

bill (H.R. 326) to amend the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area Act of 2000 to adjust the boundary of the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area and to extend the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance under that Act, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 326

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

SECTION 1. YUMA CROSSING NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.

Section 3(b) of the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 461 note; Public Law 106-319; 114 Stat. 1281) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) BOUNDARIES.—The Heritage Area shall comprise the lands generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area Boundary Adjustment’, numbered 903-80071, and dated October 16, 2005.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. MUSGRAVE) and the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. MUSGRAVE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 326, introduced by Congressman RAÚL GRIJALVA, reduces the boundary of the Yuma Crossing Heritage Area. When the Yuma Crossing Heritage Area was authorized in 2000, the public in Yuma County did not understand the scope of the project and were surprised by the size of the designation. Citizens originally believed that the heritage area would focus mainly around the historic district. Many private property owners were not aware that they were also included in the new designation. Concerns were raised by citizens about the size of the designation and the potential for additional Federal oversight.

Local officials testified that there is now broad public support for the designation with the new reduced boundary.

I urge adoption of the bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, my colleague has already explained the purpose of H.R. 326, which was introduced by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA).

Representative GRIJALVA is to be commended for his leadership on this

legislation. He has worked closely with the local community and others to determine the most appropriate means to preserve and interpret the history of the area.

Mr. Speaker, we support H.R. 326 and urge its adoption by the House today.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. MUSGRAVE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 326, 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 amend the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area Act of 2000 to adjust the boundary of the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area and for other purposes.”

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FEDERAL YOUTH COORDINATION ACT

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 856) to establish a Federal Youth Development Council to improve the administration and coordination of Federal programs serving youth, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 856

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 “Federal Youth Coordination Act”.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT AND MEMBERSHIP.

(a) MEMBERS AND TERMS.—There is established the Federal Youth Development Council (in this Act referred to as the “Council”) composed of members as follows:

(1) The Attorney General, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Director of National Drug Control Policy, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, the Director of the U.S.A. Freedom Corps, the Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service, or a designee of each such individual who holds significant decision-making authority, and other Federal officials as directed by the President, to serve for the life of the Council.

(2) Any additional members as the President shall appoint from among representatives of faith-based organizations, community based organizations, child and youth focused foundations, universities, non-profit organizations, youth service providers, State and local government, and youth in dis-

advantaged situations. In making the appointments under this paragraph, the President shall consult with the Speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall take into account the recommendations of the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, and the president pro tempore of the Senate, who shall take into account the recommendations of the Majority Leader and the minority Leader of the Senate. Each member appointed under this paragraph shall serve for 1 term of 2 years.

(b) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the Council shall be the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(c) MEETINGS.—The Council shall meet at the call of the Chairperson, not less frequently than 4 times each year. The first meeting shall be not less than 4 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. DUTIES OF THE COUNCIL.

(a) The duties of the Council shall be—

(1) to ensure communication among agencies administering programs designed to serve youth, especially those in disadvantaged situations;

(2) to assess the needs of youth, especially those in disadvantaged situations, and those who work with youth, and the quantity and quality of Federal programs offering services, supports, and opportunities to help youth in their educational, social, emotional, physical, vocational, and civic development;

(3) to recommend objectives and quantifiable 5-year goals for such programs;

(4) to make recommendations for the allocation of resources in support of such goals and objectives;

(5) to identify areas of overlap or duplication in purpose and operation of programs serving youth and recommend ways to better facilitate coordination and consultation, improve efficiency, and streamline such programs;

(6) to identify target populations of youth who are disproportionately at risk and assist agencies in focusing additional resources on them;

(7) to develop a recommended plan, including common indicators of youth well-being, and assist agencies, at the request of 1 or more agency, in coordinating to achieve such goals and objectives;

(8) to assist Federal agencies, at the request of 1 or more such agency, in collaborating on model programs and demonstration projects focusing on special populations, including youth in foster care, migrant youth, projects to promote parental involvement, and projects that work to involve young people in service programs;

(9) to solicit and document ongoing input and recommendations from—

(A) youth, especially those in disadvantaged situations;

(B) national youth development experts, researchers, parents, faith and community-based organizations, foundations, business leaders, youth service providers, and teachers; and

(C) State and local government agencies, particularly agencies serving children and youth; and

(10) to work with Federal agencies to conduct high-quality research and evaluation, identify and replicate model programs and best practices, provide technical assistance, and coordinate the collection and dissemination of youth services-related data and research.

(b) The Council may provide technical assistance to a State at the request of a State to support State-funded councils for coordinating State youth efforts.

SEC. 4. ASSISTANCE OF STAFF.

(a) **DIRECTOR.**—The Chairperson, in consultation with the Council, shall employ and set the rate of pay for a Director.

(b) **STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.**—Upon request of the Council, the head of any Federal department or agency may detail, on a reimbursable basis, any of the personnel of that department or agency to the Council to assist it in carrying out its duties under this Act.

SEC. 5. POWERS OF THE COUNCIL.

(a) **MAILS.**—The Council may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the United States.

(b) **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.**—Upon the request of the Council, the Administrator of General Services shall provide to the Council, on a reimbursable basis, the administrative support services necessary for the Council to carry out its responsibilities under this Act.

SEC. 6. REPORT.

Not later than 1 year after the Council holds its first meeting, the Council shall transmit to Congress an interim report of its findings, and not later than 2 years after the Council holds its first meeting, the Council shall transmit to Congress a final report including its findings and recommendations. The report shall—

(1) include a comprehensive list of recent research and statistical reporting by various Federal agencies on the overall well-being of youth, including the ratings of the Program Assessment Ratings Tool (PART) of Federal programs serving youth used by the Office of Management and Budget, if applicable;

(2) include the assessment of the needs of youth and those who serve them;

(3) include a summary of the plan called for in section 3(a)(7);

(4) recommend ways to coordinate and improve Federal training and technical assistance, information sharing, and communication among the various programs and agencies serving youth;

(5) include recommendations to better integrate and coordinate policies across agencies at the Federal, State, and local levels, including recommendations for legislation and administrative actions;

(6) include a summary of actions the Council has taken at the request of Federal agencies to facilitate collaboration and coordination on youth serving programs and the results of those collaborations, if available;

(7) include a summary of the action the Council has taken at the request of States to provide technical assistance under section 3(b), if applicable; and

(8) include a summary of the input and recommendations from the groups identified in section 3(a)(9).

SEC. 7. TERMINATION.

The Council shall terminate 60 days after transmitting its final report under section 6.

SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 and 2008 to carry out this Act.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. **OSBORNE**) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. **HINOJOSA**) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. **OSBORNE**).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. **OSBORNE**. 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 information on H.R. 856.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 856, the Federal Youth Coordination Act. I am very pleased that the House of Representatives will have the opportunity to consider this important legislation.

I have long advocated for a stronger emphasis at the Federal level on youth development programming because I believe our Nation's future is linked to a healthy, educated, morally sound next generation.

The genesis of this bill is in the report of the White House Task Force on Disadvantaged Youth. Although the final report was issued several years ago, I believe that the task force report and its thoughtful analysis and recommendations should be implemented. This legislation does that. Although the executive branch is charged with implementing youth programs, Congress creates many of these programs and funds them. We need to know that our efforts are producing the best results for our young people.

The White House Task Force on Disadvantaged Youth noted a number of facts about America's young people and the programs that serve them:

First, the National Academy of Sciences estimates that one-quarter of adolescents in this country, almost 10 million teens, are at serious risk of not achieving productive adulthood.

Number two, most young people will grow up just fine without government involvement, but the most vulnerable young people may be missed by programs designed to help them. And, worse, the programs we think will help them the most may not at all. There is a serious lack of rigorous evaluation of Federal youth efforts at the present time.

Number three, a large number of youth-serving programs are targeting many youth subgroups. These services and target populations often overlap, creating unnecessary duplication and multiple programs that are oftentimes not necessary.

Number four, the current Federal response to youth failure is convoluted and complex and is a perfect example of what the GAO has called "mission fragmentation." The GAO recommends that programs with similar goals, target populations, and services be coordinated, consolidated, or streamlined to ensure that goals are consistent.

