

Let me also note that it would not be appropriate to honor President Reagan without honoring the person that has heroically stood by his side with complete dedication and unwavering commitment. Nancy Reagan's commitment to her husband, parallels President Reagan's commitment to this Nation. Her daily struggle to confront a disease that has taken away the true voice and spirit we continue to rally around is nothing short of heroic and should inspire this entire Nation.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring President Reagan on his 92 birthday by supporting H.J. Res. 19.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WHITFIELD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 19.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 395, DO- NOT-CALL IMPLEMENTATION ACT

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House H.R. 395; that the bill be considered as read for amendment; that the bill be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce; and that the previous question be considered as ordered on the bill to final passage, without intervening motion.

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

There was no objection.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2002 NCAA DIVISION I NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 41) congratulating the University of Portland women's soccer team for winning the 2002 NCAA Division I national championship.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 41

Whereas, on December 8, 2002, the University of Portland women's soccer team captured its first ever undisputed collegiate national soccer championship;

Whereas the 2002 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I title is the first championship in any sport for the University of Portland;

Whereas the University of Portland Pilots' 20-4-1 record in 2002 tied the record for wins in a season in University of Portland women's soccer history;

Whereas head coach Clive Charles, the University of Portland director of women's and men's soccer, has successfully built a nationally recognized collegiate soccer program, leading the University of Portland women's and men's teams to a collective 12 conference championships and 16 NCAA playoff berths, and producing players for the United States National and Olympic teams;

Whereas, on the way to the national championship, the Pilots defeated 7 nationally ranked opponents, which included a 2-1 title game triumph over the reigning champion, Santa Clara University;

Whereas the Pilots, the tournament's number 8 seed, now hold the record as the lowest seeded-team to win the national title in the women's national championship 21-year history;

Whereas sophomore Christine Sinclair set an NCAA tournament record with 21 points on 10 goals and 1 assist;

Whereas each player, coach, trainer, and manager dedicated time and effort to ensuring that the Pilots reached the pinnacle of team achievement; and

Whereas the students, alumni, faculty, and supporters of the University of Portland are to be congratulated for their commitment and pride in the Pilots' women's soccer program: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the University of Portland women's soccer team for winning the 2002 NCAA Division I national championship and recognizes the achievements of all the players, coaches, and support staff who were instrumental in this accomplishment;

(2) requests that the President recognize the accomplishments and achievements of the 2002 University of Portland women's soccer team and invite them to Washington, D.C., for a White House ceremony for national championship teams; and

(3) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make available enrolled copies of this resolution to the University of Portland for appropriate display and to transmit an enrolled copy of the resolution to each coach and member of the 2002 University of Portland women's soccer team.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 41.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of House Resolution 41. This resolution recognizes and honors the talent and accomplishments of the University of Portland women's soccer team.

In December, the Pilots won their first-ever national title in a 2-to-1 win over Santa Clara University at the 2002 NCAA Women's College Cup. The Pilots ended their season with an impressive 20 win, 4 loss, 1 tie record.

The Pilots' victory exemplifies the determination and dedication that is a hallmark of collegiate athletic programs. A national championship is an accomplishment that will characterize the University of Portland's women's soccer team as a viable competitor for years to come.

Congratulations are in order to Head Coach Clive Charles and the entire women's soccer team at the University of Portland. I am happy to join the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) in honoring this extraordinary team in all of its accomplishments, and I wish all involved a very successful future.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 41 congratulating the University of Portland's women's soccer team for winning the NCAA Division 1 championship.

On December 8, the University of Portland captured its first national championship. In fact, this is the University of Portland's first national championship in any sport.

I want to start by extending my congratulations to Head Coach Clive Charles and to all of the athletes on the University's winning squad.

Winning a championship brings national acclaim to a school, and the team's players and fans should treasure this exciting moment.

While it is important that we focus on this victory, it is also critical to recognize how opportunities for women in sports have grown and the impact of title IX.

