

Program to \$75 million, a 50 percent reduction from the House-passed bill. I worked very hard with my colleagues JIM WALSH and JOHN SWEENEY to include this provision in the House version of H.R. 2330. The Appropriations Committee approved \$150 million for the Apple Market Loss Assistance Program by a very strong bipartisan vote, and the House passed it overwhelmingly.

The U.S. apple industry is suffering serious financial hardship for the fifth straight year. Though the causes can be attributed to a variety of factors, the essence of the problem is low prices, compounded by bad weather and plant diseases. Between 1995 and 1998, U.S. apple prices fell precipitously, down 27 percent. In 1998, apple prices fell more than 20 percent in a single year, to their lowest point in over a decade. Prices never rebounded in 1999, and were hard hit again in 2000. During the last five years, the overall value of the U.S. apple production fell 25 percent—and losses from the 2000 crop alone are estimated to be nearly \$500 million.

A good share of the apple industry's trouble comes from the illegal dumping of apple juice concentrate by China, an issue that the U.S. TR has since addressed. Even so, increased tariffs have not made a significant improvement in the price of apple juice in the late year. In addition to low prices, apple producers in New York and the northeast incurred "quality losses"—reduction in sales prices resulting from severe hail damage to their crops. In Michigan, growers suffered a crippling epidemic of fire blight that destroyed thousands of acres of orchards.

The newspapers have been full of reports of growers pulling up their orchards and selling prime farmland for real estate development because they can no longer make a living from apples. Our Apple Market Loss Assistance Program is a very modest lifeline to farmers who are barely hanging on. While I am very grateful for the \$75 million, it is not nearly enough to combat the conditions I have described.

The cut to the Apple Market Loss Assistance program is one more example of how U.S. agricultural policy shortchanges specialty crops at the expense of program crops. Most of the money delivered by U.S.DA this year is mandatory spending dictated by the authorizing committee, that we do not have the authority to touch. Not a dollar of those billions goes to specialty crop growers. The same is true for the additional billions that we pay in supplemental and emergency payments every year.

I worked very hard with many of my colleagues to correct this imbalance earlier this year when the farm bill was on the floor. Unfortunately, our effort fell short by a few votes. It is my hope that the other body will pass a farm bill that evens out our priorities and results in a better deal for specialty crop growers in the end. Until that time, the greatly reduced Apple Market Loss Assistance Program is the only help we can offer our growers.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the conference report.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

Pursuant to clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PUT OUR CHILDREN FIRST  
RESOLUTION OF 2001

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 228) expressing the sense of the Congress that the children who lost one or both parents or a guardian in the September 11, 2001, World Trade Center and Pentagon tragedies (including the aircraft crash in Somerset County, Pennsylvania) should be provided with all necessary assistance, services, and benefits and urging the heads of Federal agencies responsible for providing such assistance, services and benefits to give the highest possible priority to providing such assistance, services and benefits to those children, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 228

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),* That this resolution may be cited as the "Put Our Children First Resolution of 2001".

SEC. 2. (a) The Congress is grateful to the Federal, State, and local agencies for their actions to deliver prompt services to the children and families impacted by the events of September 11, 2001, and recognizes their efforts to expedite and streamline these important services.

(b) It is the sense of the Congress that the children who lost 1 or both parents or a guardian in the September 11, 2001, World Trade Center and Pentagon tragedies (including the aircraft crash in Somerset County, Pennsylvania) should be provided with such immediate assistance, services, and benefits for which they are eligible and which are necessary for their well-being, including—

(1) foster care assistance;  
(2) adoption assistance;  
(3) medical, nutritional, and psychological care;  
(4) educational services; and  
(5) such additional care or services as may be necessary.

(c) The Congress urges each Federal, State, and local agency responsible for providing assistance, services, and benefits referred to in subsection (b) to—

(1) act without delay to provide such assistance, services, and benefits to children described in that paragraph; and

(2) to the maximum extent possible, take such steps as are necessary to ensure that such assistance, services, and benefits are provided in the case of any such child within 60 days of the date of the determination of the death of the child's parent, parents, or guardian.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER).

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 228, as amended, offered

by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE). The resolution expresses Congress' gratitude for the efforts of numerous Federal, State and local agencies in moving quickly to provide services and support to children and families affected by the tragedies of September 11. It urges continued swift assistance.

Since the events of September 11, this Congress has worked with great speed to respond to the Nation's emergency needs. We provided \$40 billion in emergency funding to respond to the tragedies and shore up our national security.

The House passed important legislation to stimulate the economy and support the unemployment and health care needs of dislocated workers. Sweeping new airline measures passed each body which should become law shortly.

Defense and other appropriation measures were amended to account for our new national security and other needs.

At the same time, workers on the front lines of our social services agencies, especially in the New York City and Northern Virginia areas, respond quickly to deliver services and support.

