

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to pass S. 1167, the Senate companion to H.R. 2304. This legislation provides a mechanism for the Forest Service and the Army Corps of Engineers to resolve boundary conflicts between the Mark Twain National Forest and adjacent private landowners. The dispute over boundaries stems from recent surveys conducted by contractors to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which have frequently been found to be severely flawed by the State.

The measure sets a process for dealing with the disputed boundaries. A landowner would notify the Secretary of Agriculture of a disputed boundary, prompting a new land survey. If the Secretary determines the boundary conflict is the result of a reliance on a previous land survey, the land in dispute can be returned to the private property owner.

It is important to note that the bill does not require the conveyance of any particular lands. Where a new survey shows that the lands in question were surveyed improperly, the Forest Service can either execute a quit claim to the land, assert Federal ownership if the Federal Government has improved the land, or compensate the landowner for the land.

This is a case where the Federal Government has not exercised adequate due diligence in maintaining their land surveys to the detriment of their neighbors. Rather than redrawing map boundaries from Washington, we are creating a process where these folks can address their claims closer to home. The Committee on Agriculture regards this as an equitable solution to a local problem created by the Federal Government. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. DOOLEY of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1167, which seeks to correct a number of boundary conflicts that have occurred in the vicinity of the Mark Twain National Forest in Barry and Stone Counties, Missouri.

The boundary conflicts at issue resulted from discrepancies between recent land surveys conducted by the U.S. Forest Service and decades-old surveys conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers. As a result of the more recent Forest Service land surveys, private property lines adjoining Federal lands were moved and private property landowners discovered that, due to their reliance on the older Army Corps of Engineers land surveys, they had in-

advertently trespassed on Federal lands.

S. 1167 will remedy these boundary conflicts by authorizing and directing either the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Army to convey title to U.S. Forest Service land on which private landowners can demonstrate that they inadvertently trespassed due to their innocent reliance on a previous inaccurate Federal survey, or relied on a survey based on a previous inaccurate survey.

This legislation largely mirrors H.R. 2304 which passed the House on November 17. While most of the differences between S. 1167 and H.R. 2304 are technical, S. 1167 gives the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Army more flexibility in resolving the boundary conflicts by explicitly allowing the appropriate Secretary to use existing authorities to resolve the conflicts, in addition to the process outlined in the legislation.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation so that these boundary conflicts can be resolved.

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

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the distinguished majority whip.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friends both for supporting this bill and the gentleman from Georgia for yielding to me to talk about it a few minutes.

This is a bill, as the gentleman from California said, that the House has passed at an earlier time. It does seem occasionally that even in a very small, local issue that it takes an act of Congress to resolve a problem that one would think that common sense would be able to resolve, but in this case that is not the case and it takes this bill, Senate bill 1167, to provide a speedy resolution to really a boundary dispute affecting private property owners in my district.

The historic boundary lines neighboring the Mark Twain National Forest and Table Rock Lake in Missouri's Barry County and Stone County were blurred when the U.S. Forest Service decided in the recent past to restore the mid-1800s Corners Program. The only problem with restoring this program is that nobody, including the Corps of Engineers, had paid any attention to it since the mid-1880s and land surveys conducted in the 1970s by and for the Corps of Engineers have found that major discrepancies would be the case if these old markers somehow became the rule of how property would be determined. Instead, property has been based on a 1950s survey when Table Rock Lake was built.

A fight with the Federal Government over a boundary line can really be an uphill battle, as we all know or could imagine. Don Ayers of Shell Knob in my district tells me that the Forest Service showed up on his property and moved his boundary by 30 feet. When

they did that they essentially repossessed his driveway, took part of his garage and an outbuilding on the land that he had every reason to believe he owned and clearly not only had paid taxes on but had made improvements, including those improvements that the Forest Service said now would belong to them once that boundary line was moved. Recognizable and verifiable boundary lines are essential to private property ownership.

This bill, sponsored by my colleague from Missouri, Senator BOND, sets a process for dealing with disputed boundaries in Barry and Stone Counties. As the gentleman from California said, we passed similar legislation in this body last November. This bill allows us to go ahead and get that job done.

The Federal Government already owns one-third of the Nation's land, and inaccuracies in Federal surveys should never force landowners to forfeit their property. I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support S. 1167.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BURNS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1167.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 1167, the Senate bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE ON ESTABLISHING NATIONAL COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER WEEK

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 646) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Community Health Center Week to raise awareness of health services provided by community, migrant, public housing, and homeless health centers.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 646

Whereas community, migrant, public housing, and homeless health centers are non-profit, community owned and operated health providers and are vital to the Nation's communities;

Whereas there are more than 1,000 such health centers serving 15,000,000 people in over 3,500 urban and rural communities in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands;

Whereas such health centers have provided cost-effective, high-quality health care to the Nation's poor and medically underserved (including the working poor, the uninsured, and many high-risk and vulnerable populations), acting as a vital safety net in the Nation's health delivery system, meeting escalating health needs, and reducing health disparities;