□ 1615

This win by the University of Portland Women's Soccer Team reminds us of the value and importance of this landmark statute.

Unfortunately, Title IX is once again under attack. The administration's Commission on Opportunity in Athletics recently proposed so-called reforms to Title IX that would undermine this important civil rights statute. The commission's reports would recommend that girls and women be provided less athletic opportunity than boys and men by loosening protections and safeguards that have existed for many years. The commission was formed by Secretary Paige to advance the administration's agenda to weaken the opportunity for women and girls on the athletic field.

With Title IX successes over the 3-plus decades of its existence why would we want to weaken it now? Women now constitute more than 40 percent of

those involved in college athletics, as opposed to 15 percent in 1972.

While we may be confronted with proposals to change Title IX, I would advise the administration not to propose initiatives to weaken this critical law.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to thank the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) and the rest of the Oregon delegation for introducing this resolution, and again to extend my congratulations to the University of Portland's Women's Soccer Team.

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

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy in yielding me time and the kind words both he and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) had.

It is an honor to recognize the outstanding achievement of the NCAA Women's Soccer champions from the University of Portland to share with the rest of the country the excitement in Portland as the Pilots brought home the university's first national championship.

It must be noted that this is not just an achievement of an outstanding group of young women. It is a symbol of the achievement of an outstanding institution in Portland, Oregon. Once a small regional Catholic college, the University of Portland has grown in prestige and esteem, drawing a diverse student body from across the United States and around the world. The U.S. News and World Report last year ranked the university as one of the top five regional universities in the Nation.

The faculty, students and trustees can be justly proud of the accomplishments of the last quarter century under the leadership of Father Paul Waldschmidt, the late Father Tom Oddo, and more recently, President David Tyson.

The leadership of these presidents and trustees has had a tremendous impact on the academic programs and the physical development of the campus. But the University of Portland's Women's Soccer Team symbolizes that level of achievement, commitment and dedication. The Pilots Women's Soccer Team has for over a decade compiled an outstanding record, six times reaching the highest levels in play-off competition. But one must understand that these players are students first.

The University of Portland has one of the highest rates of graduating student athletes among the NCAA Division I colleges and universities across the country.

The soccer program at the University of Portland has produced women athletes who are today household names in the soccer world like Tiffeny Millbrett, Shannon MacMillan, both

Olympians. They are role models for our community, for young women in Portland and around the country.

I have watched my own daughter and her high school teammates be inspired by their example. I have watched these outstanding college athletes share their skill and knowledge of the game with children in the community. Part of this achievement is due to the outstanding coach, Clive Charles who, along with leading the Pilots to victory on the field, recently fought and won a difficult battle against cancer. He is one of only five coaches in NCAA history to win 400 games. All of those, we are pleased to say, are with the University of Portland.

Even by the university's high standards, this particular win was special. This determined team fought from the eighth seed in the tournament to take it all, as has never been done before in college cup history. While one hesitates to single out specific players on this outstanding team, four Pilots were named to the all-tournament team, including Sinclair, Arase, defender Lauren Orlandos, and midfielder Erin Misaki.

I would be remiss not to mention the numerous records that were broken by the team in this effort. Christine Sinclair set an NCAA tournament record with 21 points on 10 goals and one assist, shattering Mia Hamm's 1993 record of 16. Lauren Arase allowed just one goal in the 2002 play-offs, setting an NCAA record for play-off goals, an average of 0.016, allowing just one goal in six games. Her gutsy effort was recognized in a recent New York Times article chronicling her will to push on despite a terrible injury in the championship game, illustrating the continued significance of Title IX.

The Pilot women who brought this title are the pride of an outstanding university. There is no more fitting symbol of the power and purpose of women's athletics than their championship. I am pleased that President Bush will honor the team with a White House ceremony later this month, and I am pleased the House of Representatives is honoring them today with this resolution.

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

Mr. Speaker, I think it is only appropriate, particularly in light of the remarks of the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), for us to acknowledge at this time that after the tragic passing of our colleague Patsy Mink, Title IX was named after Patsy Mink and will forever carry that name.

