

kindergarten and to discuss ways in which we can improve kindergarten classrooms throughout the Nation.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statements be printed in the RECORD, without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 119) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 119

Whereas Friedrich Froebel, known as the "Father of Kindergarten", opened the first kindergarten classroom on April 21, 1837, with the goal of shaping young children in a nurturing, educational, and protected environment;

Whereas kindergarten has a long history of enhancing children's cognitive, physical, and social development in the United States and throughout the world;

Whereas Margarethe Meyer Schurz opened the first German-speaking kindergarten in the United States in 1856, Elizabeth Peabody opened the first English-speaking kindergarten in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1873, and the first public school kindergarten classrooms were established under the leadership of Susan Blow and William Torrey Harris in St. Louis, Missouri, in the early 1870s;

Whereas kindergarten is a critical year in children's formal education, as well as in their continued physical, social, and emotional development, that prepares them for later school success and lifelong learning;

Whereas quality kindergarten programs use developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate curricula, teaching practices, and assessments to support each child's learning and development progress to reach his or her maximum potential;

Whereas teachers who teach kindergarten need to have specialized knowledge and skills in working with young children to respond to the unique interests, learning styles, and developmental characteristics of children in their kindergarten year;

Whereas kindergarten programs need to be ready for all children who are eligible, including children with disabilities and children who are not native English speakers, and their families;

Whereas kindergarten programs should collaborate and coordinate with preschools and with the other early elementary grades in order to provide a continuum of appropriate, effective early learning for all children as they transition to and through the early grades of school;

Whereas in 2001, more than more 3,700,000 children between the ages of 4 and 6 years old attended kindergarten, including full-day, half-day, or alternate day programs;

Whereas the percentage of children attending full-day kindergarten programs has grown from 28 percent in 1977 to 60 percent in 2001; and

Whereas establishment of a "National Kindergarten Recognition Day" will help draw attention to the critical role kindergarten plays as the transitional year from early education programs to the elementary and secondary education system: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 21, 2005, as "National Kindergarten Recognition Day" to raise public awareness about the impact of the kin-

dergarten year on the development of our nation's children; and

(2) urges the people of the United States to recognize the historic tradition of kindergarten in the United States and its contribution to preparing children for their elementary and secondary educational achievement and experiences.

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 120, which was submitted today.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 120) honoring small businesses during the Small Business Administration's National Small Business Week, the week beginning April 24, 2005.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today in support of a Senate resolution that honors our Nation's 25 million small businesses and the tremendous contributions they make to our economy, as we celebrate the Small Business Administration's—SBA—National Small Business Week which runs April 24 through April 30, 2005.

Small businesses form a solid economic foundation for growth and job creation. The success of our Nation's small businesses have helped create nearly three-quarters of all new jobs and produce 50 percent of our country's gross domestic product.

Since becoming Chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I have made it one of my top priorities to be a megaphone for small businesses and help raise the needs and concerns of our countries' job creators in the Senate. Each year, there are 3 to 4 million new business startups—and one in 25 adult Americans take the steps to start a business. With one quarter of existing small business owners intending to form another business, this is clearly a sector that deserves our accolades and recognition.

And of course, one of our most valuable assets for ensuring the success of small businesses is the Small Business Administration. This agency is pivotal in overseeing the delivery of financial and business development tools for millions of aspiring entrepreneurs and existing small businesses across the United States. And since 1999, the SBA's programs have helped created and retain over 4.5 million jobs.

Particularly, the SBA's financing programs have been a crucial source to accessing capital for small businesses, and have never been more in demand with both the 7(a) program and 504 program delivering measurable results. The numbers from fiscal year 2004 represent these programs indisputable success, with the 7(a) program providing over \$13.5 billion in loans to help

small businesses create 132,603 new jobs. The 504 program lent \$4 billion to support the creation of 86,847 jobs.

Furthermore, the SBA's entrepreneurial development programs assisted almost 1.5 million startup and existing small businesses. In fact, the Small Business Development Center—SBDC—program served over 725,000 clients and helped create or retain over 168,000 jobs in fiscal year 2003, while the SBA's Women's Business Center's training and counseling helped to create or retain over 6,500 jobs in fiscal year 2003.

We have also provided small businesses with tax relief to help grow their business. For example, I championed an increase in the amount a small business can deduct when they invest in equipment and other business assets capital that fuels expansion and job creation.

