of my congressional services to this issue of children. Children entering foster care are often in poor health. Compared with children from the same socioeconomic background, they have much higher rates of serious emotional and behavioral problems, chronic physical disabilities, birth defects, developmental delays, and poor school achievement according to Child Welfare Statistical Fact Book.

In my state of Texas we have a Child Population of 5,629,200. There are 17,103 in state care; 6,002, or 30.5 percent, are African American children. African American children, who made up less than 16 percent of all children under age 18, accounted for 38 percent of foster children in 2001, a total of 204,973.

White children, who made up 62 percent of American children, accounted for 37 percent of foster children. Hispanic children, who made up 18 percent of U.S. children, accounted for 17 percent of foster children.

Alcohol and drug abuse are factors in the placement of more than 75 percent of the children who are entering foster care. Children who lose their parents to AIDS are another group in need of foster care. In addition, increasing numbers of children who are HIV infected are in foster care.

An estimated 80,000 healthy children will be orphaned by AIDS in the next few years, with approximately one-third of that number expected to enter the child welfare system. Some conservative estimates are that about 30 percent of the children in care have marked or severe emotional problems.

According to a GAO study, 58 percent of young children in foster care had serious health problems; 62 percent had been subject to prenatal drug exposure, placing them at significant risk for numerous health problems.

Children in foster care are three to six times more likely than children not in care to have emotional, behavioral and developmental problems including conduct disorders, depression, difficulties in school, and impaired social relationships.

The health care children receive while in foster care is often compromised by insufficient funding, poor planning, lack of access, prolonged waits for community-based medical and mental health services, and lack of coordination of services as well as poor communication among health and child welfare professionals.

The Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) worked with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) to develop standards for the health of foster children. However, many child welfare agencies lack specific policies for children's physical and mental health services and state Medicaid systems rarely cover all of the services these children require.

We need a more comprehensive, inclusive health care system to protect our Nation's foster children. To begin with, all children entering foster care should have an initial physical examination before or soon after placement. This examination should focus on identifying acute and chronic conditions requiring expedient treatment, so the condition does not worsen or become unmanageable. It is better for the child, for the foster parent, and for state Medicaid programs to urge an early diagnosis and treatment.

All children in foster care should receive comprehensive mental health and developmental evaluations, either before placement or soon after. Although they live with a family, the child in foster care requires physical, developmental, and mental health status monitoring more frequently than children living in stable homes.

Finally, child welfare agencies and health care providers should develop and implement systems to ensure the efficient transfer of physical and mental health information among professionals who treat children in foster care. The ability to communicate about medical histories and previous problems will make diagnosis and treatment easier and more affordable, and also provide the child with a more complete medical background.

We in Congress can see that more is done to hold social services accountable for maintaining the health and well being of these children. We can work to have more funds efficiently spent on the federal level to help these children. These are our most precious resource of the future, let us come together to work to protect it.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4504. There are currently approximately 540,000 children in foster care in our country. In my home state of Illinois, 5 percent of our children, approximately 28,460 children are in foster care. The number of kids in foster care has doubled from 1987 to 2004. Nearly half of today's population of foster kids are under the age of ten.

I commend the gentleman from Texas, Mr. DELAY for this legislation. The idea of providing an opportunity for children who could not experience family life, to give them the opportunity to have the well-being, the nurturing of a family rather than being institutionalized or as a ward of the State is of tremendous value. I simply want to add my voice in support of it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4504, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: ''A bill to improve protections for children and to hold States accountable for the safe and timely placement of children across State lines, and for other purposes.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SENSE OF CONGRESS RECOGNIZING CONTRIBUTIONS OF SEVEN *COLUMBIA* ASTRONAUTS

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 57) expressing the sense of the Congress in recognition of the contributions of the seven *Columbia* astronauts by supporting establishment of a Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 57

Whereas the crew of the space shuttle Columbia was dedicated to scientific research and stimulating the interest of American children in space flight and science;

Whereas the Columbia crew carried out science projects of American schoolchildren;

Whereas the members of that crew gave their lives trying to benefit the education of American children;