Secondly, I think it is important to understand that the opportunities provided by Title IX were the underpinning which allowed teams like the Portland Pilots Women's Soccer Team to reach the heights of achievement in NCAA collegiate athletics. All of us in this House are proud of the achievements of women's teams at the collegiate level and are committed to the continuing excellence of women's ath-

letics and men's athletics at the collegiate level, without the exclusion of anyone. And I feel honored to have been one to have known Mrs. Mink, and I am honored today to acknowledge that Title IX has been named after Mrs. Mink.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) has been very supportive of Title IX, and he and I shared our great admiration of Mrs. Mink. I appreciate his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY).

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleagues in congratulating the women of the University of Portland Soccer Team for winning the NCAA Division I National Championship. But let us not forget that we must also congratulate Patsy Mink's Title IX program, because if there were no Title IX, there would not be a soccer championship for women.

Before Title IX, fewer than 30,000 girls participated in intercollegiate athletics. Today, more than 100,000 women compete. In high school, fewer than 7 percent of the young women played varsity sports prior to Title IX. Today, over 40 percent of young women do.

Do these games mean that the work of Title IX is finished when it comes to sports, that it is time for the supporters of the Title IX to take their ball and go home? Absolutely not. Is contrary to the scare tactics being used by opponents of Patsy Mink's Title IX program, those who say that women's sports are eating up all the athletic funding. The facts show that women's sports continue to receive far less funding than men's sports.

In the community of Duquesne, Pennsylvania, girls' sports receive one dime, one thin dime, for every dollar spent on boys' sports.

In my own State of California, where women make up over 56 percent of the full-time students at our 108 State colleges, women's sports receive 35 percent of the athletic budget.

In Georgia, more than 86 percent of the legislative grants for stadiums, lighting and equipment at public schools went to boys' sports programs. That would be 86 percent.

So while Title IX is transforming the playing field for women's sports, and that is because of our late colleague, Patsy Mink, we are not close to being even between men's sports and women's sports. We must be strong and we must continue to support Title IX; otherwise the dream of an NCAA championship will not be alive for girls in their future.

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

Mr. Speaker, would the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) wait for just a minute? I want to make a clarification.

Mr. Speaker, I think I heard that in the State of Georgia 85 percent of the money appropriated by the legislature went to men's athletic facilities.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ISAKSON. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, that is what I believe I said.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, it is unconstitutional and illegal in the State of Georgia for the State to spend any tax money on athletic facilities. Those all have to be done either privately by booster clubs in the secondary schools, and in post-secondary schools by the foundations of the universities. But we cannot in the State of the Georgia spend any public money on athletic facilities. I just wanted to make that clarification.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield, I do not think I said Federal funding. I am sure I said funding in general.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, there was no State funding. That is the point I want to clarify.

I thank the gentlewoman.

Ms. WOOLSEY. That is too bad because investment in girls' sports is an investment in their future.

Mr. ISAKSON. We are investing in their education and urging them to raise the funds to support their athletics, men and women.

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER).

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time. I rise again to congratulate the University of Portland's Women's Soccer Team and to voice my concern about changing the regulations of Title IX.

I come from an "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" school, and Title IX sure ain't broke.

Let me say something about if we just educate women. We are very much concerned about the health of young people in the United States and the sedentary lives that they live. It certainly would make a lot of difference if we give all women the opportunity to develop themselves athletically so they can pass that on to their children. Remember, if we want to have all those boys for the Georgia football games, we sure better have mothers who know how to bring them up right.

Senator Birch Bayh sponsored Title IX in 1972 because women in the United States were not getting an equal chance to participate in athletics and other educational opportunities. And since Title IX was enacted, both women's and men's participation in athletics has increased. But equality of opportunity still does not exist for our girls.

