

A HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR THE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT, THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT, AND THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT.

Whereas, the State of North Carolina under the Standards of Learning Accountability System has long pursued the goal of improving the academic performance of all students, especially students of racial and ethnic backgrounds, lower economic status, and limited English proficiency, and with learning disabilities or challenges; and

Whereas, the State of North Carolina, therefore, applauds the President and United States Congress for putting forth the same goals in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and emphasizing the urgency in closing these achievement gaps and improving the performance of these students; and

Whereas, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 has encouraged some needed changes in public education and was initially accompanied with relatively large increases in federal funding for public elementary and secondary education; and

Whereas, however, the increases in federal funding since the first year of the No Child Left Behind Act have been minimal and insignificant; and

Whereas, the federal government has decreased funding to North Carolina for No Child Left Behind Act in fiscal year 2006 by \$10,777,346 and overall funding for public education by \$11,931,500, including a deduction of \$759,012 from programs that serve students with disabilities; and

Whereas, in addition, the federal government has cut almost \$11,000,000 from postsecondary education programs in North Carolina; Now, therefore, Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

SECTION 1. The House of Representatives urges the President of the United States and Congress to make a serious commitment to improving the quality of the nation's public schools by substantially increasing the funding for the No Child Left Behind Act, the Higher Education Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and other education related programs.

SECTION 2. The House of Representatives requests the President, Congress, and the United States Department of Education to offer states waivers, exemptions, or whatever flexibility possible through regulations from the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act in any year that federal funding for public elementary and secondary education is decreased to prevent states from spending state and local resources on activities that are not proven effective in raising student achievement and may not be the priority of an individual state.

SECTION 3. The Principal Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the President, the members of the North Carolina Congressional Delegation, and the United States Department of Education.

SECTION 4. This resolution is effective upon adoption.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SUPPORT THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT REAUTHORIZATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the Voting Rights Act was good for America in 1965 and it is good and necessary in 2006. We must strengthen our resolve and complete the job that we began almost a year ago in a bipartisan way and pass the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act tomorrow without amendment.

The struggle for voting rights was not so long ago. It was not 75 or 100 years ago. It was 41 years ago that this Voting Rights Act was passed. This is not ancient history. Yet so many Members of the House are too young to remember our very dark history of segregation and voting discrimination.

The history of the right to vote in America is a history of conflict, of violence, of struggle for the right to vote. Many people died trying to gain that right. I was beaten and jailed because I stood up for it. The experience of minorities today tell us that the struggle is not over, and that the special provisions of the Voting Rights Act are still necessary.

We do not want to go back to our dark past, and we must not go back. Forty-one years ago it was almost impossible for people of color to register to vote in many parts of the American South, in Georgia, in Alabama, and in Mississippi. Forty-one years ago, the State of Mississippi had a black voting-age population of more than 450,000, and only about 16,000 blacks were registered to vote.

Just 41 years ago, people of color had to pay a poll tax, pass a so-called literacy test in some States in the South. There were black men and women who were professors in colleges and universities, black lawyers and black doctors who were told they could not read or write well enough to register to vote.

They were asked to interpret certain sections of the Constitution in southern States. Some were asked to count the number of bubbles in a bar of soap, others were asked to count the number of jelly beans in a jar.

People stood in unmovable lines for the opportunity to register to vote. In some States voters could register only on 1 or 2 days a month; but those lines never moved, and those would-be voters were never registered. People were beaten, arrested, jailed, people even shot and killed for attempting to register to vote. It was a matter of life and death.

On March 7, 1965, about 600 of us black men and women and a few young children attempted to peacefully march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery to the State capitol to dramatize to the Nation and to the world that people of color wanted to register to vote. The world watched as we were met with nightsticks, bullwhips, we were trampled by horses, and tear-gassed.