Whereas a fitting tribute to that effort and to the sacrifice of the Columbia crew and their families is needed;

Whereas an appropriate form for such tribute would be to expand educational opportunities in science by the creation of a center and museum to offer children and teachers activities and information derived from American space research;

Whereas the former manufacturing site of the space shuttles (including the Columbia and the Challenger) in the city of Downey, California, is a fitting site for such a tribute;

Whereas residents of Downey are proud of their role in building the space shuttle fleet and in furthering the Nation's space program; and

Whereas city officials have been working with NASA representatives to develop the center in Downey: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) the space science learning center in Downey, California, should be designated as the Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center as a living memorial to the seven Columbia astronauts who died serving their country in the name of science and research; and

(2) the Federal Government, along with public and private organizations and persons, should continue to cooperate in the establishment of such a center.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.J. Res. 57.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, since the beginning of time, a thirst for knowledge has been the greatest of motivations for discovery and exploration. Our passionate pursuit of the unknown has resulted in opening new frontiers and tremendous technological and other opportunities that benefit humankind.

There are no better examples of this spirit than the courageous crew of the Space Shuttle *Columbia*. They made the ultimate sacrifice, we say paid the ultimate sacrifice, so we could exceed our limitations in exploring the heavens. This resolution is a fitting tribute to the *Columbia* crew, who dedicated their lives to scientific research and space exploration.

The fact that on their fateful mission they conducted experiments designed

by school children demonstrates the value that the *Columbia* crew placed on young people. They believed in the participation of young people and the involvement of young people in America's space experience.

H.J. Res. 57 will continue this exalted tradition by inspiring future generations of American children to pursue opportunities in science and engineering and by providing them a facility with a history that is tied directly to the Space Shuttle program.

I visited the Downey facility, which will become, when this resolution passes, this space learning center, as a young reporter in the 1970s. At that time, I remember that I was ushered into this aerospace facility. It was a large building, and I was ushered in there to cover my story, and I was ushered right to the first mock-up of the Space Shuttle. It was in this Downey facility where the space shuttles were put together and designed. Certainly seeing that first mock-up, before there ever was a Space Shuttle, inspired me as a young reporter; and I am certain it will inspire young people as well.

As far as my inspiration, I went on later on after my journalism career to be a speech writer for Ronald Reagan.

□ 1630

It was my honor to work with President Reagan on several of his remarks dealing with the return of the first shuttles that were put into orbit and into space. So that bit of inspiration that the shuttle mock-up had on me paid off with dividends for the President of the United States and for the people of the United States.

I would think that the young people who go through this center will also, with their inspiration, serve our country and the cause of humankind well into the future; and this, of course, is a wonderful gift that we can give them that is tied to this history of the shuttle.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I join my friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER), in support of H.J. Res. 57 which recognizes, through a sense of Congress, the contribution of the seven *Columbia* astronauts by supporting the establishment of a Columbia Memorial Science Learning Center in Downey, California.

The *Columbia* shuttle accident was a great tragedy in American history. These courageous astronauts were dedicated to scientific research and stimulated the interest of American children in space flight and science. The crew members gave their lives in trying to benefit the education of American children.

Accordingly, an appropriate tribute to their memory would be to expand educational opportunities in science by the establishment of a center and museum to provide children and teachers with activities and information derived from American space science and research.

A fitting site for such a memorial is the former manufacturing site of the space shuttles, including the *Columbia* and *Challenger*, in the city of Downey, California. City officials have worked diligently with the NASA officials to develop this center. As a result, it is both appropriate and important for Congress to endorse this effort.

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

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

I would like to pay a special tribute at this time to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) for the hard work that she put in on this effort. She has been working with local government in that area, as well as the rest of us, to try to make sure that this facility would be put to good use for the benefit of our country and for the benefit of young people.

So as we move forward with this legislation, we need to make sure that we thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) for her hard work on the project.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT), an esteemed member of our committee, and a Ph.D. whose guidance and thoughtful reflection have helped many of us on the Committee on Science on very complicated issues.

