

May 9, 2000

SENSE OF THE HOUSE IN SUPPORT OF AMERICA'S TEACHERS

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Statement of HON. RON PAUL OF TEXAS

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- Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support the resolution of the gentlewoman from Texas expressing Congress' appreciation for the valuable work of America's teachers. I would also like to take this opportunity to urge my colleagues to support two pieces of legislation I have introduced to get the government off the backs, and out of the pockets, of America's teachers. The first piece of legislation, H.R. 1706, prohibits the expenditure of federal funds for national teacher testing or certification. A national teacher test would force all teachers to be trained in accordance with federal standards, thus dramatically increasing the Department of Education's control over the teaching profession. Language banning federal funds for national teacher testing and national teacher certification has been included in both the House and Senate versions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

- I have also introduced the Teacher Tax Cut Act (H.R. 937) which provides every teacher

in America with a \$1,000 tax credit. The Teacher Tax Cut Act thus increases teachers' salaries without raising federal expenditures. It lets America's teachers know that the American people and the Congress respect their work. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, by raising teacher take-home pay, the Teacher Tax Cut Act encourages high-quality people to enter, and remain in, the teaching profession.

- Mr. Speaker, these two bills send a strong signal to America's teachers that we in Congress are determined to encourage good people to enter and remain in the teaching profession and that we want teachers to be treated as professionals, not as Education Department functionaries. In conclusion, I urge my colleagues to vote for this resolution recognizing the hard work of America's teachers. I also urge they continue to stand up for those who have dedicated their lives to educating America's children by cosponsoring my legislation to prohibit the use of federal funds for national teacher testing and to give America's teachers a \$1,000 tax credit.