

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE EARLY EDUCATION ACT OF 1999

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 1999

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce The Early Education Act of 1999. This bill would supplement state efforts in providing early education to children before they reach kindergarten. It authorizes \$300 million a year so that high-quality, accessible early education will be available to all children.

Early education is vitally important to the success of our children, both for their academic progress as well as achievements in life. The National Research Council reported that early education opportunities are necessary if children are going to develop the language and literacy skills necessary to learn to read. A New York Times article also reported that “[students] with higher quality preschool classes did better in language and math skills” than those who were not in these classes. Research suggests that a child’s early years are critical in the development of the brain and that early brain development is an important component of educational and intellectual achievement.

Evaluations of state efforts demonstrate the value of early education. Compared to children with similar backgrounds who have not had the benefit of early education, children who have are more likely to stay academically at or near their grade level and make normal academic progress throughout elementary school. These students are also less likely to be held back a grade or require special education services in elementary school. They are more likely to show greater learning retention, initiative, creativity, and social competency. They are more enthusiastic about school and more likely to have good attendance records.

The Early Education Act of 1999 would provide additional means for states to expand their education systems to ensure that our children will have the utmost in opportunities. Studies estimate that for every dollar invested in quality early education, approximately seven dollars are saved in later costs. I can’t think of many things that Congress does that are more important than the education and health of our children. I hope all my colleagues will agree with me on the importance of early education and support this bill.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PASTOR GEORGE W. HAMPTON ON THE TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL LOVE MARCH

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 1999

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to recognize Pas-

tor George W. Hampton as he and the Greater New Haven Community honor the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. with the 28th Annual Love March.

For twenty-eight years, Pastor Hampton and the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church have celebrated the memory of Dr. King with this annual march and service. Dr. King’s actions stand out as defining moments in our nation’s history. Those of us who lived through those stirring times—and many who weren’t born yet—can still picture Dr. King leading the bus boycott in Montgomery, going to jail for his beliefs in Birmingham, and sounding the clearest call to end segregation in his famous address at the March on Washington. His actions changed the course of our nation forever.

And for twenty-eight years, on January fifteenth at eleven o’clock in the morning, the Greater New Haven Community has gathered to participate in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Love March—a stirring reminder of a troubled time and a peaceful soul.

I would like to extend a special note of congratulations to Pastor Hampton. As founder and organizer of the Love March, his tenacity and dedication has made the March a beloved New Haven tradition. Each time I join in the March, I am inspired by the uplifting spirit of the crowd as we sing and move through the neighborhoods of New Haven. It is an opportunity for the community to come together to remember Dr. King’s teachings, and their meaning for our lives today. The Love March has helped keep Dr. King’s dream alive.

I have heard Pastor Hampton tell the story of his meeting with Dr. King. As I recall, the Pastor told him about his work in the civil rights movement and Dr. King responded, “That’s part of the dream—keep it up.” Pastor Hampton has certainly followed that charge. For New Haven, the annual Love March is a cornerstone in the celebration of the life and spirit of Dr. King. It is a tremendous honor for me to join with Pastor Hampton’s family, friends, and the City of New Haven to say thank you for giving us this annual opportunity to remember the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr.

RECOGNIZING YOUNG FARMERS AND RANCHERS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fresno, Madera, Mariposa and Tulare County Farm Bureaus’ Young Farmers and Ranchers Program for providing the perfect arena to learn and become involved in current agriculture issues.

The California Farm Bureau Federation’s Young Farmers and Ranchers Program is an outstanding organization for young people between the ages of 18 and 35. Young Farmers and Ranchers (YF&R) gives individuals the

opportunity to meet new friends who share similar interests, discuss problems and issues affecting agriculture and to make a difference with a voice in agriculture through YF&R, Farm Bureau and legislative involvement.

YF&R are one of the most important entities of a county Farm Bureau. It provides leadership for tomorrow and new ideas to help the Farm Bureau keep up with the constantly changing world of today’s agriculture.