I would like to take a moment to report on the activities of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services agency and the State and City of New York in responding to the needs of children and families affected by the attack on our country.

HHS began responding to the attack the very day it happened providing disaster medical assistance teams, medical supplies, and mental health assistance to the affected areas. Within days HHS released emergency funds for child care, temporary food and shelter, emergency meals, child welfare services and health care. In total, HHS provided more than \$126 million for these essential services. HHS also used its emergency powers to cut through red tape to speed aid to the needs of children and families affected.

Similarly, the City and State of New York have reacted with speed and compassion to transform routine service programs into disaster response teams. What we have seen and salute today is the quick responses by so many local service providers to the needs of our fellow citizens, and especially families with children who lost one or even both parents in the September attacks.

These responses reinforced to terrorists and the world what we already knew, that we can shake America but we cannot break America. We will respond and we will rebound even stronger than before.

Perhaps the most striking examples of America coming together to respond to this tragedy have been the numerous occasions of neighbors helping neighbors and public and private agencies working together with government and charitable funds to support needy families.

Charitable donations have come from people across the economic spectrum,

from the wealthiest Americans to the sixth and seventh and eighth grade classes of Oakland, California who sold red, white and blue hair ribbons to raise \$500; or for the K through 7 youngsters of Wyandatt Grammar School in Oroville, California in my district who sold pumpkins and raised \$831 for the fund.

This resolution applauds the efforts that have already been made to support families in need and calls on continued appropriate Federal, State and local support for these children and families affected by the tragic events of September 11. I urge its adoption.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, one does not know the strength of a family or a community or indeed a country until we have been hit hard by a disaster; and certainly our country and my city was hit hard on September 11. But we just do not know how long it is going to take and what the response is going to be until things like this happen, because yesterday morning Flight 587, an American Airlines flight, took off from Kennedy headed for Santo Domingo. It crashed 2 minutes later. 260 people lost their lives; 9 of these people were part of the crew. Almost all of these people were Dominican. Almost half came from my congressional district, and this morning I was there with the survivors as they were looking for social services and trying to identify those who have been lost.

Mr. Speaker, I say this because all of us in the Congress and the country really have to treat each other with more civility and more dignity and be more aware of those who give their lives and help ease the pain when communities suffer something like this. These people who left to go to Santo Domingo for Thanksgiving or Christmas to have family reunions left behind people who will never see them again.

□ 1815

It is just a reliving in a lesser way the nearly 5,000 people who are dead or presumed to be dead as a result of the tragedy of September 11.

We cannot restore these families, we cannot bring back the lives, but we can talk about the services that have been available, the courageous people who have tried to save lives, those that continue to give spiritual and social services. We can thank Members of Congress such as the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) for reminding us and being able to never allow us to forget that we have to be ever vigilant, we have to be ever prepared to give these prompt services to families and especially to children of these families. Getting in the habit of caring, getting in the habit of loving, getting in the habit of recognizing that we all are just one family makes it easier for us to respond and makes it easier for the

affected families to try to bring their lives together. I think that the Congress does well by giving support to this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the sponsor of this legislation, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), be allowed to control the remainder of my time on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT).

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time, and I appreciate all the work that the gentlewoman from Texas has done on this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Put Our Children First resolution. I believe that this measure will help to ensure that children impacted by the terrorist attacks of September 11 will receive the assistance, services and benefits they need.

Words cannot express the effect of September 11 on the children who lost one or both parents in New York, Pennsylvania, or at the Pentagon. I know all of us have been stunned to learn that as many as 10,000 children lost one or both parents at the World Trade Center. I strongly believe that we have an obligation to do all that we can to help these young people move forward with their lives. In the coming weeks and months, each child will require something different and something special. Some children will require everything from medical care, and others may need foster care and adoption assistance. Still others will require the experienced ear of a therapist, counselor, or a psychologist.

Our country has seen a remarkable display of unity in the 8 weeks since September 11. I know of the hard work and assistance of countless individuals who have put their lives on the line to help others. As the rest of the country returns to a more normal routine, we must not forget that the events of September 11 will affect these children forever. The Put Our Children First resolution urges our Federal agencies responsible for assistance to these children, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Education and others, to continue their hard work and to provide the necessary services to each affected child without delay. This is the least we can do.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution. Again, I thank the sponsor of this bill, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the Members who have come to the floor for their support and kind words. This has been a long journey for

those who have suffered and for the effort to ensure that as we work together in Federal and local and State agencies that we put our children first. I would like to thank the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY); and the minority leader, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT); the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), to whom I spoke very frequently about this bill and its language; the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), the ranking member, who worked very closely with myself and my staff; the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER), as well, for his leadership and support; the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ); and members of their staff: Kirk Boyle, Siobahn Abell, Dan Turton, Janis Mays, Allison Giles, Bob Winters, Matt Weidinger, John Kelliher, Nick Gwyn and Kevin Kimble. We would not want to leave anyone out who was able to help us move this legislation, for I think it is important for this Congress to stand on the floor of the House and mention and be concerned about our children. I would like to thank my staff, Rajah Manno, for his assistance as well.

