

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Northwestern University Wildcats women's lacrosse team as the 2009 NCAA champion. This season marks the team's fifth straight national championship win and solidifies Northwestern University as a national leader both in academic and athletic excellence.

The Northwestern University women's lacrosse team is looked upon as a role model by young athletes in the Chicagoland area, maintaining the highest standard of excellence both in the classroom and on the field. Most noted, is senior Hannah Nielson. Hannah has been honored as the nation's top lacrosse player with the Tewaaraton Trophy due to her exemplary performance as the Wildcat's all-time leader in points and by helping to lead her team to 23–0 victory in 2009.

Furthermore, I would like to extend my congratulations to the 10 Wildcat seniors Hilary Bowen, Mary Kate Casey, Laura Clemente, Casey Donohoe, Meredith Franks, Caitlin Jackson, Ali Jacobs, Morgan Lathrop, Hannah Nielson and Meghan Plunkett who have finished their amazing collegiate careers with an 85–3 record including four American Lacrosse Conference titles and four NCAA national titles.

□ 1500

Mrs. BIGGERT. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PIERLUISI. Having no additional speakers, Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues support the resolution, congratulating the Northwestern University Wildcats for winning the 2009 NCAA Women's Lacrosse Championship.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 824.

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. PIERLUISI. Mr. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 817) supporting the goals and ideals of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should continue to raise awareness of domestic violence in the United States and its devastating effects on families and com-

munities, and support programs designed to end domestic violence, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 817

Whereas domestic violence affects people of all ages as well as racial, ethnic, gender, economic, and religious backgrounds;

Whereas females are disproportionately victims and one in four women will experience domestic violence at some point in her life;

Whereas on average, more than three women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in the United States every day;

Whereas in 2005, 1,181 women were murdered by an intimate partner constituting 78 percent of all intimate partner homicides that year;

Whereas women ages 16 to 24 experience the highest rates, per capita, of intimate partner violence;

Whereas 1 out of 3 Native American women will be raped and 6 out of 10 will be physically assaulted in their lifetimes;

Whereas the cost of intimate partner violence exceeds \$5,800,000,000 each year, \$4,100,000 of which is for direct medical and mental health care services;

Whereas one-quarter to one-half of domestic violence victims report that they have lost a job due, at least in part, to domestic violence;

Whereas the annual cost of lost productivity due to domestic violence is estimated at \$727,800,000 with over 7,900,000 paid workdays lost per year;

Whereas some landlords deny housing to victims of domestic violence who have protection orders or evict victims of domestic violence for seeking help after a domestic violence incident, such as by calling 911, or who have other indications that they are domestic violence victims;

Whereas 92 percent of homeless women experience severe physical or sexual abuse at some point in their lifetimes;

Whereas approximately 40 to 60 percent of men who abuse women also abuse children;

Whereas approximately 15,500,000 children are exposed to domestic violence every year;

Whereas children exposed to domestic violence are more likely to attempt suicide, abuse drugs and alcohol, run away from home, and engage in teenage prostitution;

Whereas one large study found that men exposed to physical abuse, sexual abuse, and adult domestic violence as children were almost four times more likely than other men to have perpetrated domestic violence as adults;

Whereas nearly 1,500,000 high school students nationwide experienced physical abuse from a dating partner in 2003;

Whereas 13 percent of teenage girls who have been in a relationship report being hit or hurt by their partners and one in four teenage girls has been in a relationship in which she was pressured by her partner into performing sexual acts;

Whereas adolescent girls who reported dating violence were 60 percent more likely to report one or more suicide attempts in the past year;

Whereas there is a need for middle schools, secondary schools, and post-secondary schools to educate students about the issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking;

Whereas 88 percent of men in a national poll reported that they think that our society should do more to respect women and girls;

Whereas a recently released multi-State study shows that the Nation's domestic violence shelters are addressing victims' urgent and long-term needs and are helping victims protect themselves and their children;

Whereas a 2008 National Census Survey reported that 60,799 adults and children were served by domestic violence shelters and programs around the Nation in a single day;

Whereas an additional 8,927 people requested help that day, but due to lack of resources, they were unable to be served;

Whereas there is a need to increase funding for programs aimed at intervening and preventing domestic violence in the United States; and

Whereas individuals and organizations that are dedicated to preventing and ending domestic violence should be recognized: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month; and

(2) expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should continue to raise awareness of domestic violence in the United States and its devastating effects on families and communities, and support programs designed to end domestic violence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) each will control 20 minutes. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Puerto Rico.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 817 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PIERLUISI. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 817, supporting the goals and ideals of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should continue to raise awareness of domestic violence in the United States. I would also like to thank Congressman AL GREEN for bringing this resolution forward. It is an important bill and deserves much attention.

