

step away from their televisions and turn off their X-Boxes, get outside, get some fresh air, and become the young scientists in the living laboratory that is all around us.

More so than any one generation before it, children today are instilled with the values of environmentalism and conservation. H. Res. 292 builds upon and nurtures this value system and serves as a win-win for all.

With the long-term health of our environment becoming an increasingly hot topic, it is imperative that we teach our children to appreciate, respect and protect our environment. While doing so, it improves and beautifies the planet around us. It also is essential to the physical, emotional and mental development of our children. The practice of gardening has proven to improve landscapes and environmental health, nutrition and personal health and family and community bonds. This bill will introduce more children than ever to gardening and horticulture.

For a more beautiful America, and for healthier and happier children, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY), Chair of the Subcommittee of Healthy Families and Communities of the Education and Labor Committee.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Thank you for yielding.

I want to thank my good colleague, DEBORAH PRYCE, for working on this bill and introducing the bill. I want to certainly thank my colleague on the Education Committee, Representative CLARKE from New York, also, for managing the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Resolution 292. It is important for our schoolchildren to learn outside the classroom.

I am personally a gardener, and I hope that someday I'm actually going to become a master gardener. I also know that bringing my grandchildren into the garden and showing them, number one, how to grow things, and also the whole life of bugs, I know a lot of people might get a little squeamish about that, but to learn the science and to watch a praying mantis and to watch how they live and how the birds and the gardens work together, it is teaching our young children the wonders of the world. It also gets them interested in science. This world is a very complex place.

It is also extremely good for your mental health. I know that certainly with this job here, and all the years that I worked as a nurse, the first thing I went to was my garden when I got home. Just to put your hands in the soil, it gives you an immediate release of the tension that you might feel. So it is an activity that we are seeing more and more young people getting involved in.

I am happy to say that many of my schools on Long Island have gardens going around the school, number one, to beautify it, but also to teach the children how important gardening is. And growing vegetables. We find that children that grow their own vegetables actually enjoy eating vegetables a little bit more.

I certainly want my colleagues to vote for this. It is a good bill, and it is a good awareness for our young people.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 292, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that schools should celebrate National Garden Month through a curriculum that includes outdoor learning through gardening.

I appreciate the leadership of its lead sponsor, Congresswoman DEBORAH PRYCE of Ohio.

Around the Nation, more and more schools and youth groups are becoming savvy to the ecological and educational benefits of building gardens. It gives students another reason to get outdoors and use their knowledge and academic skills to solve a real world problem.

Gardening offers active and engaging connections to academics from science and math to nutrition and literacy. Educators will tell you students retain information better when they design experiments, use more than one style of learning, and share their newfound knowledge with others.

Additionally, gardening benefits children's health and well-being, as well as their attitudes toward the environment. Indeed, gardening benefits the whole child. It captivates children's interests, teaches them nurturing skills, and gives them a sense of pride in their accomplishments. It introduces them to healthful foods and provides a way to improve and give back to the community.

I grew up with an appreciation of gardening in that my mother, Wray G. Wilson, was the garden editor of the Charleston News and Courier, where she encouraged the establishment of a municipal parks department for America's most historic city, with the leadership of Mayor J. Palmer Gailliard, Jr. Additionally, my two youngest sons, Julian and Hunter, have developed an appreciation of gardening, the environment and conservation by attending Camp Wildwood, sponsored by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and the Garden Clubs of South Carolina. I am grateful to Brad Taylor and Steve Bates for their enthusiastic coordination of Camp Wildwood.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join my friends, Congresswoman PRYCE, Congresswoman CLARKE, Congresswoman MCCARTHY and students across the Nation in celebrating National Gardening Month, and ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Ms. CLARKE. 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 New York (Ms. CLARKE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 292.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING 2007 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 320) congratulating the University of Tennessee women's basketball team for winning the 2007 NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 320

Whereas, on April 3, 2007, before a crowd of over 20,000 fans, the University of Tennessee women's basketball team (the "Lady Vols") defeated the Scarlet Knights of Rutgers by a score of 59-46 to win the 2007 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Women's Basketball Championship;

Whereas this championship was the first national title for the Lady Vols since their 3-year championship run in 1996-98, and their 7th national title in the last 20 years;

Whereas the Lady Vols were successful due to the leadership of Coach Pat Summitt, the Nation's all-time winningest NCAA basketball coach (men's or women's) with 947 wins over 33 seasons at the University of Tennessee;