I believe that this is an important day. We realize that there has been a great deal of effort to nurture those children who have lost a parent, a guardian or parents. In the shadow of the tragedy that happened on yesterday, the terrible airplane crash, let me offer my deepest sympathies to New York and to Queens, New York, again; but as your mayor said, I know that this too will be one that they will rise to overcome, but I understand the deep pain.

This will be a long journey for those whose children would be impacted by the loss of individuals on that airplane and in that neighborhood. This has been a long journey for those children on September 11 who as well lost their parents. In a ceremony on Veterans' Day, the President of the United States joined in honoring those who lost their lives at the World Trade Center from around the world. In looking at writings that were on the railing of the platform where the ceremony was held on Veterans' Day, there were several writings. One of them simply said, "I love you, Daddy. Love, Lucy."

How many daddies and mommies and others were lost on September 11? The reason we proposed this legislation and now bring it to the floor is because we believe that this will be a long journey and the long journey will last into these children's lives for as long as they live; for September 11, a day of infamy, will be in America's lives and in American history for as long as we survive.

Today, 2 months after the tragedies, estimates of the number of children impacted vary greatly. Unofficial estimates place the number between 10,000 based on various news sources and cited several weeks ago on National

Public Radio by Senator HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON and 15,000 cited in an editorial in the Times on September 26, 2001. We do know that 4,000 children qualify as orphans under the Twin Towers Orphan Fund and some 1,500 children were left by the 700 missing Cantor Fitzgerald employees alone. Dennis Buckley of Lynbrook, a successful broker at Cantor Fitzgerald, left three little girls: Mary Kate, 6; Megan, 4; and Michele, 20 months. Daniel Harlin, 41, a Manhattan firefighter who lived in Kent in Putnam County, left behind his wife and their three children aged 9, 7, and 2. So whatever the official numbers are, as Mayor Giuliani correctly noted, these numbers are simply more than any of us can bear.

As chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I call on this Congress to recognize the uncounted victims of these tragedies, the children, the children who remain, not being able to call out to daddy or mommy and not being able to call out to their guardian, their grandmother or grandfather. This resolution today puts in the forefront the needs that they may have. It likewise applauds those local governments who have already been on the front line. But we want to emphasize that the children over a long period of time when maybe the dust settles and maybe the degree of publicity will no longer be there, they will need foster care assistance, adoption assistance, medical and nutritional and psychological assistance, educational services, such as additional care or services as might be necessary in light of this tragedy.

A story was written in the Washington Post just a couple of weeks ago; and it commented on one of the young victims, if you will, who had lost their parents. It indicated that he had a hard time going to sleep. He was 5 years old. And when he went to sleep, he had nightmares. We want to be able to shore up those services with Federal assistance from Health and Human Services to ensure that the children will be protected. This legislation asks that we expedite these services for these children, and we ask that the services be rendered to them within 60 days of designation of a death certificate.

At a recent Congressional Children's Caucus briefing on October 12, Cindy Freidmutter, executive director of the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute in New York, spoke to this issue. She noted that after September 11, the adoption institute proposed the Permanency Project to minimize further trauma and uncertainty in the lives of children who lost one or both parents. One of the most important aspects is getting children to a caregiver, a relative or somewhere where they can stay for a period of time, where they have a stable family structure, because repeated changes in caregivers for displaced children can cause irreparable harm.

Second, children who lost their parent benefit by having a permanent caregiver who is a family member or a close family friend, and when possible it is beneficial for such children to remain with their siblings. Separation from remaining biological family members can cause those children significant additional trauma. So we ask today that this Congress goes on record in embracing the children who lost their families during that terrible tragedy and also goes on record to ensure that we would have the kind of attention that is necessary to them over a long period of time.

We are very gratified that the leadership of this Congress has seen fit to move this legislation.

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the gentleman has yielded me this time, and I am very honored to be a cosponsor of this resolution along with the gentlewoman from Texas. Together we cochair the Congressional Children's Caucus. We had a series of briefings on this terrible tragedy, because in scenes worse than a horror movie, Americans witnessed the hijacked planes slam into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and fall to the ground in Pittsburgh; and in the blink of an eye thousands of lives were snatched and Americans lost our sense of safety. These acts of terror tested the courage and the strength of Americans, but it helped us to grow stronger and more united.

