

This bill is supported by the administration and by a diverse group of conservation leaders, including the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, World Wildlife Fund, Wildlife Conservation Society, and many other organizations.

H.R. 4320 is noncontroversial and should be supported by all Members.

I urge an "aye" vote on this important conservation legislation.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4320, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks, and to include extraneous material on H.R. 2348, H.R. 3291, and H.R. 4320, the three bills just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING IMPORTANCE OF CHILDREN IN THE UNITED STATES AND SUPPORTING GOALS AND IDEAS OF NATIONAL YOUTH DAY

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 375) recognizing the importance of children in the United States and supporting the goals and ideas of National Youth Day, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 375

Whereas national evidence indicates that America's youth are faced with oppressive issues, such as violence, drugs, abuse, and even family stress, causing the future of the youth of the United States, and therefore the future of the Nation, to be at risk;

Whereas youth in America, regardless of their economic status, ethnic or cultural heritage, or geographic location, are experiencing the pressures caused by contemporary society;

Whereas although Americans realize the challenges of today's busy lifestyles and balancing work schedules and youth activities, they remain committed to education, physical fitness, and civic-mindedness;

Whereas it is imperative that the people of the United States act willfully and purposely to secure a positive future for the Nation by devoting time to youth, sharing traditions, and communicating values to children in an effort to sustain ongoing relationships with caring adults;

Whereas America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth, led by General Colin L. Powell, United States Army (retired), is one of the Nation's most comprehensive nonprofit organizations dedicated to building and strengthening the character and competence of youth by mobilizing the Nation to fulfill the organization's "Five Promises" for young people:

- (1) ongoing relationships with caring adults;
- (2) safe places with structured activities during nonschool hours;
- (3) a healthy start and future;
- (4) marketable skills through effective education; and
- (5) opportunities to give back through community service;

Whereas the citizens of the United States will celebrate American Youth Day and encourage all youth organizations to participate annually on a Saturday near the beginning of the school year; and

Whereas American Youth Day will provide opportunities for America's youth to reclaim the values which foster trust and build better communication and which will encourage parents, grandparents, and extended families to recognize the importance of being involved in the physical and emotional lives of their children: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

- (1) recognizes the importance of youth to the future of the United States;
- (2) supports the goals and ideas of American Youth Day; and
- (3) encourages the people of the United States to participate in local and national activities that seek to fulfill the Five Promises to America's youth, as established by America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) and a member of the minority each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Concurrent Resolution 375.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 375, offered by my colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM).

House Concurrent Resolution 375 recognizes the importance of children and supports the goals and ideas of American youth today. This resolution enjoys bipartisan support, and I am pleased to have the opportunity today to speak on behalf of it.

America's young people, regardless of their economic status, ethnic heritage, or geographic location are faced every day with difficult problems, such as violence, drug abuse, and even family stress.

□ 2320

Unfortunately, these problems also put the future of our youth and Nation

at risk. Yet, these same young people are the key to the future of our country. They will eventually be making decisions that will not only affect current generations, but many generations to follow.

Accordingly, the people of the United States should act purposefully to help secure a positive future for the Nation by devoting time to our youth, sharing traditions and communicating moral values to our children.

One organization dedicated to helping our youth and getting adults involved in the lives of children and young people is America's Promise, the Alliance for Youth. This nonprofit organization chaired by General Colin Powell is devoted to strengthening the character and competence of children through the fulfillment of five promises.

These five promises are: every young person deserves ongoing relationships with caring adults; secondly, every young person deserves safe places with structured activities during nonschool hours; third, every young person deserves a healthy start and future; fourth, every young person deserves marketable skills through effective education; and, fifth, every young person deserves opportunities to give back through community service.

Mr. Speaker, research on the impact of these five promises is compelling. Studies show that children and young people who are guided by these promises are less likely to engage in negative behaviors. In fact, children that have mentors or adults involved in their lives are 46 percent less likely to start using drugs, 27 percent less likely to start using alcohol, 33 percent less likely to hit or strike others, and 53 percent less likely to skip school.

Mr. Speaker, this concurrent resolution is very simple and straightforward. It rightfully recognizes the importance of our Nation's children. It supports the goals and ideals of Youth Day. American Youth Day will help to provide opportunities for America's youth to reclaim the values that foster trust and the building of better relationships with adults and others.

American Youth Day will also serve to encourage parents, grandparents, and extended families to be actively involved in the physical and emotional lives of their children, grandchildren and others.

I commend the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM) for his leadership on the matter, and I urge my colleagues to vote in support of the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise to support the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this is a legislative initiative offered by a member of my committee, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM), chairman of the Subcommittee on Crime. I am an original

cosponsor of this legislation, and I rise to support the legislation for American Youth Day.

It was a few years ago that Colin Powell came to Texas, as he did to many other States, to begin to talk to Americans about the importance of focusing on children, the importance of focusing on youth. We have seen the results of the devastation of the different lives that our youth live, and that is, of course, the challenges of violence and drug abuse, the challenges of living in families that have been separated.