Whereas Joan Cronan, the Women's Athletics Director, has shown vision and leadership throughout her 24-year career at the University of Tennessee and created one of the most visible and respected athletic programs in the country;

Whereas the Lady Vols were undefeated in conference games during the 2006-2007 season and compiled an impressive overall record of 34 wins and 3 losses;

Whereas Candace Parker tallied 17 points, 7 rebounds, and 3 assists and was selected the Most Outstanding Player for the 2007 tournament, becoming the 5th Lady Volunteer to be so honored, following in the footsteps of Chamique Holdscaw (1998, 1997), Michelle Marciniak (1996), Bridgette Gordon (1989), and Tonya Edwards (1987);

Whereas Shannon Bobbitt, who at only 5 feet, 2 inches, is the smallest player ever at the University of Tennessee, scored 3 decisive 3-pointers in the 2nd half, finished the game with 13 points, and was named to the 2007 All-Tournament Team;

Whereas Nicky Anosike had a career high of 16 rebounds and was named to the 2007 All-Tournament team;

Whereas senior Sidney Spencer scored 11 points and Alberta Auguste scored 10 points, with both players achieving a combined 6 for 6 from the free throw line;

Whereas Alexis Hornbuckle played outstanding defense and created energy on the court;

Whereas Dominique Redding and Alex Fuller also contributed to the team's victory;

Whereas the 2006–2007 team has an average GPA above 3.0; and

Whereas Coach Pat Summitt's Lady Vols continue their remarkable graduation rate, with every student athlete who has completed her eligibility at the University of Tennessee either graduating or working toward all of the requirements for graduation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the University of Tennessee women's basketball team for being champions on and off the court and for their victory in the 2007 NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship;

(2) recognizes the significant achievements of the players, coaches, students, alumni, and support staff whose dedication and hard work helped the University of Tennessee Lady Vols win the NCAA championship; and

(3) respectfully requests the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit copies of this resolution to the following for appropriate display—

(A) Dr. John D. Petersen, President of the University of Tennessee;

(B) Dr. Loren Crabtree, Chancellor of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville;

(C) Joan Cronan, Women's Athletics Director; and

(D) Pat Summitt, Women's Basketball Head Coach.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may insert material relevant to H. Res. 320 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

(Ms. CLARKE asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

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

H. Res. 320 congratulates the University of Tennessee women's basketball team for winning the 2007 NCAA Division I women's basketball championship.

I would like to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Tennessee, Representative DUNCAN, for bringing this resolution to the floor.

In recognition of the accomplishments of the Tennessee women's basketball team for winning the 2001 NCAA Division I championship, we need only reflect back to the year 1972, when in this body title VIII, also known as the Pepsi Teammate Equal Opportunity and Education Act, was enacted. Title VIII has demonstrated significant impact on high school and collegiate athletics. As a result, women nationwide have had the opportunity to engage in extracurricular activities

enriching their collegiate experience. As well, as a result, we are here today to recognize the victory of the Tennessee women's basketball team 2007 NCAA Division I champions.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and demonstrate our commitment to girls and women's athletics.

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN), who has ably developed this resolution.

Mr. DUNCAN. I thank the gentleman from South Carolina for yielding me this time, and I thank the gentlelady from New York for her support for this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege and honor of representing Knoxville and the surrounding area, which is the home of the main campus of the University of Tennessee and the home of the great basketball team, the Tennessee Lady Vols.

I have sometimes said, Mr. Speaker, that the colors orange and white are almost as patriot or more patriotic in my district than red, white and blue. And I also have said that oftentimes it appears that the biggest thing in my district is Tennessee football and Tennessee women's basketball, although Tennessee men's basketball is coming back under the leadership of our great new coach, Coach Bruce Pearl. But we are especially proud of our Lady Vols basketball coach, Ms. Pat Head Summitt. Under Coach Summitt, Tennessee women's basketball sometimes frequently had crowds of two and three times the number of fans that the men's basketball team would draw, sometimes drawing crowds as large as 24,000, 25,000 people. Pat Summitt is the NCAA's winningest coach, man or woman, in Division I, and has posted an overall record of 947 wins against only 180 losses, a phenomenal winning percentage of 84 percent.

Her 2007 NCAA title was the seventh in her 33-year career at Tennessee. She also captured NCAA titles or led the Lady Vols to NCAA championship titles in 1987, 1989, 1991, 1996, 1997 and 1998, as well as this year. She trails only UCLA's legendary John Wooden for the most lifetime NCAA titles. Coach Wooden captured 10 during his tenure.