Today we are pulling together to rebuild our Nation and working toward a heightened sense of security. But as we restore our lives, we must not forget the children who lost a parent or a guardian in the September 11 attacks. For millions who watched the carnage, the harrowing images will be imprinted forever in our memory. But for the children who lost a parent in this catastrophic act of terror, their lives will never be the same again.

Today, as an original cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 228, I am proud to join my colleague, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), who has worked tirelessly to see this bill through. I thank the many cosponsors that are listed on our bill here today. This resolution calls for the immediate benefits to children who lost one or both parents or a guardian in the multiple tragedies. It will call for children of the 9-11 victims to receive foster care, medical assistance and psychological services which they so desperately need.

It has been 2 months since the evil terrorist attack upon America and still many surviving family members, particularly children of the September 11 attack, have yet to receive the benefits they need and they deserve. We recognize that all the money and the services in the world could never replace

the beloved one that they have lost, and we know that they are still in grief. But although money cannot mend their scars, the passage of this resolution can provide the necessary bandages to help heal their deep wounds. Children who lost a parent or a guardian in this national tragedy need psychological and other services right now. That is why we are asking tonight that our colleagues vote for H. Con. Res. 228 to help those victims, to help the surviving family members get the help that they need and get it now.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES).

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Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) again for coming into my congressional district very recently to be of assistance to me and to my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 228, a bill to expedite services and benefits to children who lost parents or a guardian during the September 11 attacks.

In my former life, I served as the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor. One of the things I learned in that capacity was the fact that children who witness violence are often more harmed than the children who are actually within the violent situation. It is so important that our colleagues today act on behalf of those children. They have lost parents, they have lost guardians, and they have witnessed, day after day, month after month, week after week, a repetition of that violence; by seeing it on TV; through the description of the World Trade Center towers; by listening to people talk about terrorism; by being engulfed with all that has gone on in our country. It is our obligation as Members of Congress to step up to the plate and support those young people. Without our support and encouragement, that in fact would not happen.

The fact that in our country we have not given parity to mental health even makes this issue of greater importance. You think about the health care benefits that many of these children might well not have as a result of their parents or guardians being out of work; in fact, it may not give them adequate coverage to be able to receive the type of mental health care that they are entitled to under the circumstances.

I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution, to provide the educational services that are necessary for these young people, to be able to continue their lives and be useful citizens in our country, the assistance for adoption and foster care. We have talked about this over and over again on the floor of the House, the importance of having a strong family around young people to help them grow and to build, to help provide support for them, even through adoption or through foster care.

I am confident that there are many parents and many families out here who would love to take in an additional child, but financial situations may not allow them to do so. For us to be able to encourage these families to take on more children, to be supportive, to provide guidance, I often say to people when we talk to them, my son Mervyn is 18, and I used to tell him all the time there were times when I thought I wanted to be his friend, but he needed a parent more than he needed a friend. These people in fact need parents who will stand up and teach them the right way and help them work through this whole loss that they have had.

So I am pleased to rise with my colleagues in support of this resolution, and would encourage all of my colleagues to vote in favor of it.

I thank the gentlewoman from the State of Texas for her hard work and other Members who have worked on this resolution.

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I urge support of H. Con. Res. 228, as amended, and yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to indicate to this House that although this legislation is being sponsored today, debated today and, I hope, passed, this will be a very long journey for these children. It is important that we set a framework and establish, if you will, a national forum for these children to have the protection that they need.

In closing, I would just like to thank the 40-plus cosponsors, many of them from New York, and thank the cochair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), who worked so very closely with me as we proceeded to bring this legislation to the attention of our colleagues through special orders.

I do want to thank, as well, the co-chairs of the Women's Caucus for supporting this legislation, the distinguished gentlewoman from Ohio and the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD). I thank them very much for their support, as well as the gentlewoman from Illinois who spoke on this legislation.

I also want to pay tribute to the Calderon family, who visited with us just a few weeks ago. They lost their mother, Lizzie. Their 4-year-old daughter and 20-month-old son, even as we tried to listen to their story, the two children were calling for "Mommy." These are the children that we are trying to emphasize as we go forward with this legislation.

Similarly, as I read stories about the tragedy of yesterday's airplane crash, it was noted that one parent left her children with her relatives as she was en route to the Dominican Republic to handle family business. Those children would fall in the category of being able to have services rendered to them with

an eye toward expediting those services.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD letters of support from the National Mental Health Association, the Orphan Foundation of America, Save the Children and the Children's National Medical Center in support of H. Con. Res. 228, as amended.

NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH  
ASSOCIATION,  
Alexandria, VA, September 24, 2001.

Hon. SHEILA JACKSON LEE,  
U.S. House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON LEE: On behalf of the National Mental Health Association, the country's oldest and largest non-profit organization addressing all aspects of mental health and mental illness, I am writing to lend our full support for H. Con. Res. 228, which you introduced in the House of Representatives on September 14, 2001.

