

let us take this opportunity to join Mrs. BIGGERT of Illinois to pass House Resolution 779 and recognize the important role that youth runaway prevention and at-risk youth programs play in addressing these issues.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to join Mrs. BIGGERT in supporting H. Res. 779, and I reserve the balance of our time.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 779, the resolution recognizing the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month. This initiative is sponsored by my good friends at the National Runaway Switchboard and the National Network for Youth.

As the gentleman from Massachusetts mentioned, between 1.6 and 2.8 million youth run away from home each year. According to the National Runaway Switchboard, crisis calls citing economic distress have increased 200 percent since 2006. Incredibly, one in every 50 children will experience homelessness at some point in their lives. And although some youth will return within a few days of running away, others will remain on the streets, never to return. In far too many cases, these children will fall prey to the worst forms of exploitation, including the sex industry. In fact, 30 percent more youth are using the sex industry as a means of survival today than in the year 2000.

There are many reasons why children run away from home. Some are expelled from their homes by their families or separated from their parents because of death or divorce. In other cases, the child may be fleeing from physical, sexual, and emotional abuse at home. Having run away, these youths are now homeless, without means to secure their own basic needs, and are often ineligible or unable to access medical or mental health resources.

There are many individuals and organizations that are doing whatever they can to assist America's runaway youth by providing food, shelter, clothing, and counseling. Others are working with families to prevent a child from running away in the first place. And still others are intervening and advocating on behalf of the children and giving them options other than running away.

With congressional support, the National Runaway Switchboard provides crisis intervention and referrals to reconnect the runaway youth with their families.

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It also helps link young people to local resources that provide positive alternatives to running away.

Founded in the Chicago area in 1971, the NRS now provides comprehensive crisis intervention services for at-risk youth nationwide, including a 24-hour crisis hotline.

In 1974, the National Network for Youth was founded to coordinate the work of community-based organizations that now represent hundreds of youth-oriented organizations and advocate at the Federal level, provide information on available services, and train organizations in best practices.

I want to thank Mr. WOLF, Mr. STUPAK and Ms. LOFGREN, my fellow co-Chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children for joining me on this important effort, and I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) for managing this bill. And I want to thank Mr. ISRAEL, who has worked with me on this important resolution for years.

It is fitting for Congress to endorse the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month and to highlight the effort of those organizations that work so hard to help the youth of America who have left or who are considering leaving their homes for a dangerous and uncertain life on the street.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

If the gentleman has no further speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today in support of H. Res. 779, "Recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month." I would like to thank my colleague Representative JUDY BIGGERT for introducing this very important piece of legislation.

It is appalling that in the United States of America, the greatest country in the world, there is a staggering number of runaway and homeless youth. Studies suggest that every year, between 1,600,000 and 2,800,000 youth live on the streets of the United States. Running away from home is a widespread epidemic, and youth aged 12 to 17 are at a higher risk of homelessness than adults. What is terrifying is that traffickers exploit abused runaways or so-called "throwaways"—children abandoned by their parents and living on the streets.

Runaway youth most often are youth who have been expelled from their homes by their families; physically, sexually, and emotionally abused at home; discharged by State custodial systems without adequate transition plans; separated from their parents by death and divorce; too poor to secure their own basic needs; and ineligible or unable to access adequate medical or mental health resources.

There are effective programs supporting and assisting runaway youth. These programs succeed because of partnerships created among families, community-based human service agencies, law enforcement agencies, schools, faith-based organizations, and businesses. We must support and create more of these organizations in order to save the future of this nation.

Preventing youth from running away from home and supporting those in high-risk situations should be a family, community, and national priority. The future well-being of the Nation is dependent on the opportunities provided for youth and families to acquire the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for youth to develop into safe, healthy, and productive adults.

I want to recognize the National Network for Youth and its members for advocating on behalf of runaway and homeless youth, and for providing an array of community-based support to address their critical needs. Additionally I would like to recognize the National Runaway Switchboard for providing crisis intervention and referrals to reconnect runaway youth to their families and link youth to local resources that provide positive alternatives to running away from home.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and to support National Runaway Prevention Month in November to increase public awareness of the life circumstances of youth in high-risk situations, and the need for safe, healthy, and productive alternatives, resources, and support for youth, families, and communities.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I want to thank Mrs. BIGGERT for her leadership on this very important issue, and I want to urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 779.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 779, 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.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam 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.

COMMENDING THE REAL SALT LAKE SOCCER CLUB

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 942) commending the Real Salt Lake Soccer Club for winning the 2009 Major League Soccer Cup.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 942

Whereas the Real Salt Lake soccer club won the 2009 Major League Soccer Cup, defeating the Los Angeles Galaxy at Qwest Field in Seattle, Washington on November 22, 2009;

Whereas Real Salt Lake played through 2 sudden-death overtimes and a penalty-kick shootout to defeat the Galaxy;

Whereas forward Robbie Findlay scored a goal in the second half to tie the game and force an overtime period;

Whereas defender Robbie Russell scored the decisive fifth goal in the seventh round of the shootout to win the game;

Whereas goalkeeper Nick Rimando blocked 4 shots, including 2 in the shootout, and was named the Most Valuable Player of the game;

Whereas head coach Jason Kreis is the youngest coach to win a Major League Soccer Cup, and coached Real Salt Lake to its second post-season appearance since joining the team in 2007; and

Whereas Real Salt Lake defeated the top 2 seeds in the Eastern Conference, the first-seeded Columbus Crew and the second-seeded Chicago Fire, to reach the championship game: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the Real Salt Lake soccer club for winning the 2009 Major League Soccer Cup; and

(2) congratulates Real Salt Lake for winning the first Major League Soccer Cup in the franchise's history.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and add any extraneous materials.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, at this time I would like to recognize the principal lead sponsor of this resolution, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON), for 5 minutes.

