

can not make street life disappear or even reach a level of utopia—but we can ensure that there are services available to help with the daily street life, whether it is trying to find a bed, a warm meal or some safe, genuine companionship.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation and again commend the individuals who have dedicated their lives to helping the lives of young people in need.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 805, a bill that supports efforts to promote greater public awareness of effective runaway youth prevention programs and the need for safe and productive alternatives, resources, and supports for youth in high-risk situations.

Studies suggest that somewhere between 1.6 and 2.8 million youth live on the streets of America, with one in seven youth running away at least once before their eighteenth birthday. 43 percent of runaway youth reports being abused by their caretaker, and over a quarter have been sexually assaulted. They face disproportionately high rates of sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, and teen pregnancy. Tragically, two-thirds of these youth have attempted suicide. To survive on the street, many youth turn to illegal activities such as drugs, theft, prostitution, and pornography.

Runaways are not throwaways. Passing this important bipartisan resolution is an important step towards Congress' full recognition of this problem as a national crisis. Our children are this Nation's greatest resource, and none should be considered expendable. I urge my colleagues to not just support this resolution, but to also continue our strong support of Runaway and Homeless Youth (Basic Center) Grant Program, The Transitional Living Program (TLP), and The Sexual Abuse Prevention (Street Outreach) Program.

I would like to take a moment to recognize the important contributions made by Our Town Family Center in Tucson, Arizona. Volunteers at this facility assist in outreach efforts to runaway youth, missing children, and homeless street youth in case management, advocacy, phone intake, and administrative support, and help the mobile outreach team cruise the streets to make contact with street youth in need of food, clothing, shelter, and medical information.

It is the responsibility of Congress to support these valuable community contributions to America's most troubled youth. This resolution rightfully recognizes the problem that this country faces, and the important role that community action plays in working towards real solutions. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan statement of support.

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

Mr. PORTER. 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 Nevada (Mr. PORTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 805.

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.

SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING STUDENT TRAVEL

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 131) expressing the sense of the Congress that student travel is a vital component of the educational process, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 131

Whereas travel is a vital component of the educational experience for Americans of all ages;

Whereas the area of Washington, D.C., is rich in American history and is visited by students from across the Nation;

Whereas student trips to Washington, D.C., and other historic areas have decreased due to the attacks on the World Trade Center, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania and the fear of additional attacks;

Whereas many students in the United States will not be able to experience landmarks and monuments celebrating the Nation's democracy, political figures, and scientific achievement;

Whereas the absence of student travel to the Nation's historic sites will leave a vital gap in the education of America's youth; and

Whereas America's youth must be cognizant of American history to understand fully the concepts and responsibilities of democracy and citizenship: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that student travel is a vital component of the educational process and should be encouraged so that Americans, young and old, can participate in travel, the perfect freedom.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. PORTER) and the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. PORTER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 131.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 131 offered by the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON). House Concurrent Resolution 131 recognizes the critical role that student travel plays in the educational process.

I support this resolution because I agree we should recognize the unique value that educational travel can provide to our Nation's students. It can be very worthwhile to extend the educational experience outside of the classroom in order to give students the opportunity to gain valuable skills through experience and direct interaction. I also agree that in the wake of September 11, we should encourage students and their families to continue taking advantage of the rich history that exists in Washington, D.C. I firmly believe that students who are given

the chance to travel to Washington, D.C. will have a unique opportunity to deepen their understanding of American history, culture, government and politics.

I commend the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia for her leadership in authoring this resolution to recognize the importance and value of student travel and urge my colleagues to adopt this measure.

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

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

I thank the gentleman for his words of encouragement on H. Con. Res. 131, and I begin by thanking, as well, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, respectively, for working with me to introduce and schedule this resolution in a timely manner.

I rise this evening to speak to an issue that we all care deeply about, the education of the Nation's children not only from the perspective of the classroom, but about activities outside the classroom that also enrich a student's educational experience, including field trips and traveling to the Nation's historic sites, many of which are located here in the Nation's capital. This resolution acknowledges that student travel is an integral component of the educational process today.

H. Con. Res. 131 has application to districts in every State of the Union. However, the attacks of September 11 and subsequent security alerts have made us all more watchful, particularly here in the District of Columbia where so many of the symbols of democracy are located. For the months following the 9/11 attacks, visits to our Nation's monuments were down more than 30 percent. The Smithsonian Museums reported a similar decline in attendance. I am pleased that these numbers appear to have since reversed and tourism to the District has been rebounding since 2003. According to the Washington, D.C., Convention and Tourism Corporation, close to 1 million students have traveled to the Nation's capital since 9/11.