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, recognizing the contribution and sacrifice of our brave astronauts is certainly reason enough to support this resolution, but there may be a justification which is equally important.

For a number of years now, decreasing numbers of our young people have aspired to careers in science, math, and engineering. This puts us at a competitive disadvantage with the rest of the world. Indeed, many of our companies in this country must solicit overseas for workers in these technical areas because we simply are not turning out enough in this country.

For the short term, this is a threat to our economic superiority. We will not continue to be the world's premier economic power if we do not turn out scientists, mathematicians, and engineers in adequate numbers. For the longer term, it is a threat to our national security. Our military prowess is now the envy of the world. That cannot continue to be so for the future if we do not turn out well-trained scientists, mathematicians, and engineers in large enough numbers.

Hopefully, as young people come to this learning center, they will be inspired once again to pursue careers in science, math, and engineering. This will be good for them. It will certainly be good for our country.

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Houston, Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I cannot thank this bipartisan effort enough for honoring our friends and neighbors from Houston, Texas, who died in the *Columbia* Seven Tragedy; and to also thank the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) for her leadership and her vision on this issue. I look forward to hearing her remarks as she captures for us the importance of what this space science center will represent, a living testimony to the bravery of the seven *Columbia* astronauts who died serving their country in the name of furthering scientific research.

The establishment of this center will provide a venue that will inspire those who may be our future astronauts, scientists, and engineers and will help people of all ages enhance their knowledge of science and to value technology in their daily lives.

We were certainly excited about the successful flight yesterday of SpaceShipOne, the world's first privately funded, manned spacecraft. I know that the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) and myself, who sit on the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, and although I may be championing human space flight in a very loud tone, coming from NASA Johnson in Houston, we are all very excited about the potential of commercial space flight and the opportunities that it will bring about.

This great center, educational learning center, will hopefully train the astronauts of tomorrow and certainly be part of eliminating the fear and encouraging the excitement that space exploration brings about.

Let me say to my colleagues that America is not America without its commitment to space exploration. I am reminded of the leadership John F. Kennedy gave and the sparkle in the eyes of those who were able to hear and listen to his words and watch him speak. I believe President Kennedy said it well in 1962 in my hometown of Houston when declaring his commitment to putting a man on the Moon by the end of the decade. Well, Mr. Speaker, we have had men and women who have made their journey into space since that time.

He said, ''This generation does not intend to founder in the backwash of the coming age of space. We mean to be a part of it. We mean to lead it. For the eyes of the world now to look into space, to the Moon, and to the planets beyond; and we avow that we shall not see it governed by the hostile flag of conquest, but by a banner of freedom and peace. We have vowed that we shall not see space filled with weapons of mass destruction, but with instruments of knowledge and understanding.''

With that, I also say that I believe it is important for the Committee on Science and, particularly, the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics

to take up the challenge that has been given to us by the naming of this great center, to ask the hard questions about safety. A number of my colleagues have written a letter to ask for a full hearing on the questions of safety of human space flight and, as well, to address the question of safety with respect to the International Space Station.

I also would ask my colleagues to help me additionally honor the *Columbia* Seven by joining and supporting the *Columbia* Seven receiving the Congressional Gold Medal with over 320 sponsors of this House, along with sponsors of the United States Senate, the other body, as I am not allowed to mention the other body. Let us honor them, for they were brave, and let us pay tribute to this great resolution, H.J. Res. 57, that the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) has so ably presented before us, and pay tribute to her for her leadership and as well thank her for bringing honor to the *Columbia* Seven.

Let us join again in honoring them by supporting the Congressional Gold Medal for the *Columbia* Seven, because that brings additional tribute to their families, and let us again support the exploration of space by those learning to understand space and those still wishing to go into space.

Mr. Speaker, I am here today to support H.J. Res. 57 designating the space science learning center in Downey, California as the ''Columbia Memorial Space Science Learing Center'' as a living memorial to the seven *Columbia* astronauts who died serving their country in the name of furthering scientific research. The establishment of this center will provide a venue that will inspire those who may be our future astronauts, scientists, and engineers and will help people of all ages enhance their knowledge of science and to value technology in their daily lives.

