories that will remain with all of us forever and may "Dr. Mac/Uncle Syl" rest in peace.

H.R. 2046 OVERRIDES BROAD  
RANGE OF LAWS

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I received a letter today from a bipartisan coalition of family and faith-based organizations, who are concerned that powerful international gambling interests will succeed in negating U.S. laws that curb Internet gambling. I ask unanimous consent to place a copy of this letter in the RECORD.

Probably the most serious avenue of attack mentioned in this letter is H.R. 2046, which would legalize Internet gambling and provide online casinos with exemptions from federal and state laws.

Just one year ago, this body voted 317 to 93 in favor of the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006, which went on to be signed into law on October 13, 2006. By enacting UIGEA, we emphatically decided that we would not simply roll over as offshore gambling operators deliberately defied our laws. We would enforce our laws, even when the websites are offshore, by cutting off the flow of money for illegal Internet gambling activities. At the same time, we preserved existing Federal and State gambling laws, including the rights of States to set gambling policy and regulate any gambling operators within their own borders.

H.R. 2046 does not repeal UIGEA per se, but that would be its practical effect. The license this legislation would grant to Internet gambling operators serves as an affirmative defense to any prosecution or enforcement action under any other Federal or State law. It brushes aside Federal gambling laws such as the Wire Act, State gambling prohibitions, and State gambling regulatory commissions.

The proponents of H.R. 2046 say there is an opt-out for States, but this opt-out is riddled with problems. First, State laws already on the books don't matter—the governor has to certify exactly what is prohibited in that State, and if he or she fails to make that certification within 90 days, then the State becomes open game for Internet gamblers. Not only is it bad policy to ignore laws on the books, it is probably unconstitutional to give the Governor effective unilateral power to set Internet gambling policy for the State.

Second, if the State were to allow any form of gambling online, it would be regulated by the Treasury Department, which has no experience in gambling regulation, instead of the highly-experienced State gambling commission.

Third, the State opt-out would violate current U.S. trade obligations, so the World Trade Organization could tell the U.S. to drop the opt-out or face stiff trade penalties. The U.S. is currently trying to withdraw its "obligation" to free trade in gambling—which the U.S. never intended to make—but the process could take months or years. Until then, the offshore gambling industry could attack the State opt-out in H.R. 2046 in the WTO, as one of their attorneys publicly stated at a Cato Institute forum just last week.

Finally, keep in mind that NO State has yet legalized Internet gambling with foreign companies. If all the States opt out according to the laws they already have on the books, and if the opt-outs are not challenged legally, what will the international gambling interests have gained? If nothing, then why are they spending millions on lobbying efforts to pass H.R. 2046?

I hope that my colleagues will look past the smokescreen and see that H.R. 2046 could result in the greatest expansion of gambling ever enacted by Congress.

AUGUST 1, 2007.  
DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: As a bipartisan coalition of family and faith-based organizations representing millions of citizens nationwide, we thank you for your efforts to protect families from the dangers of Internet gambling. Last year, Congress took the very valuable step of enacting the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006 (UIGEA) so that U.S. gambling laws could be better enforced on the Internet. We are concerned, however, about ensuring the integrity of UIGEA in upcoming months. We have three primary concerns: