

will serve as honorary Grand Marshals of the parade.

Our remembrance this day of those who earned our nation's highest military recognition by their heroism is a wondrous way to commemorate the service of all veterans.

Mr. Hodowal's idea, expressed in glass and sound and light and stone, transcends and transforms the traditional notion of such honors in our city. This monument, reminding and inspiring all who walk by the bank of the canal in Military Park, is an important piece, a central place, for the eternal honor these heroes are due.

For Mr. Hodowal, and for IPALCO Enterprises, this day is yours, as well. I am prouder than words can express to say that I know you. For this gift to the city and to the nation, for your civic service above and beyond the call, I salute you.

DON'T ABANDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 1999

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, Washington is bloated with rhetoric about education reform. But when we examine the actual programs and projects being proposed there is a tremendous shortfall between the giant needs and the tiny proposed solutions. Our nation's children are being denied adequate Opportunities-to-Learn. The opportunity to learn begins with a safe, conducive school building. But the federal government is spending almost nothing to improve the education infrastructure of school systems across the nation. We neglect and abandon school buildings we send a highly visible signal to our children and their parents. The message is that Congressmembers only want to play word games about education. The situation is serious, however, and requires a significant appropriation of dollars. For a mere 417 dollars per student per year we can turn the current downward trend upward. If we do less than this minimal effort we are stumbling into a process where our cities will be doomed to paralysis and deadly shrinkage. The following RAP poem sums up the looming possible fate of our neglected cities. Also, attached is a Dear Colleague letter requesting co-sponsorship of H.R. 1820, an amendment to the Elementary and Secondary Schools Assistance Act. H.R. 1820 provides adequate direct federal appropriations for school construction, modernization, repair, technology, security and renovation.

URBAN CLEANSING

Forget all Godly rules
Go strip them of their schools
Leave neighborhoods naked
Ethnic cleansing is now banned
But urban shrinkage is still planned
Budgets will be raped
Streets left uncertain
Streets left uncertain
Cops mandated to act real mean
Forget all Godly rules
Don't pay for education tools
Go strip them of their schools
Ethnic cleansing is now banned
But urban shrinkage is still planned.

MAY 26, 1999.

IN THE YEAR 2000 WE LAUNCH THE MARCH TOWARD A NEW CYBERCIVILIZATION—WE ARE SPENDING 218 BILLION DOLLARS ON HIGHWAYS AND ROADS IN SIX YEARS

LET US INVEST HALF THIS AMOUNT—110 BILLION—IN FIVE YEARS TO BUILD, REPAIR AND MODERNIZE SCHOOLS

DEAR COLLEAGUE: Please join me as a co-sponsor for H.R. 1820, an amendment to the Elementary and Secondary Education Assistance Act which mandates a worthy federal investment in education for the children of America. Public opinion polls consistently show that our voters consider Federal Aid to Education as the nation's number one priority. We must now move beyond paltry pilot projects in our response to this long-term public outcry.

H.R. 1820 commits the Federal government to make the contribution most suitable to its role. Through direct appropriations we must make capital investments in the school infrastructures. Offer leadership in the building of schools and then leave the details of the day to day operations to local and state authorities.

H.R. 1820 proposes to help all schools by authorizing a per capita (on the basis of school age children) distribution of the allocations for the purposes of modernization, security, repair, technology and renovations as well as new school construction.

H.R. 1820 deserves national priority consideration for the following reasons:

The best protection for Social Security is an educated work force able to qualify for hi-tech jobs and steadily pay dollars into the Social Security trust fund.

The effective performance of our military in action utilizing hi-tech weaponry requires an educated pool of recruits.

The U.S. economy will continue to be the pace setter for the globe only if we maintain a steady flow of qualified brainpower and updated know-how at all performance levels—theoretical, scientific, technical and mechanical.

Invest in education and all other national goals become reachable.

Sincerely,

MAJOR R. OWENS,
Member of Congress.

SUMMARY OF H.R. 1820

TO AMEND TITLE XII OF THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF 1965 TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO IMPROVE THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

SEC. 12001. FINDINGS.

(1) There are 52,700,000 students in 88,223 elementary and secondary schools across the United States. The current Federal expenditure for education infrastructure is \$12,000,000. The Federal expenditure per enrolled student for education infrastructure is 23 cents. An appropriation of \$22,000,000,000 would result in a Federal expenditure for education infrastructure of \$417 per student per fiscal year.

(2) The General Accounting Office in 1995 reported that the Nation's elementary and secondary schools need approximately \$112,000,000,000 to repair or upgrade facilities. Increased enrollments and continued building decay has raised this need to an estimated \$200,000,000,000. Local education agencies, particularly those in central cities or those with high minority populations, cannot obtain adequate financial resources to complete necessary repairs or construction. These local education agencies face an annual struggle to meet their operating budgets.