Yesterday's news about the successful flight of SpaceShipOne the world's first privately funded manned spacecraft—its second flight in less than a week—is proof of the continued excitement for space travel and the science that supports it. Few were able to witness yesterday's flight. This new center will help to bring those experiences to the public.

The naming of this center will help us to remember the sacrifices that the *Columbia* astronauts have made to their country and in the furtherance of science. The seven astronauts whose lives were lost aboard the space shuttle *Columbia* were truly extraordinary people. To the world those astronauts were valiant heroes; to those of us from Houston, they were also friends, neighbors, and family. They were integral members of the community, and they paid the ultimate price to further a mission that benefited all of humanity.

The courageous astronauts aboard the *Columbia* were individuals of the highest caliber, always striving for excellence, and exemplifying the most noble of human traits. They were skilled professionals, scientists, clinicians, adventurers, and family men and women. The crew represented the diversity of our Nation—black and white, men and women, immigrant and native-born. The crew even included a comrade from Israel, the embodiment of the international goals of peace and cooperation.

I believe President Kennedy said it well in 1962 in my hometown of Houston, when declaring his commitment to putting a man on the moon by the end of that decade. He said,

''This generation does not intend to founder in the backwash of the coming age of space. We mean to be a part of it—we mean to lead it. For the eyes of the world now look into space, to the moon and to the planets beyond, and we have vowed that we shall not see it governed by a hostile flag of conquest, but by a banner of freedom and peace. We have vowed that we shall not see space filled with weapons of mass destruction, but with instruments of knowledge and understanding.''

I believe that President Kennedy would have been proud to see the fantastic progress of the program that he so inspired that day. Today, NASA provides insights into the origins, destiny, and wonder of the universe and is a source of dreams for young and old alike.

Beyond the technological benefits of space exploration, NASA's courageous pioneers also inspired the youth of America in a way that only manned space missions can. The majesty and adventure of seeing people traversing the heavens sparks the natural curiosity and imagination of young people. It nudges some toward science and math and pushes all to strive for excellence. Seeing a team, like that on the *Columbia* inspires young engineers, scientists, and all sorts of people who want to be part of something truly great and noble. That inspiration may well be the *Columbia* crew's most enduring impact on humanity. Centers like the ''Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center''—itself located on an historic NASA site—are important in bringing that inspiration to the public.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, as we move forward in this discussion, I believe that the words of the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT) and, of course, the words of the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) should be taken very seriously when we are talking about young people and the molding or melding here of our space program along with the education of America's youth.

This has been a great experience for me in that it may be my last time as chairman of the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics to address this House on an issue. I have been the chairman for 8 years, and let me just note that I have thoroughly enjoyed being the chairman of this subcommittee because by its nature, America's space program brings our people together, and by its nature then, we have had a tremendous bipartisan, positive relationship in our subcommittee and on our committee staff.

One of the projects I have worked on which I have yet to complete in terms of my ultimate goal, but one of the projects I have worked on and on which I have had some tremendous support from both sides of the aisle, is providing young people who want to study math and science and engineering full scholarships that would be set up by the various departments and agencies of our government, NASA in particular, in order to mold the education of young people so that they can fulfill the needs of these various departments for skilled people in the future, while at the same time providing engineering and scientific education for our young people.

These scholarships, by the way, would not be free; they would educate young people, and once the young person is done with the education, having received a full scholarship, for every 1 year of scholarship, they would be expected to work for that department or agency of government for 2 years. It would be a payback, one might say, although the student would then be receiving full pay like any other employee of that department.

Mr. Speaker, I will be working on that project for the next few years, and I would hope for this same spirit of bipartisanship that we hear today, and as we congratulate the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) for her hard work today on behalf of children and the space program, that we would work together to try to implement the scholarship program that I have just outlined. And I will be making it a priority in my next few years in Congress, although I will not be the chairman of the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics anymore.

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

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD), the original sponsor of this important bill.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in support of House Joint Resolution 57, which I introduced last year with my distinguished colleague, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER).