She was named SEC Coach of the Year in 1993, 1995, 1998, 2001, 2003, 2004, and 2007. She was the NCAA women's Coach of the Year an unbelievable number of times, in 1983, 1987, 1989, 1994, 1995, 1998 and 2004.

□ 1315

She was named the Naismith Coach of the Century in the year 2000. I want to congratulate Pat Head Summitt and her assistant head coach Holly Warlick who has been with her through most of those years, and also assistants Nikki Caldwell and Dean Lockwood.

The 2007 Lady Vols compiled a 27–2 regular season record, a 14–0 SEC record, a 34–3 all-over record including the SEC and NCAA tournaments.

On April 3, 2007, before a crowd of over 20,000 fans, the Lady Vols beat the Scarlet Knights of Rutgers by a score of 59–46.

Mr. Speaker, all of the players on the Lady Vols have grade point averages over 3.0. Coach Summitt, in her 33 years of coaching, has had an astounding record of a 100 percent graduation rate. And she won't even let her young women take easy courses. It is an amazing record that no other coach in the country can match.

I want to commend Candace Parker, the most outstanding player of the 2007 NCAA tournament, and the starting lineup of Shannon Bobbitt, Nicky Anosike, Sidney Spencer, Alexis Hornbuckle; Sidney Spencer, the only senior on the team; and certainly the key bench players like Dominique Redding, Alberta Auguste, Alex Fuller, and Cait McMahan from my own district in Maryville, Tennessee.

I want to also thank all of the members of the Tennessee delegation for cosponsoring this resolution with me, as well as 22 other bipartisan cosponsors from across this country, from California to West Virginia and South Carolina to Pennsylvania.

I appreciate the nationwide support this resolution has.

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield as much time as he may consume to the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Education and Labor Committee, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS).

(Mr. ANDREWS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ANDREWS. I thank my friend from New York for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the outstanding athletes of the Lady Vols of the University of Tennessee for being outstanding students, outstanding athletes, and great representatives of their university in this country.

I must say, coming from New Jersey, as far as we were concerned, there were two champions playing in this championship game that took place. The Lady Vols won a decisive victory fair and square on the court, although those of us that are fans of Rutgers say we will be back next year to challenge again.

But I was in the chair when the Rutgers resolution passed last week, and I did not want to let this moment pass without adding my voice to acknowledge the championship quality of the young women on both of these teams. In New Jersey, we are particularly proud of the grace and dignity and class shown by the young women of the Rutgers Scarlet Knights basketball team. We think those characteristics are amply shared by the Lady Vols as well, and I just wanted to add my voice

of congratulations as the runner-up to the Lady Vols. But we believe that our young ladies, Mr. Speaker, from Rutgers are champions in every sense of the word.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlelady from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from South Carolina and my colleague from Tennessee for his work on the resolution, and I thank Mr. ANDREWS for his kind remarks. And, yes, we think the Scarlet Knights as we honored them last week did a wonderful job.

But I will have to tell you, Mr. Speaker, we were so thrilled with our Tennessee Lady Vols, and we did like that score of 59-46. We thought that was very good. We liked the fact that our Lady Vols captured their seventh title in 20 years, and it was the first NCAA championship since they won three straight titles, as my colleague from Knoxville mentioned, there in 1996, 1997, 1998.

He mentioned also their coach, Pat Head Summitt, and mentioned that she is the NCAA's all-time winningest coach, male or female. She is given to leadership and she is given to mentoring and role modeling. That is why she has totaled up 947 victories, and she is still counting because she is still out there.

And we accept that challenge from those at Rutgers. We know they are coming back next year, but so are we, and we know that Coach Summitt is going to be out there. And, again, we expect that they will dominate not only the SEC but the NCAA.

And, as always, the Lady Vols accomplished their goal with the dignity befitting one of college basketball's most celebrated programs. Yet their on-the-court exploits pale in comparison to the fact that the Lady Vols continue to set a standard for Division I college sports in the classroom. Coach Summitt and her staff demand the best, and that attitude is reflected in the championship team's 3.0 grade point average, and the program's remarkable graduate rate that has spurred every student who has completed her eligibility at the university to either graduate or continue working toward requirements for graduation. Basketball excellence deserves our applause, but a commitment to academic excellence and the pursuit of a young student athlete's college degree and their leadership and professional development deserves our celebration.

I do congratulate the Lady Vols, Coach Summitt, and the entire University of Tennessee family for their tremendous achievements.

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COOPER).

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my colleagues from Tennessee and across the country who are

honoring the Lady Vols for their terrific performance in the recent basketball tournament. We also want to honor, of course, the Scarlet Knights from Rutgers, all the teams that participated in this wonderful tournament and did a wonderful job; but particularly from Tennessee, we want to honor the Lady Vols, and their incredible coach, Pat Head Summitt.

I have the honor of representing part of Cheatham County, and Pat Summitt claims that as her home, and we are very proud that she is from there as the winningest coach in NCAA history.

So everything that should be said I think has been said. I would just like to associate myself with the remarks because Tennesseans and all Americans, I think, are proud of the performance of the Lady Vols.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP).

Mr. WAMP. I thank the gentleman for yielding and for this moment for us to come and celebrate the Lady Vols' victory of the national championship.

Mr. Speaker, two of my favorite things in life, as people know who know me, are the game of basketball and the Tennessee Volunteers. In 3 months, I will have a son who is a junior at the University of Tennessee, and a daughter who is a freshman, as my son has been there for 2 years, and Kim and I are about to have both of our children as students at the University of Tennessee, and we very much love the school.

I want to speak a moment about the school, because with the HOPE scholarship and the tremendous influx in new students at the University of Tennessee, standards and scores continue to go up. With each and every freshman class, the University of Tennessee becomes a much better, even better institution of higher learning. The quality is very much on the rise, and we are very proud of our school.

But one of the aspects of the University of Tennessee that is so unique is the quality of student athletes that we see there at the University of Tennessee across the spectrum, and then the quality of the athletics that go with those student athletes, from sports like basketball and football, which are nationally well known, but across the spectrum to baseball and swimming and other athletic endeavors. And we are glad that Bruce Pearl is there now as well, and the men's team is sweet 16 and very, very strong. But we are known for ladies' basketball.

The Lady Vols are the best organization in the country for years and years. I won't go back through all the numbers. But, to me, the student athletes represent the very best of the University of Tennessee. We are very, very proud of them. As a Volunteer dad, I am especially proud and look forward to many successful years in the future and a great future for the University of Tennessee.

And I, too, want to pay tribute to Rutgers, a lot of attention, but incredible young women that I have seen on television articulating who they are and how proud they are of who they are, an outstanding coach. And so today we, frankly, come in joint recognition of two great teams, two great schools with great traditions. And you have got to feel good about the future of our country by looking at the Lady Vols and the Scarlet Knights. So congratulations to all.

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID DAVIS).

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support House Resolution 320, congratulating the University of Tennessee women's basketball team for winning the 2007 NCAA Division I women's basketball championship.

The Lady Vols are an institution statewide with an unmatched record of success. With their 59-46 victory over Rutgers on April 3, the Lady Vols won their unprecedented seventh NCAA national championship.

A quick review of the program's records in the past quarter of a century shows features unmatched in women's basketball history. They have seven national titles, 12 championship game appearances, 17 Final Four appearances, 25 sweet 16 appearances.

Tennessee is the only team that has appeared at all 26 NCAA women's basketball tournaments, and their Hall of Fame coach, Pat Summitt, has been a leader in this program for 33 years. And a record of 947 wins and 180 losses gives her more wins than any coach, men or women, in the history of college basketball. She has been a leader in advancing women's athletics to more of a prominent role, and her winning record is even more impressive when you become aware of the fact that every Lady Vol who has completed her eligibility at Tennessee has received her degree or is in the process of completing her degree.

Her players and staff have always displayed the highest levels of sportsmanship and have been tremendous ambassadors for our university. The national and statewide following enjoyed by the Lady Vols include numerous fans throughout the First Congressional District of Tennessee. Therefore, I am pleased to join my colleagues in supporting this worthy resolution honoring the coaches and players of the Lady Vols.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker I yield 3 minutes to the gentlelady from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT).

Mrs. BIGGERT. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to congratulate the Lady Volunteers of the University of Tennessee on their 59-46 victory over

Rutgers University to clinch the 2007 NCAA Division I women's basketball championship. But I am sure you are wondering why a Member from Illinois would rise to discuss a team from Tennessee.

Mr. Speaker, it is to congratulate not only this team but one of its key players, Candace Parker. Candace grew up in the district that I represent, the 13th District of Illinois, and once again she is doing great things. I first got to know Candace when she led the Naperville Central High School Red Hawks to a State basketball title in 2003, a feat that they repeated in 2004.