(3) According to a 1991 survey conducted by the American Association of School Admin-

istrators, 74 percent of all public school buildings need to be replaced. Almost one-third of such buildings were built prior to World War II.

(4) The majority of the schools in unsatisfactory condition are concentrated in central cities and serve large populations of poor or minority students.

(5) In the large cities of America, numerous schools still have polluting coal burning furnaces. Decaying buildings threaten the health, safety, and learning opportunities of students. A growing body of research has linked student achievement and behavior to the physical building conditions and overcrowding. Asthma and other respiratory illnesses exist in above average rates in areas of coal burning pollution.

(6) According to a study conducted by the General Accounting Office in 1995, most schools are unprepared in critical areas for the 21st century. Most schools do not fully use modern technology and lack access to the information superhighway. Schools in central cities and schools with minority populations above 50 percent are more likely to fall short of adequate technology elements and have a greater number of unsatisfactory environmental conditions than other schools.

(7) School facilities such as libraries and science laboratories are inadequate in old buildings and have outdated equipment. Frequently, in overcrowded schools, these same facilities are utilized as classrooms for an expanding school population.

(8) Overcrowded classrooms have a dire impact on learning. Students in overcrowded schools score lower on both mathematics and reading exams than do students in schools with adequate space. In addition, overcrowding in schools negatively affect both classroom activities and instructional techniques. Overcrowding also disrupts normal operating procedures, such as lunch periods beginning as early as 10 a.m. and extending into the afternoon; teachers being unable to use a single room for an entire day; too few lockers for students, and jammed hallways and restrooms which encourage disorder and rowdy behavior.

(9) School modernization for information technology is an absolute necessity for education for a coming CyberCivilization. The General Accounting Office has reported that many schools are not using modern technology and many students do not have access to facilities that can support education into the 21st century. It is imperative that we now view computer literacy as basic as reading, writing, and arithmetic.

(10) Both the national economy and national security require an investment in school construction. Students educated in modern, safe, and well-equipped schools will contribute to the continued strength of the American economy and will ensure that our Armed Forces are the best trained and best prepared in the world. The shortage of qualified information technology workers continue to escalate and presently many foreign workers are being recruited to staff jobs in America. Military manpower shortages of personnel capable of operating high tech equipment are already acute in the Navy and increasing in other branches of the Armed Forces.

SEC. 12003. FEDERAL ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF GRANTS.

(a) AUTHORITY AND CONDITIONS FOR GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To assist in the construction, reconstruction, renovation, or modernization for information technology of elementary and secondary schools, the Secretary shall make grants of funds to State educational agencies for the construction, reconstruction, or renovation, or for modernization for information technology, of such schools.

(2) FORMULA FOR ALLOCATION.—From the amount appropriated under section 12006 for any fiscal year, the Secretary shall allocate each State an amount that bears the same ratio to such appropriated amount as the number of school-age children in such State bears to the total of number of school-age children in all the States. The Secretary shall determine the number of school-age children on the basis of the most recent satisfactory data available to the Secretary.

SEC. 12006. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title, \$22,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2000 and a sum no less than this amount for each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.

ASTHMA AWARENESS, EDUCATION AND TREATMENT ACT

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 1999

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, today I was honored to be joined by six-time Olympic medalist, Jackie Joyner-Kersey, for the unveiling of the Asthma Awareness, Education and Treatment Act, which I am introducing tonight. I am joined by 35 of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle introducing this important legislation to help children suffering from asthma.

Over the past several weeks, the safety, health and well-being of America's children have been in the hearts and minds of parents and families throughout the country. Today, we are addressing a critical health issue that is affecting the health of our children: asthma.

The Asthma Awareness, Education and Treatment Act establishes a grant to reach out to inner-city, minority and low income communities to fight asthma. Some of the initiatives include: asthma and allergy screenings; education programs for parents and teachers; a nationwide media campaign; tax incentives for pest control and air climate control businesses to alleviate the suffering of asthmatic children; and community outreach through nontraditional medical settings, including schools and welfare offices.

We must act now to help our children breathe more easily. African-Americans are five times more likely than other Americans to seek emergency room care for asthma. The asthma death rate is also twice as high among African-Americans and a staggering four times higher for African-American children. Asthma is also more prevalent among all age groups in lower income families. In families with an annual income of less than \$10,000, 79.2 out of 1,000 individuals have asthma while in families with an annual income of \$20,000 to \$34,999, 53.6 out of 1,000 individuals have asthma—that means close to 400,000 more people with extremely limited earnings have asthma.

