

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joe Phillip Protenic for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ACT TO
LEAVE NO CHILD BEHIND

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2003

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to submit to my colleagues in the House the Act to Leave No Child Behind. The Act to Leave No Child Behind 2001 was endorsed by more than 1400 groups and organizations around the nation, more than 400 state legislators and mayors, and it has been the focus of numerous community rallies, petition drives and advocacy events in Washington and throughout the country.

Our nation currently faces many great challenges. We are engaged in a war on terrorism—a war we can and must win. We are on the brink of a possible war overseas, in Iraq. If the time comes, we will put aside our differences on the merits and the timing of this war and rally in support of our men and women in the armed forces.

But we cannot afford to neglect our responsibilities at home. We cannot afford to turn our Federal programs into piggy banks that Governors can raid to fill gaping state budget shortfalls. We cannot afford—morally, socially, or economically—to write off the needs of a generation of children.

This bill is intended to remind us of those obligations. We have obligations to ensure that our children have access to quality health care; obligations to provide our children with an education that will prepare for their role in our workforce and our society; obligations to make sure our child have a safe, affordable, and stable place to live.

Together with many of my colleagues in the House and my friend CHRISTOPHER DODD in the Senate, we are introducing this bill today because we can no longer afford to abandon the children and families in this country who struggle daily with poverty, hunger, inadequate health care and education, poor housing and crime.

This bill calls upon the federal government to lead the way with vision and commitment toward a future where all children have quality health care, educational opportunity, family stability and safe communities. No child in this country should grow up poor, or hungry, or sick, or scared.

Now is the time. America must make a choice when it comes to the future of our children. We must decide whether we will invest in the healthy development of all our children or in tax cuts for the wealthiest citizens in this country. We cannot do both. This bill represents a vision and a commitment toward a future where all children have a chance to succeed so that we may use our resources in a constructive way to truly leave no child behind.

This legislation provides every child and their parents with health insurance, lifts every child from poverty through tax credits, work

supports, and a new minimum wage, and ends child hunger through the expansion of food programs. This bill makes sure every child is ready for school by fully funding quality early learning programs, and offers significant reforms for our system of public education that increases accountability, reduces classroom size, and guarantees that all children will be taught by qualified teachers in modern and safe classrooms. This legislation also builds affordable housing and safe communities through sensible environmental protections, gun safety laws, and programs to reduce children's exposure to neglect, abuse, and violence.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members of the House to join me and co-sponsor the Act to Leave No Child Behind.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2003

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, on February 25, 2003, I was in my Congressional District in Rhode Island and consequently I missed two votes.

Had I been here I would have voted:

Yes on H. Res. 46

Yes on H. Con. Res. 40

At this time I would ask for unanimous consent that my positions be entered into the record following those votes or in the appropriate portion of the record.

IN HONOR OF ANNIE LEE
PINCHBACK

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, today, we will commemorate the 140th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation with the passage of H. Con. Res. 36. In recognition of today's action, Mr. Speaker, I also want to honor the memory of Annie Lee Pinchback, a matriarch of one of America's historic Black families.

Annie Lee Pinchback was born to the late James Lucius and Elizabeth Booker on November 7, 1911. Known as Mama to all, Annie Lee was educated in the Danville Virginia School System, graduating from West Mollen High School in Danville, Virginia. At an early age, she married the late Mr. William T. Pinchback, a direct descendant of the nation's first African-American Governor, P.B.S. Pinchback. Five children were born out of their union: Mrs. Elizabeth Crosland, Mrs. Gloria Tucker, Mr. James Lucius Pinchback, Mrs. Canzada Allaway and Mr. Harry T. Pinchback. She and her husband relocated to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to live with her aunt. In later years, she moved to Brooklyn, New York.

