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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TRIBUTE in honor of National Teacher Appreciation Week

SPEECH OF
Hon. Michael K. Simpson
OF IDAHO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
May 5, 2010

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Simpson".

Madame Speaker, in recognition of National Teacher Appreciation Week, I rise today to pay tribute to teachers across the country.

This year, National Teacher Appreciation Week has extra significance. With unemployment holding near double-digits, the economy in a prolonged recession, and education budgets slashed in many states, many teachers face the possibility of being laid-off. As Congress considers education reform legislation, we must keep in mind the needs of educators, who have the most important job of all -- preparing our young people for the future.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I have spent a great deal of time working on education issues, meeting with teachers, and trying to better understand the many issues confronting our nation's schools. While there are many pressing needs at hand, I will take every opportunity to recognize the commitment of our teachers, many of whom are underpaid and often underappreciated for their crucial work. That is why I am proud to be a cosponsor of H.Res.1312, which recognizes the roles and contributions of America's teachers to building and enhancing our Nation's civic, cultural, and economic well-being.

Teachers play a critical role in shaping our future. They touch the lives of children every day. They inspire, encourage, motivate, and educate the next generation. I applaud their efforts and thank them for their dedication