

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCING THE REALIZING THE SPIRIT OF IDEA ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Realizing the Spirit of IDEA Act.

For twenty-five years the federal government has made hollow promises to fully fund the Individual with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA). This legislation makes good on that promise; however, it does more than that. By linking funding to better outcomes, it also makes sure that the spirit of IDEA is truly realized for children with disabilities.

IDEA opened the school doors to children with disabilities; yet, more needs to be done in order to make special education work for disabled students. National statistics suggest that there is still a sizable disparity in the outcomes of disabled students when compared to students without disabilities.

When compared to students without disabilities, between 19 and 42 percent fewer disabled students are able to pass state proficiency examinations;

The drop out rate for disabled students is double that of students without disabilities;

Only 55 percent of disabled students receive a regular high school diploma (compared to 75 percent of individuals within the general school population);

Disabled individuals are 50% less likely to attend college than are individuals who are not disabled;

Disabled students often avoid the painful experience of school and their attendance suffers; and

The Census Bureau reports that 50% of individuals with disabilities are employed, compared with 84% of non-disabled individuals.

The under-funding of IDEA could help explain why students with disabilities fare so poorly on these critical outcomes. While Congress has doubled federal appropriations for IDEA over the last decade, federal funding for IDEA is less than half of what Congress originally promised.

Unfortunately, recent increases in federal funding have translated into very modest improvement in the overall outcomes of disabled children. This would suggest that we not only need more federal funding for disabled students, but we need to use our resources more wisely.

The Realizing the Spirit of IDEA Act will dramatically increase the financial support for children with disabilities. However, in order to receive increases, school districts must make sure disabled children are not left behind. In return for mandatory increases in funding for IDEA, school districts must help disabled students:

- Increase their attendance;
- Increase academic proficiency;
- Lower the incidence of drop out;
- Increase graduation rate; and

Improve rates of post-secondary employment and education.

The bill will also provide mandatory increases in funding for research and development as well as for programs that help disabled infants, preschoolers and their families.

Linking mandatory funding to accountability will profoundly change the way IDEA works by doing just that—making it work. The Realizing the Spirit of IDEA Act is needed to move away from the status quo. Our children, regardless of their ability or disability, deserve more than a second-class education. We should accept nothing less than the best tools we have to help them succeed. Please join me in supporting the Realizing the Spirit of IDEA Act. It is about time we give meaning to the phrase, Leave No Child Behind.

IN HONOR OF CLAUDETTE MOODY, WHO LEAVES AFTER 17 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE WITH THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Claudette A. Moody, a Glendale, California resident who will be leaving as Director of Government Relations at the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority at the end of June 2002 after an exemplary 17-year career.

Moody joined the former Los Angeles County Transportation Commission (LACTC) in 1985 as the first full-time employee devoted to outreach with the Federal government, and she later assumed responsibility for State issues as well. She provided key support for the former Southern California Rapid Transit District (RTD) in securing the initial funding for the Metro Rail subway, including working on the joint appropriations document with the LACTC, RTD, Southern California Association of Governments, and the Greater Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

Claudette has furthered the transportation interests of Los Angeles County by writing and advocating positions on countless pieces of reform legislation aimed at improving transportation throughout Los Angeles County, and was the key staff member to work on Assembly Bill 152, creating the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), including conceiving and writing provisions that won the support of smaller cities. In addition to recommending MTA Board positions on thousands of bills, Claudette served as the key staff person in efforts leading to the successful passage of Proposition C, Propositions 111 and 108, and Proposition 42 relating to transportation. Indeed, Claudette has served as a crucial member of a team that has brought billions of dollars to Los Angeles County for transportation purposes.

Claudette was the co-founder and first Chairperson of the African-American Employees Association, and initiated the agency's activities for Juneteenth Day and Black History Month. She also was co-founder and first Chairperson of the MTA Employee Association, was instrumental in developing the child-care center for the MTA and sat on the initial contract review task force. Claudette was a key staff member to liaison with Governor Gray Davis' office in developing projects to be funded through the Governor's Transportation Congestion Relief Program.