We endorse the purpose of this timely resolution, which is to express the desire of Congress to provide immediate relief to the children who suffered the irreplaceable loss of parents or guardians due to the tragedies that befell our nation on September 11, 2001. As this resolution recognizes, it is vital to prioritize the delivery of benefits and services already available under federal law to children who have incurred these great losses in the World Trade Center, Pentagon and Somerset County, Pennsylvania tragedies. Importantly, the resolution recognizes that the delivery of crucial services and benefits is sometimes delayed due to statutory or administrative delay, often leaving those in need waiting for relief. It is essential that the children who suffered such a great loss as a result of this tragedy not suffer again because of delayed access to needed services and benefits.

We will urge all Members of Congress to join you and the resolution's 57 co-sponsors in supporting this legislation, as we believe it is essential that Congress demonstrate its support for our nation's children, who are our most innocent victims of this tragedy.

Thank you for introducing H. Con. Res. 228.  
Sincerely,

MICHAEL M. FAENZA, MSSW  
President and CEO.

—  
ORPHAN FOUNDATION OF AMERICA,  
Reston, VA, September 24, 2001.  
Hon. SHEILA JACKSON LEE,  
U.S. House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON LEE: On behalf of the Orphan Foundation of America (OFA), I am writing to lend our full support of H. Con. Res. 228, which you introduced in the House of Representatives on September 14, 2001.

OFA endorses the purpose of this timely resolution; it is vital to prioritize the delivery of benefits and services already available under federal law to children who have lost parent(s) or guardians as a result of the tragedy that befell our nation on September 11, 2001. The resolution recognizes that the delivery of crucial services and benefits is sometimes delayed due to statutory or administrative delay and it seeks to remedy that for those who need services.

We will urge all Members of Congress to join you and the resolution's 57 cosponsors in supporting this legislation. Thank you for introducing H. Con. Res. 228.

Sincerely,  
EILEEN MCCAFFREY,  
Executive Director.

SAVE THE CHILDREN,  
Washington, DC, September 25, 2001.

Hon. SHEILA JACKSON LEE,  
U.S. House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON LEE: On behalf of Save the Children, I am writing to lend our support for H. Con. Res 228, which you introduced in the House of Representatives on September 14, 2001.

We endorse the purpose of the resolution, which is to express the desire of Congress to provide immediate relief to the children who suffered the irreplaceable loss of parents or guardians due to the September 11, 2001 tragedies. As this resolution recognizes, it is vital to prioritize the delivery of benefits and services already available under federal law to children who have incurred losses in the World Trade Center, Pentagon, and Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

Save the Children applauds your efforts in recognizing the immediate needs of the children who suffered such a great loss as a result of this tragedy. We see this as an essential first step and hope that we can continue to build upon this initiative to meet the long-term needs of children everywhere who have been affected by these tragedies and potential future events.

We look forward to working with you.  
Sincerely,

KATHLEEN CONNOLLY,  
Director, Public Policy  
and Advocacy, U.S.  
Programs.

—  
CHILDREN'S NATIONAL MEDICAL CENTER,  
Washington, DC, September 24, 2001.

Hon. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE,  
U.S. House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON-LEE: On behalf of our organization, I am writing to lend our full support for H. Con. Res. 228, which you introduced in the House of Representatives on September 14, 2001.

We endorse the purpose of this timely resolution, which is to express the desire of Congress to provide immediate relief to the children who suffered the irreplaceable loss of parents or guardians due to the tragedies that befell our nation on September 11, 2001. As this resolution recognizes, it is vital to prioritize the delivery of benefits and services already available under federal law to children who have incurred these great losses in the World Trade Center, Pentagon and Somerset County, Pennsylvania tragedies. Importantly, the resolution recognizes that the delivery of crucial services and benefits is sometimes delayed due to statutory or administrative delay, often leaving those in need waiting for relief. It is essential that the children who suffered such a great loss as a result of this tragedy not suffer again because of delayed access to needed services and benefits.

We will urge all Members of Congress to join you and the resolution's 57 co-sponsors in supporting this legislation, as we believe it is essential that Congress demonstrate its support for our nation's children, who are our most innocent victims of this tragedy.

Thank you for introducing H. Con. Res. 228.  
Sincerely,

PARAMJIT JOSHI, M.D.,  
Professor and Chair,  
Psychiatry and Be-  
havioral Sciences.

—  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS,  
Bethesda, MD, September 28, 2001.

Hon. SHEILA JACKSON LEE,  
U.S. House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON LEE: On behalf of the National Association of School

Psychologists (NASP), I am writing to lend our full support for H. Con. Res. 228, which you introduced in the House of Representatives on September 14, 2001. NASP represents over 22,000 school psychologists who work with families and educators to promote youngsters' healthy development and learning. NASP strongly supports public policies that meet the mental health needs of all Americans and particularly those of children and youth.

