

toward the requirements for graduation within the required 6-year time limit set by NCAA rules.

I have always said that the colors orange and white are almost as patriotic in my district as red, white, and blue. I doubt there is any community that shows more support for women's athletics than the people of Tennessee. The Lady Vols regularly attract huge crowds to watch them play, sometimes as large as 25,000 people. It is easy to become overwhelmed with statistics when speaking of the Lady Vols. They finished this season with 36 wins and only two losses, the second most wins in a single season in school history.

I especially want to commend Candace Parker, who won back-to-back most outstanding player of the Final Four, and some people say that she is probably the greatest women's basketball player of all time. I also want to congratulate Shannon Bobbit and Nicky Anosike, who both also earned All-Final Four team honors, and Alexis Hornbuckle who played and started in her 21st NCAA tournament game.

I want to also thank all the members of the Tennessee delegation for cosponsoring this resolution, as well as 16 other bipartisan cosponsors from across the country.

□ 1930

I also want to commend the entire coaching staff, Pat Head Summitt, certainly the greatest head coach in women's basketball history; Joan Cronan, our great women's athletics director; and Holly Warlick, associate head coach; Dean Lockwood, assistant coach; and Nikki Caldwell, assistant coach, who is now moving on to become UCLA's new head coach. And I certainly appreciate the nationwide support for this resolution. And I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, at this time I will yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Tennessee, Representative JOHN TANNER.

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I could not improve on the eloquence of my friend, JIMMY DUNCAN from Knoxville, but I just wanted to join and thank you for bringing this resolution about the Lady Vols. It is a storied program. I went there some years ago now and played a little basketball myself, and I doubt, I told somebody today, I couldn't make the women's team now.

But Pat Summitt is really a legend, and she and my Chief of Staff, Vikki Walling were teammates at UT-Martin several years ago.

It is not only a sense of pride to those of us from Tennessee for the many accomplishments that the Lady Vols have made over the years, but the graduation rate of the players is something, I think, that is really indicative of the kind of quality program that Coach Summitt and her staff run. And so I want to thank you, again, for bringing this to the floor.

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I just want to extend my congratulations to Head Coach Pat Summitt, all the hardworking players, the fans and the University of Tennessee. I am very happy this evening to join my friends and colleagues, particularly the gentlemen from Tennessee who spoke so eloquently about their school and honoring this exceptional team and all of its accomplishments.

I ask my colleagues to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I urge that all my colleagues support this resolution for a wonderful basketball team, wonderful women, wonderful coaches and assistant coaches, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HARE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1151.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF CONNECTING FOSTER YOUTH TO THE WORKFORCE THROUGH INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1332) recognizing the importance of connecting foster youth to the workforce through internship programs, and encouraging employers to increase employment of former foster youth.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1332

Whereas, on any given day, there are more than 500,000 youth in foster care in the United States;

Whereas an estimated 26,000 of these youth are discharged from the foster care system or "age out" with little to no resources to start their own lives;

Whereas the people of the United States have a sincere appreciation for the circumstances that place children in foster care;

Whereas foster youth possess unique qualities and skills that make them ideal candidates for employment, but compared to youth nationally and youth from low-income families, they are less likely to be employed or employed regularly;

Whereas, when afforded comprehensive support, this resilient population excels in the job market;

Whereas, within 18 months after leaving foster care, 25 percent of foster youth become homeless and comprise more than a quarter of the United States homeless population;

Whereas, without positive intervention, youth who age out of foster care often have bouts of homelessness, criminal activity, and incarceration;

Whereas addressing job readiness early in the transition to adulthood is critical to shaping the future trajectories of these youth; and

Whereas youth who begin connecting to the workforce prior to discharge from foster care maintain the highest probability of employment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the importance of connecting foster youth to the workforce through internship programs, such as the Orphan Foundation of America's InternAmerica program, that provide foster youth the foundation upon which to build their careers and to be successful members of the work force; and

(2) encourages employers of all sectors and Federal, State, and local governmental agencies to increase employment of the young men and women who have been discharged from foster care in the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HARE) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 1332 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 1332, which recognizes the importance of connecting foster youth to employment opportunities. The foster care system currently serves 500,000 youth. Out of those 500,000 foster youth, 25 percent of them become homeless within 18 months after aging out of the system. Many of these young people find themselves on the street with few resources. Not only are they without housing and a family support system, but they also lack work experience that can help them reverse their downward slide.

The resolution before us today points out the importance of connecting youth to the workforce through internship programs and, in particular, how foster kids can benefit from these opportunities.

