

and advanced levels of performance. I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of Hamilton Elementary. When we set high education standards, children, parents, teachers, and administrators respond. Hamilton Elementary stands as a model for the entire Nation.

Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 is the Nation's largest Federal investment in local schools. It directs approximately \$7 billion each year to cover 50,000 schools districts in the United States with high numbers of low-income families and students. With an emphasis on high academic standards and accelerated learning in core subjects, it is transforming schools like Hamilton Elementary. Title I is an investment that will pay dividends for years to come.

Our work, however, is not over. According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress, the Nation's report card, only 28 percent of fourth graders read at a proficient or advanced level. Only 21 percent of eighth graders are proficient in math. On Friday, the Department of Education reported that "education and training are strongly associated with increased productivity, higher rates of employment and higher paying jobs for Americans." At the same time, other industrialized nations are making productivity gains as these countries spend more to train and educate their work force.

Today, more than ever, we owe it to our children to give them the education and skills they need to become productive participants in today's marketplace. High technology companies will shape the next generation of successful businesses in the 21st century. If we do not educate and train our young people to enter these high-skilled, high-wage jobs, our global competitors will pass us. Hamilton Elementary is doing its part and I applaud them for it. I call on my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring their accomplishment.

STUDENTS IN FREE ENTERPRISE

HON. JAMES C. GREENWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 1997

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding organization in Bucks County, the Students in Free Enterprise, located at the Bucks County Community College.

Students in Free Enterprise [SIFE] is a nonprofit, international organization including over 400 chapters on the campuses of U.S. colleges and universities. SIFE has continually encouraged the free enterprise system through educational programs since its inception more than 20 years ago by Sam Walton, founder of Wal-Mart. Students in the organization dedicate their time and resources to helping others develop leadership, teamwork and communication skills through learning, practicing, and teaching the principles of free enterprise. SIFE is not only involved with the encouragement of the free enterprise system, but has worked closely with many national and international charitable organizations such as the American Red Cross, the American Lung Association, and the Civil Air Patrol on various projects. The student organization at the Bucks County Community College has also in-

stituted programs such as Reading Empowers and Directs Youth [READY] and Children Are Really Extra Special [CARES] to teach children important computer skills.

The Students in Free Enterprise is a valuable asset to the people of Pennsylvania. In honor of their many charitable and civic contributions, I join my colleagues in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in recognizing May 20, 1997 as Students in Free Enterprise Day.

I congratulate them on this day as they continue their mission of helping people achieve their dreams through free enterprise education.

MASSACHUSETTS STATE SENATE URGES FAIRNESS FOR LEGAL IMMIGRANTS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 1997

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month the Massachusetts State Senate passed a resolution urging us to reverse the cruel and unwise policy adopted last year in the welfare bill of cutting off basic income support to legal residents of this country who are unable to support themselves.

I thought this was a grave error when it was proposed and worked hard against it. I regretted its passage and signature by the President. And since that time, our worst fears have come true. I've heard from people throughout my district about the terrible social harm that will result from this unjust policy. Russian Jews in the northern part of my district who came to the United States as refugees from Communist anti-Semitism; hard-working elderly Portuguese immigrants who came to this country and worked hard for some time before illness struck them; Indo-Chinese residents who came to the United States because they had been supportive of our efforts during the Vietnam war—these are examples of the decent, hard-working, wholly innocent people who are victims of last year's grave error.

The Massachusetts Legislature is trying to address this, but it is an outrage for this Congress to impose on the States the financial responsibility that ought to rest at the Federal level. States have enough financial problems without being forced to serve as a backup for Federal callousness. Mr. Speaker, the Massachusetts Senate, composed of elected officials who live day to day with this problem and fully understand it, expresses the point very well and I congratulate Senator Linda Melconian for taking the lead on this issue and I ask that the resolution adopted by the Massachusetts Senate be printed here.

RESOLUTIONS URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO RESTORE FEDERALLY FUNDED BENEFITS TO LEGAL IMMIGRANTS RESIDING IN THE UNITED STATES

Whereas, in August of Nineteen Hundred and Ninety-six, the United States Congress enacted the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, so-called; and

Whereas, Congress in said Act forbade use of Federal funds to provide benefits for financially needy immigrants lawfully residing in the United States; and

Whereas, legal immigrants pay taxes and contribute in many ways to the productivity and vitality of our communities; and

Whereas, the United States was founded and built by immigrants; and

Whereas, because Congress has abdicated its financial responsibility, the financial burden of the action by Congress falls unfairly on the States and needy residents of the States; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Massachusetts Senate respectfully requests that the President and the Congress of the United States restore to the States the authority to provide Federally funded benefits to needy, lawful residents of the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That the Massachusetts Senate respectfully requests that the United States Congress and the President restore to the Commonwealth adequate Federal funding to allow for the provision of benefits for financially needy immigrants lawfully residing in this Commonwealth; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted forthwith by the Clerk of the Senate to the President of the United States of America, the Presiding Officer of each branch of the United States Congress, and each member of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES FARMER, CIVIL RIGHTS FREEDOM FIGHTER

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, the civil rights struggle was a pivotal point in American history. It not only changed the course of our Nation, but how we look at each another today. In the annals of history, names of heroic citizens are sometimes overlooked, as is often the case in turbulent times. It is for this reason that as a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, I am pleased that my colleague, the gentleman from Georgia, Mr. LEWIS, reserved this time today. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the few living trailblazers in America's struggle for civil rights, Mr. James L. Farmer.

Mr. Farmer was a founder of the Congress of Racial Equality, or CORE, which was a pioneering organization in nonviolent protest. Through Mr. Farmer's design, execution, and leadership, a form of peaceful protest—known as Freedom Rides—was organized throughout the South as part of the movement that led to desegregation and passage of the Civil Rights Act.

James Farmer grew up in the shadow of segregation in Mississippi. As a child, he felt the weight of racism and knew that he would eventually help bring segregation to its knees. He was right. As the son of a clergyman and the first African-American Ph.D. recipient in Texas, James Farmer grew up steeped in religion and education. He was supposed to follow his father's path to the pulpit, but could not bring himself to preach before a church that was segregated, as his was. But it was during his education at Howard University School of Divinity that he was moved by the teachings of Mohandas Gandhi, and the seed of nonviolent protest was planted firmly in his mind.

In 1942, Mr. Farmer organized sit-ins at segregated lunch counters in Chicago, and it

was in that period that CORE was founded. After World War II, Mr. Farmer wanted to test the reality of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling which declared that segregation of interstate buses was indeed unconstitutional in 1947.

Mr. Speaker, it was in 1961 that integrated groups of brave individuals boarded buses to travel throughout the South on what were known as Freedom Rides. These riders were threatened, beaten, and jailed, but they never wavered in their struggle for the equality they

knew all Americans were due. Mr. Speaker, these Freedom Rides became a very important component in the struggle for civil rights.

The riders were made up of intrepid and dignified individuals such as my colleague JOHN LEWIS, with whom I am so proud to serve in the U.S. Congress. I want my colleagues to know, however, that the Freedom Rides were the work of Jim Farmer. Mr. Farmer, who still resides nearby outside of Fredericksburg, VA, deserves our deepest grati-

tude. It is time that we recognize Mr. Farmer as the historic civil rights figure that he is. I sincerely hope that President Clinton will give him this consideration in his selection of Presidential Medal of Freedom recipients, and I thank the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LEWIS] for taking this special order to honor Jim Farmer. It is entirely fitting and proper that Mr. LEWIS, himself a great civil rights leader, lead us in this special order this evening.