I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) for his support and his assistance in bringing this resolution to the floor. This resolution, I am proud to say, has the unanimous support of the California delegation in the House of Representatives, and I thank all of them for their sponsorship.

Mr. Speaker, House Joint Resolution 57 names the proposed learning center in the city of Downey the Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center. This naming is in honor of the seven brave astronauts who lost their lives on the Space Shuttle *Columbia* on February 1, 2003.

The city of Downey, which I am proud to say is in my 34th Congressional District, was home to the former Rockwell International plant where key components of NASA's space shuttle fleet, including the *Columbia*, were built. The history of America's space program runs deep through the fabric of Downey where virtually everyone in the city boasts of having a relative or a friend who played a key role in engineering or building our Nation's space shuttle fleet.

When NASA closed the shuttle manufacturing facility, it was Downey's great pride in its space heritage that motivated city leaders to incorporate a space science learning center as a cornerstone of its economic redevelopment plan. Former Representative Steve Horn's early support was key to this effort, and his ability to secure Federal resources for the center was instrumental in moving the project forward.

I am pleased to continue his work and to be able to have finalized the transfer of the former NASA site from the State of California to the city of Downey. When completed in 2006, the learning center will memorialize the *Columbia* astronauts, the rich space history of Downey, and all who helped realize our Nation's dream of space exploration.

To effectively teach current and future generations about this proud history, Downey has contracted an historian familiar with aeronautic development and its special context in southern California.

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His or her work will be the principle source for history-oriented exhibits and programs at the center. The Columbia Learning Center, however, is also about the future of space exploration. Downey's leaders recognize that the city's legacy goes beyond astronauts and aeronautical engineers or the shuttles, Apollo modules, and moon capsules that were built in Downey during the last half century.

They know the future lies in our youth. The Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center will therefore design programs and exhibits to excite our youth about the sciences and to inspire them to become our country's future scientists, engineers and astronauts who will explore the universe and make discoveries we can now only imagine.

I cannot think of a more fitting memorial than to name the Downey Space Science Learning Center in honor of the brave men and women of the *Columbia* crew who gave their lives in the pursuits of space science and space exploration.

I am proud to sponsor this legislation with the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) and the entire California delegation, and I urge its adoption.

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

Mr. Speaker, as we conclude this important bill, I would just like to say that I served as the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics with the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) for most of those 8 years.

In my 20 years in Congress, I have not served with a more fair, decent or knowledgeable chairman as the gentleman. And I will also say that, within his discretion, which was most of the time, he could not have been more bipartisan in trying to find solutions to our joint concerns. So I very sincerely say that the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, the Committee on Science, our country is a better place for the gentleman's service to the Committee on Science.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GORDON. I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was just listening to the final remarks of the gentleman when I was standing here. I was not recognizing that we are towards the end of the session and that we are coming to an end of a tenure. I might have been one of those that put in a petition for the extension of the chairman's tenure. But I just want to join my ranking member and congratulate the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) for many of the bipartisan efforts and journeys that we have taken.

We have a mutual love of space exploration. We have teased each other about unmanned and manned in space, and I will change that to womaned and unwomaned. But in any event, I, too, want to add my appreciation. I will continue to work with him as he works with me in supporting not only this great resolution but also the Congressional Gold Medal that honors our *Columbia* seven as well.

I thank the distinguished ranking member for yielding to me, and I thank him for his support on the Congressional Gold Medal work and the legislation before us.

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I would say that all the men and women on our subcommittee on my side of the aisle would echo those remarks.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this is a fitting time for me to sort of step down because we had this tremendous success yesterday on Spaceship One. And one of my major goals as chairman of this committee was to make sure that commercial space remained an option so that in the future that we did not look at space as just an endeavor of the Federal Government, but instead looked at it as possibly offering services through the commercial sector and profit-making ventures as well as space exploration and some of the other types of things in space science that can only be done by the government itself or government working with private industry.

So this great achievement of having a commercially sponsored and designed and paid-for spaceship that went into space and was capable of carrying passengers, this was a great success. And I want to commend everyone who was involved in the spaceship program.