Mr. MATHESON. I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts for yielding.

You know, often when we have a sporting event about to come up, a lot of people predict what's going to happen. But what's great about sports is you never really know what's going to happen. And while we often do a resolution to congratulate teams who have won a major championship, this is kind of special because the Real Salt Lake team went into the playoffs as the last team in. Eight teams made the playoffs for Major League Soccer this year. Real Salt Lake had the worst record, but it's a team that throughout the course of this year has evolved, and in fact there was a stretch of 17 days between two games toward the end of the regular season where the team kind of rededicated itself and went through sort of a mini-training camp again, and when it came out of that camp, it seemed to be a different team.

It got into the playoffs, and of course it was an underdog in its first round, and it won. It was an underdog in the semi-finals, and it won there, too. And then the championship against the L.A. Galaxy. In a shoot-out, the team was able to succeed.

And there's an interesting sign in the locker room of the Real Salt Lake team. The sign says, "The team is the star." And in an era where we often celebrate great individual performances—and there are a number of individuals that certainly deserve mention—still the concept of a team coming together in a team sport seems to be a pattern and a formula for success. And in terms of the Real Salt Lake

soccer team, that is exactly what happened.

So I was thrilled to have the opportunity to offer this resolution. It was interesting going around to my colleagues to collect cosponsorships. This was something that was very accepted on both sides of the aisle. And again, I just think it's great that we have a chance as a Congress to at least congratulate this team on its great accomplishment in winning the Major League Soccer Cup in 2009.

Mrs. BIGGERT. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 942 commending the Real Salt Lake Soccer Club for winning the 2009 Major League Soccer Cup.

Last month on November 22 in front of over 46,000 fans at Qwest Field—you'd think that we were in the UK with the popularity of soccer out there. But the Real Salt Lake Soccer Club won the 2009 Major League Soccer Cup, defeating the Los Angeles Galaxy, and the final victory of a remarkable five-game winning streak did not come easily. The Real Salt Lake Soccer Club outlasted a formidable opponent through two sudden-death overtimes and a penalty kick shoot-out en route to a brilliant 5-4 victory. Congratulations.

This victory marked the culmination of a remarkable session for a team that I guess barely made the playoffs and only 5 years ago was a lowly expansion team. In fact, this victory is the first major pro sports championship in Utah for almost 40 years.

Congratulations to the Real Salt Lake Soccer Club, their coach, Jason Kreis—the youngest coach to win a Major League Soccer Cup—and to Utah and their very many, many dedicated fans.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I just want to amplify what has been said by both the speakers. I think there's a certain magic about this championship, that it was totally unexpected, and I, too, want to congratulate Coach Jason Kreis, who became the youngest coach to win a Major League Soccer Cup, and goalkeeper Nick Rimando, the Most Valuable Player. The Real Salt Lake won their first Major League Soccer Cup in only their second appearance in the Major League Soccer playoffs. As a Red Sox fan who suffered forever, I envy the early success.

I do want to note that after compiling a regular season record of 11 wins, 12 losses, and 7 ties, Real Salt Lake narrowly earned the final spot on the 2009 Major League Soccer Playoffs. This is a Cinderella team if there ever was one.

Despite being the underdog, Real Salt Lake orchestrated a series of improbable victories against the defending champion Columbus Crew and the Chicago Fire before—as has been mentioned here—beating the favored Los Angeles Galaxy in the Major League Soccer Cup.

In the championship game, the Los Angeles Galaxy struck first with a goal by Mike Magee in the 41st minute of play, and many thought that might be it, but Real Salt Lake continued to play hard and managed to tie the game in the 61st minute of the game with a goal by Robbie Findley. The game ended in a tie and eventually went to penalty kicks, which Real Salt Lake won by a score of 5-4.

Real Salt Lake's victory in the MLS Cup stands as a testament to what can be achieved through hard work, dedication, and relentless team spirit. As USA Today wrote after the game, "Major League Soccer has its most improbable champion in its 14-year history."

Real Salt Lake's commitment to teamwork and perseverance in the face of adversity is both inspiring and commendable. Their achievement deserves our praise, and personally I want to applaud the team's players, coaches, management, and its fans who never gave up—all of those who helped in this unprecedented success in the Major League Soccer Cup.

Madam Speaker, let us, as a body, take this opportunity to commend this year's Major League Soccer Cup Champions through passage of House Resolution 942, join with Mr. MATHESON of Utah and congratulate Real Salt Lake on winning the 2009 Major League Soccer Cup.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BIGGERT. 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 Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 942.

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. LYNCH. Madam 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.

HONORING THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 160) honoring the American Kennel Club on its 125th anniversary, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 160

Whereas the American Kennel Club (AKC), headquartered in New York City, with an operations center in Raleigh, North Carolina, was founded in 1884, operates the world's largest registry of purebred dogs and is the Nation's leading not-for-profit organization