So as we celebrate our Nation's small businesses, we must be mindful of Congress's responsibility to ensure that each business has the opportunity to flourish. With the BA's budget drastically declining by 36 percent over the last 5 years, I will not hesitate to take action and ensure that this vital sector continues to have the valuable resources they deserve.

The SBA has been a critical partner to millions of small enterprises as well as aspiring entrepreneurs as they embark on the path to prosperity and job creation. The least we can do is strengthen, not erode, the SBA's core loan and technical assistance programs that have proven time and again to be the keystone in aiding the efforts and dreams of America's entrepreneurs.

Today we celebrate our Nation's entrepreneurs and honor America's small businesses. I urge my colleagues to show their support for the small businesses in their States and support this resolution. We must remember that the investment and support that we provide to our small business today is integral to our Nation's economic and job security tomorrow.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor America's single greatest economic resource: our small businesses. Small businesses drive our economy, making up 99 percent of all firms, and today marks the first day of the annual National Small Business Week celebration. This week, we honor the firms that are working year round to provide goods and services to us all. Every day, small businesses and entrepreneurs are making innovations, creating new jobs, and pushing our economy forward. In fact, more than 50 percent of our Nation's GDP and more than two-thirds of all new jobs in our economy are attributable to small businesses. From the high-tech startup and the small manufacturer to the family-owned bookstore and the lemonade stand run by the little girl down the street, small businesses and entrepreneurs are an exciting part of our communities. And the opportunities they create represent the American Dream.

Given the importance of small businesses to our economy, it is only logical that there would be a Federal agency dedicated to promoting and protecting their interests. The Small Business Administration, which I am sure my colleagues are well aware of, serves as an indispensable small business advocate and resource within the Federal Government. With offices and strategic resource partners across the country, the SBA is able to serve entrepreneurs at the local level by providing training, mentorship, and valuable resources and at the national level by encouraging agencies to extend contracts to small businesses and to develop small-business friendly regulations.

The SBA offers a number of programs designed to help small businesses overcome obstacles to success. I am proud to support these programs, which tackle issues ranging from entrepreneurial development and access to capital to Federal contracting and trade assistance.

Without these SBA resources, thousands of small businesses would not have grown, survived tough times, or even been created. Once small businesses such as Staples, Intel, Nike, America Online, Black Enterprise Magazine, Eskimo Joe's, Callaway Golf, FedEx, Hewlett-Packard, Jenny Craig, Gymboree, Ben & Jerry's, Winnebago, Sun Microsystems, and Outback Steakhouse all received assistance through at least one of the SBA's programs. These businesses started out small but are now household names. They prove that their owners had excellent business ideas even though traditional lenders or venture capitalists would not take a chance on them. The SBA gave these once small businesses an opportunity to grow, helping them to get their foot in the door and eventually bring new products to markets across the country and the world. The long-term gains that our economy experiences from helping these companies are too numerous to list entirely, but they include thousands of jobs, a stronger economy, increased opportunities and millions in additional tax revenue, which has paid for the SBA's budget many times over.

While helping them grow is a part of SBA's mission, many small businesses are not looking to become large corporations, and these too need SBA's assistance and support. Every small business is important. Our neighborhoods could not function and would not be the same without the local dry cleaner, the corner market, the day care provider, the hardware store, the car mechanic, the restaurant, and countless other small businesses. Whether family-owned or a franchise, an S Corp or a sole-proprietor, fast-growing or home-based, all small businesses contribute greatly to our economy. And for decades, the SBA has been there to help.

According to SBA Administrator Hector Barreto's recent testimony be-

fore the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, the SBA backed a record \$21.3 billion in loans and related financing to small businesses last year. Of that money, nearly one-third of it went to businesses owned by women or minorities. The SBA's major technical assistance programs reached a record number of clients last year, and the procurement assistance programs aided more than 37,000 small businesses. These impressive figures demonstrate that the entrepreneurial sector of our economy is alive and flourishing, in part because of the SBA. It is up to us, in the Federal Government, to ensure that this entrepreneurial spirit continues to thrive.

This week, in honor of National Small Business Week, the SBA is hosting SBA Expo '05, which serves to highlight the year's greatest achievers and small business advocates. I am proud to join Senator SNOWE and several other members of Congress as an honorary cochair of this event, where the SBA will also honor the National Small Business Person of the Year and State winners, including Massachusetts' own Fred Curtis, Jr. of Curtis Tractor Cab. Mr. Curtis has worked tirelessly to expand his company, growing from 21 employees in 1988 to 221 employees last year. Demonstrating the value that a small investment can give, Curtis Tractor Cab has grown more than 700 percent since receiving an SBA 504 loan from the Worcester Business Development Corp. I thank Mr. Curtis for his important contributions to the Worcester area. I know I speak for the small business community in Massachusetts when I say we are very proud to have an entrepreneur like Mr. Curtis representing our State with this award.

I also commend all of the SBA award winners this week. Their contributions to their States, communities, and our national economy are immense. In addition, I specifically congratulate Steven Stultz, the National 2005 Financial Services Champion of the Year. Much of what the SBA does involves access to capital, and Mr. Stultz has been a ubiquitous leader for the greater lending community. He is an active member of the National Association of Development Companies—NADCO—sits on the Board of Directors for CDC Small Business Finance, and is in his second year of a 3-year term as chairman of the National Association of Government Guaranteed Lenders—NAGGL. Mr. Stultz's dedication and leadership have propelled the 7(a) and 504 loan programs into powerful economic development tools. He has worked closely with Congress, particularly with the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, to make necessary and thoughtful changes to the SBA's several loan program. I am thankful and supportive of his tireless advocacy and work to make access to capital easier for small businesses nationwide.

As a tribute to the SBA and the 25 million small businesses in the Nation,

Senator OLYMPIA J. SNOWE and I support S. Res 120, to honor their impact on our Nation and our economy. As the resolution indicates, the SBA has assisted more than 20 million entrepreneurs throughout its history. However, despite the agency's noble mission, its assistance to small businesses is being threatened by this administration, which has cut funding to the SBA by 36 percent since 2001—more than any other Federal agency. One can only imagine how much more the SBA could have done for small businesses this year with just the same funding it received in 2001. We may never know the true cost these cuts have had on the future growth of our economy. How many Intels were passed up for funding, how many rural businesses weren't able to get management assistance, and how many jobs weren't created?

Small businesses give entrepreneurs the opportunity to pursue their passion, they give parents the opportunity to stay at home with kids while supplementing the household income, they give people the opportunity to be their own bosses, they empower women and minorities, and they spark innovation. Small businesses are vital to the success of our country and our economy, and we must do everything in our power to ensure our small businesses and entrepreneurs have the greatest resources in the world.

Mr. INHOFE. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid on the table.

The resolution (S. Res. 120) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 120

Whereas America's 25,000,000 small businesses have fueled the Nation's economy, creating more than ¾ of all new jobs and accounting for more than 50 percent of the Nation's gross domestic product;

Whereas small businesses are the Nation's innovators, advancing technology and fueling the economic growth and productivity;

Whereas the Small Business Administration has been a critical partner in the success of the Nation's small businesses and these businesses' continued economic growth;

Whereas the mission of the Small Business Administration is to maintain and strengthen the Nation's economy by aiding, counseling, assisting, and protecting the interests of small businesses and by helping families and small businesses recover from natural disasters;

Whereas the Small Business Administration has helped small businesses access critical lending opportunities, protected small businesses from excessive Federal regulatory enforcement, played a key role in ensuring full and open competition for government contracts, and improved the economic environment in which small businesses compete;

Whereas the Small Business Administration, which was established in 1953, has also provided valuable service to small businesses through financial assistance, technical assistance, procurement assistance, small business advocacy, and disaster recovery assistance;

Whereas for over 50 years the Small Business Administration has helped approximately 22,000,000 Americans start, grow, and expand their businesses and has placed almost \$250,000,000,000 in loans and venture capital financing into the hands of entrepreneurs;

Whereas the Small Business Administration has helped millions of entrepreneurs achieve the American dream of owning a small business; and

Whereas the Small Business Administration will mark National Small Business Week, the week beginning April 24, 2005: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors small businesses during the Small Business Administration's National Small Business Week, the week beginning April 24, 2005;

(2) supports the purpose and goals of National Small Business Week; and

(3) commends the Small Business Administration and the Small Business Administration's resource partners—

(A) for their work, which has been critical in helping the Nation's small businesses grow and develop; and

(B) for being key players in the Nation's economic vitality.

CORRECTING THE ANABOLIC STEROID CONTROL ACT

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 893, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 893) to make technical corrections to the Anabolic Steroid Control Act of 2004.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. INHOFE. I ask unanimous consent the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD, without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 893) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 893

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

SECTION 1. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

Section 102(41)(A) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802(41)(A)), as amended by the Anabolic Steroid Control Act of 2004 (Public law 108-358), is amended by—

(1) striking clause (xvii) and inserting the following:

“(xvii) 13 β -ethyl-17 β -hydroxygon-4-en-3-one;”; and

(2) striking clause (xiv) and inserting the following:

“(xiv) stanozolol (17 α -methyl-17 β -hydroxy-[5 α]-androst-2-en-3,20-dione);”.

TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT; A LEGACY FOR USERS—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will re-

sume consideration of the motion to proceed on H.R. 3, which the clerk will report:

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the consideration of a bill (H.R. 3) to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, on Friday, the leader filed a cloture motion on the motion to proceed to H.R. 3, the highway bill. I believe the cloture vote has been scheduled for tomorrow at 11:45 a.m. I strongly urge all of my colleagues to vote yes.

The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, TEA-21, expired on September 30, 2003, nearly 19 months ago. Yet we are still attempting to get a bill done. The Federal-aid program has been operating under a number of short-term extensions—a total of six to date.

We need to get this done. The vote on Tuesday on cloture is critical. If we cannot proceed to this bill, we will miss yet another deadline and our States will continue to pay the price. The current May 31 expiration date for the highway, transit and safety programs is fast approaching. The House bill, H.R. 3, has some very significant differences from S. 732 the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2005, SAFETEA, the bill reported out by the Environment and Public Works Committee on March 16. We will need as much time as possible to work out a compromise. Although we may not all be in perfect agreement here on the Senate floor on each and every provision of S. 732, one thing I believe we are all in agreement on is that we need to get this done. In addition to conversations with colleagues, I have visited with community leaders and outside interest groups and the message is clear . . . get the bill done.

My committee colleagues and I are asking the Senate to consider essentially the same language that 76 Senators voted for in 108th Congress. The Environment and Public Works Committee used as its mark the Senate-passed S. 1072 with the exception that we adjusted the numbers to reflect the President's proposed spending level of \$284 billion over 6 years. During our markup we accepted several non-controversial amendments from committee members. None of these amendments substantially changed the policy goals of the bill as passed last year.

Therefore, I strongly urge my colleagues to support the pending cloture motion and allow us to move to H.R. 3. We really need to keep this moving. The longer we delay enactment of a long-term bill, we are negatively affecting economic growth. According to DOT estimates, every \$1 billion of Federal funds invested in highway improvements creates 47,000 jobs. The same \$1 billion investment yields \$500 million in new orders for the manufacturing sector and \$500 million spread

throughout other sectors of the economy.

State contract awards for the 2005 spring and summer construction season are going out to bid. If we fail to send a bill to the President by May 31st, States will not know what to expect in Federal funding and the uncertainty will potentially force States to delay putting these projects out for bid. According to the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials—AASHTO, an estimated 90,000 jobs are at stake. This problem is exacerbated for northern States, such as Alaska, that have shorter construction seasons. Many State transportation departments have advanced State dollars to construct projects eligible for Federal-funding in anticipation of our action to reauthorize the program. Without a new bill, States are essentially left “holding the bag.”

Over the past 6 years under TEA-21, we have made great progress in preserving and improving the overall physical condition and operation of our transportation system. However, more needs to be done. A safe, effective transportation system is the foundation of our economy. We are past due to fulfill an obligation to this country and the American people.

I am pleased that the President's budget assumed more funding for reauthorization over his previous level of \$256 billion. I and along with many of you believe we need more. Certainly that is an issue that will be thoroughly debated on the floor of the Senate, but we can't even have that debate unless we get to the floor.

Again, if we are able to proceed, the language that the Senate will be considering is essentially the same bill that was passed on the Senate floor last year—a bipartisan product of many months of hard work and compromise. This bill remains a very good piece of legislation which I hope will require few, if any, changes here on the floor. However, I am anxious to discuss with Senators their amendments so that we can debate them and hopefully get this bill in conference with the House prior to the recess, but we need to get to the bill first.

S. 1072 passed the Senate last year guaranteed all donor States a rate of return of 95 percent. I can remember that was 75 percent when I first came here. At a lower funding level we were able only to achieve a 92 percent rate of return but kept the 10 percent floor over TEA-21. The scope, or split of percent funding above and below the line, remain the same at 92.5 percent.

In order to get this bill off the floor, we have to balance the needs of donor and donee States. I will be the first to acknowledge that this balance—as with any compromise—is not perfect. My colleagues representing donee and donor States that receive lower rates of return or growth rates than they feel fair have made this fact very clear to me over the past year.

I am very sympathetic to the concerns of both donors and donees in this