On an average, men participate at higher rates than women and they get 35 percent more scholarship dollars

than women, and their total operating budgets are always double, at least, those of women's sports. And yet the critics of Title IX argue that the male athletes are suffering because of Title IX.

Mr. Speaker, Title IX ain't broke, but I will tell you what is. Some college football teams with rosters exceeding 100 athletes get to stay at four-star resorts before every home game. That is broke. Women do not get to do that. Athletic departments deciding that they would rather eliminate a wrestling program than to trim down the men's multimillion-dollar basketball budget, and then they blame the loss of the wrestling team on the women. That is not only broke, that is lame.

The Commission on Athletic Opportunity mistakenly complaining that Title IX invokes a quota system and then in their recommendations they suggest a real numerical quota. That is broke and it is downright un-American.

I urge my colleagues to support the spirit of Title IX and Patsy Mink that so pervades this House. She fought so valiantly for it and for most of her life really was so concerned that something might happen to it. Keep it as it is and keep it as it has been for the last 30 years so that women and girls today, including the women who have graduated from the University of Portland, who now have a women's professional soccer team to look forward to, will not lose the opportunities that they have earned; and never take that away from them.

Certainly in 1972 we seemed to discover here and in State legislatures that we have women constituents too. It would really behoove us not to forget that.

□ 1630

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ).

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 41, congratulating the University of Portland women's soccer team for winning the 2002 NCAA Division I national championship. In addition to bringing home that trophy to the university, the Pilots fielded the first sophomore to be recognized as the Nation's top collegiate soccer player.

How could we have gotten there? I believe the accomplishment of these women is especially poignant as the Bush administration considers making changes to title IX, the 1972 landmark legislation which bans discrimination against women and schools and which is responsible for unprecedented gains in the participation of women in sports.

In the 30 years since the enactment of title IX, participation of girls in high school varsity teams has gone from one in 27 to one in three. Female participation in varsity collegiate sports has also risen to over 150,000,

and we have already seen the gains that women have made in the Olympics. We have seen our United States athletes win in those Olympic games. Why? Because of title IX.

Overall, as a direct result of title IX, we have made great strides. So why are we trying to stop that? Why are we trying to change title IX? We should not, because the progress that we make on the soccer field extends to other places, well beyond that playing field.

Girls who play sports are 80 percent less likely to have unwanted pregnancies. They are three times more likely to stay in school and 92 percent less likely to use drugs. So now is not the time to change title IX.

High school girls continue to miss out on opportunities. There are 1.1 million less athletic slots in high schools in the Nation for girls as compared to guys. College women receive less money, \$133 million less spent on women's sports than on men's sports at the collegiate level.

Instead of focusing on title IX, we should figure out how we divvy up the profits that come from some of our athletic teams to ensure that everybody gets the opportunity to be on the playing field if they want to be there.

Again, congratulations to the University of Portland's women's soccer team, but remember that it is people like Patsy Mink who went ahead and fought for our rights and laid the groundwork so girls could play. Remember that and help us.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS).

(Mr. ANDREWS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding me the time and my friend from Georgia for helping bring this bill to the floor.

I congratulate the women of the University of Portland on their outstanding achievement of winning the NCAA Division I soccer championship, and their achievement gives us pause to look backward at the world that their mothers lived in and forward to the world in which their daughters will live.

The world in which the mothers of these outstanding champions lived frowned on the idea of young women playing sports. We did not fund it. We did not support it. We discouraged it in ways that not only failed to enrich the lives of little girls but failed to enrich the lives of their brothers and boy counterparts.

When the mothers of these women were in high school and college, athletic opportunities for young women were the exception, not the rule. That changed because title IX was enacted over 3 decades ago, because women of vision like the late Patsy Mink stood here and made sure that it was enacted.

We have not only the opportunity to congratulate the women of the University of Portland; we have the opportunity to protect this opportunity for

their daughters as well. Because here we are again, over 3 decades later, and the basic premises of title IX are being questioned by some in this body and in this country.

