

United States representing those who provide meal services to people in need. The first home-delivered meal program in the United States started in 1954 in Philadelphia, PA. The Meals on Wheels Association of America gives cash grants to local senior meal programs throughout the country to assist in providing meals and other nutrition services. The mission of Meals on Wheels Association of America is "to provide visionary leadership and professional training and to develop partnerships that will ensure the provision of quality nutrition services."

To cite just one example, Meals on Wheels of Greater Houston, in my home city, has been addressing the nutritional and emotional needs of seniors for 30 years. Meals on Wheels of Greater Houston currently serves more than 3,300 hungry, homebound seniors. In January, Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples awarded \$9.5 million in State funding to almost 100 agencies that serve meals to homebound elderly and people with special needs, including \$1.4 million to Meals on Wheels for Greater Houston. I personally know of the good work of the Meals on Wheels program because I chaired Houston's Interfaith Ministries Board which ran this program. I would also insure that the program survived.

Currently, senior nutrition programs such as Meals on Wheels report that 4 out of 10 programs have waiting lists for nutrition services. There are 78.2 million Baby Boomers, and one of those Baby Boomers turns 60 every 7 seconds. Every 8 seconds someone else is turning 50. The demand for nutrition services is increasing each and everyday and we must continue to support senior nutrition programs such as Meals on Wheels.

The March For Meals campaign has been slowly growing into a permanent part of the Meals on Wheels consciousness. March for Meals is a campaign that takes place at any time during the month of March. The month of March was chosen because it was during this month that the law was enacted that included senior meal programs in the Older Americans Act. Some programs choose to make their campaigns last the whole month, while others concentrate on a single week or day. The biggest component of March For Meals is the Mayors For Meals Day.

Today, Meals on Wheels programs generally operate locally, at the county level or smaller. Programs vary widely in their size, service provided, organization, and funding. Although Meals on Wheels Association of America is a national program, each local program is entirely independent. Depending on the program, meals may be delivered by paid drivers or by volunteers. Most clients of Meals on Wheels programs are elderly and programs receiving Federal funding may not serve people less than 60 years of age.

Mr. Speaker, this important legislation recognizes and honors the commendable hard work and dedication exhibited by Meals on Wheels for over the past 50 years. I encourage other Members of Congress to continue to support their local senior nutrition programs by participating in their annual March For Meals events and campaigns. For these reasons, I strongly support H. Res. 259 and urge all members to do the same.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 259.

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.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION OF APRIL 2008 AS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1097) expressing support for the designation of the month of April 2008, as National Child Abuse Prevention Month to provide attention to the tragic circumstances that face some of our Nation's children on a daily basis and to underscore our commitment to preventing child abuse and neglect so that all children can live in safety and security, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1097

Whereas in 2006, an estimated 905,000 children were determined to be victims of abuse or neglect out of an estimated 6,100,000 children referred for investigations and assessments;

Whereas the number of children who received an investigation or assessment by Child Protective Services increased by 333,000 from 2002 to 2006;

Whereas in 2006, an estimated 1,530 children died tragically as a result of abuse or neglect;

Whereas some of the most vulnerable children in our Nation are the most likely to be maltreated, with the youngest suffering the highest rate of victimization and children with disabilities also experiencing a high risk of maltreatment;

Whereas 91,278 of the victims of abuse and neglect had not yet reached their first birthday, with more than 84 percent being less than a month old;

Whereas children who are abused or neglected are at higher risk in adulthood for health problems such as alcoholism, depression, drug abuse, eating disorders, obesity, suicide, and certain chronic diseases;

Whereas a National Institute of Justice study indicated abuse or neglect during childhood increased the likelihood of arrest as a juvenile by 59 percent and adult criminal behavior by 28 percent;

Whereas it is estimated that approximately one-third of abused and neglected children grow up to victimize their own children;

Whereas 25 percent of children maltreated in 2006 had prior history of victimization.

Whereas child abuse and neglect can have long-term economic and societal costs;

Whereas community-based services to overburdened families are far less costly than the emotional and physical damage inflicted on children or the costs of child protective services, law enforcement, courts, foster care, health care, and the treatment of adults recovering from child abuse;

Whereas the annual estimated cost to the United States for not preventing child abuse and neglect is approximately \$104,000,000,000,

according to a 2008 report by Prevent Child Abuse America;

Whereas child protection agencies are unable to provide important follow-up services such as counseling or case management to 40 percent of the abused and neglected children on their caseloads; and

Whereas it is appropriate to designate the month of April 2008, as National Child Abuse Prevention Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States House of Representatives—

(1) expresses support for the designation of National Child Abuse Prevention Month;

(2) should increase public awareness of child abuse and neglect prevention and should continue to work with the States to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect; and

(3) should recognize that child abuse and neglect prevention programs reduce child maltreatment, strengthen families, reduce mental illness, deter criminal behavior, and contribute to children's positive emotional, academic, social, and cognitive development.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may insert materials relevant to H. Res. 1097 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WOOLSEY. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, a child's safety should never be put in jeopardy. That's why I rise in support of H. Res. 1097, authored by Congressman COURTNEY from Connecticut.

H. Res. 1097 is a bill to designate this month as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. We need to shine a light on the tragic circumstances, Mr. Speaker, that face some of our Nation's children on a daily basis. As people across the country recognize this month as National Child Abuse Prevention Month and promote awareness activities in order to reduce the cases of child maltreatment, this resolution moves us one step closer to securing the safety and well-being of all children.

The latest data shows us that in the year 2006, approximately 1,530 children died, died in the United States of America, due to maltreatment, and an additional 905,000 children were victims of abuse and neglect. Even more disturbing, Mr. Speaker, is that our most vulnerable children are at greatest risk. Approximately 90,000 victims of child abuse and neglect in the year 2000 were less than 1 year old. More than 84 percent of those child abuse victims were less than 1 month old.

These facts are appalling. We must work together to bring attention to this important issue and begin to

strengthen our families and our communities and to keep our children safe. We need to emphasize the need for more prevention programs because prevention works by reducing risk factors, by promoting protective factors and by fostering a commitment for social change.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Representative COURTNEY for introducing this important bill. It is my hope and it is my goal that all of my colleagues will join me in supporting H. Res. 1097 so that together we can reduce child abuse and neglect by increasing public awareness.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1097, expressing support for the designation of the month of April, 2008, as National Child Abuse Prevention Month to bring attention to the tragic circumstances that face some of our Nation's children on a daily basis and to underscore our commitment to preventing child abuse and neglect so that all children can live in safety and security.

Child abuse comes in many forms, physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse and emotional abuse. Too often, these forms of abuse are found in combination with one another. Approximately 905,000 children were found to be victims of child abuse or neglect in 2006. Nearly 80 percent of the perpetrators were parents of the victims.

Last year, it was estimated that the total annual cost of child abuse in the United States was nearly \$104 billion. This represents more than \$33 billion in direct costs of child maltreatment, including judicial, foster care, law enforcement and health system responses and \$70 billion in indirect costs including long-term economic effects.

Each of us can make a difference in the prevention of child abuse by understanding the causes of child abuse, by learning to identify the warning signs that a child is being abused, by reporting any known or suspected case of child abuse, by being a friend to a child or a parent in need and by alerting others to the problem.

I want to thank the folks in Wilkes County who invited me to attend a vigil at Our House in Wilkes County which provides services to abused children there. Every year, the staff and volunteers of Our House hold a vigil to raise awareness of this terrible problem in our area of the country. I know that other counties in the Fifth District of North Carolina, which I represent, also have worked to raise awareness. I want to particularly commend them for doing it.

In 1974, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act was first enacted to create a focal point in the Federal Government to identify and address issues of child abuse and neglect and to support effective methods of prevention and treatment. Through this act,

States receive grants to help with their child protective service functions, improve investigation and prosecution of child maltreatment and to assist community-based family resource and support services.

Today, we recognize that child abuse and neglect are preventable through the efforts of schools, neighbors, families and the community. Child Abuse Prevention Month provides us all with an opportunity to work together to keep children safe and to provide the support that families need to stay together and raise children and youth to be happy, secure and stable adults.

In 1983, April was first proclaimed as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Since that time, every April, child abuse and neglect awareness activities are promoted across the country. That is why I stand in support of this resolution, and I ask for my colleagues' support.