Whatever your income, we are all paying the price for the 160 percent increase in asthma among preschool children over the past decade. The total cost of asthma to Americans was close to \$12 billion last year. Simply put, parents miss work, children miss school, and too many cases are treated in emergency rooms that could have been treated, or in some situations prevented, by medication and ongoing management by a physician.

Today, we are taking steps to curb this staggering growth in asthma cases, its high cost to society, and its disproportionate effect on minorities and low income families. With the Asthma Awareness, Education and Treatment Act, we will empower teachers, parents, coaches, and anyone who works with children to help those with asthma.

I represent some of the poorest areas of the country in South Central Los Angeles. I have seen the dire need for community assistance. And I know the tax incentives in this bill will jump start businesses that can make our communities better and ultimately save lives that otherwise may have been cut short by asthma.

I have been working with the Allergies and Asthmatics Network/Mothers of Asthmatics, the American Medical Women's Association, the American Lung Association, the Children's Environment Network, the Children's Defense Fund, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the National Association of Children's Hospitals to help children and their families face and manage this critical disease.

I hope that my colleagues will join me, Jackie Joyner-Kersey and all of these groups in raising awareness of asthma and making sure that this bill is brought to the floor as soon as possible.

HONORING LEELA DE SOUZA AS A WHITE HOUSE FELLOW

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 1999

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure today that I rise to commend Leela de Souza of Chicago, Illinois in recognition of her achievements this year as a distinguished White House Fellow.

A native of Chicago, Ms. de Souza graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Chicago, earning an AB in biopsychology. She received her MBA degree from Stanford University Graduate School of Business. After college, she moved to Spain and became a volunteer teacher at the American School of Madrid. Prior to college, at the age of 18, she became a professional ballet dancer. By age 23, she was the prima ballerina for the Hubbard Street Dance Company, one of America's pre-eminent contemporary dance troupes. Ms. de Souza is a management consultant with McKinsey & Co. in San Francisco, where she works with clients in the packaged goods, energy and health care industries. In addition to her professional career, she has done extensive pro bono work with two national symphonies. Ms. de Souza has also been involved as a mentor and tutor in the I Have a Dream Program in East Palo Alto, California, and serves on the Business Arts Council of San Francisco.

Established in 1965, the White House Fellowship program honors outstanding citizens across the United States who demonstrate excellence in community service, leadership, academic and professional endeavors. The nearly 500 alumni of the program have gone on to become leaders in all fields of endeavors, fulfilling the fellowship's mission to encourage active citizenship and service to the nation. It is the nation's most prestigious fel-

lowship for public service and leadership development.

As a White House Fellow, Ms. de Souza serves in a position with the Office of the First Lady. She works at the White House Millennium Council to help create national projects and initiatives to celebrate the promise of the new millennium. In this capacity, Ms. de Souza assists with various initiatives such as Millennium Evenings at the White House and Save America's Treasures. She is also the acting liaison with several of the First Lady's millennium projects, including speech writing, federal agency millennium initiatives, and with non-governmental organizations seeking to partner with the White House on national millennium projects.

Mr. Speaker and fellow colleagues, it is an honor to pay tribute to Leela de Souza for her outstanding service as a White House Fellow.

HEALTH INFORMATION PRIVACY ACT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 1999

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, last night I joined Mr. CONDIT and Mr. WAXMAN in introducing the Health Information Privacy Act of 1999, the "Condit-Waxman-Markey" bill.

Without question, the rapid advance of the Information Age is revolutionizing the American economy and forcing the evolution of new relationships both good and bad. There is no area of its development that causes more anxiety for ordinary people than the area of privacy. And there is no area of privacy that causes more anxiety for Americans than the privacy of their most personal health information.

Today, we are experiencing the erosion of our medical privacy. With the stroke of a few keys on a computer or the swipe of the prescription drug card, our personal health information is being accumulated and tracked.

This erosion of our privacy threatens the very heart of quality health care—doctor/patient confidentiality. By undermining this sacred relationship, we destroy the trust that patients rely on for peace of mind, and doctors depend on for sound judgment.

In an HMO today, anywhere from 80–100 employees may have access to a patient's medical record according to the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse in San Diego California. With such unrestricted access to one's personal health information, it's impossible to separate the health privacy keepers from the "just curious" peepers.

Not to mention the greatest threat to your medical privacy—the information reapers.

The evolution of technology has provided the ability to compile, store and cross reference personal health information, and the dawning of the Information Age has made your intimate health history a valuable commodity.

Last March, the Wall Street Journal wrote about the ultimate information reaper—a company that is "seeking the mother lode in health 'data mining'". This company is in the process of acquiring medical data on millions of Americans to sell to any buyer.

Currently there is no federal medical privacy law to constrain the information reapers as