

ensure that care is extended to every victim and rebuild every destroyed place. Here, we would also like to express our highest respect again for all individuals and non-governmental organizations that have selflessly contributed to the rescue and reconstruction work after disaster. Amid the fierce power of Nature, we have seen Taiwan's most beautiful compassion, strongest faith and greatest trust. Our compatriots have been injured and wounded during the September 21 earthquake, but with the spirit of a "volunteer Taiwan," Taiwan's new family will stand up resolutely on its feet once again.

Dear compatriots, 400 years ago, Taiwan was called "Formosa"—the beautiful island—for its lustrous landscape. Today, Taiwan is manifesting the elegance of a democratic island, once again attracting global attention, as the people on this land create a new page in our history.

We believe that the Republic of China, with its democratic achievements and technological and economic prowess, can certainly continue to play an indispensable role in the international community. In addition to strengthening the existing relations with friendly nations, we want to actively participate in all types of international non-governmental organizations. Through humanitarian care, economic cooperation, cultural exchanges and various other methods, we will actively participate in international affairs, expand Taiwan's room for survival in the international arena, and contribute to the welfare of the international community. Besides, we are also willing to promise a more active contribution in safeguarding international human rights. The Republic of China cannot and will not remain outside global human rights trends. We will abide by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Convention for Civil and Political Rights, and the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action. We will bring the Republic of China back into the international human rights system.

The new government will request the Legislative Yuan to pass and ratify the International Bill of Rights as a domestic law of Taiwan, so that it will formally become the "Taiwan Bill of Rights." We hope to set up an independent national human rights commission in Taiwan, thereby realizing an action long advocated by the United Nations. We will also invite two outstanding non-governmental organizations, the International Commission of Jurists and Amnesty International, to assist us in our measures to protect human rights and make the Republic of China into a new indicator for human rights in the 21st Century.

We firmly believe that in any time or any corner of the world, the meaning and values of freedom, democracy and human rights cannot be ignored or changed.

The history of the 20th Century left us with a major lesson—that war is a failure of humanity. Waged for whatever purpose or whatever imperious reasons, war is the greatest harm to freedom, democracy and human rights. Over the past one hundred plus years, China has suffered imperialist aggression, which left indelible wounds in her history. Taiwan's destiny has been even more arduous, tormented by brute force and the rule of colonialist regimes. These similar historical experiences should bring mutual understanding between the people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait, setting a solid foundation for pursuing freedom, democracy and human rights together. However, due to long periods of separation, the two sides have developed vastly different political systems and lifestyles, obstructing empathy and friendship between the people on the two sides, and even creating a wall of divisiveness and confrontation.

Today, as the Cold War has ended, it is time for the two sides to cast aside the hostilities left from the old era. We do not need to wait further because now is a new opportunity for the two sides to create an era of reconciliation together.

The people across the Taiwan Strait share the same ancestral, cultural, and historical background. While upholding the principles of democracy and parity, building upon the existing foundation, and constructing conditions for cooperation through goodwill, we believe that the leaders on both sides possess enough wisdom and creativity to jointly deal with the question of a future "one China."

I fully understand that as the popularly elected 10th-term President of the Republic of China, I must abide by the Constitution, maintain the sovereignty, dignity and security of our country, and ensure the well-being of all citizens. Therefore, as long as the CCP regime has no intention to use military force against Taiwan, I pledge that during my term of office, I will not declare independence, I will not change the national title, I will not push forth the inclusion of the so-called "state-to-state" description in the Constitution, and I will not promote a referendum to change the status quo in regards to the question of independence or unification. Furthermore, the abolition of the National Unification Council or the Guidelines for National Unification will not be an issue.

History has illustrated that war will only create hatred and enmity, with absolutely no benefit to the development of mutual relations. Chinese people emphasize the difference between statesmanship and hegemony, believing in the philosophy that a government which employs benevolence "will please those near and appeal to those from afar," and "when those afar will not submit, then one must practice kindness and virtue to attract them." Such Chinese wisdom will remain universal words of value.

Under the leadership of Mr. Deng Xiaoping and Mr. Jiang Zemin, the mainland has created a miracle of economic openness. In Taiwan, over a half century, not only have we created a miracle economy, we have also created the political marvel of democracy. On such a basis, as long as the governments and people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait can interact more, following the principles of "goodwill reconciliation, active cooperation, and permanent peace," while at the same time respecting the free choice of the people and excluding unnecessary obstacles, both sides of the Strait can make great contributions to the prosperity and stability of the Asia Pacific Region. Both sides will also create a glorious civilization for the world's humanity.

Dear compatriots, we hope so much to share the moving scene of this moment with all Chinese-speaking people around the world. The wide Ketagalan Boulevard before us was bristling with security guards only a few years ago. The building behind me used to be the Governor General's Mansion during the colonial era. Today, we gather here to extol the glory and joy of democracy with songs of the earth and the voice of the people. With a little reflection, our compatriots should be able to appreciate the deep and far-reaching meaning of this moment:

Authoritarianism and force can only bring surrender for one time, while democracy and freedom are values that will endure forever. Only by adhering to the will of the people can we pioneer the paths of history and build enduring architecture.

Today, as a son of a tenant farmer and with a poor family background, I have struggled and grown on this land and, after experiencing defeat and tribulation, I have finally won the trust of the people to take up

the great responsibility leading the country. My individual achievements are minor, but the message is valuable because each citizen of Formosa is a "child of Taiwan" just like me. In whatever difficult environment, Taiwan will be like a selfless, loving mother, who never stops giving us opportunities and who helps us achieve our beautiful dreams.

The spirit of the "child of Taiwan" reveals to us that even though Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu are tiny islands on the rim of the Pacific, the map of our dreams knows no limits. It extends all the way to the end of the horizon, as long as our 23 million compatriots fear no hardship and move forward hand in hand.

Dear compatriots, this magnificent moment belongs to all the people. All grace and glory belongs to Taiwan—our eternal Mother. Together, let's extend our gratitude to the earth and respect to the people. Long live freedom and democracy! Long live the people of Taiwan! We pray for the prosperity of the Republic of China, and for the health and happiness of all compatriots and all honored guests!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 19, 2000

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, due to prior commitment in my District, I was forced to return to Massachusetts on Thursday, June 15th, 2000. I was therefore unable to cast a vote on rollcall votes 288, 289, 290, and 291. Had I been present, I would have voted 'nay' on rollcall 288, 'nay' on rollcall 289, 'nay' on rollcall 290 and 'nay' on rollcall 291.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 19, 2000

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, due to a family commitment I was unable to cast the following House Rollcall votes on June 15, 2000: No. 285, a quorum call; No. 286, on the amendment offered by Representative SANDERS; and No. 287, a motion that the committee rise.

Had I been present, I would have voted "present" on rollcall No. 285, "aye" on rollcall No. 286, and "aye" on rollcall No. 287.

NEW JERSEY SENATE OBJECTS TO SCHOOL-TO-WORK

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 19, 2000

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a resolution recently approved by the New Jersey Senate. Approved on May 10, 1999, Senate Resolution #73 expresses the objection to the State Senate to the School-to-Work provisions being developed by the New Jersey Department of Education.

State Senators Joseph Kyrillos, William Gormley, Scott Garrett, and Guy Talarico

achieved a significant victory for quality local education by putting the New Jersey Senate on record opposing the federal School-to-Work curriculum and its goals.

The concerns expressed in this resolution cut to the heart of education reform today: Basic academics, local control, unlimited student opportunity and sufficient, quality instructional time are at the forefront of local education efforts and threatened by School-to-Work. New Jersey is clearly concerned about a radical restructuring of its education system around federal workforce development, "applied learning" and limited student choice. Other states and the Congress should take note of New Jersey's courageous stand.

Mr. Speaker, I hereby submit for the RECORD New Jersey Senate Resolution #73 and commend its content to our colleagues.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 73

STATE OF NEW JERSEY—208TH LEGISLATURE,
INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 1999

(Sponsored by: Senator Joseph M. Kyrillos, Jr., District 13 (Middlesex and Monmouth), Senator William L. Gormley, District 2 (Atlantic), Co-Sponsor by: Senators Cardinale and Inverso)

(Synopsis: Expresses the objection of the Senate to the school-to-work provisions being developed by the DOE)

A Senate Resolution expressing this House's objections to the school-to-work proposal being developed by the Department of Education.

Whereas, The Department of Education is developing a new chapter of administrative code to implement the core curriculum content standards and the Statewide assessment system which will fundamentally reform public education in New Jersey and

Whereas, A number of the proposals incorporated in the code represent new graduation requirements for public schools students and since the current requirements for graduation were initially established by the Legislature under chapter 7C of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes, a revision of those standards of the magnitude incorporated within the proposed code and which represent a fundamental change in the educational requirements for secondary school students should undergo legislative review; and

Whereas, The new code provisions will not be formally proposed, according to the timetable set forth by the Department of Education, until August 1999; and

Whereas, The new code provisions emphasize career education and include three phases in this area: career awareness in kindergarten through grade 4; career exploration in grades 5 through 8, with the development of individual career plans during this phase; and career preparation in grades 9 through 12, with students being required to identify a career major, from a list of fourteen majors, prior to the start of the eleventh grade; and

