

It is a success story. It is the duty of Congress to protect the current and future security of our Nation, and we must start with our children. And we must help the children of our migrant workers that are at risk, our youth and their parents. By supporting Head Start in its present form, we will be doing just that, securing our Nation by securing our children as they start their educational program.

I thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS).

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, you have heard brilliant presentations, comprehensive presentations from the members of the Congressional Black Caucus here this evening who have identified the value of Head Start: the fact that Head Start provides nutrition, the fact that it provides physical examinations, the fact that it prepares young people for education, the fact that it involves parents and gets them involved in helping to determine the educational destiny of their children, the fact that Head Start gets communities involved.

Mr. Speaker, this cannot be taken lightly. Head Start is indeed a successful program that has been in this country now for 38 years. Many children and families have benefited from this program, children from all over America, from communities all over this country. We value Head Start, and we appreciate all of those who had the vision to bring this valuable program to this Nation.

Again, we think that this program should not be tampered with. There is no reason to want to block grant this program. We would like to think that it is just a misunderstanding, that this administration really does not understand the risk that they are creating by tampering with this program and block granting it to the States.

Let me just tell you, Mr. Speaker, in addition to not having the requirements to go along with block grants, the one thing that strikes me as extremely detrimental to this program is the fact that nowhere in this block granting does it require that the parental involvement component remain with Head Start.

Many of us wax eloquently about parent involvement and family values and what it means for parents to be involved with their children and their education, but yet we see an attempt to change a program that has a strong component of parental involvement, an attempt to dismantle a program that has worked.

Mr. Speaker, Head Start will be reauthorized this year. It will not have all of the money that it needs. It will only have a small increase. There will still be children waiting to get into Head Start. But one way or the other, I know that this program is going to be reauthorized. I hope that it is done in the traditional, bipartisan fashion in which our children are not left behind.

However, H.R. 2210 suggests that we are off to a very bad start. It would be a tragedy if the Republican leadership chooses to try and force this bad bill through for partisan political purposes. We can and must do better than H.R. 2210. I urge the Republican leadership to heed the will of the American people and produce a bipartisan bill that both sides of the aisle can support. Millions of lives depend on Head Start, and we cannot afford to let them down.

This Congress has been criticized, Members on the opposite side of the aisle, who somehow cut out the poorest and most vulnerable families from the tax bill. We cannot afford to continue to have the kind of criticism and distrust that is mounting of this Congress over what appears to be an assault on families and children.

We have the issue of the child tax credit before us. It is shameful what has been done. I do not think that all of the Republicans on the other side of the aisle support what has been done. I do not think that they believe in what some of the leadership is saying about poor people not deserving to have this tax break.

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I believe that there are those on the other side of the aisle that will join with us on this side of the aisle and put an end to this attempt to undermine our Head Start program.

Mr. Speaker, I am so blessed, and I feel so blessed, to be able to be here tonight to speak on behalf of the children and to stand up for Head Start. I feel so blessed to have been a part of Head Start and to have learned what it means to invest in our children. I feel so blessed to have learned that we can indeed make our children successful in their education experience.

Many of those children who are being left behind are being left behind because they do not have the value of an early childhood education. I am delighted to have been a part of this evening.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have come to the floor this evening to express my concern about the lack of funding by this administration's to our nation's education programs and I wanted to share with my colleagues how this budget matches up with the priorities of the people I represent.

On yesterday, in a beautiful ceremony in the Rose Garden, President Bush hosted an event marking the progress, significant progress toward making sure every child in public schools gets a quality education.

Now, I am sure that made a great story on last evening's news, but Head Start is more than just news for the nearly 20 million families who have benefited from the program. It is real life. Head Start provides the most comprehensive program for children of low income, working families. In a recent study by the Family and Child Experiences Survey, the findings concluded that children are ready to learn. Another study concluded that Head Start narrowed the gap between disadvantaged children and their peers in vocabulary and writing skills during the program year.

I am here today because of this Administration's plans to dismantle this vital program by turning it over to struggling states. It baffles me why such a move would be necessary. Currently, the program provides federal grants directly to community organizations, allowing for local flexibility and strong federal oversight of Head Start's quality. If Head Start is turned over to states' during this time of economic uncertainty, it is very likely they will use Head Start funding to fill gaps in their own programs.

Mr. Speaker, the Head Start program not only involves the child but also recognizes the importance of the family. Head Start has included parents in both the child's education and their membership in the Head Start Policy Council. I have received numerous letters from teachers, parents, and other employees of the Sunnyview and Greater Head Start locations in my district of Dallas, Texas. Each one pleading for additional funding and urging the program to be kept in its current structure. One parent writes, "they teach them how to write, count, their ABC's, to draw, to be responsible Many families feel comfortable with this program because they can come in and volunteer in the classes and see what the children are learning."