Claudette has served with distinction at the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and I ask all Members of Congress to join me in recognizing her for her years of service to the LACTC, MTA, and to the citizens, residents, and users of transportation services in Los Angeles County, and further wish her success and the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH—AMELITH ON THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to sing high praise for Saint John Lutheran Church-Amelith in my hometown of Bay City, Michigan, as the congregation prepares to celebrate the church's 150th anniversary. The church has been a spiritual beacon for Frankenlust Township and the surrounding community since its inception and its long and noteworthy history deserve tribute.

Since the middle of the 19th Century, the church has graced the community with its presence and brought family and friends into the light of Christian love and charity. Church members today share a bond and their faith with the small band of German Lutheran families from Gunzenhausen in Franken who came to Bay County in 1852 at the encouragement of a German businessman and man of faith named Friedrich Koch. When these settlers arrived, they used a large log cabin as a church on Sunday and a school during the week. Shortly thereafter, Saint John-Amelith and Saint Paul-Frankelust three miles to the north were two of the earliest congregations to form the new Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in 1853.

In the beginning, just a few families formed the foundation of the church. These families had such surnames as Link, Stengel, Burk, Daeschlein, Eichinger, Heumann, Lutz, Rueger, Schmidt, Schnell and Stephan. After years of struggle, these settlers built a beautiful house of worship in 1870 to replace their log cabin church. However, by 1912, they also outgrew that church and built the brick church that still serves parishioners needs today. A true temple of God with its exquisite stained-

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

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

glass windows and Gothic architecture, this church harkens back to the fine old churches of Germany where so many of those early settlers must have worshiped.

Churches, however, are much more than buildings. Over the years, the pastors and parishioners of Saint John Amelith have put their hearts and souls into helping us all lead better lives and move a bit closer to God. Clearly, there is no better evidence of the Christian love and neighborly spirit so abundant at Saint John-Amelith than the fact that just 10 pastors have served its needs in 150 years, including the present pastor, Stephen Starke.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to bestow upon Saint John Lutheran Church-Amelith the congratulations of the United States Congress upon the occasion of the church's 150th anniversary. I have faith that it will continue to minister to the spiritual needs of the community for many years to come.

RUTH ANN STROZINSKY
RECOGNITION

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, on May 1, 2002, Ruth Ann Strozinsky of Tomah, Wisconsin, retired after serving the State of Wisconsin for 21 years as a member of the Board on Aging and Long Term Care. During this time, Ruth Ann worked diligently to protect and preserve the rights of the elderly and disabled consumers as she strived to assure that they have the knowledge and support necessary for them to make informed long term care choices. She has upheld the spirit and intent of the Older Americans Act as well as the public policy of the State of Wisconsin. She has been a leader in contributing to the success of the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program and the Medigap Helpline Program as they continue to meet the ever-increasing public need for information and advocacy services.

Ruth Ann has provided leadership and direction to officials at every level of municipal, county and state government on issues of importance to Wisconsin's senior citizens. She is a member of the Monroe County Services for the Elderly, has served as President of the Western Wisconsin Area Agency on Aging, and is a member of the governing board of the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups. She has assisted in the development of legislative and regulatory proposals to identify and improve important public policy issues. In 1995, she was appointed by Governor Tommy Thompson as a Wisconsin delegate to the White House Conference on Senior Citizens and Aging. This was her second appointment to the Conference, the first being in 1981.

In addition to serving the elderly, she is an active member of her church, a life member of the National Education Association, a member of the Monroe County Teachers Association, a charter member of the Tomah Business and Professional Women's Club, and has served many years on the Tomah Housing Authority and Community Block Grant Committee.

Ruth Ann does not tell her age, although it is believed that she is close to 100 years old. She believes it isn't how old you are but what

you accomplish in your life that counts. She has certainly made her life count.

She is a retired high school English teacher who still gives of her time to help students earn their high school diplomas. Ruth Ann has also taught foreign students to improve their communication skills while they are in the United States. She has no children of her own, but has "adopted" many over the years—neighborhood children, her students and children from her church. She has shown a great love and concern for all these children.