Orphan Foundation of America's Intern American program offers foster youth top-tier internships, housing and professional development seminars here in our Nation's Capital. Some of these great internships coordinated by OFA's Intern American program are with Members of Congress, Fortune 500

companies and major not-for-profit organizations. These work experiences allow foster children to develop talents and increase their skill sets.

Young people who have early work experiences are better prepared to succeed in the workforce. Unfortunately, many foster youth are unaware of the opportunities to gain this experience. House Resolution 1332 encourages employers from all sectors to increase employment opportunities for young people who were in the foster care system.

Madam Speaker, once again I express my support for this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to pass this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I too rise today in support of House Resolution 1332, which recognizes the importance of connecting foster youth to the workplace. This resolution also encourages employers to employ former foster youth.

On any given day, Madam Speaker, there are more than 500,000 youth in foster care in the United States. Children are placed in foster care when their parents are no longer able to ensure their essential well-being. These children need stable loving care until they can either safely reunite with their families or cultivate other lasting relationships with nurturing adults.

Foster youth possess unique qualities and skills that make them ideal candidates for employment. But compared to youth nationally and youth from low-income families, they are less likely to be employed or employed regularly.

Foster youth experience challenges based on the instability in their home and school environments. Just over half of all foster youth complete high school. 30 percent continue to rely on public assistance into adulthood, and 25 percent will experience homelessness at one point in their lives.

Without positive intervention, youth who age out of foster care often have bouts of homelessness, criminal activity and incarceration. However, when afforded comprehensive support, the resilient foster youth population excels in the job market.

Foster youth who begin connecting to the workforce prior to release from foster care maintain the highest probability of employment. By addressing job readiness early in the transition to adulthood, employers are helping to shape the future trajectories of these youth.

This resolution encourages employers of all sectors, including Federal, State and local government agencies, to increase employment of the young men and women who have been discharged from foster care in the United States. By connecting foster youth to the workforce through internship programs, employers can assist in building the foundation for these youth to be-

come successful members of the workforce and to build successful careers. That is why I stand in support of this resolution and ask for all my colleagues support.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I would like to yield as much time as he may consume to the author of this House resolution that is so vital, Representative CARDOZA from California.

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Illinois for his gracious management of this issue, and also my colleague from Minnesota, who spoke so graciously in support of it.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 1332, the Fostering Employment Opportunities Act.

I also want to thank Chairman MCDERMOTT who is in the House Chamber at this time, and Congressman FATTAH, both of whom join me as co-authors of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, there are over a half a million children who have been abused or abandoned, through no fault of their own, who end up in the United States foster care system. While in foster care, many of them experience multiple placements and find it difficult to establish a community.

Madam Speaker, every year, 26,000 young people are discharged from foster care on the midnight of their 18th birthday with few resources to start their own lives. Their health care coverage is terminated in a vast number of States, and with little or no family support, many of them end up homeless or unemployed or in jail.

I have met a number of these youth, and they are remarkable survivors. They have the same hopes and dreams as all other children in America. They want to be mechanics and doctors. They want to serve our country as soldiers and policemen. But they have a harder path to realizing their dream.

Despite their resilience and their other unique qualities that make these youth ideal candidates for employment, statistically, foster youth are the most likely to be unemployed, and comprise 27 percent of the Nation's homeless population. Part of it has to do with the impact of the instability of their younger years. And part is the result of the negative and unjustified stereotypes placed on this population that may cause employers to look past this pool of qualified candidates.

Another part is that many young people today are connected to the workforce through internships, often arranged by their parents, with business or social associates and connections. However, foster youth tend to lack a stable environment due to the number of foster home placements that they have over the course of their lives, and have limited family or community connections. As such, foster youth are not afforded the same opportunities and are often left behind.

This resolution is simple. It encourages employers to look twice at these

remarkable young people who are highly qualified, in many cases, and equally deserving.

Madam Speaker, I speak to you today as a father as well as an author of this resolution. A father of two foster children who I am so lucky, my wife and I are so lucky to have adopted, one of whom is with me today, my daughter, Elaina. She, luckily has a home now. It is a permanent home. That wasn't always the case for her. We are just looking to offer the same kinds of opportunities that this country will offer Elaina now, to every foster youth in the country.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I have no other speakers on this side, so I will just yield myself a moment, if I might, to say well done to my colleague from California, and to urge all my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, again I just want to thank the author of this incredibly wonderful resolution, Representative CARDOZA from California, and commend him for the hard work and dedication that he put into this effort.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HARE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1332.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

□ 1945

ESTABLISHING AN EARNED IMPORT ALLOWANCE PROGRAM

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6560) to establish an earned import allowance program under Public Law 109-53, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6560

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

SECTION 1. EARNED IMPORT ALLOWANCE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title IV of the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States