We endorse the purpose of this timely resolution, which is to express the desire of Congress to provide immediate relief to the children who suffered the irreplaceable loss of parents or guardians due to the tragedies that befall our nation on September 11, 2001. As this resolution recognizes, it is vital to prioritize the delivery of benefits and services already available under federal law to children who have incurred these great losses in the World Trade Center, Pentagon and Somerset County, Pennsylvania tragedies. Importantly, the resolution recognizes that the delivery of crucial services and benefits is sometimes delayed due to statutory or administrative delay, often leaving those in need waiting for relief. It is essential that the children who suffered such a great loss as a result of this tragedy not suffer again because of delayed access to needed services and benefits.

We will urge all Members of Congress to join you and the resolution's numerous co-sponsors in supporting this legislation, as we believe it is essential that Congress demonstrate its support for our nation's children, who are our most innocent victims of this tragedy.

Thank you for introducing H. Con. Res. 228.  
Sincerely,

LIBBY K. NEALIS,  
Director of Public Policy.

—  
CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE  
OF AMERICA, INC.,  
Washington, DC, September 25, 2001.  
Hon. SHEILA JACKSON LEE,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON LEE: On behalf of the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA), I am writing to lend our support for H. Con. Res. 228, which you introduced in the House of Representatives on September 14, 2001.

We endorse the purpose of this timely resolution, which is to express the desire of Congress to provide immediate relief to the children who suffered the irreplaceable loss of parents or guardians due to the tragedies that befall our nation on September 11th. As this resolution recognizes, it is vital to prioritize the delivery of benefits and services already available under federal law to children who have incurred these great losses in the World Trade Center, Pentagon and Somerset County, Pennsylvania tragedies. Importantly, the resolution recognizes that the delivery of crucial services and benefits is sometimes delayed due to statutory or administrative delay, often leaving those in need waiting for relief. It is essential that the children who suffered such a great loss as a result of this tragedy not suffer again because of delayed access to needed services and benefits.

We will urge all Members of Congress to join you and the resolution's co-sponsors in supporting this legislation. We believe it is essential that Congress demonstrate its support for our nation's children, who are our most innocent victims of this tragedy.

Sincerely,

SHAY BILCHIK,  
Executive Director.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF CHILD &  
ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. SHEILA JACKSON LEE,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON LEE: On behalf of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, I offer our full support for H. Con. Res. 228, which you introduced in the House of Representatives on September 14, 2001.

We endorse the purpose of this timely resolution, which expresses the desire of Congress to provide immediate relief to the children who suffered the irreplaceable loss of parents or guardians due to the tragedies that befall our nation on September 11, 2001. As this resolution recognizes, it is vital to prioritize the delivery of benefits and services already available under federal law to children who have incurred these great losses in the World Trade Center, Pentagon and Somerset County, Pennsylvania tragedies.

The resolution recognizes that the delivery of crucial services and benefits is sometimes delayed due to statutory or administrative delay, often leaving those in need waiting for relief. It is essential that the children who suffered such a great loss as a result of this tragedy not suffer again because of delayed access to needed services and benefits.

We will urge all Members of Congress to join you and the resolution's 57 co-sponsors in supporting this legislation, as we believe it is essential that Congress demonstrate its support for our nation's children, who are our most innocent victims of this tragedy.

Thank you for introducing H. Con. Res. 228.  
Sincerely,

CLARICE J. KESTENBAUM, M.D.,  
President.

Mr. Speaker, I would simply like to thank again my colleagues for their support, and I would ask for their unanimous support of this legislation, recognizing that it is our responsibility to be our brothers' and sisters' keepers, but in particular, the keepers of America's children, our most precious resource.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone responsible for bringing this important resolution to the floor: Majority Leader DICK ARMEY, Minority Leader DICK GEPHARDT, Ways and Means Chairman BILL THOMAS, Ways and Means Ranking Member CHARLIE RANGEL, Congressman WALLY HERGER, Congressman CHARLES GONZALEZ, and Members of their staffs including Kirk Boyle, Dan Turton, Janice Mays, Allison Giles, Bob Winters, Matt Weidinger, John Kelliher, Nick Gwyn, and Kevin Kimble. Your good work on this legislation demonstrates the greatest spirit of bi-partisanship.

The tragedies of September 11, 2001 are fresh in our hearts and minds. The thousands of victims from over 80 countries around the world evidence that these were truly attacks against all humanity.

As the world grieves these deaths, yesterday's disaster of American Airlines Flight 587 increases our grief even still. Flight 587 took the lives of at least 262 people when it crashed into the New York section of Rockaway, Queens just three minutes after taking off from John F. Kennedy International Airport en route to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. While the preliminary investigation is being treated as an accident, this tragedy, like that of September 11, 2001, remind us of the fragility of human life and the need to maintain

our efforts to strengthen our airline security efforts. So as we all pray for those of September 11, 2001, America and the world also pray for the victims and families of American Airlines Flight 587.