Ruth Ann Strozinsky is a remarkable lady who is greatly admired by her colleagues and the people she serves. Her energy and caring efforts have been an inspiration to many. I consider it an honor and a privilege to know her. It is fitting that she receives recognition and praise for her achievements and successes and for the service she has rendered to her community and the State of Wisconsin.

IN REMEMBRANCE: TIFFANY
TAYLOR OF ROSEVILLE, MICHIGAN

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Tiffany Taylor. Fifteen-year-old Tiffany was killed by random gunfire as she rode home with her friends after an evening at a Roseville roller skating rink. I am truly saddened and offer my deepest condolences to Tiffany's family and friends.

It is hard to understand why this senseless act of violence has occurred. Even the strongest faith can be shaken when a young life is cut short. But at a recent gathering of Tiffany's family, friends, classmates and neighbors, it was clear that this community has not lost its faith. They came together to honor Tiffany's memory, and pledged to work together to end violent crime in our community so that nothing like this ever happens again.

All of us have to do our part to end violence in our communities. Parents, teachers, clergy, community leaders, students, police officials and counselors are all part of the solution. We need to support the efforts of community groups like Citizens of Macomb Behind All Teens (COMBAT) to stand up for our youth and work with them to offer positive ways for them to be involved in the community. We need more counselors in our schools so that young people have caring adults to turn to in times of distress or crisis, and prevent violence before it occurs. We need more places for our youth to go to stay out of harm's way, like the community center planned for Mount Clemens, and afterschool programs so that they will not become victims or perpetrators of crime.

Our hearts are heavy with loss. But as we look back and remember Tiffany, we must also remember to look forward—and to work toward a community without violence. I stand with Tiffany's community ready to do what is necessary to protect our children and youth from violence.

IN RECOGNITION OF
CONGRESSWOMAN PATSY MINK

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge my great appreciation for the work done in Congress by my colleague from Hawaii, Congresswoman PATSY MINK. Recently, I came across an article published in Outlook magazine in connection with the American Association of University Women, titled Title IX at 30: Making the Grade? written by Patrice Gaines. The article observes Title IX's 30th anniversary as part of the Education Amendments of 1972. As a co-author of this law, Congresswoman MINK desired equal opportunities for women in comparison to their male counterparts in all education programs receiving taxpayer dollars. While there has been significant progress for women in the past thirty years, there are still many obstacles to overcome. Some of the barriers were addressed in the article, provided below.

TITLE IX AT 30: MAKING THE GRADE?

It was just 37 words, attached without fanfare to an education amendment.

"In the dark of night, we stuck in this language," recalls U.S. Rep. Patsy Mink (D-Hawaii) (pictured above), who authored the law with the late Rep. Edith Green (D-Oregon). "I don't think my colleagues had any idea that language hitched to funding could make such a difference."

The law was Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Its existence illustrates what can happen when women are in positions of power. Of course, Mink and Green needed the support of their male colleagues. At the time, women held just 12 congressional seats. But history was altered because these two women beat the odds to be elected to Congress and then took strong leadership roles.

"I knew of this terrible disparity in education long before [I came to] Congress," says Mink, who had applied to 13 law schools and found that only one would accept women. In 1949 the University of Chicago admitted two female law students in Mink's class of 200.

In the last 30 years, Title IX has dramatically changed many aspects of society, most notably the sports arena. Young women who once could only shoot hoops in their driveways now earn sports scholarships to college and have opportunities—though limited—to become professional athletes. And nearly 50 percent of law school students and lawyers are women.

Yet progress under Title IX remains mixed. While we can watch WNBA games on TV, in some less visible aspects progress is slower or has even come to a screeching halt.

PINK VS. BLUE EDUCATION

"There is a lack of progress in career education—vocational training at the high school and postsecondary levels," says Leslie Annexstein, senior counsel at the National Women's Law Center and vice chair of the National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education, which is publishing a report (available late June 2002 at www.aauw.org) marking the status of Title IX on its 30th anniversary. "We still see female students clustered in traditional occupational tracks that lead to jobs that make a lot less money."

On the high school level, that means females still take cosmetology classes while males fill trade and construction programs.