The Young Farmers and Ranchers Program offers an excellent opportunity to participate in activities designed to develop leadership and communication skills, and share in family activities through various motivational, educational, and social activities.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize an extremely important organization that develops future leaders through the commitment of agriculture. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the Fresno, Madera, Mariposa and Tulare County Farm Bureaus’ Young Farmers and Ranchers Program many more years of continued success.

ON THE PASSING OF ACADEMICIAN DMITRI LIKHACHEV

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 1999

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today the Russian people are mourning the passing of one of their most respected citizens and renowned scholars. Academician Dmitri Likhachev has passed away at the age of ninety-two. He was, in the words of the distinguished historian of Russia and Librarian of Congress Dr. James Billington, “an extraordinary human being, a person of great moral integrity.”

Academician Likhachev epitomized what Russia has endured in this century. Born in 1906 in St. Petersburg, as a university student he was sent to the brutal Solovki labor camps established by Lenin to deal with “counter-revolutionaries.” Later he was condemned with hundreds of thousands of other prisoners to dig Stalin’s infamous White Sea Canal, the first major forced labor project of the Soviet period. During World War II, he survived the 900-day siege of his native city, renamed Leningrad.

Through all the deprivations and hardships of Soviet Russia, Dmitri Likhachev pursued his studies in medieval literature, ultimately becoming Russia’s foremost literary and cultural historian. In 1970, he became a member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. When the Academy voted to expel dissident scientist Academician Andrei Sakharov from its ranks, Academician Likhachev was one of the few to defend Sakharov openly and vote against expulsion. Soon afterward, he barely escaped an attempt on his life.

After the Soviet Union collapsed and Russia regained its independence, Academician

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Likhachev became prominent for his defense of Russian culture. He helped preserve many architectural monuments in St. Petersburg, and lobbied the Russian Government to finance a television channel devoted to culture.

However, it was not only the physical destruction of his homeland that concerned Academician Likhachev. He condemned the moral wasteland left by seventy years of communism. "Like other members of the Russian intelligencia," wrote the New York Times, "Likhachev was deeply disappointed by the violence, greed and vulgarity that surfaced in Russian society after the fall of communism." Without overcoming the perverted morality created by communist rule, he warned, Russia could fall prey to an irrational demagoguery that could threaten the entire world.

With his love of country, combined with tolerance and reason, I believe Academician Likhachev embodied "Russian nationalism" in the best sense of the word. May his example and his ideas thrive in Russia of the 21st century.

THE FAIRNESS FOR PERMANENT RESIDENTS ACT OF 1999

HON. BILL McCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 1999

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, in 1996, Congress made several modifications to our country's immigration code that have had a harsh and unintended impact on many people living in the United States. These individuals, permanent resident aliens, have the legal right to reside in this country and apply for U.S. citizenship. They serve in the military, own businesses and make valuable contributions to society.

For example, earlier this summer, my office received a letter from a woman I will call "Amy." Amy, an American citizen, and her husband, "Bob," a permanent resident alien from Scotland, were married in the United States, have two American born children, and lived a productive life in Florida for nearly 20 years. Bob had been a resident of the U.S. since he was 11 years old.

In 1985, Bob was convicted of a crime and served a three year prison term and 10 years of probation. According to the immigration laws in effect at the time, Bob was punished under U.S. law and was expected to have served his debt to society. In 1999, Bob was a rehabilitated, productive and gainfully employed member of his community.

The changes made in the immigration laws in 1996 meant that Bob, who had committed a crime 13 years ago—a crime that was not considered deportable at that time—and served his debt to society, was about to be punished again. The harsh provisions of the 1996 bill dictated that he be automatically deported for the crimes he committed 13 years ago, with no opportunity to seek a waiver from an immigration judge, as he would have before the 1996 law change.

In addition, the law was made retroactive so that an 80-year-old permanent resident alien who committed a comparatively minor crime

60 years ago, had served his or her sentence and been a model resident in this country for more than 50 years, would now be automatically deported—regardless of physical infirmity, family considerations or any other reason.