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would hope my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would consider listening to the countless voices of children that Head Start prepares for the foundation of their critical learning years. How can we deny them a chance at a decent future? I submit to you, that we cannot. It is our duty as federal lawmakers, that every child is prepared with a quality education so they can be productive citizens of this nation.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1115, CLASS ACTION FAIRNESS ACT OF 2003

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-148) on the resolution (H. Res. 269) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1115) to amend the procedures that apply to consideration of interstate class actions to assure fairer outcomes for class members and defendants, to outlaw certain practices that provide inadequate settlements for class members, to assure that attorneys do not receive a disproportionate amount of settlements at the expense of class members, to provide for clearer and simpler information in class action settlement notices, to assure prompt consideration of interstate class actions, to amend title 28, United States Code, to allow the application of the principles of Federal diversity jurisdiction to interstate class actions, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION RELATING TO CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 1308, TAX RELIEF, SIMPLIFICATION, AND EQUITY ACT OF 2003

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-149) on the

resolution (H. Res. 270) relating to consideration of the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 1308) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to end certain abusive tax practices, to provide tax relief and simplification, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. EMANUEL (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today until 3:15 p.m. on account of official business in the district.

Mrs. BIGGERT (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today until 3:00 p.m. on account of traveling to Chicago, Illinois, with the President.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

The following Members (at the request of Mr. ENGEL) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LIPINSKI, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CONYERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GREEN of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CROWLEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STRICKLAND, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LAMPSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SANDLIN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CAPPS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

The following Members (at the request of Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, June 18.

Mr. HOBSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, June 12.

Mr. GUTKNECHT, for 5 minutes, June 17 and 18.

(The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. KINGSTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ENGEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BURGESS, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland and to include extraneous material, notwithstanding the fact that it exceeds two pages of the RECORD and is estimated by the Public Printer to cost \$1,170.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, June 12, 2003, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2622. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report on the retirement of Lieutenant General Leslie F. Kenne, United States Air Force, and her advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2623. A letter from the Secretary of the Navy, Department of Defense, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Navy's proposed transfers, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 7306; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2624. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Food Additive Permitted in Feed and Drinking Water of Animals; Feed-Grade Biuret [Docket No. 02F-0327] received June 9, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2625. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Emergency Reconstruction of Interstate Natural Gas Facilities Under the Natural Gas Act [Docket Nos. RM03-4-000 and AD02-14-000; Order No. 633] received June 3, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2626. A letter from the Acting Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification regarding an explosion in the Vinnell Housing Compound in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; to the Committee on International Relations.

2627. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the texts of the Protocol of 2002 to the Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981, Recommendation No. 193 Concerning the promotion of Cooperatives and Recommendation No. 194 Concerning the List of Occupational Diseases and the Recording and Notification of Occupational Accidents and Diseases; to the Committee on International Relations.

2628. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting the semi-annual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period October 1, 2002, through March 31, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

2629. A letter from the Deputy Archivist of the United States, National Archives and

Records Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—NARA Facilities; Phone Numbers (RIN: 3095-AB20) received June 4, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

2630. A letter from the Director, OGE, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting the Office's final rule—Privacy Act Rules (RIN: 3209-AA18) received June 4, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

2631. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Office of Hearings and Appeals, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Special Rules Applicable to Public Land Hearings and Appeals; Grazing Administration—Exclusive of Alaska, Administrative Remedies; Grazing Administration—Effect of Wildfire Management Decisions; Administration of Forest Management Decisions (RIN: 1090-AA83) received June 4, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

2632. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for the Blackburn's Sphinx Moth (RIN: 1018-AH94) received June 9, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

2633. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) (RIN: 1018-AI46) received June 9, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

2634. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Final Designation and Nondesignation of Critical Habitat for 46 Plant Species From the Island of Hawaii, Hawaii (RIN: 1018-AH02) received June 9, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

2635. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals; Eastern North Pacific Southern Resident Killer Whales [Docket No. 020603140-3129-03, I.D. 050102G] (RIN: 0648-AQ00) received June 5, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

2636. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Economic Exclusive Zone Off Alaska; Deep-Water Species Fishery by Vessels Using Trawl Gear in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 021122286-3036-02; I.D. 051403B] received June 5, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

2637. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Commercial Shark Management Measures [Docket No. 021219321-2321-01; I.D. 120901A] (RIN: 0648-AQ39) received June 5, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

2638. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs,