

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support the passage of H.R. 5104, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5104.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT A NATIONAL YOUTH SPORTS WEEK SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 826) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a National Youth Sports Week should be established.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. Res. 826

Whereas about 42 million children participate in organized sports each year;

Whereas children participating in organized sports tend to perform better in school, develop excellent interpersonal skills, and lead healthier lives;

Whereas organized youth sports help children increase their self-esteem, develop an appreciation of health and fitness, and become leaders within the community;

Whereas organized youth sports provide for regular physical activity and help combat increasing rates of childhood obesity;

Whereas the Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports was created, with great help and support from the Citizenship Through Sports Alliance, Positive Coaching Alliance, and National Recreation and Park Association, to restore the focus in youth sports on the child's experience and character development;

Whereas far too many children quit participating in youth sports at a young age, many telling coaches and parents, "It just wasn't fun anymore";

Whereas the National Recreation and Park Association has designated July as Parks and Recreation Month;

Whereas many youth sports organizations gather at local parks and recreation facilities across the country; and

Whereas designating the second week in July as National Youth Sports Week would raise awareness of the important physical and emotional benefits of participating in youth sports and the need to promote sportsmanship among players, parents, coaches, and officials: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that a National Youth Sports Week should be established to promote awareness of the importance of youth sports and the need to restore the focus in youth sports on the child's experience and character development.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. 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 resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 826, offered by the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCINTYRE), would express the sense of the House that a National Youth Sports Week should be established.

Because children are our country's most valuable resource, it is important that we do all we can to provide them with positive learning experiences, quality role models, and all the enjoyment that comes with participating in organized sports.

Statistics show that approximately 42 million kids play youth sports each year. Children that partake in these activities tend to have better personal skills, lead healthier lives, and are more successful in school. The competitive spirit and character-building camaraderie that sports provide are essential for teaching our children to follow their dreams while working with others to build lasting relationships.

It is important that we all do our part to encourage our children to embrace the experience of teamwork; and for that reason, I urge all Members to come together to support H. Res. 826.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of H. Res. 826. Youth sports are much more than just an afterschool activity or a great way for young people to spend their energy and free time. Youth sports can help enrich a child's life; and, Mr. Speaker, they serve a much more important role today when so many youth have become voyeurs of sports and not participants in sports. H. Res. 826 is sponsored by Representative MIKE MCINTYRE.

Youth sporting leagues and activities, when combined with healthy parenting and responsible coaching, help children to grow emotionally, socially, and physically. Teamwork, discipline, and the value of hard work that goes with them are important lessons for children to learn. In addition, there are clear physical and health benefits for children who participate in youth sports.

Mr. Speaker, obesity has become a major problem of young people in the United States. This week I am introducing a bill that would allow the FCC to regulate junk food advertising on TV which is so out of hand that physicians and other health care providers

have focused in on this advertising in particular.

I am pleased that before Representative JON PORTER, former chair of the HHS subcommittee, left, I was a co-sponsor of a bill that has been funded now for the last 5 years with him to establish a program that was extraordinarily successful, as it turns out and according to studies, in getting young people out and active. It was the VERB program. I regret very much that thus far this program has not been funded this year by the committee. I am hoping that it will be funded by Congress before we go home.

No health issue is more pervasive among young people than obesity and being overweight. We appear to be raising a generation that is losing interest in physical activity and, in addition, is consuming nutritionally deficient foods that will guarantee that they have health problems for the rest of their lives.

We have an epidemic of the type II diabetes for the first time in the history of this country. This is not the kind of diabetes people are born with. This is the kind of diabetes people get as a result of lifestyle, and the notion that youngsters now are the fastest growing group of those with type II diabetes should concern all of us and should get us to doing whatever we can to bring this matter to the attention of their parents and their communities. What Representative MIKE MCINTYRE's resolution does in this regard may seem small, but everything we can do we should now be doing.

Children who are not active and maintain poor diets develop health problems that we now know will be with them for their entire lives. The notion that high blood pressure, pediatricians tell us, now starts for many children when they are in elementary school, for example.

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Youth sports helps counteract this behavior by encouraging physical activity and healthier diets.

Internationally, many organizations use youth sports to help remove barriers between culturally diverse communities. Basketball and soccer leagues have been successfully used in South America and Northern Ireland to foster reconciliation among troubled youth. Youth sports help train children to become productive citizens and future leaders.

Youth Sports Week, which will be celebrated during the second week of July, will raise awareness of the existence of sports leagues around the country and promote sportsmanship among players, parents, coaches, and officials. I very much urge Members to support this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I can share many of the concerns and feelings that my colleague from across the aisle has expressed. When we were growing up, we didn't need a lot of organized sports

to keep us busy, it did not seem. There were plenty of activities in the summer to keep us active; and when we were in school during the year, there were activities to keep us active.

But nowadays it seems it is very difficult to keep children active in sports-related activities unless those are around organized activities. As the grandparent of two who are involved in lots of activities themselves, I see very much the benefits to them from being involved in baseball and in basketball and in Kung Fu and other things that teach them skills that will be useful to them all their lives, including team-building skills.

It is very important, I think, that we keep our young people active and that we do all that we can to help them fight against the trends toward obesity that we are seeing in our culture and the trends toward inactivity, with children being drawn to watching television and playing on computers instead of getting outside and being involved in great activities that could help them in all manners of their lives.

So I very much support this resolution, and I urge all Members to support the adoption of H. Res. 826.

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 826, legislation to designate the second week of July as "National Youth Sports Week."

Many thanks to the cochair of the Youth Sports Caucus, Congressman KENNY HULSHOF, and all of the Members of the Youth Sports Caucus for their work on this bill.

Additionally, I would also like to thank the Government Reform Committee, particularly Chairman DAVIS and Ranking Member WAXMAN for their swift support in bringing this bill to the House floor.

Having coached youth sports for 7 years as a volunteer coach in my hometown of Lumberton, NC, I recently created the Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports in response to the release of the first-ever Report Card on Youth Sports in America.

The report card, compiled by the Citizenship Through Sports Alliance, revealed alarming deficiencies in child-centered philosophy, coaching, health and safety, officiating and parental behavior and involvement in youth sports in America.

Youth sports are the largest youth organization in the United States. In fact, more than 42 million children play sports each year with tens of thousands of volunteers, parents, coaches, and officials joining in to help.

Therefore, we must ensure that our Nation's children have a positive experience playing youth sports, and we must restore the focus of youth sports on character development.

The benefits of children's involvement in youth sports go far beyond the playing field. Children who participate in organized sports tend to achieve better results in school, develop excellent interpersonal skills and increased self-esteem.

During my years as a youth sports coach with my sons, Joshua and Stephen, I saw the positive impact of sports on our youth and in our community, as well as in other communities. I know first-hand the positive impact youth sports have had on my life growing up and not only on my sons' lives but also on the

lives of countless other young people—both boys and girls—across America.

H. Res. 826 raises awareness about the important and long-term physical and emotion benefits of participating in youth sports and the need to promote sportsmanship among players, parents, coaches and officials.

This bill is supported by the Citizenship Through Sports Alliance, Positive Coaching Alliance, and the National Recreation and Park Association. The month of July has been designated by the National Recreation and Park Association as Parks and Recreation month, and the second week of July to celebrate youth sports would complement this celebration.

Please join me in passing this legislation and helping to ensure that our Nation's children reap the positive affects of involvement in youth sports, and that this crucial part of children's lives remains a source of enjoyment and character-building.

JUNE 19, 2006.

Re National Youth Sports Week Resolution (H. Res. 826)

Hon. MIKE MCINTYRE,

Rayburn House Office Building, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

I am writing this letter to offer you the full support and endorsement of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) as you seek passage of the National Youth Sports Week Resolution.

Public park and recreation agencies are the largest provider and facilitator of community based youth sport opportunities in America. Not only do park and recreation agencies provide instructional programs and coordinate youth sport leagues, they manage an estimated 500,000 facilities that are permitted to independent youth sport organizations to conduct their own programs and leagues. Public park and recreation agencies lead the way in identifying needs and offering solutions to improve youth sports. Our collective influence regarding public policy associated with quality sports, development of practice standards and leadership around improving the quality of youth sports reflect our commitment to the work of the Congressional Youth Sports Caucus.

Since 1998, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has engaged national partners and local park and recreation agencies to improve the quality of youth sports nationwide. NRPA partnerships have focused on expanding and improving programming in tennis, basketball, baseball, football as well as many other sports to increase participation among youth and adults.

NRPA was selected by Sports Illustrated in 2002 to celebrate its 50th Anniversary by designating one community in each state as the Sports Illustrated 50th Anniversary Sportstown. This nationwide competition attracted applications from 250 communities in all 50 states. The National Football League Youth Football Fund allowed us to take this project to the next level by engaging thirty-eight communities to demonstrate a new leadership model for improving the quality of youth sports.

At the conclusion of the demonstration project, NRPA launched the Sports Illustrated GOOD SPORTS™ initiative in 2005. Over 1,400 communities joined the initiative to improve youth sports through the following elements:

Teach life skills through sports;
Empower success among youth through sports;
Promote physical activity and healthy lifestyles through sports; and

Strengthen communities through youth sports.

NRPA brought our expertise in the field and our community perspective to assist in the development of the Citizenship through Sports Alliance's (CTSA) National Youth Sports Report Card. We recently moved this partnership forward by working with CTSA to conduct a Grassroots Report Card of Youth Sports in America in coordination with the Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports. We are currently assisting local community efforts to benchmark their grassroots report card against the national findings.

NRPA looks forward to collaborating with the Congressional Youth Sports Caucus to work in a bi-partisan fashion to promote the values of sportsmanship, civility, respect, health, safety, fun and physical activity among players and leaders, including coaches, parents and officials. We are pleased that the National Youth Sports Week will take place during the second week of July to coincide and compliment National Recreation and Parks month.

The leadership role of parks and recreation in advancing child-centered youth sports is increasingly evident. Convening community stakeholders and engaging partners to improve programs, policies and practices around all of youth sports is imperative. Park and recreation agencies sit at the crossroads of responsibility and opportunity to elevate the practice and to develop new standards for the benefit of all children. NRPA will continue to develop public policy recommendations to support the leadership role of parks and recreation to improve the quality of youth sports nationwide.

We applaud your leadership and dedication and that of the co-sponsors to the improvement of youth sports in America by designating a National Youth Sports Week.

Sincerely,

JOHN THORNER,
Executive Director,

*National Recreation and Park Assoc.,
Ashburn, VA.*

Ms. FOXX. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 826.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. FOXX. 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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 34 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 5 p.m.