Make no mistake about it, Mr. Speaker, the obligation we have to our daughters is to make sure that the principle of title IX, which is equality of opportunity for men and women in sports, carries through into the future so that the daughters of these champions that we honor today will have equal or greater opportunities when compared to those shared by their mothers.

These women are an inspiration to girls and young women across the country. Last week, a 10-year-old soccer player competing in a winter indoor soccer league scored three goals in two games. She is an outstanding young woman. I hope that one day she will stand in the shoes of these outstanding champions from Oregon. Her name is Jacquelyn Andrews. She is my daughter.

So I say to Patsy Mink and I say to the women that we honor today, I thank them for the inspiration they have given the daughters of America. Let us live up to that inspiration and protect the legal principles of title IX.

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

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

I will just take a minute and close, if I can. The original purpose of this resolution is to commend an outstanding university in the Pacific Northwest. It is the women's soccer team that won the NCAA Division I championship, and I encourage all of my colleagues to vote for that, and I support it.

I also realize it is an opportunity to pontificate on title IX, and I am very proud of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) and others who have acknowledged the achievements of this body long before I got here in providing access and opportunity to collegiate athletics to women at a time in which those were deprived.

I think it is unfortunate to take a positive resolution like this, however, and speculate that a review 30 years later of title IX is an attack. In fact, if anything, because of the richness that title IX has brought to intercollegiate athletics, the benefits it has brought to athletics for women, the opportunities, as the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ) says, it was given to Olympic sports to raise America's participation and success in the Olympics is a foundation for it to be perfected and improved for the future, not attacked or demeaned.

So I am not suspect of any commission reviewing any operation that after 30 years has proven to be successful and carried out its intended progress, and I am very happy to have had an opportunity to commend a group of young women who reached the highest achievement in their field in the

United States of America, the Portland Pilots. I commend them, Clive Charles, their coach, my colleagues, and title IX.

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, in this time of war, recession, and national tragedy, it is important for us to emphasize the positive and reflect on the great achievements and moments that we have shared in the past year. I rise today to honor the University of Portland's women's soccer team for its outstanding achievement in the intercollegiate championship.

On December 8, 2002, the University of Portland women's soccer team captured its first collegiate national soccer championship. This achievement is even more special because it is also the first national championship in any sport for the University of Portland. Under the leadership of head coach, Clive Charles, the University of Portland Pilots, the tournament's number 8 seed, defeated seven nationally ranked opponents, including a 2-1 title game triumph over the reigning champion, Santa Clara University. The Pilots now hold the record as the lowest-seeded team to win the women's national championship in its 21 year history.

I applaud Coach Charles for the program he has helped build at the University of Portland. He has successfully built a nationally recognized collegiate soccer program, leading the University of Portland women's and men's teams to a collective 12 conference championships and 16 NCAA playoff berths, and producing players for the United States National and Olympic teams.

But it is the players that I truly want to congratulate today. Cristin Shea, Betsy Barr, Imani Dorsey, Rebekah Patrick, Kristen Moore, Erin Misaki, Kristen Rogers, Wanda Rozwadowska, Emily Patterson, Christine Sinclair, Kelsy Hollenbeck, Lauren Orlando, Jennifer Bosa, Valerie Fletcher, Lindsey Huie, Lauren Arase, Jessica Heller, Colleen Salisbury, and Kim Head have all dedicated numerous hours and much hard work ensuring their team's success. Their efforts paid off! In addition to this title, a number of players walked away with new records. Sophomore Christine Sinclair now holds or ties NCAA playoff records for goals and points in a game (3 goals, 1 assist vs. Richmond), goals in tournament (10), and points in a tournament (21). And Lauren Arase allowed just one goal in the 2002 playoffs, setting an NCAA record for playoff goals against average (0.16), allowing just one goal in six games.

This team is a tribute to Oregon and to Portland. It is also a tribute to the long-term benefits of Title IX, which gives hope to this team and to the young women who are rising through the ranks of sports all across the playing fields of America. I congratulate the players on their stunning victory, and I wish them even more success in the years ahead!

