

That use of funds and other resources provided under the plan will be prioritized to address overcrowding and school infrastructure problems, improved teacher certification and training, readiness for technology, and health and safety concerns.

That the State or local government will match Federal resources (unless the President waives matching requirements).

That funds received will supplement, not supplant, other Federal and non-Federal resources.

Sec. 6. Federal Assistance.

The President may authorize the Department of Education and other Federal agencies to provide personnel, educational equipment and facilities, and other services to an LEA to which the President has made the requisite declaration.

The Secretary of Education may be directed by the President to distribute money and other resources to selected LEAs. The Secretary is required to determine the best way to distribute funds through personnel and procedures applicable to existing Federal elementary and secondary education programs.

General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) provision apply.

Sec. 7. Use of Assistance—Allowable Reforms.

Broadly spells out the kinds of reforms the plan must address in order to receive a Presidential stamp of approval.

School-based reforms—including increased early childhood education, comprehensive parent training, intensive truancy prevention programs, new and alternative schools for dropouts, and enhanced special needs assistance (e.g. ESL students and students with disabilities).

Classroom focused development—including teacher and principal training academies, recruitment programs at area colleges and universities, stronger links between local law enforcement, schools, and parents, and teacher-mentor programs.

Accountability reforms—including higher learning standards and meaningful assessments, monitoring schools and determining how to more effectively employ resources, and promotion and graduation requirements (particularly in the basics).

Sec. 8. Duration of Assistance.

Provides that assistance is available for FY 1998–2000.

Sec. 9. Report.

Requires the Secretary of Education to submit a report to relevant committees of Congress regarding progress under the Act.

Sec. 10. Authorization of Appropriations.

Authorizes \$250 million for FY 1998, \$500 million for FY 1999, and “such sums” for FY 2000.

Grants the Secretary of Education regulatory authority to determine matching requirements for non-monetary Federal resources.

Grants the Secretary waiver authority with regard to matching requirements.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL COMMUNITY THEATER WEEK

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring National Community Theater Week, which is being celebrated April 19 to 26, to the attention of my colleagues.

The year 1997 marks the second annual National Community Theater Week. This very special celebration, sponsored by the American Association of Community Theater [AACT] in cooperation with Stage Directions magazine, is being held to recognize the contributions of countless volunteers in thousands of community theaters across the country.

Local events are the core of National Community Theater Week because they bring the most recognition to the performing arts. For this reason, Mr. Speaker, I want to express my sincere appreciation to the staff and volunteers of the Bilingual Center for the Performing Arts for their contributions to the Inland Empire. Without their effort and work, performing arts programs would be affordable to only the wealthy in their community.

Arts and culture are a vital part of human existence and the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate the arts should be open to all of our citizens. As a member of AACT, the Bilingual Center for the Performing Arts strives to raise the level of public consciousness and the value and importance of performing arts to the people of the Inland Empire.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the hard work that performing artists, not only in the Inland Empire, but across the country have put into National Community Theater Week. Let us help them celebrate the contributions performing arts provide to our society. Congratulations and best wishes to all for a most successful week and a most successful year of performing arts.

SWEATSHOP WORKERS SHOULD NOT BRING DAUGHTERS TO WORK

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today across the country parents took their daughters to work. There is one group of workers, however, that does not celebrate taking their young children to work. I bring to your attention this article that appeared in the New York Times. The article reminds us that sweatshops and child labor are a reality in our country.

Let us give our daughters positive goals to strive for. At the same time, though, let us work together to fight sweatshops and child exploitation.

[From the New York Times, Apr. 23, 1997]

TAKE DAUGHTERS TO WORK? UNION OFFERS
ANOTHER IDEA

(By Steven Greenhouse)

Upset that so many New York garment factories still use child labor, the nation's largest clothing union has come up with a novel approach to combat this longstanding problem—it is called Don't Bring Our Daughters to Work Day.