It is important for our children to be affirmed. This resolution affirms the fact that our youth have the right to have promises. Those promises include ongoing relationships with caring adults, safe places with structured activities during nonschool hours, a healthy start and future, marketable skills through effective education, and opportunities to give back through community service. I would add to that, Mr. Speaker, the opportunity for good housing, the opportunity for good food and to be nourished, the opportunity for good health care.

This legislation will remind this Congress and remind Americans to reaffirm our values and our commitment to youth.

Mr. Speaker, I say to my colleagues, the supporters of this legislation, this is also a resolution to support American Youth Day. I would like to salute a constituent of mine, Ovide Duncantell, who came to me some years ago to advocate for a children's day. We have now come to that point, and I hope that Americans all over the Nation will support our commitment to our youth and to add their support to our youth with these five promises.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of all children, but more specifically for a sound solution before the floor today, H. Con. Res. 375. This resolution titled "Recognizing the Importance of Children in the U.S. and Supporting National Youth Day" sums up in few words, what I myself feel very strongly about.

It is indeed imperative that we take the time to acknowledge and support our children everyday, and that as a nation we recognize all children regardless of economic, religious, or ethnic background. Highlighting affirmatives steps at least one week of the year as this resolution requests is very important.

General Colin Powell began "America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth" in 1997. His dream as well as the dream of the entire organization was that as a nation we reached a specified goal where children are concerned.

Under a National Youth Day program certain steps would be implemented to achieve desired effects. The five main goals that are listed in this resolution include strong relationships with adults, structured after-school activities, a healthy outlook, education, and community service.

The idea is that children will gain enrichment with these elements presented if only for a week in schools nationwide. That the effects of this one week in the schools will extend to children's personal lives, as well as infiltrating their home to affect the entire family.

This week would encompass having the ideas of positive adult role models that should

be present in an ongoing relationship, whether it is in the home or through mentorship. The week emphasizes: An increased awareness of structured activities during non-school hours that are available in the neighborhood, for all children to participate in; a dedication from each school that participates to provide healthy starts and futures for each child in their care; to help provide future initiatives by establishing marketable skills through effective education; and finally, the involvement of children in programs that allows them to connect to their communities through service projects.

These five combined goals will allow for positive development within America's homes and schools. Recognition of youth is essential to the well being of our country. I know this is something we as Members of Congress all understand and wish to make strides towards accomplishing. In the process of developing these programs that encompass our youth, we the members of a legislative body are taking a much larger step in building the future of our country.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA).

(Mrs. MORELLA asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I am one of the supporters of this. I believe very strongly in Colin Powell's America's Promise to Youth. We have such a program in Montgomery County in which we engage, and I salute the measure. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the support of this body.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 375 which recognizes the importance of children in the United States and encourages the efforts of groups such as General Colin Powell's America's Promise.

By establishing a Youth Day prior to the coming school year, local communities will be able to promote General Powell's "Five Promises" to our nation's youth. These ostensibly simple promises of providing our children with caring adults, safe places, healthy starts, marketable skills, and opportunities to serve, enable us to foster future generations of productive and contributing Americans.

It is crucial for our community and business leaders to take an active role in the lives of our youth. Each year, in my district, members of my staff participate in a program called "Partners in Education" which pairs businesses with schools for the purpose of tutoring.

The program's greatest strength is its direct link to local school districts and community leaders throughout the country. Through its 7,500 grassroots member programs, Partners In Education connects children and classroom teachers with corporate, education, volunteer, government, and civic leaders. These partners play significant roles in changing the content and delivery of education services to children and their families.

During the 1999–2000 school year, my staff tutored Fourth and Fifth graders from Hall Elementary School in Gaithersburg, Maryland. This school has an amazingly diverse student body with 42 percent Latino, 29 percent African American, 8 percent Asian, and 21 per-

cent White. Summit Hall also had over 62 percent of its students participating in the Free And Reduced Meals (FARM) program in their cafeterias. By helping Principal Craig Logue and the hard working teachers of Summit Hall, members of my staff provided the students they tutored with the extra one-on-one attention that they needed. The National Youth Day legislation continues in this same spirit of service to the youth of our nation.

I often tell educators in my district that when you touch a rock . . . you touch the past . . . When you touch a flower . . . you touch the present . . . When you touch a child . . . you touch the future.

I ask for your support of H. Con. Res. 375 and encourage all members of this body to sponsor a Youth Day in their district.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TANCREDI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 375, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title of the concurrent resolution was amended so as to read: "Recognizing the importance of children in the United States and supporting the goals and ideas of American Youth Day".

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING IMPORTANCE OF FAMILIES EATING TOGETHER

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that we take from the Speaker's table the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 343), expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the importance of families eating together, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I will not object, I just want to support this legislation. It is the National Eat Dinner with your Children Day, June 19. It was requested by former Secretary of HEW Joe Califano, who now works with the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University where extensive research is proven that families that eat with their children, the children are less likely to engage in illegal activities, illegal drugs, cigarettes and alcohol.

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 343, the National Eat Dinner With Your Children Day Resolution. This legislation recognizes the importance of families eating together in order to