We must remember the victims. But perhaps the greatest victims of September 11, 2001 are the yet-to-be counted children who's parents or guardians never came home on September 11, 2001, and never will.

Today, two months after the tragedies, estimates of the numbers of children impacted vary greatly. Unofficial estimates place the number between 10,000, based on various news sources and cited several weeks ago on National Public Radio by Senator HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, and 15,000, cited in an editorial in the Times on Sept. 26, 2001. We do know that 4,000 children qualify as "orphans" under the Twin Towers Orphan Fund, and some 1,500 children were left by the 700 missing Cantor Fitzgerald employees alone. Dennis Buckley of Lynbrook, a successful broker at Cantor Fitzgerald, left three little girls—Mary Kate, 6, Megan, 4, and Michele, 20 months.

Daniel Harlin, 41, a Manhattan firefighter who lived in Kent in Putnam County, left behind his wife and their three children, aged 9, 7, and 2. So whatever the official numbers are, as Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani correctly noted, these numbers are simply "more than any of us can bear."

As chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I call on Congress to recognize the uncounted victims of these tragedies: the children. Their slain parents and guardians were the passengers and crew of Flight 77, Flight 11, Flight 93, and Flight 175. They served our great Nation at the Pentagon, both as civilians and military, and they were the thousands of innocent civilians and rescue workers killed or injured at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

My resolution before us today, H. Con. Res. 228, addresses this great need. It expresses the sense of the Congress that the children who lost one or both parents or a guardian in the September 11, 2001, World Trade Center and Pentagon tragedies (including the aircraft crash in Somerset County, Pennsylvania) should be provided with all necessary assistance, services, and benefits and urging Federal, State, or local agencies responsible for providing such assistance, services, and benefits to move expeditiously in providing such assistance, services and benefits to those children.

This resolution is non-controversial. It expedites the delivery of benefits currently available under federal law to children who have lost their parent(s) or guardian in this horrific tragedy. Those benefits should include: (1) foster care assistance; (2) adoption assistance; (3) medical, nutritional, and psychological care; (4) educational services; and (5) such additional care or services as may be necessary in light of this tragedy.

Additionally, we urge such agencies, to act without delay and to the maximum extent possible, to take such steps as necessary to ensure that such assistance, services and benefits are provided within 60 days of the date of the determination of the death of the child's parent or guardian.

Much of the funds that would be utilized for services in this legislation would come from the Social Security block grant (SSBG). The

SSBG is a flexible source of funds that states may use to support a wide variety of social services activities.

In FY 1999, the largest expenditures for services under the SSBG were for child day care, foster care for children, and prevention and intervention services.

There are no federal eligibility criteria for SSBG participants. Thus, states have total discretion to set their own eligibility criteria (with exception of the welfare reform law's income limit of 200% of poverty for recipients of services funded by TANF allotments that are transferred to SSBG). States also have wide discretion over the use of these funds. Federal law establishes the following broad goals toward which social services must be directed:

Achieving or maintaining economic self-support to prevent, reduce, or eliminate delinquency;

Achieving or maintaining self-sufficiency, including reduction or prevention of dependency;

Preventing or remedying neglect, abuse, or exploitation of children and adults unable to protect their own interests, or preserving, rehabilitating or reuniting families;

Preventing or reducing inappropriate institutional care by providing for community-based care, home-based care, or other forms of less intensive care; and

Securing referral or admission for institutional care when other forms of care are not appropriate, or providing services to individuals in institutions.

Federal law also provides the following examples of social services that may relate to these broad goals:

Child care, protective services for children and adults, services for children and adults in foster care, health support services, and services to meet special needs of children, aged, mentally retarded, blind, emotionally disturbed, physically handicapped, alcoholics and drug addicts.

H. Con. Res. 228 would express to the States that these funds be expeditiously distributed to the proper agencies so that needed services for the children who lost parents or a guardian during the attacks of September 11 may be rendered.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution is greatly needed now.

#### FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION SERVICES

These services are crucial to any child who has lost their parent(s) or guardian. The importance of providing such services expeditiously cannot be underestimated, particularly in light of compounding emotional trauma endured by these children.

At a recent Congressional Children's Caucus briefing held on October 12th, 2001, Cindy Freidmutter, Executive Director of the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute in New York spoke to this issue. She noted that after September 11, the Adoption Institute proposed the Permanency Project to minimize further trauma and uncertainty in the lives of children who lost one or both parents in the attacks.