Eight days after what became known as Bloody Sunday, President Johnson came to this podium and spoke to a

joint session of Congress and began by saying, "I speak tonight for the dignity of man and for the destiny of democracy." And during that speech, President Johnson condemned the violence in Selma and called on the Congress to enact a Voting Rights Act. He closed his speech by quoting the rights of the civil rights movement saying, "And we shall overcome."

I was sitting next to Martin Luther King, Jr., in the home of a local family in Selma, Alabama, as we listened to Lyndon Johnson say, "And we shall overcome." Tears came down his face. And we all cried. Dr. King said, "John, the Voting Rights Act will be passed, and we will make it from Selma to Montgomery."

Congress did pass the Voting Rights Act. On August 6, 1965 it was signed into law.

There was an elderly black man who lived in Selma, Alabama, who after Johnson had signed the Voting Rights Act became registered to vote for the first time. He was 91 years old. He said, "I am registered now. I can die and go home to my Lord."

Today, people no longer meet attack dogs and bullwhips and fire hoses as they demonstrate or attempt to register to vote. Today, the tools of discrimination are not poll taxes and literacy tests. But make no mistake, discrimination still exists. Look at Florida in 2000. Look at Ohio.

The tools of discrimination are much more difficult, but just as dangerous. Today, the discrimination comes in the form of redistricting and annexation plans, at-large elections, polling place changes.

In my own State of Georgia, the legislation went back to a period in our dark history by passing a voter ID law that would make it more difficult for the elderly, the poor and minorities to vote. Both a State and a Federal court jurist have called the law unconstitutional and stopped it from taking effect.

We can do better. We must do better, and pass the Voting Rights Act without amendment tomorrow.

ARMY BUDGET PROBLEMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, "Help is on the way." That was the promise this administration made to our country and to our servicemembers before the election in 2002. And look what it has come to mean.

The Army cannot pay its utility bills, defense workers are on the unemployment lines, and equipment readiness is slipping to historic lows. So I ask, exactly who is being helped? I am sure that the administration will blame the Army's money problems on the war. There is no doubt that the \$350 billion excursion into Iraq has placed stress on the Army as well as the other services.

But this Congress has continually provided these supplemental funds the administration has requested to wage the war, and has even increased the defense budget by 19 percent since 2001.

So I ask, how can it be that the Army is closing or curtailing the family support programs and laying off employees? The answer is clear. The administration is not requesting sufficient funds to provide for the national defense beyond the war in Iraq. This Congress has already provided \$166 billion to the Army in 2006. That is \$2 billion more than the administration requested.

Obviously it is not enough. Because I am hearing of reports in the media about bases like Fort Sam Houston where the utility bills have not been paid since March. The Army knows it has a problem. They even requested more money, but the President's Office of Management and Budget cut \$4.9 billion from the Army's request for the 2006 war supplemental before it was presented to Congress.

So now the Army is trying to pinch pennies by closing libraries, reducing trash pickup, closing dining facilities, and reducing support for vital training activities. This is a move that is certain to damage morale and sends the wrong message to our troops. This is not the way to reward the courage and sacrifice of our soldiers and their families.

Several weeks ago, I spoke here on the floor about the dismal readiness posture of the Army's equipment. Readiness rates for equipment have fallen so far that I fear that they will now present a strategic risk to our ability to respond to contingencies beyond our current commitments in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In addition to this problem, the Army is now laying off engineers working on some of the high priority modernization programs in order to pay bills elsewhere in the Army.

The needs of the current and future Army are being neglected. As a candidate in 1999, President Bush said that "The previous administration wanted to command great forces without supporting them, to launch today's new causes with little thought of tomorrow's consequences."

Unfortunately, it appears that the words now apply to his own administration. He is failing to request the funds the military needs to fight the war on terror, the war in Iraq, and also remain ready to defend the Nation if other needs arise.

This country is at war. Americans have a right to expect the administration to realistically budget for national defense. That is not happening, and every day it continues to put this country at greater risk.

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RAILWAY SECURITY

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, the Bush administration constantly crows about protecting us from terrorists, but when you get down to nuts and bolts it is clear that the administration and the Republican leadership of this Congress have no idea what they are doing. Just yesterday, terrorists killed more than 180 people by attacking the mass transit system in Mumbai, India. You had better believe that every one of the 4 million subway riders in New York took a deep breath before getting on the train this morning. New Yorkers know that, when terrorists strike, they go after high density, high profile targets. Every time you read in the newspapers that a terrorist abroad has been apprehended, you find the plans to strike at the United States are of Washington or New York, the maps in their possession or on their computers are of New York. Evidently this is yet to dawn on the Department of Homeland Security. Their ignorance is nothing short of disgusting.

We need to step up not only the distribution of funds to the right places, to the targets in this country, we need to step up rail security protections in this country. The Democratic Rail and Transportation Security Act proposes to appropriate \$400 million a year for the next 6 years for a grant program to beef up the rail and public transportation security on our mass transit systems in the country as a whole, New York and elsewhere, but the administration and the Republicans in Congress say no.

The Democrats propose to spend \$150 million over the next 3 years for advanced research and development to find more advanced solutions to the security threats faced by rail and public transportation systems. Again, the Bush administration and the Republicans in this Congress say no. We ought to be spending roughly \$26 million a year over the next 6 years to hire 200 new rail security inspectors per year. Is this really necessary? You bet. Right now there are only 100 rail security inspectors for the whole country.

We need to increase our intelligence efforts to prevent attacks, develop plans to respond to attacks, and ensure the timely restoration of our rail infrastructure should an attack occur. The Democrats have advanced plans to do this, while the Republican leadership of this Congress and this administration waste their time designating insect zoos and bean festivals as terror targets as was revealed in the front page of the New York Times today from the list of targets on the Homeland Security target list.

Is there no end to their incompetence? First they cut funding for the prime target in this country, New York, by 40 percent. Then they declare an excuse that New York contains no national landmarks or icons, and now

we learn they are designating a kangaroo conservation center as a key terrorist target. There is no excuse for short-changing this country's top targets. As the Inspector General has wisely determined, folksy appeal cannot be the chief criterion for the allocation of anti-terrorist funding.

It has been over 1 year since terrorists struck London's mass transit system, over 2 years since the rail bombings in Madrid, yet little has been done in the United States to protect our rail and mass transit systems. This administration, the leadership of this Congress must open its eyes to reality and put our resources where they are really needed before we have another catastrophe, a preventable catastrophe, on our hands. And then it will be little comfort to know that the blame lies with the administration and the Republican leadership of this Congress.

We don't want to be laying blame. We don't want to be saying it is their fault. We want to prevent it. So let us learn a little, and let us pray that the administration and the Republican leadership of this Congress has their heads examined and opened their eyes.

HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING FOR NEW YORK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for his remarks.

I rise today to express my continuing frustration with the Department of Homeland Security and its inability or unwillingness to focus our limited resources of time, money, and attention on the real risks that we face as a Nation. Yesterday, the bombing of railways in India reminded us not only that terrorists remain committed to senseless and horrific violence, but that they remain attracted to certain types of targets.

Mr. Speaker, in 2001, terrorists attacked New York and Washington. Two years ago, terrorists attacked commuter trains in Madrid. Last year, terrorists attacked subways in the heart of London. Two days ago, rail systems in Mumbai were bombed. There have also been rail and transit attacks in Japan, South Africa, and Israel, and so far unsuccessful plans for attacks on New York's transportation system.

On the streets of Iraq, insurgents are perfecting the use of IEDs against our troops. When those terrorists look to transfer their skills to the United States, where will they look to use them? The pattern is clear, the message is deafening: High density, high profile targets are the most attractive targets for terrorists, and rail and transit systems remain dangerously vulnerable.

Like many of the Members of this House, I was pleased when Secretary Chertoff took office and stressed in his