National Domestic Violence Awareness Month is recognized in the month of October. As such, communities and many groups hold events to educate the public about the violence that affects millions of women, men and children every single day. Domestic violence advocacy increases awareness and helps battered people seek the help they desperately need.

Domestic violence is the willful intimidation, assault, battery, sexual assault or other abusive behavior perpetrated by an intimate partner against another. It is an epidemic that affects men, women and children in every community regardless of age, sex, economic status, nationality or educational background.

One in every four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime, and those who report domestic violence are more likely to commit suicide. In addition, the costs of domestic violence exceed \$5.8 billion each year. As evidenced by these staggering statistics, domestic violence has far-reaching effects on society.

When we think of domestic violence, we often think of women being the victims, yet men suffer from domestic violence as well. Male victims are less likely than women to report violence and to seek services due to the stigma associated with being a male victim or concerns about not being believed. Both men and women respond to interpersonal violence with feelings of disbelief, ridicule and shame that only enhance their silence.

Our attention to domestic violence has grown, but we need to do more to raise awareness of this problem because it can serve as a dangerous, never-ending cycle. Whether domestic violence is present in couples or in marriages, children who witness violent behavior are more likely to carry domestic violence into their adult relationships.

Research shows that children witnessing domestic violence and living in an environment where violence occurs may experience some of the same trauma as abused children. They may become fearful, aggressive or withdrawn. Adolescents may exhibit risk-taking behaviors, such as abusing drugs and alcohol, running away, engaging in sexual promiscuity and participating in criminal activity. All of these behaviors have an effect on society as a whole, and we can break the chain of domestic violence through ongoing education and comprehensive universal support.

We must remember that domestic violence victims are our mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers. Congress must continue to lead in making our Nation aware of domestic violence and its impact on our society. We can galvanize public awareness for victims of domestic violence. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 817.

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 817, supporting the goals and ideals of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should raise awareness of domestic violence in the United States and its devastating effects on families and communities and support programs designed to end domestic violence.

As the gentleman from Puerto Rico just mentioned, one in every four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime. Boys who witness domestic violence are twice as likely to abuse their partners and children

when they become adults. The cost of intimate partner violence exceeds \$5.8 billion each year. As evident by these staggering statistics, domestic violence has a far-reaching effect on society.

Let me repeat the definition that the gentleman from Puerto Rico stated: domestic violence is the willful intimidation, assault, battery, sexual assault and/or other abusive behavior perpetrated by an intimate partner against another. It is an epidemic that affects individuals in every community regardless of age, economic status, religion, nationality, educational background or gender.

When we think of domestic violence, we often think of women being victims. However, men are victimized as well, and children are also affected. We think of violence as just violence, not domestic violence. But violence really begins at the home, and it really begins at the back of someone's hand, or whatever, rather than a stranger, and it goes throughout the community. Male victims are less likely to report the violence and seek services due to the stigma associated with being a male victim or not being believed or being denied the status of a victim. But both men and women experience the same dynamics of interpersonal violence, including experiences of disbelief, ridicule and shame that only enhance their silence.

Unfortunately, the youngest victims are the children who witness the abuse. Research has shown that children witnessing domestic violence and living in that environment may experience some of the same trauma as abused children. They may become fearful, aggressive or withdrawn. Adolescents may act out or exhibit risk-taking behaviors. Domestic violence harms the victim, the children, the abuser and the entire health of American families and communities. So we must raise awareness about this issue. The health of our country depends on it.

Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 817, and I would reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PIERLUISI. I do have one additional speaker.

I would like to say that the victims of domestic violence in America—women, men, children—are looking up to us to take the lead, to make sure that this epidemic does not continue. They're particularly vulnerable, and they want us to relate to them; they want us to support them, and the best way we can do that is by being aware and by taking the lead and making sure that there are Federal programs as well as State initiatives that make sense and make a difference.

Without adding anything else, I now yield 5 minutes to the sponsor of this resolution, the gentleman from Texas, Congressman AL GREEN.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored that leadership has brought this resolution, H.