Whereas these health centers provide care to individuals in the United States who would otherwise lack access to health care, including 1 of every 8 uninsured individuals, 1 of every 9 Medicaid beneficiaries, 1 of every 7 people of color, and 1 of every 9 rural Americans;

Whereas these health centers and other innovative programs in primary and preventive care reach out to over 621,000 homeless persons and more than 709,000 migrant and seasonal farmworkers;

Whereas these health centers make health care responsive and cost effective by integrating the delivery of primary care with aggressive outreach, patient education, translation, and enabling support services;

Whereas these health centers increase the use of preventive health services such as immunizations, Pap smears, mammograms, and glaucoma screenings;

Whereas in communities served by these health centers infant mortality rates have been reduced between 10 and 40 percent;

Whereas these health centers are built by community initiative;

Whereas Federal grants provide seed money empowering communities to find partners and resources and to recruit doctors and needed health professionals;

Whereas Federal grants on average form 25 percent of such a health center's budget, with the remainder provided by State and local governments, Medicare, Medicaid, private contributions, private insurance, and patient fees;

Whereas these health centers are community oriented and patient focused;

Whereas these health centers tailor their services to fit the special needs and priorities of communities, working together with schools, businesses, churches, community organizations, foundations, and State and local governments;

Whereas these health centers contribute to the health and well-being of their communities by keeping children healthy and in school and helping adults remain productive and on the job;

Whereas these health centers engage citizen participation and provide jobs for over 70,000 community residents; and

Whereas the establishment of a "National Health Center Week" for the week beginning August 8, 2004, would raise awareness of the health services provided by health centers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) there should be established a "National Health Center Week" to raise awareness of the health services provided by community, migrant, public housing, and homeless health centers; and

(2) the President should issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States and interested organizations to observe such a week with appropriate programs and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gen-

tleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

House Resolution 646 supports national community health centers and their invaluable work in numerous American communities. The great Americans that work at these centers serve the unfortunate and, as the resolution states, their service acts as a vital safety net in the Nation's health delivery system. Their work is so very important to the welfare of many, many men, women and children who have a variety of health and wellness needs.

Community health centers and public housing provide food, shelter and care to the Nation's needy.

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And I am so pleased to join the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), my distinguished colleague on the Committee on Government Reform, in support of this legislation. I hope its adoption today raises important awareness of the compassionate contributions to society provided by community, migrant, public housing, and homeless health centers. The concerned men and women who provide these centers' health services deserve our gratitude. I congratulate the gentleman from Illinois for advancing House Resolution 646.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleague from Michigan in consideration of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the proud sponsor of this resolution to establish a National Community Health Center Week. As we continue to discuss health care and as we continue hopefully to move towards enactment of a national health plan which covers everyone without regard to their ability to pay and as we continue to discuss access, affordability, and strategic deployment of services, we can take pride in some of our accomplishments in health care; and one of the most important and effective accomplishments since the enactment of Medicare and Medicaid has been the development of community health centers.

Fortunately, community health centers are available throughout the Na-

tion to help those in need or those who get displaced by job status or other economic conditions. Community health centers have become the safety net within the health care system, caring for one of every eight uninsured individuals, one of every nine Medicaid beneficiaries, one of every seven people of color, and one of every nine rural Americans, as well as reaching out to over 621,000 homeless persons and more than 709,000 migrant and seasonal farm workers.

Community health centers are established in almost every corner of our Nation representing every aspect of any congressional district, whether it be assisting the working poor in the inner city or in the rural farmland, migrant workers, or even those who have insurance but do not have access to any other health facilities.

These health centers provide high-quality, cost-effective health care as they continue to meet escalating health needs and assist in reducing health disparities as they provide high levels of quality care. With the weakened economy and unemployment reaching its highest point in almost a decade, our Nation's health centers are feeling and will continue to feel the brunt of increasing volume of patients, especially the uninsured. So by establishing a week to raise awareness of community health centers, we will also be highlighting each year the great accomplishments these nonprofit community-owned and -operated health providers offer to many communities throughout the Nation.

With recent numbers indicating that the Nation's uninsured population is even higher than once thought, at a startling 60 million, if our Nation will not realize the need for universal health care, we need to at least realize the importance and the need to better fund our community health centers.

So I am pleased to note the significant increase in the fiscal year 2005 budget that our community health centers that are in great need are receiving in order to continue and expand these services as well as construction for new and expanded facilities.

One of the most amazing and important aspects of community health centers is the involvement of the community. Each center tailors their services to best meet the needs and priorities of the communities in which they reside. Citizens in these communities become active participants in their community's health care decision-making. Health centers even provide approximately 70,000 jobs to the residents in communities of these areas.

Mr. Speaker, community health centers are indeed the safety net which is committed to serving all individuals with the mission that everyone deserves quality health care services regardless of where they reside, if they can pay or whether or not they have insurance. They are vital to ensuring that even the poor and disadvantaged in this country have the greatest opportunity to be healthy. These centers

are indeed a hallmark of development of our Nation's health care delivery system.

I am pleased that I can stand and be a part of promoting the awareness that they exist and the accomplishments which they have achieved.