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield as much time as he may consume to the author of this great resolution, Mr. COURTNEY from Connecticut, and a member of the committee.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congresswoman WOOLSEY for her leadership by managing this resolution this afternoon and for Congresswoman FOXX's strong support that she just articulated very powerfully.

As Congresswomen WOOLSEY and FOXX stated, the statistics that the resolution lays forth clearly show the grave seriousness of this problem of child abuse all across America. In addition, though, just to the horrible trauma to the victims of child abuse, which by itself would be reason to fight this problem, society pays a huge price due to the high incidence of alcoholism, depression, drug abuse, eating disorders, and criminal behavior that has been clearly shown to occur in the later lives of too many children who were abused and neglected.

Recent statistics, for example, show that 14 percent of all men in prison in the United States were abused as children and 36 percent of women in prison were abused as children. And it is easy sometimes to get very discouraged about the numbers that just seem to suggest a problem that is growing almost out of control. In Connecticut, the State where I come from, for example, in between 1990 and 2003, the incidence of reported child abuse actually doubled. But I would suggest that perhaps we should look at those numbers in a different fashion, because what is also happening out there is that as a country, we are prepared, as never before in the past, to confront this issue. Mandated reporting laws now require that doctors, mental health providers and professionals in all arrays of professions that deal with families and children are now required by law to report incidents of abuse which in the past would have been swept under the

rug. And that is one of the reasons why the number of cases are going up.

In addition, I think we should also be encouraged by a smarter and more effective approach that is being developed to fight child abuse, the multidisciplinary teams that are pulling together police, social workers, prosecutors, health care providers, nurse practitioners and doctors who are now systematically working together to make sure, number one, that complaints are dealt with accurately, but also that victims are diagnosed, treated and interviewed in an organized fashion so that there is more effective prosecution of cases.

If it seems as though I may be a little bit passionate about this issue, it is because my wife, Audrey, has been a pediatric nurse practitioner for 18 years in Connecticut, has worked at Saint Francis Hospital at Hartford and Windham Hospital as part of the multidisciplinary team, again, that is employing the best techniques possible to make sure that complaints are handled intelligently, swiftly and also in a comprehensive fashion so that prosecutions are not lost or neglected due to the fact that we don't have systems in place to make sure that the cases are handled in an effective manner.

This resolution, I think, adds to both of those positive trends by putting the spotlight on this issue to make sure that we, as a country, are prepared to confront the issue, to talk about it openly, to talk about the numbers that are out there and the terrible consequences that we face as a society when we don't deal with the issue.

So hopefully this year, like prior years, as Congresswoman FOXX indicated, April will act as a month where awareness will continue to grow, that we are going to continue to, as a society, deal with this issue honestly and frankly so that, A, we will protect our children who are our most valuable national treasure, and, B, that we will have systems that are prepared to effectively prosecute and punish perpetrators, and finally, that we are going to treat and care for people who have been abused in such a terrible fashion, because it helps not only them, but it helps American society.

So again, I applaud Congresswoman WOOLSEY for bringing this measure out on the floor this afternoon and I urge unanimous passage when it comes up for a vote later this evening.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, we have no other speakers.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution, and I also thank Congresswoman FOXX for her support in all of these bills that have come before us this afternoon.

It is so important that together on both sides of the aisle and that we understand the urgency of the resolution like Congressman COURTNEY's resolution today.

Child abuse should be something we talk about and think about every day, every minute, every second. There should never be a time when we don't worry about the little children in our country and in our world and what adults do to them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution to make sure we bring it to the attention of those around the country, not just this month, but every month following.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1097, "Expressing support for the designation of the month of April 2008, as National Child Abuse Prevention Month, to provide attention to the tragic circumstances that face some of our Nation's children on a daily basis and to underscore our commitment to preventing child abuse and neglect so that all children can live in safety and security." I would like to thank my distinguished colleague, JOE COURTNEY of Connecticut, for introducing this important piece of legislation.

There is no greater crime than an individual can commit to a child than the crime of child molestation and child abuse. The perpetrators of this crime rob children of their innocence. Moreover, victims of child molestation are profoundly affected for the rest of their lives. As parents, elected officials and concerned citizens, we have an obligation to condemn this violence, work for stronger enforcement of the law and provide adequate funding for programs to assist children who may have experienced such abuse.

