

IN HONOR OF MARK K. KEVESDY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Mark K. Kevesdy upon receiving the Alumni Emerging Leadership award from Cleveland State University. Mr. Kevesdy is a dedicated and gifted teacher and is being recognized for his exceptional leadership skills in his profession and in his community.

Mr. Kevesdy, a current resident of Bay Village and a teacher at Big Creek Elementary School in Berea City School District, received his bachelor's degree from the College of Education in 1992. Mr. Kevesdy is the leader of a multi-age team of three teachers that works with over eighty children in grades three through five. Mr. Kevesdy, an exceptional leader, is in charge of his 847-student building, a position which requires his leadership when the principal is absent. He and a colleague have published a book entitled "Creating Dynamic Teaching Teams in Schools." In addition to this tremendous feat, he has also served as a staff development trainer for other teachers on multi-age teaching and teaching teams, both inside and outside of the Berea district.

Perhaps Mr. Kevesdy's greatest accomplishment is his quality teaching. He is a gifted communicator and works hard to make learning come alive for his students. He tries to give his students a well designed academic program in a warm and encouraging environment, while at the same time making the learning relate to real life situations.

Fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring Mr. Kevesdy and the tremendous dedication and devotion that he has shown to his profession.

WITHDRAWING APPROVAL OF
UNITED STATES FROM AGREE-
MENT ESTABLISHING WORLD
TRADE ORGANIZATION

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, with the Senate's impending vote to grant China permanent normal trade relations, and its anticipated passage, I oppose H.J. Res. 90, to withdraw Congressional approval of the agreement establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO). Relinquishing annual review of China's normal trade relations status leaves the WTO as our last resort to ensure that China abides by its agreements. Unfortunately, our means of last resort is unreliable and serves the interests of multinational corporations over the interests of consumers, workers and the environment. While I oppose the resolution before us today, I am far from offering my support of the world body that is supposed to serve U.S. interests.

The biggest problem with the WTO is the way in which the U.S. and our trading partners have developed a narrow definition of trade. Trade encompasses labor, environmental standards, and consumers as well as the in-

dustries that manufacture the products for trade. It is high time that the WTO, with strong U.S. leadership, take into account the interests of the environment, consumers, workers and the oppressed when making the rules for trade. The WTO is in desperate need of reform. The U.S. is the largest beneficiary of trade. Meaningful reform will occur when the U.S. insists on meaningful reform in trade negotiations and in the world body that enforces the trade agreements.

Under Article XX(b) of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), a WTO member country may defend its environmental policy if it is "necessary to protect human, animal or plant life and health." But in two cases—the Tuna-Dolphin and the Shrimp-Turtle cases—the WTO ruled that U.S. statute to prevent import of tuna or shrimp from countries that do not comply with U.S. law to protect dolphins and turtles, is in violation of the international trade agreement. Clearly, this exception clause is ineffective. The goal of the WTO must be to strengthen global environmental standards, not weaken them.

Many developing countries have traditionally excluded food and medicine from their intellectual property rights laws in order to ensure that these basic necessities are accessible and affordable and not subject to private monopoly control. Under the WTO's Trade Related Aspect of Intellectual Property (TRIPs), however, corporations are able to maintain a 20-year monopoly on patents that are often funded through public sponsorship such as the medications to treat AIDS. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) criticized the TRIPs Agreement in its 1999 Human Development Report. UNDP has determined that TRIPs rules prevent developing countries from obtaining the seeds for crops and prevents them from manufacturing affordable medicines. Corporations or individuals in industrialized countries currently hold 97 percent of all patents worldwide. While the developed world holds the majority of these patents, 95 percent of the AIDS victims reside in the developing world. Those who hold the patents hold a greater interest and influence in the proceedings of the WTO, while those who need the patents are not represented at all. Clearly, this is unfair and reforms are needed to correct this harmful unbalance in representation.

The developed world makes the rules. The developed world must start to make these rules with the suffering of billions of fellow humans in mind. It will take the leadership of the United States to make consumers a priority when reforming and creating the rules under which we trade. We must give a voice to the voiceless. We can do this by continuing our membership in the World Trade Organization and seeking to change that organization.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill, (H.R. 4577) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express my grave concern with the bill before us today. This bill critically underfunds important national priorities that are too numerous to mention.

Many Members of this House have expressed their concern about the Federal Government's chronic failure to meet its commitment to special-needs kids. Yet, this bill provides just \$6.6 billion in funding for special education, \$514 million over last year's funding but far short of the \$16 billion-plus we need to fulfill this longstanding commitment to our most vulnerable children.

Mr. Chairman, I have a school in my district where exposed wires dangle from the ceiling, and rainwater seeps over those wires, but this bill provides no funds to repair collapsing schools. Never mind that more than 200 of my colleagues have heeded the call of their school districts, who are begging for assistance repairing schools.

53.2 million kids—a national enrollment record—started school in 1999 and 2.2 million teachers will be needed in the coming years to teach them what they need to know. The teacher shortage is an imminent national crisis, yet this bill includes no funds to continue the class size reduction initiative that is putting 100,000 new teachers in our schools.

Mr. Chairman, we know that quality early childhood programs for low-income children can increase the likelihood that children will be literate, employed, and educated, and less likely to be school dropouts, dependent on welfare, or arrested for criminal activity. This bill, however, cuts the President's request for Head Start by \$600 million, which denies 53,000 low-income children the opportunity to benefit from this comprehensive child development program.

Tragically, our country has become desensitized to school violence, accustomed to reports of shootings in schools. School shootings are no longer front page news. Yet, this bill eliminates assistance for elementary school counselors that serve more than 100,000 children in 60 high-need school districts that could intervene and identify troubled kids before they harm themselves, their classmates or their teachers.

Earlier this week, I supported a bill to relieve the estate tax with great reservation. I have long been a supporter of responsible estate tax relief that maintains our national commitments—paying down the national debt, protecting Social Security and Medicare, and supporting important domestic priorities such as the ones I have listed here. The leadership of this House, however, gave us one vehicle for estate tax relief, and I supported it with the hope that the Senate and the conference committee will craft a fiscally responsible compromise.

Today, however, I am faced with this bill that turns its back on our Nation's number one priority—our kids. The leadership of this House expects a veto of this irresponsible bill. I am voting against this bill today and I ask my colleagues to do the same. We then can return to the drawing board and craft a fiscally responsible bill that reflects our priorities as a nation.