Res. 817, to the floor today. I believe that this resolution is important, and this likewise seems to be the case with my colleagues because this resolution has received the support of 57 Democratic and Republican cosponsors. This resolution has been a bipartisan effort. And for fear that I will forget, let me mention now that my colleague, the Honorable TED POE, will not be with us today, but he is here in spirit. He suffered the same fate as I; his plane is late in Houston, Texas. I was on the runway for 2 hours. I barely made it, but thank God that I did. I want the Members to know that he is solidly behind this resolution. This resolution, with reference to domestic violence, transcends party affiliation; it transcends ethnicity; it transcends gender; and it transcends the boundaries of human decency.

Many thank you's are in order. I want to thank the President, President Barack Obama, for declaring October National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. I would like to thank Speaker PELOSI because she has entered a statement recognizing this as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The Congressional Women's Caucus deserves a sound round of thank you's because they have been involved in helping us to raise awareness year-round. I would like to thank Chairman GEORGE MILLER of the Education and Labor Committee for the outstanding work that he has done in helping us to get this resolution to the floor. His staff has done a stellar job. They have worked with my staff to make sure that the resolution arrived here timely. I would like to thank the ranking member, JOHN KLINE, for his work with the Honorable TED POE in helping us to get this resolution to the floor.

All of my colleagues are honorable, but I am mentioning TED in such a way simply because he is not here, and I know his heart is with us. I would like to thank the ranking member who is here today, Representative JUDY BIGGERT, for her help and for her kind words with reference to this resolution and Representative PIERLUISI from Puerto Rico for his efforts to help us get this resolution to the floor and for managing this resolution today.

At this time I want to call our attention to some history associated with this issue of domestic violence. Domestic Violence Awareness Month was first observed 22 years ago, and since that time, we've had additional legislation that has come into being that has made a difference with reference to helping us to end domestic violence. The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act of 1984 is an important piece of legislation. This piece of legislation helped us to acquire more emergency shelters, crisis prevention programs and community education efforts. It truly has made a difference.

There also has been another piece of important legislation, the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, which created a new culture for the police officers who work these cases and the

judges who hear these cases. These cases at one time were thought to be, unfortunately, family business, and there were too many persons who were involved in the business of law enforcement who did not make it their business. I'm honored that the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 has helped change this culture. I would also mention that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was important because it contained \$225 million for violence against women programs. These programs are going to be of great benefit to a good many women.

Domestic violence awareness is growing, but it has not reached a point wherein we can rest on our efforts. At one time it was one of the most under-reported crimes in this country. As I indicated, too many police officers, too many judges, too many persons associated with enforcement did not make it their business. And although we have sought to do the business of helping women and men who are victims of domestic violence, there is still much work to be done. One survey indicates that in 1 day, more than 60,000 people received help. However, at the same time, on that same day, 9,000 requests went unanswered. There is still much work to be done. In my State of Texas, the Houston Area Women's Center has indicated that in the year 2008, 136 women were killed by their intimate partners, 11 children were killed, and 96 children lost their parents to domestic violence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PIERLUISI. I yield the gentleman an additional 2 minutes.

□ 1515

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. I thank the gentleman for yielding the additional time.

Ninety-six children were killed by domestic violence.

The national data on this is equally as appalling. More than three women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in the United States every day. One of every four women will experience domestic violence at some point in her lifetime. In 2005, 1,181 women were murdered by an intimate partner. Women from ages 16 to 24 experience the highest rates of domestic violence on a per capita basis. Six of 10 Native American women will be physically assaulted in their lifetimes. Ninety-two percent of homeless women will experience physical or sexual abuse at some point in their lifetimes. Forty to sixty percent of men who abuse women also abuse children.

Millions of children witness every year domestic violence. By at least one estimate, 15.5 million children witness domestic violence.

So we now come to a call to action. We should not allow anyone to have to live in fear within his or her home. We believe that this is an offense that can be eliminated. It will take much effort from us. We here in Congress will have

to fund the programs that can make a difference. And without question, programs have been developed that can make a difference. Training is necessary to teach people how to live with each other without abusing each other. The police must enforce the laws, the judges must enforce the laws, and in the end we can live in a world where people can live safely in their homes without fear of being harmed by people that they have great affinity and affection for.

The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV), the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) along with 9 other national organizations is heralding the arrival of Domestic Violence Awareness Month and urging Congress, members of the media and the public to take a stand against domestic abuse.