For forty years, Annie Lee worked as a seamstress at Admiral Embroidery in the New York City Garment Center. In 1936, she made Mount Lebanon Baptist Church on the Hill on Howard Avenue and Herkimer Street, her church home. Annie Lee served there as an usher; was a member of the Helping Hand

Club; and served as Treasurer of the All-State Club. She also sang in the R.A. Laws Ensemble Choir and the Sanctuary Choir until her health failed her. In 1962, she met the late Worthy Matron, Sister Fannie Johnson and joined the Order of Eastern Star, Maria Chapter #18 O.E.S. of Brooklyn, New York.

While Annie Lee departed this life on November 26, 2002, her memory will live on through her brother and sister as well as her five children, her eighteen grandchildren, forty-six great-grandchildren, and thirteen great-great-grandchildren. I would urge my colleagues to take note of the great life and work of the great woman, Annie Lee Pinchback who is more than worthy of the recognition that we will bestow her today.

RECOGNITION OF CODY EDWARD
ROTH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Cody Edward Roth, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Cody has been very active with his troop, participating in summer camp at H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation and earning the Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. During the years he has been involved in scouting, he has held numerous leadership positions, including that of quartermaster. Cody also has been honored for his numerous Scouting achievements by becoming a brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow and receiving the Coup of the Long Trail Award.

For his Eagle Scout Project, Cody designed and built a series of steps on a trail at the Parkville Nature Sanctuary. What would have been a muddy, slippery area after rain is now easily accessible.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Cody Edward Roth for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

SUPPORT FOR IMPACT AID

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2003

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, as we prepare to go to war, I want to reiterate the importance of supporting our military families through the Impact Aid program. This program is vital to the education of millions of children across the nation.

Impact Aid was created in 1950 when Congress recognized the obligation of the Federal Government to assist school districts and communities that experience a loss in their local property tax base due to the presence of the Federal government. Between 1950 and 1969, the Impact Aid Program was fully funded by Congress. Since that time the funding

level has not kept pace with the amount required to cover the Federal Government's tax obligation. In Fiscal Year 2001, the program will pay approximately 46 percent of the total amount required to cover the cost of the two formula driven sections of the Impact Aid Program—Section 8002 (Federal Property) and 8003 (Federally Connected Children).

The result of this shortfall is that the education of our military children and other federally dependant students is suffering. Over 90 percent of funding for education comes from local funds such as property taxes. But what happens if that property is owned by the federal government and is off the tax rolls? Kids report to class with no property tax dollars needed for their school.

In the average \$10 million American school district, \$9.3 million are raised from state and local taxes. This system works well when the children attending the local school live on property subject to local tax.

This system does not work well when the federal government houses many children on land not subject to tax—such as a military base or Indian reservation. In these schools, the children report to class without financial backing—too many of these kids and the school district can go bankrupt.

Impact Aid is critically important because it benefits all children within a school district, not only the children who reside on military bases, Indian lands or Federal Low Rent housing projects. In the United States, 1,397 school districts receive Impact Aid funding. Enrollment in these schools total 13.08 million students of which 1.19 million are federally impacted. This is a compelling detail, because without Impact Aid all children in these federally impacted school districts suffer.

In my district, 36 percent of all students attending North Chicago's School District 187 are Impact Aid children. School District 187 spends an average of \$6,500 per pupil on education, and herein lies the problem. The North Chicago school district receives only \$3,250 per pupil from the federal government for their Impact Aid children. With over 1,400 Impact Aid students, District 187 finds itself over \$4.5 million short in funding levels. This short fall creates a huge strain on the school district overall, decreasing the quality of education for every child in District 187.

While school administrators and teachers across the country appreciate Impact Aid payments, they are usually late and fail to cover the cost of all children attending school. For example, Highland Park's North Shore School District 112 spends approximately \$11,000 a year to educate a student. The Impact Aid program provides just \$500 per child. Local taxpayers living on civilian property must then pay the extra \$10,500 per year to educate that child. At this rate, many Impact Aid children entering a school can bankrupt an entire school district.

