

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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

□ 1445

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF A NATIONAL EARLY EDUCATOR WORTHY WAGE DAY

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 99) supporting the goals and ideals of a National Early Educator Worthy Wage Day.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 99

Whereas approximately 60 percent of the Nation's children under 6 are in nonparental care during part or all of the day while their parents work;

Whereas the early childhood industry employs more than 2,300,000 workers;

Whereas the average salary of early care and education workers is \$18,917 per year, and only 1/3 have health insurance and even fewer have a pension plan;

Whereas the quality of early care and education programs is directly linked to the quality of early childhood educators;

Whereas the turnover rate of early childhood program staff is roughly 30 percent per year, and low wages and lack of benefits, among other factors, make it difficult to retain high quality educators who have the consistent, caring relationships with young children that are important to children's development;

Whereas the compensation of early childhood program staff should be commensurate with the importance of the job of helping the young children of the Nation develop their social, emotional, physical, and cognitive skills, and to help them be ready for school;

Whereas providing adequate compensation to early childhood program staff should be a priority, and resources may be allocated to improve the compensation of early childhood educators to ensure that quality care and education are accessible for all families;

Whereas additional training and education for the early childhood workforce is critical to ensuring high-quality early learning environments;

Whereas early childhood educators should receive compensation commensurate with such training and experience; and

Whereas the Center for the Child Care Workforce, a project of the American Federation of Teachers Educational Foundation, with support by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and other early childhood organizations, recognizes May 1 as National Early Educator Worthy Wage Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That the Congress supports the goals and ideals of National Early Educator Worthy Wage Day, and urges public officials and the general public to honor early childhood care and education staff and

programs in their communities and to work together to resolve the early childhood education staff compensation crisis.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 99 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to support House Concurrent Resolution 99, which recognizes May 1 as National Early Educator Worthy Wage Day and urges public officials and the general public to honor early childhood care staff and programs in their communities.

Early childhood educators are among the lowest paid professions in education. More and more parents are tapping into early childhood education programs to meet their daycare needs and find the best opportunities to help their children get ready for their academic careers.

We place a lot of trust in early childhood educators to take care of the most vulnerable among us and charge them with great responsibilities to care for and to educate our children. Early childhood educators are highly skilled workers who are, unfortunately, rarely compensated at levels that are consistent with their skill and work ethic.

This resolution asks Congress to honor early childhood educators and programs in their communities and to work to resolve the early childhood education staff compensation crisis. Adequate compensation to early childhood workers should be a priority and they should receive compensation commensurate with such training and experience.

Every day, approximately 60 percent of children under the age of six are cared for outside the home so that their parents can work. President Obama has spoken extensively about the need to further expand early education and childcare programs, including his proposal to include an early learning challenge grant initiative to promote quality care.

The committed individuals who nurture and teach these young children are undervalued despite the importance of their work. Children begin to learn at birth, and the quality of care they receive will affect their language, development, math skills, behavior and general readiness for school.

The grossly inadequate level of wages for childcare staff, roughly \$18,917 a year, has made it hard to attract and retain high quality early childhood caretakers and educators. The turnover rate for childcare providers is 30 percent a year. This high turnover rate interrupts consistent and stable relationships that children need to have with their caregivers.

I join in recognizing the importance of the work early childhood professionals do and the need to increase their compensation accordingly. The Nation's childcare work force, and the families who depend on them, deserve our support.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 99, supporting the goals and ideals of a National Early Educator Worthy Wage Day.

Over 11 million children under age 5 spend an average of 36 hours a week in nonparental care settings. Over 40 percent of children are in some form of nonparental care by the age of 1, and approximately 60 percent of the Nation's children under the age of 6 are in nonparental care during part or all the day while their parents work.

Parents place children in a variety of care settings, including informal, center-based and school-based environments. The majority of children remain in traditional childcare settings funded by a variety of sources, but a growing number are participating in private and State-funded prekindergarten programs. To date, 39 States and the District of Columbia have designed, implemented and funded their own prekindergarten programs on a large scale, compared to only seven States in 1980.

I support programs to promote early childhood education and efforts to ensure that our children are better prepared to enter kindergarten. The quality of early childhood education can be linked to the quality of our early childhood educators. Allowing for additional training and education for the early childhood workforce is important to ensure high-quality early learning environments.