By the way, that was done in response to a prize, the X Prize, which offered a $10 million prize to anyone who could accomplish that mission. And I will be introducing legislation within the next few days to try to systemize the prize concept encouraging space endeavors in developing new technologies.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, let me finish with this one note about space. We were talking a lot today about this particular legislation which is aimed at providing a link between children's learning and our future and the space program and the astronauts and the space shuttle, and these are links that certainly exist. But what we hear most often when we are talking about space is, why is space worth it? Why are we so involved? Why is there a space subcommittee of the Committee on Science? Why are we spending so much time, effort and money? Is it really worth the investment?

What I would like to leave in this debate and on the record is why our investment in space has been so valuable to the people of the United States and, yes, the people of the world.

I remember when I was a young boy, that I crawled into a pit underneath a little house in North Dakota because it had been reported that tornados were expected that night. And we had to spend the entire night listening to some little radio there in a hole in the ground underneath the floor boards of this small farm. And, in fact, today, we have the small farmers and people throughout the country and people in cities that know when tornados are coming and have adequate warnings.

There has been much progress made in this area, especially in the area of tornados and hurricanes.

I sat through a hurricane when I was younger. The people of Florida, one can only wonder how many more billions of dollars would have been lost in damage and lives would have been lost if it would not have been for the satellite technology that permitted us to track the hurricanes that slammed into Florida just recently. We had ample warning to people to prepare. We now have a GPS system that will tell us where we are located on the planet which has tremendous commercial applications but also tremendous applications to make sure that, in the future, our landing systems for our airplanes will be specifically guided to protect the passengers who travel throughout the country.

I remember, before there was space imaging, and as I say, my family came from a farming background where people farmed totally different. Today's space imaging helps us improve the yield and protects the crops that we plant so it helps keep the cost of food down. In each one of these instances, we are talking about billions upon billions of dollars that are saved by the people of the United States and the world by an investment in space.

We are talking about communication satellites. When I was young, I remember calling up my grandparents in North Dakota, and it was a long distance call. We called very rarely,

maybe two or three times a year, because the call was so expensive, and we had to go through so many operators, and it was so disruptive. It was $5 at that time which was a lot of money. We rarely called. But, today, young people can call up their grandparents on cell phones from anywhere, aided of course and made possible by the investment that we made in space-based assets. Those telephone calls now cost a matter of cents. We have increased the communications between generations. People call their loved ones.

Our investment in space has increased the level of love in our society and saved us billions of dollars. And, of course, we have, the biggest issue when I first came to this Congress was what? The biggest issue was, should we regulate the cable industry, cable TV? And, of course, they said, there will never be any competition with cable TV because they have to put in the cables.

Well, I, for one, have Direct TV at my house, and that competition has kept the costs of cable down, and it has just proliferated information and entertainment, made our lives happier throughout the country and saved, again, billions of dollars because of that competition in keeping down the cost of entertainment and information.

Of course, our military assets in space have saved the lives of our soldiers and done a tremendous job of keeping the peace for the world, and that is in our hands.

This is what we have accomplished with our investment. A meager investment in space has given us tens of billions, if not hundreds of billions, of dollars worth of value back to us. And that value can be used in education. That value has been used to make our society better because of what we have achieved from our space program.

We are not at the end of the space program. We have a future to look forward to that is bright. We have a President that has offered us the guidelines for the future and the strategy for the future. We can see a possibility of generating power from space, from solar-based power in the future. We can see another colony, perhaps a colony on the moon, with its natural resources there, or on an asteroid. There are so many things that we can accomplish.

The future depends on our children which is what this amendment today is all about, and it depends on the willingness of this generation to make an investment and to keep that investment in technology and in space-related assets.

It has been my honor to serve as chairman of the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, to work with people from both sides of the aisle who are committed to this type of future for America and the world. May we always lead the world in conquering new frontiers. May we always lead the world into the unknown and make sure that America leads the world into a better tomorrow.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 57, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the joint resolution, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MILITARY PERSONNEL FINANCIAL SERVICES PROTECTION ACT

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5011) to prevent the sale of abusive insurance and investment products to military personnel, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5011

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act''.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Our military personnel perform great sacrifices in protecting our Nation in the War on Terror and promoting democracy abroad.