This project is needed due to the uncertain future faced by children who have lost their parent(s) or guardian. For many of these children, extended family members become decision-makers and permanent caregivers for these children. Some children, however, may not have a relative or friend to assume parental responsibility and eventually enter the public welfare system. Other children find themselves moved around from relative to relative.

Best practices and research in the fields of adoption and child welfare dictate that two considerations should be paramount in offering crisis services to these children and their families/caregivers. First, it is critical to quickly institute and support a stable family structure because repeated changes in caregivers for displaced children can cause irreparable harm. Second, children who have lost their parent benefit by having a permanent caregiver who is a family member or close family friend, and when possible, it is beneficial for such children to remain with their siblings. Separation from remaining biological family members can cause these children significant additional trauma.

This resolution recognizes these needs, and to the greatest extent possible, provides for services that best serve these children.

#### MEDICAL AND NUTRITIONAL SERVICES

Without a parent or guardian to provide regular medical and nutritional services, children face worsening situations still. This resolution helps to ensure that such services are available.

#### PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

According to the National Mental Health Association, children who experience such trauma are at extreme risk of mental disorders, particularly in situations such as this, where ongoing trauma exists due to the loss of parents or a guardian. For example, children who lost a parent in the Bosnian War still experience chronic depression, post traumatic stress disorder, and grief, even years after the Bosnian War ended. These children have been further deprived of a normal grieving process due to difficult and painful thoughts in the way in which their loved one died. As a result, these children needed and continue to need intensive and long-term mental health services.

Importantly, the trauma that the Bosnian War children endured closely parallels that of the children who lost parents or a guardian in the September 11, 2001 tragedies because the circumstances and violence of the loss is analogous.

The combination of witnessing and experiencing traumatic events and multiple environmental and family factors further contributes to various mental health problems. Statistics indicate that only one in five children with a serious emotional disturbance receive mental health specialty services. That's why I introduced H.R. 75, the Give a Kid a Chance Omnibus Mental Health Services Act of 2001 to promote mental health among all children and their families and to provide early intervention services to ameliorate identified mental health problems in children and adolescents. This legislation is greatly needed, but the resolution before us today, H. Con. Res. 228, effectively addresses the issue of mental health in our children in light of these tragedies.

Mental health is indispensable to personal well-being, family and interpersonal relationships, and contribution to community or society. This resolution recognizes the need for such services and helps to make them available.

#### EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Clearly, children displaced from their homes, communities, and families must be stabilized as soon as possible, before further damage is done. One of the most important factors in providing such stability immediately, and in

preventing further de-stabilization is maintaining the level of education that existed prior to the loss of the parent(s) or guardian. This resolution helps provide for such services.

#### OTHER SERVICES

Finally, other services may be deemed appropriate in light of the situation as it progresses. While it is impossible to anticipate and enumerate every conceivable situation calling for the need for such services, this resolution recognizes the need for common sense and discretion in determining what services are needed given the particular situation as it applies to children.

#### UPDATE ON MR. CALDERON AND HIS CHILDREN

Mr. Calderon is 39 years old and moved to New York City from the Dominican Republic 7 years ago. He and his children currently reside in the Washington Heights neighborhood of Manhattan.

At an October 12 briefing sponsored by the Congressional Children's Caucus, Mr. Calderon spoke about his wife Lizzie Martinez-Calderon, who is still missing from the attack at the World Trade Center.

Lizzie was employed with Aon Financial Group, which was located on the 100th floor of Tower 2. They were married in 1996.

The Calderons have two young children, Naomi, 4 years old, and Neftali, 20 months. Mr. Calderon is a school bus driver, but was forced to take a leave of absence in order to care for his children.

As a result of that briefing, which included a panel of experts whose agencies deliver services to families, Mr. Calderon is now able to provide for his children. The American Red Cross, with the personal assistance of Ron Houle, presented Mr. Calderon with 2 months rent, and will be providing food and winter clothes for his children shortly. Mr. Calderon is also expecting financial assistance from the Red Cross to help with living expenses and to help secure a future for his children. Because of this greatly needed assistance, Mr. Calderon is able to return to his job in a few weeks.

#### AFGHAN CHILDREN

While H. Con. Res. 228 specifically speaks on the children who lost parents during the September 11 attacks, there are millions of children in Afghanistan who will lose a father and/or mother as a result of the War Against Terrorism. A generation of Afghan children is at risk. We cannot forget these children and they will be the focus on an upcoming briefing cosponsored by the Children's Caucus.

As Members of Congress, we bear the great burden of providing and protecting these children. This is perhaps our greatest and most sacred responsibility. So today I urge us all to come together as parents, as leaders, and as Americans to provide these children with the services and benefits that they so desperately need and are entitled to.

Let us pass H. Con. Res. 228, the Put Our Children First Resolution of 2001 because children are our first and greatest responsibility. May God bless the Children, and may God bless the United States of America.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 228, as amended.