Ms. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in full support of H. Res. 41, to congratulate the University of Portland women's soccer team for winning the 2002 National Championship. Congratulations to the team and their coach for an amazing season.

The University of Portland's Soccer Team is just another wonderful example of the success of Title IX.

When I was growing up in New York, girls weren't given many opportunities to play league sports and were instead encouraged to cheer the guys on or play a smaller version of

their game, but certainly not to participate at the same competitive level as men.

But in 1965 Patsy Mink came to Congress and she changed the education opportunities offered to women. She fought to bring equality to our colleges and universities and for the first time ever, girls were given the opportunity to play sports at the same level as boys.

Mr. Speaker, if there ever was a successful federal program Title IX is it. Today, five times as many women play college sports, and an incredible 10 times as many play high school sports as in 1972 the year Title IX passed.

From basketball to soccer, we have seen women sports programs flourish. I am truly proud of the soccer players in Oregon and I am thrilled to be a supporter of Title IX.

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, today we rise to congratulate the University of Portland women's soccer team and Coach Clive Charles, on their 2002 Division I national title. As a former coach of young women athletes in Oregon, I recognize the commitment to endless practice and debilitating repetition that winning requires.

The University of Portland Pilots women, in addition to making the sacrifices necessary for victory, represent the competitiveness, resolve, and success that collegiate athletics exist to foster. I urge the recognition of their recent feats as evidence of the triumph of the American spirit through sporting achievement, as well as the positive influence of Title IX on American society.

The Pilots' road to the national championship required them to defeat seven squads that held coveted national rankings, proof that their opponents were among the Nation's finest.

Those seven wins serve as a testament to the Pilots' collective commitment to playing hard, even against competition of the highest caliber. Surely there is no greater evocation of the collegiate athletic spirit than the competitiveness exhibited by the University of Portland women in those hard-fought wins against well-respected opponents.

After a solid regular season, the Portland women entered the championship playoff as an eighth-seeded longshot to earn the eighth-seeded longshot to earn the title. Nevertheless, they emerged as the lowest seeded team ever to win the tournament.

The resolve necessary to prove rankings obsolete and critics wrong does not come without effort. In fact, many of us encourage our daughters and sons to participate in athletics with the express hope that they might develop a touch of that trait. With the University of Portland's women's soccer championship, we are reminded that resolve, the persistence in a goal despite exorbitant odds, is at least as important as size, talent, or experience. Undoubtedly, the Portland women have drawn on the strength and perseverance of their coach and leader, Clive Charles, whose battle with illness illustrates the victory over circumstance that we admire in collegiate athletics.

Finally, in developing a national championship program, the University of Portland women's soccer team was animated by the desire to stack the building blocks of victory upon one another, to complete a project born of the architecture of accomplishment. A national title came to the University of Portland not through unprecedented fortuitous circumstance, but from the execution of a plan for success. Concentration on conference titles and tournament

berths provided the women's soccer program a foundation of achievement on which it has placed a structure of greatness. In doing so, the Portland women have made the most important point about collegiate athletics.

These women display the character built by extended effort, the satisfaction reaped by the tireless pursuit of a goal, and the success within reach of all who are given an opportunity.

Let us also take this moment to remember that opportunity seized is dependent upon opportunity granted. Without Title IX, our discussion of women's soccer at the University of Portland might center on its lack of a team, rather than on its team's national championship. When women have the chance to compete in scholarship athletics at the collegiate level, we introduce into society a more competitive, balanced, and healthy universe of graduates.

Title IX has extended the opportunity to compete to thousands who would not have had it otherwise. The University of Portland women attest to the potential of opportunities granted by Title IX.

Again, I ask that we salute the 2002 National Champion University of Portland women's soccer team. May we look to them, now and in the future, as an exemplary symbol of what we hope to gain through our commitment to collegiate and scholastic athletics.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WHITFIELD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 41.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

IMPROVING CALCULATION OF FEDERAL SUBSIDY RATE

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 141) to improve the calculation of the Federal subsidy rate with respect to certain small business loans, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 141

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SUBSIDY RATE FOR SMALL BUSINESS LOANS.