(2) Our brave men and women in uniform deserve to be offered first-rate financial products in order to provide for their families and to save and invest for retirement.

(3) Our military personnel are being offered high-cost securities and life insurance products by some financial services companies engaging in abusive and misleading sales practices.

(4) One securities product being offered to our service members, the contractual plan, has largely disappeared from the civilian market since the 1980s due to its excessive sales charges and the emergence of low-cost products. A 50-percent sales commission is typically assessed against the first year of contributions made under a contractual plan, even though the average commission on other securities products such as mutual funds is less than 6 percent on each sale.

(5) The excessive sales charge of the contractual plan makes it susceptible to abusive and misleading sales practices.

(6) Certain life insurance products being offered to our service members are being improperly marketed as investment products. These products provide very low death benefits for very high premiums that are front-loaded in the first few years, making them completely inappropriate for most military personnel.

(7) Regulation of these securities and life insurance products and their sale on military bases has been clearly inadequate and requires Congressional legislation to address.

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON FUTURE SALES OF PERIODIC PAYMENT PLANS.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Section 27 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-27) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(j) TERMINATION OF SALES.—

''(1) TERMINATION.—Effective 30 days after the date of enactment of the Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act, it shall be unlawful, subject to subsection (i)—

''(A) for any registered investment company to issue any periodic payment plan certificate; or

''(B) for such company, or any depositor of or underwriter for any such company, or any other person, to sell such a certificate.

''(2) NO INVALIDATION OF EXISTING CERTIFICATES.—Paragraph (1) shall not be construed to alter, invalidate, or otherwise affect any rights or obligations, including rights of redemption, under any periodic payment plan certificate issued and sold before 30 days after such date of enactment.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 27(i)(2)(B) of such Act is amended by striking ''section 26(e)'' each place it appears and inserting ''section 26(f)''.

(c) REPORT ON REFUNDS, SALES PRACTICES, AND REVENUES FROM PERIODIC PAYMENT PLANS.—Within 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Securities and Exchange Commission shall submit to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate, a report describing—

(1) any measures taken by a broker or dealer registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to section 15(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78*o*(b)) to voluntarily refund payments made by military service members on any periodic payment plan certificate, and the amounts of such refunds;

(2) after such consultation with the Secretary of Defense as the Commission considers appropriate, the sales practices of such brokers or dealers on military installations over the past 5 years and any legislative or regulatory recommendations to improve such practices; and

(3) the revenues generated by such brokers or dealers in the sales of periodic payment plan certificates over the past 5 years and what products such brokers or dealers market to replace the revenue generated from the sales of periodic payment plan certificates prohibited under subsection (a) of this section.

SEC. 4. METHOD OF MAINTAINING BROKER/DEALER REGISTRATION, DISCIPLINARY, AND OTHER DATA.

Subsection (i) of section 15A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78o-3(i)) is amended to read as follows:

''(i) OBLIGATION TO MAINTAIN REGISTRATION, DISCIPLINARY AND OTHER DATA.—

''(1) MAINTENANCE OF SYSTEM TO RESPOND TO INQUIRIES.—A registered securities association shall—

''(A) establish and maintain a system for collecting and retaining registration information;

''(B) establish and maintain a toll-free telephone listing, and a readily accessible electronic or other process, to receive and promptly respond to inquiries regarding—

''(i) registration information on its members and their associated persons; and

''(ii) registration information on the members and their associated persons of any registered national securities exchange that uses the system described in subparagraph (A) for the registration of its members and their associated persons; and

''(C) adopt rules governing the process for making inquiries and the type, scope, and presentation of information to be provided in response to such inquiries in consultation with any registered national securities exchange providing information pursuant to subparagraph (B)(ii).

''(2) RECOVERY OF COSTS.—Such an association may charge persons making inquiries, other than individual investors, reasonable fees for responses to such inquiries.