The White House Task Force identified a number of goals and changes that would help to better coordinate the hundreds of programs across 12 Federal departments that serve youth. The three largest youth-serving agencies are the Department of Health and Human Services, Justice, and Education. To support these efforts, in February of this year, I, along with my colleagues, Mr. **HOEKSTRA**, Mr. **FORD**,

and Mr. **PAYNE**, introduced H.R. 856, the Federal Youth Coordination Act, which was crafted to help implement many of the recommendations of the White House Task Force on Disadvantaged Youth.

The Federal Youth Coordination Act creates the Federal Youth Development Council to evaluate, coordinate, and improve Federal youth-serving programs and hold Federal agencies accountable for achieving results. The purpose of this bipartisan legislation is to maximize the return on Federal investment in young people, not to eliminate programs that work.

America's young people deserve high-quality, effective, and meaningful youth development programs. Our Nation's taxpayers deserve their tax dollars to be spent on high-quality, effective, and meaningful youth development programs as well.

Among the Council's duties will be: to ensure communication among agencies administering programs designed to serve youth. Many of these programs are not allowed by statute to even communicate with each other, and this is a mistake.

To recommend objectives and quantifiable 5-year goals for Federal youth programs. Many of these programs do not have any measurable quantifiable goals at all.

To make recommendations as to how to better facilitate coordination and consultation.

To improve efficiency in programs, identify target populations of youth who are disproportionately at risk and assist agencies in focusing additional resources on them.

To assist agencies in coordinating and collaborating on youth programs.

And to conduct research and evaluation programs, solicit input and recommendations from outside groups.

In addition, the Council may provide technical assistance to a State at the request of a State to support State-funded councils for coordinating State youth efforts.

The Council will also be charged with issuing a report to Congress so that Congress and the authorizing and appropriations committees can use the information in future decisions. This additional information will lead to a more cohesive, efficient, and effective Federal youth policy that our young people deserve. Further, while the Council is chaired by the Department of Health and Human Services, its charge is to coordinate across the full range of Federal departments with a focus on the needs of youth, not on the needs of bureaucracy.

This legislation was developed with the assistance of a number of organizations and has been endorsed by over 250 organizations. I want to thank all of these organizations for their grassroots support, which helped propel this legislation. Among these organizations has been the National Collaboration for Youth, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Campfire USA, Volunteers of America,

YMCA of the USA, Forum for Youth Investment, Youth Service America, Volunteers of America, and America's Promise—the Alliance for Youth.

I want to thank all of the cosponsors of the legislation as well as the chairman of the Education and Workforce Committee, JOHN BOEHNER, and the chairman of the Subcommittee on Select Education, PAT TIBERI. Their support has been critical.

I would also like to thank the staff who worked on this legislation, particularly Erin Duncan from my staff, Whitney Rhoades of the Education and Workforce Committee, Krisann Pearce and Jo-Marie St. Martin, also of the Education and Workforce Committee, as well as Brady Young of the Legislative Counsel's Office.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this important effort toward creating more cohesive and meaningful positive youth development programs by passing H.R. 856.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 856, entitled Federal Youth Coordination Act. I would like to commend the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) for bringing this bill forward. I would also like to add that I admire the gentleman's exemplary work in support of our youth from mentoring and outreach programs to this type of effort to coordinate Federal youth programs.

His commitment to young people is genuine, and his leadership is greatly appreciated. His Federal Youth Coordination Act would establish a Federal Youth Development Council consisting of all of the Federal agencies that have youth development programs. With input from the community, this council would be tasked with ensuring communication across Federal agencies serving youth and developing a plan and set of recommendations to improve Federal services to youth.

I think that we can all agree that coordination is sorely needed. Today's population of adolescents and young adults is the largest in our Nation's history. High schools and colleges are seeing record enrollments.

Tragically, the White House Task Force on Disadvantaged Youth reported that one-quarter of our young people are at serious risk of not achieving productive adulthood. We know from numerous reports that nearly one-third of our high school students fail to earn a diploma with their peers. For African American and Hispanic students, the number is even worse with only 50 percent graduating. Furthermore, many of our young people are not leaving high school ready for college or for work.