The economic downturn is exacerbating domestic violence, and victims of domestic abuse urgently need everyone's help. Although the economy does not cause domestic violence, but in abusive relationships, factors associated with a bad economy can increase the frequency and severity of abuse. Job losses, the lack of affordable health care, the housing crisis and a host of other conditions are increasing abuse and leaving survivors with fewer options to escape. The demand for services is going up, but funding for services is going down.

Governmental entities, corporations and individuals are tightening their budgets and are funding life-saving programs at reduced levels across the nation.

In a national census survey conducted by the National Network to End Domestic Violence, in just one day in 2008 more than 60,000 victims sought services, yet nearly 9,000 requests for services went unmet due to lack of funding.

The most extreme example is California, where the governor completely eliminated state funding for domestic violence services. Other states have seen funding reductions, but California represents the most shocking of these reckless cuts.

This year, Domestic Violence Awareness Month is particularly meaningful. The movement against domestic abuse is celebrating the 15th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act, originally authored by then-Senator Joe Biden. This year is also the 25th anniversary of the Family Violence Prevention & Services Act. Both are critical federal laws that provide funding for services and the justice system's responses to intimate partner abuse.

These laws have made an amazing difference in our ability to address domestic violence. Across the country, federal, state and local laws are working to serve countless survivors and saving lives, but we need to do more. Still, an average of three women are murdered daily by someone who says love you. This is unacceptable and preventable. Domestic violence affects us all, and it tears at the fabric of our communities. Every day, men, women and children experience the tragic effects of domestic violence."

In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, let us renew efforts to invest in lifesaving shelters and other critical domestic violence services like counseling and emergency hotlines.

Members of Congress and the public can take a stand for survivors of abuse by supporting the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Resolution sponsored by Representative Al Green (D-TX) and Representative Ted Poe (R-TX), which has received bipartisan support of nearly 60 members of the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

SUE ELSE,

*President, National
Network to End Domestic
Violence.*

RITA SMITH,
*President, National
Coalition Against
Domestic Violence.*

Additional National Organizations Endorsing the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Resolution: Break the Cycle, Casa De Esperanza, Congress of American Indians Task Force on Violence Against Women, Family Violence Prevention Fund, Legal Momentum, National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, National Organization of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault, National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to close.

I really appreciate the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) being down here and speaking about his bill and about the background of domestic violence because it's been obviously going on for a long time. We have made great strides. As I have witnessed, we reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, several times. But it's been a long time coming and a long time to be recognized. And that's why this awareness month is so important so that we can really take a look and see how can we really end this and how can we do it to help the police, the families. But we have got to have the education, I think, that will help to stave that off. And the more we can do to recognize the causes of it and how to deal with it, the better.

I thank the author and I thank the gentleman from Puerto Rico for managing this bill, and I urge my colleagues to vote for it.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this resolution is to remind all of us that domestic violence here in the United States is as prevalent now as it has ever been. Millions of men, women and children across the country are affected by domestic violence each year.

In a day last year more than 60,000 victims sought and received help from domestic violence programs, and due to lack of funding and resources, 8,927 requests were left unmet. Some may even die because of the lack of services counties across the country are unable to provide for families affected by family violence. In Harris county Texas alone, filings for domestic violence are 18 percent above last year and 40 percent more than 2007. These numbers are not only staggering but they are unacceptable.

On October 10th, 2005 in Baltimore, Maryland Yvette Cade's estranged husband, Roger Hargrave, carried a soda bottle filled with gasoline to her work and poured it over her body. As she ran outside, she tripped in the parking lot and he set her on fire. Ms. Cade was attacked three weeks after; Prince George's County District Court Judge Richard Palumbo lifted a protective order against Hargrave. Judge Palumbo is being charged with misconduct, claiming he violated judicial standards when he dismissed the protective order against Hargrave despite Cade's protests. Ms. Cade has third-degree burns over 60 percent of her body and has had over 15 surgeries due to this horrific crime.

On January 29th, 2009 in Houston, Texas a man was accused of killing his estranged girlfriend's mother and then shooting himself. He had been charged with domestic violence days earlier, after he beat his 17-month-old daughter. Elaine Walker was shot trying to protect her daughter when Roydrick Jiles burst into the daughter's home. Auriel Walker had refused to see or talk to Jiles, after he beat her and their child several days before. She tried to stop him from breaking into their home and he then shot Elaine Walker, Auriel's mother. He then abducted his estranged girlfriend and their child until he shot himself.

Both of these stories prove that sometimes there are preliminary warning signs of domestic violence which, if not handled correctly, can often times lead to severe abuse and even death. Approximately 1.3 million women and 835,000 men are physically assaulted by an intimate partner annually in the United States. One in every four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime.