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for House Resolution 646, legislation expressing the sense of the House that a week in August should be set aside to promote public awareness of the many health services provided by community, migrant, public housing, and homeless health centers.

Every day our Nation's health centers provide high quality, affordable primary care and preventive health services to people who might not otherwise have access to health care. Through their cost-effective, community-based approach, health centers serve a very important role in our efforts to ensure that all Americans have access to health care.

I am very pleased with the work of Utah's community-based health centers. In 2002, Utah's Health Centers provided comprehensive health care services for over 93,000 Utahns, and they are working to expand their services to meet the needs of Utah's working poor, homeless, elderly, minority, and rural populations. I have long supported the community health center program and am proud of the efforts of Utah's Community Health Centers to increase access to health care and preventive health services in a community-oriented fashion.

I believe it is very fitting that we recognize the commitment of our Nation's health centers with National Community Health Center Week and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important resolution.

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I certainly urge all Members to support House Resolution 646. I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 646.

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.

HONORING DAVID S. TIDMARSH, 2004 SCRIPPS NATIONAL SPELLING BEE CHAMPION

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 684) honoring David Scott Tidmarsh, the 2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Champion.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 684

Whereas Mr. David Scott Tidmarsh was a student at Edison Intermediate Center located in South Bend, Indiana;

Whereas Mr. Tidmarsh earned his right to compete for the national spelling bee title by

winning the City of South Bend, Indiana spelling bee;

Whereas the 77th Annual Scripps National Spelling Bee was held in Washington, D.C. June 1 through 3, 2004;

Whereas 265 spellers from across the United States, American Samoa, the Bahamas, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Saudi Arabia, and the United States Virgin Islands all competed for the title;

Whereas Mr. Tidmarsh, competitor number 76, competed in the bee and survived 15 rounds of competition; and

Whereas Mr. Tidmarsh's achievement brings an immense sense of pride to Edison Intermediate Center, his hometown of South Bend, and the state of Indiana: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates David Scott Tidmarsh on his mastery of the English language, culminating in his correctly spelling "autochthonous" in Round 15, and becoming the 77th Annual Scripps National Spelling Bee champion;

(2) recognizes the dedication and achievement of Mr. Tidmarsh;

(3) wishes Mr. Tidmarsh much success in achieving his life goals; and

(4) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make available enrolled copies of this resolution to Edison Intermediate Center, located in South Bend, Indiana, for appropriate display and to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to David Scott Tidmarsh and his family.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the House acknowledges the accomplishments and the contributions of many deserving Americans during the course of every year. But today during the consideration of House Resolution 684, we congratulate one of our youngest honorees, and certainly one of the most impressive as well. Thanks to the work of the distinguished gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CHOCOLA), today the House of Representatives salutes the winner of the 77th Annual Scripps National Spelling Bee. This is a 14-year-old boy named David Scott Tidmarsh. He lives in South Bend, Indiana.

David won the South Bend city spelling bee to earn a trip to the Scripps National contest here in Washington, D.C. from June 1 through June 3. And during the championship, David survived 15 nail-biting rounds against a couple of hundred of the most gifted

spellers from across the Nation; and he clinched the championship on the word, and I hope I can even pronounce the word, "autochthonous." I believe it is pronounced. It was very impressive, I would say. For those who are scoring at home, let me spell it for them. That is a-u-t-o-c-h-t-h-o-n-o-u-s.

While it is not surprising, due to his very clear mastery of the English language, it is important to note that David is a straight-A student who loves to read. Reportedly David's favorite books are mysteries and science fiction. And I also understand he enjoys learning about politics; so I would certainly urge both the national political parties to think about recruiting this young fellow very early on. David obviously has a very bright future ahead of him no matter what he decides to do.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the whole House, we wish David Scott Tidmarsh the very best in his continued schooling and in the future. Again, I want to thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CHOCOLA) for recognizing David's incredible accomplishment, of which David should be very proud.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to join with the gentlewoman from Michigan in consideration of this resolution honoring David Scott Tidmarsh, the 2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Champion.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a very special student for possessing a great skill. This year David Scott Tidmarsh survived 15 challenging rounds to win the 77th Annual Scripps National Spelling Bee by spelling a very challenging word. As a matter of fact, I was saying to myself that had not it been for the fact that Mrs. Beadie King taught us to read phonetically, that is, to break words apart and separate them, I probably never would be able to enunciate this word. But it is "autochthonous," and I thank Mrs. Beadie for the phonetic way in which she taught us to read. That helps me.

But the National Spelling Bee is a wonderful competition that celebrates a child's intellect and thirst for learning. Each year, students compete within their schools, then within their region, and then, if successful, at the national competition in Washington, D.C.

David Scott Tidmarsh advanced to the national competition by winning the Edison Intermediate Center competition in South Bend, Indiana, and then by winning the citywide competition.

At the National Spelling Bee, Tidmarsh was pitted against 265 other talented spellers from all over the U.S., as well as American Samoa, the Bahamas, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Saudi Arabia, and the United States Virgin Islands. Using concentration and determination, Mr. Tidmarsh persevered to become national champion.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate David Scott Tidmarsh. His