

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.

After-school programs build strong communities by involving a wide range of parents and teachers and business leaders, community organization volunteers in the lives of young people.

Mr. Speaker, of the more than 28 million children in the United States whose parents work outside the home, more than half have no place to go after school. That is why the "Lights On Afterschool!" effort is so important and deserves our commemoration. That is also why it is critical for Congress and the President to address the fact that, as noted in this resolution, many after-school programs across the Nation are being forced to shut down for lack of funding.

So I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting not only this resolution, but also in efforts to increase Federal funding for after-school programs so that our children receive the services that they need, the services that they deserve.

Finally, I would note that after-school programs are an essential, but not the only component to help working parents address the many challenges in providing for their families in the 21st century economy. That is why I have introduced H.R. 3780, the Balancing Act, as a comprehensive response to these challenges, and I encourage all of my colleagues to join me when I reintroduce the Balancing Act next Congress because the Balancing Act includes after-school programs.

I also encourage my colleagues to vote for H. Res. 809.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and 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. 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. 809, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RELATING TO EARLY ORGANIZATION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE 109TH CONGRESS

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 824) relating to early organization of the House of Representatives for the One Hundred Ninth Congress, and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I want to thank the chairman for his timely handling of this matter.

I also wanted to ensure that the legislative purposes of this resolution are clear.

One purpose of this resolution is to continue the practice of allowing the House party leaders to call an early organizing caucus of their respective party members, and to do so before the statutorily established date of December 1st. Each party leader can schedule the caucus to begin on any date of his or her choosing after the date of the election. While it is customary to schedule the caucuses to begin at the same time, it is up to each party leader to make that decision for his or her party caucus. If the House has adjourned sine die, then each incumbent Members-elect, and a designated staff person, can be paid for their transportation expenses to attend the caucus. If the House has not adjourned sine die, then there are no travel expenses paid for incumbent Members-elect or their staff. New Members-elect, and a designated staff person from the district, can also attend with all attendance expenses paid by the House.

The resolution also has the purpose of continuing the practice of allowing the House Leadership's orientation program(s), hosted by the Committee on House Administration, to be conducted at any time, or at multiple times, after the date of the election, and allows each Member-elect, and a designated staff person, to be reimbursed for the expenses of attendance. The orientation program has usually been conducted as a part of, and during the same time period as the party caucuses. However if the caucuses are conducted at different times, then the orientation program could be conducted before, during, or after each caucus, with the Member-elect's, and designated staff person's expenses of attendance paid by the House.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 824

Resolved,

SECTION 1. TIMING OF ORGANIZATIONAL CAUCUSES AND CONFERENCES FOR ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS.

Any organizational caucus or conference in the House of Representatives for the One Hundred Ninth Congress may begin on or after November 3, 2004.

SEC. 2. APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS TO ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS AT ORIENTATION PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—With the approval of the majority leader (in the case of a Member or Member-elect of the majority) or the minority leader (in the case of a Member or Member-elect of the minority), the provisions of law described in subsection (b) shall apply with respect to the attendance of a Member or Member-elect at a program conducted by the Committee on House Administration for the orientation of new members of the One Hundred Ninth Congress in the same manner as such provisions apply to the attendance of the Member or Member-elect at the organizational caucus or conference.

(b) PROVISIONS DESCRIBED.—The provisions of law described in this subsection are as follows:

(1) Subsections (b) and (c) of section 202 of House Resolution 988, Ninety-third Congress, agreed to on October 8, 1974, and enacted into permanent law by chapter III of title I of the

Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1975 (2 U.S.C. 29a).

(2) Section 1 of House Resolution 10, Ninety-fourth Congress, agreed to on January 14, 1975, and enacted into permanent law by section 201 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1976 (2 U.S.C. 43b-2).

SEC. 3. DEFINITION.

As used in this resolution, the term "organizational caucus or conference" means a party caucus or conference authorized to be called under section 202(a) of House Resolution 988, Ninety-third Congress, agreed to on October 8, 1974, and enacted into permanent law by chapter III of title I of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1975 (2 U.S.C. 29a(a)).

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEY. 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 the subject of the resolution, H. Res. 824.

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

There was no objection.

AMENDING CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT TO PERMIT SECOND TERM FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 5122) to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to permit members of the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance to serve for 2 terms, with a Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Clerk read the Senate amendment, as follows:

Senate amendment:

Page 2, line 11, strike out "the date of the enactment of this Act" and insert "September 30, 2004".

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman for his expeditious handling of this matter.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated during earlier debate on this bill, I believe that the Members of the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance should be eligible for a second term of service. The current Board has constructively served Legislative Branch employees, the Members of this body, and the public, by applying the same workplace laws to the Legislative Branch, and to the Congress, that are applied to the private sector. The Board has promoted educational opportunities for both employees and managers, and has undertaken outreach efforts to promote life-safety awareness, and to raise workplace consciousness.