Witnessing violence between one's parents or caretakers is the strongest risk factor of transmitting violent behavior from one generation to the next. Boys who witness domestic violence are twice as likely to abuse their own partners and children when they become adults.

We must continue to raise awareness in this country of how common domestic violence is, and without funding and proper resources local governments cannot combat this problem alone. It takes all of us, and informing people of this nationwide problem is the first step. And that's just the way it is.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 817 to support the goals and ideals of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and to raise awareness of domestic violence in the United States.

When we discuss domestic violence, we are often surprised to discover that domestic violence happens to people of every socioeconomic background in the United States. Everyday, countless individuals become victims of acts perpetuated by intimate partners that seek to establish, maintain, or regain power and control in a relationship. These acts can be as basic as mental and verbal abuse and range to the more obvious physical and sexual abuse. Many times, the victims of these acts are the least likely people one would suspect to suffer from abusive situations, and for this reason domestic violence awareness month is so important.

It is also crucial to note that women are the most frequent victims of domestic violence, and it is estimated that one in every four women will experience domestic violence at some point in their life. Additionally, more than three women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in the United States every day, and in 2005 alone, 1,181 women were murdered by an intimate partner. These staggering numbers remind us that we must do all we can to end domestic violence, and particularly domestic violence against women.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting House Resolution 817 so that we can raise awareness about domestic violence and help to end it.

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution to declare October 2009 the twenty-second Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

The first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed in 1987. Over these last 22 years, we have made major strides in making Americans safer and more secure and ensuring the victims of violence receive the services they need.

With the support of federal and state funds, the number of domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers and service programs has increased significantly. These shelters offer victims a place to turn for help: for emergency shelter and crisis services, and also for legal assistance, transitional housing, and services for their children.

Not only have we strengthened our laws and justice system, we have also brought together victims advocates, law enforcement, and health care professionals to ensure more effective treatment for victims of domestic violence.

This month is an occasion to recognize dedicated law enforcement officers, special prosecutors, counselors, and shelter programs that understand that ending violence requires the efforts of an entire community. It is also a time to reiterate that domestic violence in any form is a crime. It does not matter whether the abuser is a family member; a current or past spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend; an acquaintance; or a stranger. It is a crime, and it is wrong.

Today, I also commend those who have found the courage to leave an abusive relationship. When individuals get the resources they need, they become strong, and so do their families.

Despite all the gains we have made in reducing domestic violence, we must recognize that the work is not complete; too many are still victims, and too many live in fear on a daily basis. It will take all of us to fulfill the promise to end domestic violence and assault.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, domestic violence is a widespread problem. Over two million people a year are physically assaulted by an intimate partner, and an additional 1.3 million are the victims of stalking. H. Res. 817 is an important reminder that October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and that we need to raise awareness of the problem and its serious consequences for victims and their families.

We know that the majority of these domestic violence victims are women, and they often need leave from work to address the effects of this violence. While the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA, P.L. 103-3) allows employees to take unpaid leave from work for other situations (e.g. for birth, adoption or to care for a spouse, child under age 18, or parent who has a serious health condition), there is no leave for workers who are recovering from domestic abuse, sexual assault, or stalking, and who need medical attention, legal assistance, counseling, or to participate in other activities that take place during working hours.

H.R. 2515, the Domestic Violence Leave Act, which I have introduced, expands the FMLA to allow workers to take leave to address the consequences of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. It also provides leave to workers so that they can care for a family member—spouse, parent or child, including an adult child—who is a victim of abuse. In addition, the bill extends all of the protections of the FMLA to “domestic partners,” and “children of a domestic partner.”

Our primary goal must be to stamp out domestic violence altogether. But until then, we

need to help those victims who need time off to deal with its effects.

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

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to vote for the resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 817, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 19 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1730

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETERS) at 5 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

DECLARATION OF A NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE 2009 H1N1 INFLUENZA PANDEMIC—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 111-73)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 201 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1621), I hereby report that I have exercised my authority to declare a national emergency in order to be prepared in the event of a rapid increase in illness across the Nation that may overburden health care resources. This declaration will allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services, if necessary, to temporarily waive certain standard Federal requirements in order to enable U.S. health care facilities to implement emergency operations plans to deal with the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic in the United States. A copy of my proclamation is attached.

Further, I have authorized the Secretary of Health and Human Services to exercise the authority under section