The District of Columbia showcases symbols of freedom that are recognized worldwide. Students can come to see the Declaration of Independence, see the flag that flew over the Pentagon on September 11, view exhibitions that trace the history of our country from its inception to the present, and learn how this country, the great experiment, has grown and fared over the past 228 years. The educational experience that students receive in visiting this city, above even others in our country, enhances what they are learning in our Nation's classrooms and inspires the next generation of leaders.

Therefore, I urge Members to join with me in encouraging student travel

to the Nation's capital and to other tourist sites throughout the United States, realizing the educational value and inspirational impact that such visits have on the lives of the Nation's youth.

I thank them again for their support and urge agreement to H. Con. Res. 131.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. PORTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 131, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 809) supporting the goals and ideals of "Lights On Afterschool!", a national celebration of after-school programs, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 809

Whereas high-quality after-school programs provide safe, challenging, engaging, and fun learning experiences to help children and youth develop their social, emotional, physical, cultural, and academic skills;

Whereas high-quality after-school programs support working families by ensuring that their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends;

Whereas high-quality after-school programs build stronger communities by involving the Nation's students, parents, business leaders, and adult volunteers in the lives of the Nation's young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among children, youth, families, and adults;

Whereas high-quality after-school programs engage families, schools, and diverse community partners in advancing the well-being of the Nation's children;

Whereas "Lights On Afterschool!", a national celebration of after-school programs on October 14, 2004, promotes the critical importance of high-quality after-school programs in the lives of children, their families, and their communities;

Whereas more than 28,000,000 children in the United States have parents who work outside the home, and 14,300,000 children have no place to go after school; and

Whereas many after-school programs across the Nation are struggling to keep their doors open and their lights on: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of "Lights On Afterschool!", a national celebration of after-school programs; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the communities of the Nation to engage in innovative after-school programs and activities that ensure the doors stay open and the lights stay on for all children after school.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. PORTER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 809.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of H. Res. 809, offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE). This resolution seeks to support the goals and ideals of "Lights On Afterschool!", a national celebration of after-school programs.

On October 14, 2004, more than 6,000 communities across the country will rally for after-school programs by participating in the fifth anniversary of "Lights On Afterschool!" This nationwide event is aimed at bringing attention to the need for high-quality after-school programs that keep kids safe, help working families, and improve academic achievement.

I support this resolution because after-school programs are an important part of many American students' lives. High-quality after-school programs provide safe, challenging, and fun learning experiences that help children and youth develop their social, emotional, physical, cultural, and academic skills. I am pleased that we are able to help bring attention to the critical importance of after-school programs in the lives of children, their families, and their communities.

This resolution is simple and straightforward. It supports the goals and ideals of "Lights On Afterschool!", a nationwide celebration of after-school programs and requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the communities to engage in innovative after-school programs and activities that ensure the doors stay open and the lights stay on for children after school.

I commend the gentleman (Mr. KILDEE) for his leadership in offering H. Res. 809 and urge my colleagues' support.

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. 809. This resolution supports the goals and ideals of "Lights On Afterschool!", a national celebration of after-school programs.

All of us know the value of high-quality after-school programs. These programs help reduce crime in our communities and provide children a safe and nurturing environment when the school day ends. In addition, after-

school programs play key roles in the social and educational development of our children. This helps improve their academic achievements and ensures that they become contributing, positive members of society.

The importance of after-school programs, especially to parents who work, is undeniable. H. Res. 809 recognizes the efforts of "Lights On Afterschool!". Organized by the Afterschool Alliance, this is the fifth annual "Lights On Afterschool!" Day. This day will bring together educators, community leaders, lawmakers, parents, business and religious leaders, and youth for the Nation's largest annual rally for after-school programs on October 14. The event will call attention to after-school programs and the resources needed to keep their lights on and their doors open.

"Lights On Afterschool!" was launched in October, 2000. That year more than 1,200 events were held across the country. But last year more than half a million people rallied at more than 5,000 events to show their support for after-school programs. The Afterschool Alliance expects this year's event to be even larger.

This resolution is only a small part of our effort to thank and support those involved with after-school programs. The Afterschool Alliance and its executive director, Judy Samelson, deserve a great deal of credit for spearheading the drive to expand after-school programs and get the resources they need.

I hope Members will join me in recognizing their efforts and the importance of after-school programs by supporting this program.

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

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

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 809, a bipartisan resolution introduced by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROSELEHTINEN) to raise the awareness of "Lights On Afterschool!", a national celebration of after-school programs.

Children need after-school programs for many reasons. Most of us think of these programs, first, as offering children critical opportunities to develop their social, emotional, physical, cultural, and academic skills. And good programs do. But after-school programs are especially indispensable to the majority of families in which parents are in the workforce. For these families, after-school programs mean that they will not have to worry nearly as much about where their children are and what their children are doing between the school bell and the dinner bell. That is the time when most teenagers, by the way, are involved in crime or when pregnancy occurs because there is nothing for these children to do after school.