It is incumbent upon all of us to build communities with the educational opportunities and support system in place to help our youth become

successful adults. Our record number of teenagers must become a record number of high school and college graduates, and a record number of teachers, scientists, doctors, lawyers, and unskilled professionals. We must not allow this generation to produce record numbers for the juvenile justice, runaway, and homeless youth or foster care systems.

Clearly, success will require strong coordination, schools, families, community-based organizations, employers, health providers, and social service agencies all working together. The Federal Government should lead by example, coordinating its own efforts to support our youth, and H.R. 856 is a step in the right direction.

I would note one concern with the legislation as drafted, however. The amended version of the bill requires the council to report using the results from the Office of Management and Budget's program assessment rating tool, often referred to by the acronym PART. This tool is the subject of significant controversy. For example, a recent GAO report highlighted the closed nature of the PART process and its emphasis on short-term budget planning over long-term goal setting.

In fact, the administration has used the PART as a means to eliminate programs that are not viewed as priorities. Some of these programs are critical to youth and young families, such as the Even Start Family Literacy program, TRIO program, and the GEAR UP and Dropout Prevention programs. It would be ironic to have the PART tool used to provide a rationalization for eliminating programs to help youth rather than expanding their reach and effectiveness.

It is my hope that our focus on accountability for programs will remain with the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, our public law that provides for an open public process for developing objective information on the effectiveness and efficiency of Federal programs and spending.

In closing, I would like to encourage my colleagues to support this legislation, H.R. 856, to coordinate our Federal youth programs. May it spark an even greater sustained investment in our young people.

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

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), the chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and thank him for his work on bringing this bill to the floor. He and I have talked about the idea that we ought to take all of these programs that the Federal Government has that affect disadvantaged youth and try to bring some coordination to the overall effort.

As many of us know, Congress gets in the business of duplicating programs

coming from different committees and different agencies of the Federal Government. Before we know it, we have a proliferation of programs, many of them not connected to each other in any way, shape, or form.

I think the proposal brought to us by the gentleman from Nebraska creating this coordinating council really will, in fact, help us achieve what we are attempting to achieve by closer coordination of these 30 different programs.

I can go through a lot of different areas, but I can talk about the Workforce Investment Act, for example. A little different example, but I looked up, along with the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) some 10 years ago, and we found 63 Federal job training and retraining programs scattered across the different agencies of the government that we were able to bring together under one roof to serve those who needed training and retraining. We have one-stop-shop centers now all over the country.

This is a little different example of trying to reorganize how we do what we do, well meaning, well intentioned; but when we have all of these different programs working on their own without the kind of coordination that this council would bring, I do not think we bring as much of an impact to these children who need our help as we could.

I think the goal here is pretty clear from Mr. OSBORNE, myself, and others that this coordinating council would be there to see that these programs are working, that they are working together to help those disadvantaged youth who need help.

I do not think there is any effort here to consolidate programs, but I think the effort here ought to be making sure that they are effective and making sure that they work together for the advantage of these disadvantaged youth who so desperately need our help. I congratulate my colleague from Nebraska for his work and ask my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 856. I commend the gentleman from Nebraska for introducing this legislation, as well as for many of the other creative ideas and thoughts that I have seen and heard him express in the Education Committee.

I also want to commend my colleague from Texas for yielding to me and for the leadership he displays as the ranking member on one of our subcommittees.

I think that coordination, while it does not necessarily appear to be earth-shaking or earth-shattering, is a tremendous concept that is greatly needed. Unfortunately, many of our programs operate in isolation. Unfortunately, there are instances where there is duplication and things oftentimes get missed.

When we can bring together all of these tremendous resources we have at

our disposal so they are coordinated in such a way that the recipients become the beneficiaries of this coordinated approach, then I think it will tremendously aid in the development of our young people. It is a great piece of legislation. It is a great idea. It is a great concept. I simply want to add my voice to those who are in support of it and urge that we support it.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER) for his support and comments and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) for his support, as well, and the support of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS). I have enjoyed working with these gentlemen on this project and the staff.