Whereas, The new code provisions require that eleventh and twelfth grade students, for a minimum of one day per week or the equivalent thereof, participate in a structured learning experience which is linked to the student's career plan and which could include volunteer activities, community service, paid or unpaid employment opportunities, school-based enterprises, or participation in an apprenticeship program; and

Whereas, The new code provisions will make school-to-work a requirement for all students in the State, and will result in the loss of 20% of academic instructional time, putting students at a competitive disadvantage in collegiate academic programs; and

Whereas, The school-to-work component of the new code provisions will result in limiting students' choices far too early in their lives and imposing job specific skills training on the educational system at the expense of instructional time in academic subjects; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:

1. This House objects to the school-to-work provisions incorporated into the new chapter of administrative code being developed by the Department of Education to implement the core curriculum content standards and the Statewide assessment system. This House urges that school-to-work provisions be eliminated and that local boards of education be allowed to determine the necessity and nature of any career program for their own school district.

2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a duly authenticated copy of this resolution to the State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education.

STATEMENT

This resolution expresses the objection of the Senate to the school-to-work provisions incorporated into the new chapter of administrative code being developed by the Department of Education to implement the core curriculum content standards and the Statewide assessment system. The resolution also urges that school-to-work provisions be eliminated and that local boards of education be permitted to determine the necessity and nature of any career program for their own school district. According to the department's timetable, the new chapter of administrative code is not scheduled to be formally proposed until August, 1999.

The school-to-work provisions being developed by the department represent a fundamental shift in the way the children of New Jersey will be educated. The school-to-work provisions emphasize career education and include three phases: career awareness in kindergarten through grade 4; career exploration in grades 5 through 8, with the development of individual career plans during this phase; and career preparation in grades 9 through 12, with students being required to identify a career major, from a list of fourteen majors, prior to the start of the eleventh grade. Eleventh and twelfth grade students would be required to participate in a structured learning experience which could include volunteer activities, community service, paid or unpaid employment opportunities, school-based enterprises, or participation in an apprenticeship program. The structured learning experience would be linked to the student's career plan and would be required of every student for a minimum of one day per week or the equivalent thereof, resulting in a 20% loss of academic instructional time. The school-to-work proposal would limit students' choices too early in their lives and impose job specific skills training on the educational system at the expense of instructional time in academic subjects.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 19, 2000

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call votes numbered 282–291, I was unavoidably detained. If I had been present during Roll Call #282, I would have voted "NO". If I had been present during Roll Call #283, I

would have voted "YES". If I had been present during Roll Call #284, I would have voted "YES". If I had been present during Roll Call #285, I would have voted "PRESENT". If I had been present during Roll Call #286, I would have voted "YES". If I had been present during Roll Call #287, I would have voted "YES". If I had been present during Roll Call #288, I would have voted "NO". If I had been present during Roll Call #289, I would have voted "NO". If I had been present during Roll Call #290, I would have voted "YES". If I had been present during Roll Call #291, I would have voted "NO".

CELEBRATION OF JUNETEENTH

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 19, 2000

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Father, I stretch my hand to thee—no other help I know. Oh my rose of Sharon, my shelter in the time of storm. My prince of peace, my hope in this harsh land. We bow before you this morning to thank you for watching over us and taking care of us. This morning you touched us and brought us out of the land of slumber, gave us another day—thank you Jesus. We realize that many that talked as we now talked—this morning when their names were called—failed to answer. Their voices were hushed up in death. Their souls had taken flight and gone back to the God that gave it, but not so with us.

Now Lord, when I've come to the end of my journey; when my praying days are done and time for me shall be no more; when these knees have bowed for the last time; when I too, like all others must come in off the battlefield of life; when I'm through being bucked and scorned, I pray for a home in glory.

When I come down the river to the river of Jordan, hold the river still and let your servant cross over during the calm. Father, I'll be looking for that land where Job said the wicked would cease from troubling us and our weary souls would be at rest; over there where a thousand years is but a day in eternity, where I'll meet with loved ones and where I can sing praises to thee; and we can say with the saints of old, Free at Last, Free at Last, thank God almighty, I am free at last. Your servants prayer for Christ sake. Amen!

Mr. Speaker, this traditional prayer is similar to prayers recited across the south as many African Americans and others celebrate the 19th of June. The deep south spiritual faith of the enslaved is reflected in this traditional prayer and continues to speak for us of the unquenchable hope that American slaves possessed for freedom.

Juneteenth, or June 19th, 1865, is considered the date when the last slaves in America were freed. Although the rumors of freedom were widespread prior to this, actual emancipation did not come until General Gordon Granger rode in Galveston, Texas and issued General Order No. 3, on June 19, almost two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. Unfortunately, news of the emancipation was brutally suppressed due to the overwhelming influence of powerful slave owners.

President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862, notifying the states in rebellion against the Union