While the union says it applauds the American parents who will take their daughters to work tomorrow to excite them about potential careers, the garment union will spend the day telling thousands of garment workers, many of them struggling immigrants from China, not to take their daughters to work tomorrow, or any other day for that matter.

The campaign seeks to draw attention to the sweatshop conditions by capitalizing on the growing prominence of Take Our Daughters to Work Day. In fliers and educational

meetings, the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees is warning garment workers who let their daughters work in garment factories that such child labor is often illegal and dangerous.

“Child labor in the shops is a serious problem, especially in the summer,” said Danyun Feng, coordinator of the don't Bring Our Daughters program. “Unfortunately, these children are very easy to exploit, and their wages are usually very low.”

The union is pushing this program because it thinks child labor is wrong and hurts youngsters, and it asserts that child labor undercuts union wage scales. It also recognizes that campaigning against such violations could make the union more popular among the Chinese-American workers it is seeking to unionize.

The child labor campaign is concentrated in two Chinese-American neighborhoods where garment factories flourish: Chinatown in Manhattan and Sunset Park in Brooklyn.

“Child labor has been a source of heartache for garment workers past and present,” said May Ying Chen, assistant manager of Local 23-25, representing 24,000 New York garment workers.

Ms. Feng said garment workers often tell her that they have little alternative but to take their daughters to work on Saturdays or summer days. They often take 3-year-olds who play next to their sewing machines and frequently take 13-year-olds who are employed at nearby machines.

“They tell us they are low-income families who have to work very hard and need almost everybody in the family to help earn money,” Ms. Feng said.

The campaign aims not just to discourage children from working but also to develop ways for children to spend their nonschool days somewhere other than a clothing factory. Last summer, the union funneled some teen-agers into a voter registration drive.

This summer, the union hopes to establish a program in which teen-agers can take courses, care for children and clean neighborhoods.

Union officials feared that the Ms. Foundation for Women, which sponsors the nationwide Take Our Daughters to Work Day, would attack their program for mocking the name of the national effort. But Marie Wilson, president of the Ms. Foundation, said: “I think it's great. When we created this day, it was really to call attention to the conditions in which girls live. This day is all about respecting your daughter, and that's what this program does.”

Union officials acknowledge that part of the Don't Bring Our Daughters drive is intended to encourage the children of garment workers to aspire to better-paying, more stimulating careers. The union also wants to make sure children appreciate how hard their parents toil and how bad factory conditions often are.

“Of course, we want our children to get better jobs than we have,” said Chung Siu, a garment district seamstress. “They should go to college. We hate these garment shops.”

ORGAN DONOR AWARENESS WEEK

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week. In 1985, Congress set aside this week to promote a greater understanding about the lifesaving benefits of organ donation.

This week is about many things. It is about educating people about the organ donor program. It is about encouraging people to consider organ donations. And, it is about recognizing those people who have given this gift of life.

Last year, 121 people in New Jersey donated organs, making 315 lifesaving transplant operations possible. However, Mr. Speaker, we need to do so much more.

There are more than 51,000 people in the United States awaiting organ transplants, nearly 1,000 residents in my State of New Jer-

sey alone. Tragically, many of these people will die before they are able to receive a transplant due to the shortage of available donor organs.

Mr. Speaker, I am a member of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus. Diabetes is the leading cause of heart disease, stroke, amputations, blindness and kidney disease. It is the single most prevalent chronic illness among children.

Any person living with diabetes knows that there may come a day when they will develop renal disease, which will necessitate a trans-

plant. We must make sure, when there is a need for a kidney transplant or for a cornea transplant to restore sight, that an organ is available.

Each one of us has a unique opportunity to help our fellow citizens. By signing an organ donor card, as I have, we are able to give the most precious of gifts to another human being. It may be the gift of sight; it may be the gift of life.

During this week, I urge all of my colleagues to give very serious consideration to signing an organ donor card.