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

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, it is always a pleasure to work with Congressman OSBORNE, and I want to say that I think this piece of legislation is one that is going to be very beneficial.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLE of Oklahoma). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 856, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

RECOGNIZING 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF ENACTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR ALL HANDICAPPED CHILDREN ACT OF 1975

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 288) recognizing the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Education For All Handicapped Children Act of 1975 and reaffirming support for the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act so that all children with disabilities have access to a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 288

Whereas the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975 (Public Law 94-142) was signed into law 30 years ago on November 29, 1975, and amended the State grant

program under part B of the Education of the Handicapped Act;

Whereas the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975 established the Federal priority of ensuring that all children, regardless of the nature or severity of their disability, have available to them a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment;

Whereas the Education of the Handicapped Act was further amended by the Education of the Handicapped Act Amendments of 1986 (Public Law 99-457) to create a preschool grant program for children with disabilities aged 3 through 5 and an early intervention program for infants and toddlers with disabilities under 3 years of age and their families;

Whereas the Education of the Handicapped Act Amendments of 1990 (Public Law 101-476) renamed the statute as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA);

Whereas IDEA currently serves an estimated 269,000 infants and toddlers, 679,000 preschoolers, and 6,000,000 children aged 6 to 21;

Whereas IDEA has assisted in a dramatic reduction in the number of children with developmental disabilities who must live in State institutions away from their families;

Whereas the number of children with disabilities who complete high school with standard diplomas has grown significantly since the enactment of IDEA;

Whereas the number of children with disabilities who enroll in college as freshmen has more than tripled since the enactment of IDEA;

Whereas IDEA promotes partnerships between parents of children with disabilities and education professionals in the design and implementation of the special education and related services provided to children with disabilities;

Whereas IDEA has raised the Nation's expectations regarding the abilities of children with disabilities by requiring access to the general education curriculum;

Whereas the 2004 reauthorization of IDEA ensures that children with disabilities are guaranteed a quality education based on the high academic standards required under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-110);

Whereas the 2004 reauthorization strengthens IDEA's focus on the educational results of children with disabilities and better prepares those children for employment or further education beyond high school;

Whereas the 2004 reauthorization further enables special education teachers, related services providers, other educators, and State and local educational agencies to focus on promoting the academic achievement of children with disabilities;

Whereas the 2004 reauthorization maintains the necessary procedural safeguards that guarantee the rights of children with disabilities and their parents while encouraging the mutual resolution of disputes and reducing unnecessary litigation;

Whereas the 2004 reauthorization continues to ensure the provision of a free appropriate public education to students referred to a private school by a public agency and ensures the provision of special education and related services to students placed by their parents in private schools;

Whereas, although the Federal Government has not yet met its commitment to fund IDEA at 40 percent of the average per pupil expenditure, it has increased IDEA funding over the last decade from \$2.3 billion to \$10.6 billion and increased its percentage share of the average per pupil expenditure from 7.8 percent to 18.6 percent;

Whereas the 2004 reauthorization ensures that the vast majority of funds will go di-

rectly to the classroom and provides States and local educational agencies additional flexibility to provide for the costs of educating high need children with disabilities;

Whereas IDEA has supported, through its discretionary programs, three decades of research, demonstration, and personnel preparation in effective practices for educating children with disabilities, enabling teachers, related services providers, and other educators to effectively meet the educational needs of all children;

Whereas Federal and State governments can support effective practices in the classroom to ensure appropriate and effective services for children with disabilities; and

Whereas IDEA has succeeded in marshaling the resources of this Nation to implement the promise of full participation in society for children with disabilities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) recognizes the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975 (Public Law 94-142);

(2) acknowledges the many and varied contributions of children with disabilities and their parents, teachers, related services providers, and other educators; and

(3) reaffirms its support for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act so that all children with disabilities have access to a free appropriate public education.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 288.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 288, which I introduced with a bipartisan group of my colleagues. The resolution importantly recognizes the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975, what we all know as the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA. Not only does this resolution recognize the act's anniversary but also reaffirms this body's support for IDEA.

For too many years, children with disabilities were denied access to public education. However, with the passage of the Education for All Handicapped Children Act in 1975, the doors of educational opportunity were opened. Today, more than ever, students with disabilities have an opportunity to accomplish their goals.

□ 1515

According to the Department of Education, about 6.6 million students currently participate in these programs across the Nation. Signed into law on November 29, 1975, the Act established