Amy and Bob were forced to move to Scotland. The cost of the move was staggering to the family and most of their possessions were left in the U.S. Amy had to leave her native country to keep her family together, and their two children were forced to leave friends and family members behind. Amy is now undergoing immigration review in Scotland and Bob continues to work longer hours to support the family. It is uncertain if the family will be allowed to remain with Bob unless he can increase his income and prove he can support his family.

Last week, my colleague LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART and I introduced the Fairness for Permanent Residents Act of 1999. Our proposal is designed to "right" a wrong that was created by the 1996 changes to the immigration law. We must put fairness and justice in place to allow families like Amy and Bob to have their voice heard before they are forced into fleeing the country or being deported. For individuals who commit heinous crimes, the law should not be changed.

The law presently reads that any permanent resident alien convicted of a crime now or in the past that carries a possible sentence of one year or more—regardless of whether he or she was sentenced to or served a single day in jail—will be automatically deported with no chance for a hearing to seek a waiver. Under our bill, the right to a hearing before an immigration judge to seek a waiver from deportation would be restored for permanent resident aliens who commit comparatively minor crimes, expressly excluding murder, rape or other violent or serious crimes from waiver eligibility. Those in this category who have been deported since 1996 would have a right to seek a waiver, which if granted would permit them to return to the U.S.

Also included in our bill is relief for permanent resident aliens who are now being detained indefinitely pending deportation for crimes that have been committed in the past. Current law does not permit them to seek release on bond even if there is no place for them to be deported and they pose no danger to society if released. Our bill would allow the Attorney General to consider release to such individuals, provided they meet certain conditions.

Our bill returns balance to our existing laws by allowing people with compelling or unusual circumstances to argue their cases for reconsideration. The legislation does not automatically waive the deportation order, it simply grants a permanent resident alien the right to have the Attorney General review the merits of his or her case.

The 1996 law went too far, and as the Miami Herald recently editorialized, "it hurts more than just the foreign born. Its victims include families with U.S. citizen children, communities that lose businesses, and businesses that lost employees. Most of all it hurts the spirit of a nation that prides itself on its immigrant heritage and just laws."

We are a fair nation and must strike a fair balance in our immigration laws—the Fairness

for Permanent Residents Act would do just that.

HONORING THE BRANFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT AND M.P. RICE HOSE COMPANY 2 ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DELAUR

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 1999

Ms. DELAUR. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to congratulate the Branford Fire Department and M.P. rice Hose Company 2 for one hundred years of dedicated service to the residents of Branford, Connecticut. M.P. Rice Hose Company 2 is the only entirely volunteer company which has remained active since the Branford Fire Department was established in 1899.

When it was first established, the Branford Fire Department was composed of citizens volunteering to protect their friends and neighbors from the threat of fire. With two hand drawn hose carriages and a horse drawn ladder truck, three fire fighting companies, Hose Company 1, House Company 2, and the Martin Burke Hook and Ladder company emerged. Today, the M.P. Rice House Company 2 continues in this strong tradition, a full century later, as the only remaining company which is completely comprise of volunteers. Working with career members of the Branford Fire Department, the volunteer companies provide residents with the very best in fire protection. As volunteers, the members of the M.P. Rice Hose company work arm and arm with our professionals, representing a commitment to the community that if taken up more broadly would make for stronger towns across America.

As the Branford community gathers today to celebrate this wonderful achievement, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who have dedicated not only their time, but their lives, to the safety of all Branford residents. Firefighters face risks that many of us can never truly comprehend. Each day they must be able to perform under intense pressure—literally in life or death situations. Few things are more important than feeling safe in our homes and workplaces. Whether hosing down flames, rescuing a child from a burning house, or waiting for our call, firefighters are always there to protect us and provide us with the peace of mind we need to sleep at night. I am proud to recognize and commend the tremendous commitment they have made to our community. Our thanks and appreciation can never repay those who put their lives on the line to ensure our safety.

Today's celebration marks the 100th Anniversary of the Branford Fire Department. The courage and dedication demonstrated each day by these men and women, whether volunteer or career member, is reflective of the true spirit in which the department was established. I am indeed proud to rise today to extend my thanks for what you do each day, and congratulations on this remarkable accomplishment.