Notwithstanding section 502(5)(F) of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 and section 254(j) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in calculating the Federal cost for guaranteeing loans during fiscal year 2003 under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)), may use the most recently approved subsidy cost model and methodology in conjunction with the program and economic assumptions, and historical data which were included in the fiscal year 2003 budget. After written notification to Congress, the Small Business Administration shall implement the validated, OMB-approved subsidy rate for fiscal year 2003, using

this model and methodology. Such rate shall be deemed to have been effective on October 1, 2002.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 141.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO), the very distinguished Committee on Small Business chairman, my neighbor and friend, brought to me a problem of the government overestimating SBA loan defaults and thereby excessively limiting the total number of small business loans made to small businesses in this country, brought that to my attention.

This was happening because OMB and SBA, the Office of Management and Budget and Small Business Administration, were insisting on using old data predating recent SBA loan reforms. We have been working together with the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO) to resolve this problem ever since.

Over a year ago, language was included in the fiscal year 2002 Treasury appropriations conference report requiring OMB and SBA to report to us on how and when the problem was going to be fixed. That report indicated that the problem would be addressed in the 2003 budget with the development of new economic models, which it was not.

Last year, the SBA subsidy rate problem was not fixed. The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO) and I wrote to OMB Director Daniels requesting that the 2003 calculation be reviewed and that the subsidy rate be resubmitted to reflect a more accurate projection of the anticipated costs. Again, they were not.

Now, with the subsidy rate still not fixed, we offer this legislation as the solution, together with our colleagues in the other body. It will require that a new, better econometric model already developed by SBA and approved by OMB be implemented for the current fiscal year 2003 for calculating the 7(a) subsidy rate. This effectively requires OMB to follow through with their promise on a new model once and for all.

This model should now provide a more accurate estimate of defaults in the past, present, and future loan portfolio performance to better estimate

the true cost to the government of guaranteeing these important loans to our small business community. This is a detriment because the Credit Reform Act of 1990 requires any and all losses from expected borrower defaults to be covered by the government in advance with an up-front appropriation. Therefore, a lower default rate means that the same amount of money goes out a lot further and covers many more loans due to the multiplier effect.

I am sure there are many small business people in our districts that have been contacting us about this. For me, I have a small business friend of mine, Bill Werger from Manchester, Iowa, who helped highlight this issue for me as he continues to struggle to open small businesses and provide economic development to a small town in Iowa.

I believe that if this is done correctly, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO) and I expect that this result will be in the billions of dollars of additional loans being made to the small businesses of this country. This is critical because this program will help many of those small businesses during this economic recovery with cautious lenders still limiting access to capital to very willing borrowers.

The SBA 7(a) program attacks this problem by guaranteeing these borrowers between 50 and 85 percent of the loans, as high as \$2 million, for virtually every business purpose.

Equally important to me as the chairman of the Committee on the Budget, however, this bill will not do this without directing the budgetary scoring of this correction; or in other words, it will require the problem be fixed by correcting the process and not by predetermining the outcome illegitimately. It does this by allowing the use of the most recently approved subsidy cost model and methodology but with the program and economic assumptions and the historical data which we included in the President's original fiscal year 2003 budget submission.

In other words, the Manzullo-Nussle-Snowe bill that we have before us today fixes the small business subsidy rate problem, thereby greatly increasing the number of loans to small businessmen and small businesswomen without compromising the process that OMB calculates the real cost to the Federal Government of providing these subsidies.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, let me thank the very distinguished chairman of the Committee on Small Business. He has been tenacious in bringing this issue to the forefront, not only of my committee, the Committee on the Budget, but also to the attention of the Congress. He is a real champion of small business, and he is somebody that I am honored to have worked with very hard on this process. So I want to commend him on the bill that we have before us.

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

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