This nearly happened in North Chicago's School District 187. This community is home to Great Lakes Naval Training Center where 50,000 naval recruits are trained annually. Hundreds of children from military housing came into the local school district each year. Several years ago, District 187 nearly went bankrupt under the weight of children coming to school from property that cannot be taxed. Impact Aid payments had been late and inadequate. Thanks to the work of my predecessor, Congressman John Porter, this school

system was saved through additional appropriations.

The quickest way to take a soldier or sailor's mind off their mission, is to have them worrying about their children's education. Kids from military families come from some of the hardest working, most patriotic families, but the schools they attend sometimes face bankruptcy. This is because of the way we fund our nation's schools. Impact Aid honors our commitment to military families, and especially Native American Indians. It guarantees that those families who serve to protect our freedom are in turn protected by the federal government.

Our constitution commands that the first job of the federal government is to "provide for the common defense." As we improve the pay and benefits of men and women in uniform, we must also support their kids and the local schools they attend. This may take many years to accomplish but the time is now to support schools that educate the children whose parents wear our nation's uniform.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2003

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote on rollcalls No. 33 and No. 34. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on both. I ask unanimous consent that this appear in the appropriate place in the RECORD.

RECOGNITION OF BRANDON MICHAEL KIMBLE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brandon Michael Kimble, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brandon has been very active with his troop, earning the ranks of Tiger Cub, Bobcat, Wolf, Bear and Webelos. Over the ten years he has been involved in scouting, he has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, and Troop Guide. Brandon also has been honored for his numerous scouting achievements by becoming a brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow and receiving the God and Me Award, the God and Family Award, the Arrow of Light, and Brave in the tribe of Mic-O-Say. Additionally, Brandon has earned 38 merit badges, qualifying him for the Eagle Award, the Bronze Eagle Palm, the Gold Eagle Palm, and the Silver Eagle Palm.

For his Eagle Scout project, Brandon helped the city of Parkville, Missouri, comply with the requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act. His project involved spray-painting "drains to streams, don't pollute" on every storm sewer drain in the National and the Bluffs subdivi-

sions in Parkville. It is his hope that this will discourage illegal dumping of chemicals into the storm sewers, thereby lessening the risk of pollution in the receiving streams.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brandon Michael Kimble for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES ENCOURAGED TO PURCHASE PRODUCTS MADE BY BLIND AND SEVERELY DISABLED INDIVIDUALS

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2003

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for the record: For the past 64 years the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program has empowered Americans who are blind or severely disabled by providing them with a diverse set of employment opportunities. Today 38,000 disabled Americans are realizing their potential by working in their local communities across the country under this program. These Americans are proud to provide federal and military customers with a wide array of SKILCRAFT and other JWOD products and services. The JWOD Program prides itself on delivering high quality products and services at a competitive price in the most convenient way possible.

Some of the product categories offered by the JWOD program include office supplies, military specific, safety, maintenance, repair, medical-surgical, janitorial-sanitation, and customization. The services that are provided to the federal and military customer include but aren't limited to call center and switchboard operation, military base and federal office building supply centers, CD-Rom duplication-replication, data entry, document imaging and grounds care.

I rise today in support of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program and the opportunities it provides for an underemployed population of hard working Americans. Furthermore, I urge my colleagues to purchase SKILCRAFT and JWOD products from the House-Senate Office Supply stores not only because of their quality and value, but also because of the socioeconomic benefits that can come from supporting the program. By purchasing these products and using these services we are enabling more disabled Americans to have the opportunity to become taxpayers. Today in Greensboro North Carolina, 68 blind Americans are employed under the JWOD Program and are producing items or services for us, the federal customer.

The JWOD Program is administered by the Presidentially-appointed Committee For Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, with much assistance from National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and NISH, which serves people with a wide range of disabilities. More than 650 local nonprofit agencies associated with NIB and NISH employ people who are blind or disabled to produce the quality products and offer the services authorized for sale to the federal government under the JWOD Program.

The JWOD Program is a great illustration of a successful partnership that has the ability to