During her high school years, she was honored with both the Naismith and Gatorade National Players of the Year Awards. Candace followed Marianne Jones and LeBron James as only the third high school athlete in any sport to win the Gatorade National Player of the Year in back-to-back seasons, and is the first girls' basketball player to achieve this distinction.

During her first year at Tennessee, she was forced to take a medical red shirt at Tennessee where she underwent surgery to repair her torn ACL. During her time away from basketball, Candace was continuing to make headlines, but this time in the academic area. She earned a spot on the Lady Volunteers' honor roll, and was named to the Southeastern Conference All-Academic Freshman Team. She returned to the court for the 2005-2006 season without missing a beat. She was the only player on the team to start every game and led the Lady Vols in scoring and rebounds.

While facing Army in the 2006 NCAA tournament, she became the first female to dunk in a tournament game and the first to do it twice in any game.

□ 1330

That season, Candace was named the 2006 SEC Tournament MVP, the 2006 SEC Freshmen of the Year, and the 2006 SEC Rookie of the Year. Adding to her extensive list of awards this season, she was named the 2007 SEC Player of the Year.

But perhaps her greatest achievement came as she and the Lady Volunteers won the 2007 NCAA Division I women's national basketball championship.

Candace Parker is an outstanding athlete and scholar who has done so many impressive things in her short career. Again, I would like to congratulate her and her fellow Lady Volunteers for winning. All of Illinois, and especially the residents of the 13th Congressional District, are proud of Candace and wish her continued success in her endeavors.

I look forward to watching Candace and her teammates defend their title next season, perhaps against a team from Illinois.

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentle-

woman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO).

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Lady Vols on winning the 2007 national women's basketball championship.

You are probably wondering why someone from West Virginia is joining in the celebration. That is because Alexis Hornbuckle, a starting guard for the Lady Vols, is a native of West Virginia, and I actually have been privileged throughout the years to watch Alexis play not only with my daughter in AAU, but also since she was an 8-year-old girl she was a phenom on the court and we knew only great things were ahead of her. She is a wonderful student. She played on a four time State championship basketball team in high school. She is from a wonderful West Virginia family, and we join today as West Virginians to say congratulations to UT and congratulations to Alexis.

I would also like to say congratulations to her coach, Pat Summitt. She is a phenomenal coach of young women, and is growing future leaders of America.

Just to show you the quality of Pat Summitt, when she recruited Alexis, when she knew she was going to UT, Pat Summitt came to Alexis' church to meet not only her parents, her friends, but also her church family.

So I say a job well done to the University of Tennessee Lady Vols, and especially to West Virginia's own, Alexis Hornbuckle.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 320 congratulating the University of Tennessee women's basketball team for winning the 2007 NCAA Division I women's basketball championship.

I am happy to join my good friend and colleague, Representative DUNCAN, in honoring this exceptional team and all of its accomplishments, and wish all involved continued success. I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CLARKE. 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 New York (Ms. CLARKE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 320.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. CLARKE. 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.

RECOGNIZING BENEFITS AND IMPORTANCE OF SCHOOL-BASED MUSIC EDUCATION

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 121) recognizing the benefits and importance of school-based music education, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 121

Whereas school music programs enhance intellectual development and enrich the academic environment for students of all ages;

Whereas students who participate in school music programs are less likely to be involved with drugs, gangs, or alcohol and have better attendance in school;

Whereas the skills gained through sequential music instruction, including discipline and the ability to analyze, solve problems, communicate, and work cooperatively, are vital for success in the 21st century workplace;

Whereas the majority of students attending public schools in inner city neighborhoods have virtually no access to music education, which places them at a disadvantage compared to their peers in other communities;

Whereas the arts are a core academic subject, and music is an essential element of the arts; and

Whereas every student in the United States should have an opportunity to reap the benefits of music education: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that music education grounded in rigorous instruction is an important component of a well-rounded academic curriculum and should be available to every student in every school.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

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

(Ms. CLARKE asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, H. Con. Res. 121, recognizing the benefits and importance of school-based music education, and for other purposes, I would like to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COOPER), for bringing this resolution to the floor.

One of the basic reasons that every child must have an education in music is that music is a part of the fabric of our society. The intrinsic value of music for each individual is widely recognized in the many cultures that make up American life.

Music helps shape individual abilities and character. Success in society is predicated on success in school. Skills learned through the discipline of music transfer to study skills, communication skills, and the cognitive skills useful in every part of the curriculum.