The problem of violence against children and sexual exploitation of children has been highlighted by recent events involving brutal acts of violence against children. Some recent incidents you may remember include: (1) the abduction, rape and killing of 9 year old Jessica Lunford (who was buried alive); (2) the slaying of 13 year old Sarah Lunde, both of whom were killed in Florida by career criminals and sex offenders. In Philadelphia, four defendants were charged with the stabbing and killing of a 15 year old girl, who they then threw into the Schuylkill River. All of these tragic events have underscored the continuing epidemic of violence against children. Children who are abused or neglected are at higher risk in adulthood for health problems such as alcoholism, depression, drug abuse, eating disorders, obesity, suicide, and certain chronic diseases.

Sadly, sexual abuse is often committed by a family member. Approximately 91,000 of the victims of abuse and neglect had not yet reached their first birthday, with more than 84 percent being less than a month old. Incest is the most common form of child sexual abuse. It is often perpetrated by adults that have been entrusted with caring for a child—a family friend, babysitter, a teacher, day care worker, or even religious leaders. At least one out of five adult women and one out of ten adult men report having been sexually abused as children. In Texas, there were more than 111,000 investigations of child abuse and neglect by the Child Protective Services in Texas. Of those cases, 7,650 were sexual abuse.

In addition, the sexual victimization of children is overwhelming in magnitude and largely unrecognized and underreported. Statistics show that 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 10 boys are

sexually exploited before they reach adulthood, yet less than 35 percent of the incidents are reported to authorities. This problem is exacerbated by the number of children who are solicited online—according to the Department of Justice 1 in 5 children (10 to 17 years old) receive unwanted sexual solicitations online.

It is estimated that approximately one-third of abused and neglected children grow up to victimize their own children. Child abuse and neglect can have long-term economic and societal costs. Community-based services to overburdened families are far less costly than the emotional and physical damage inflicted on children or the costs of child protective services, law enforcement, courts, foster care, health care, and the treatment of adults recovering from child abuse. The annual estimated cost to the United States for not preventing child abuse and neglect is approximately \$104 billion according to a 2008 report by Prevent Child Abuse America.

It will take more than just stronger enforcement of the law to prevent child molestation and other forms of abuse against children. To end this serious abuse of children, all segments of the community such as parents, educators, religious leaders, and community leaders must create a nurturing environment for children where they know that they are loved and deserve to be protected from violence and sexual abuse and feel comfortable in reporting.

Local law enforcement receives increased flexibility in how it invests grants for child abuse victims, specifically by providing access to criminal conviction records by child protective and child welfare workers. This would enable workers to determine if troubled children are victims of abuse. State law enforcement would also have access to court child custody, visitation, protection, guardianships and stay away orders. Police could use this information to establish the validity of urgent complaints concerning children who may have been kidnapped by an abusive ex-spouse.

I express my support for the designation of National Child Abuse Prevention Month. I believe we should increase public awareness of child abuse and neglect prevention and should continue to work to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect. We should recognize that child abuse and neglect prevention programs reduce child maltreatment, strengthen families, reduce mental illness, deter criminal behavior, and contribute to children's positive emotional, academic, social, and cognitive development.

Ms. WOOLSEY. 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 California (Ms. WOOLSEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1097, as amended.

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. WOOLSEY. 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 motion 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 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. LEE) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5719, TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE AND SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 2008

Ms. CASTOR, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-585) on the resolution (H. Res. 1102) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5719) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to conform return preparer penalty standards, delay implementation of withholding taxes on government contractors, enhance taxpayer protections, assist low-income taxpayers, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2634, JUBILEE ACT FOR RESPONSIBLE LENDING AND EXPANDED DEBT CANCELLATION OF 2008

Ms. CASTOR, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-586) on the resolution (H. Res. 1103) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2634) to provide for greater responsibility in lending and expanded cancellation of debts owed to the United States and the international financial institutions by low-income countries, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 886, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 994, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 3548, by the yeas and nays.

Votes on H.R. 5517 and H. Res. 1097 will be taken tomorrow.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.