Today, I rise with my colleagues to urge public officials and the general public to honor early childhood care and education staff and programs in their communities on May 1. I stand in support of this resolution, and ask my colleagues' support.

I have no requests for time and yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 99. May I say that working with early educator teachers, they are terrific, and if we are going to have a strong Nation for the future, we must give them the recognition they deserve.

Madam Speaker, I ask that all my colleagues support H. Con. Res. 99.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 99.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING THE OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 337) supporting the observance of National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 337

Whereas, according to the most recent annual estimates, State and local child protective services investigated nearly 5,800,000 children in the United States who were reported to be abused or neglected in 2007;

Whereas, according to the most recent annual estimates, 1,760 children died in the United States in 2007 from abuse and neglect;

Whereas, according to the most recent annual estimates, 794,000 children in the United States were confirmed by protective services as being victims of child maltreatment in 2007;

Whereas 59 percent of the children were classified as victims of child neglect;

Whereas 4.2 percent of the children were classified as victims of psychological maltreatment;

Whereas 7.6 percent of the children were classified as victims of sexual abuse;

Whereas 10.8 percent of the children were classified as victims of physical abuse;

Whereas 1 percent of the children were classified as victims of medical maltreatment;

Whereas 13.1 percent of the children were classified as victims of multiple maltreatments;

Whereas more than three-quarters of the children who died due to child abuse and neglect were younger than four years old;

Whereas these figures represent only reported cases of abuse, many cases are not reported to police or social services;

Whereas child abuse and neglect have great long-term costs for children, families, and society which timely and effective community-based prevention services can reduce, improving the lives and prospects of thousands of children and families; and

Whereas observing National Child Abuse Prevention Month during the month of April provides a special opportunity to raise awareness about the serious threat that child abuse and neglect poses to our Nation's children: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the observance of National Child Abuse Prevention Month in order to increase awareness of child maltreatment and encourage individuals and communities to support children and families;

(2) recognizes and applauds the national and community organizations for their work in promoting awareness about child maltreatment including identifying risk factors and developing prevention strategies; and

(3) urges families and individuals to report abuse or get help by calling the National Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-4-A-Child (1-800-422-4453).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 337 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands?

There was no objection.

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 337, which increases awareness of child maltreatment and urges communities to support children and families. Every April, the President issues a proclamation for National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and at the same time, he releases the previous year's data on child abuse and neglect. Last year's data was very unsettling.

In 2007, State and local child protective services investigated nearly 5.8 million cases of child abuse or neglect. Out of these cases, protective services confirmed that 794,000 children were victims of maltreatment in 2007. Of the nearly 800,000 cases in 2007, 59 percent of them were classified as child neglect, 4.2 percent of cases involved psychological mistreatment, 7.6 percent involved sexual abuse, 10.8 percent of the victims suffered physical abuse, and 13.1 percent of the children suffered from multiple mistreatments.

The reports of child deaths from abuse and neglect are even more startling. An estimated 1,760 children died in 2007 as a result of abuse and neglect. Of these children who died, a disturbing 75 percent were under the age of four. Over half of the child fatalities were a year or younger. These statistics, of course, are only cases of child maltreatment which have been reported to police or social services.

This month is a time not only to spread awareness of maltreatment, but also to recognize those organizations dedicated to preventing child abuse and neglect.

I would like to thank Representative GRANGER for bringing this bill to the floor. I urge my colleagues to take this serious issue into consideration and to support this measure and set aside time to create awareness of child maltreatment.

I reserve the remainder of my time.

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume and rise today in support of H. Res. 337, recognizing the month of April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Recognizing Child Abuse Prevention Month allows us to help to raise awareness of the tragic circumstances of abuse and neglect that many of our Nation's children face every day. Recognizing this month also highlights the importance of the prevention and awareness of child abuse, so that children can live safely and securely, free from abuse.

It is important that each of us knows how we can help prevent and stop ongoing child abuse. Understanding the causes of child abuse, learning to identify the warning signs that a child is being abused, reporting any known or suspected case of child abuse, being a friend to a child or parent in need and alerting others to the problem are all ways adults and other children can help prevent, and stop, child abuse.

Child abuse may include physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse and emotional abuse. In many cases, children are the victims of multiple forms of abuse. In 2007, approximately 794,000 children were found to be victims of some form of child maltreatment.

Child abuse prevention not only protects the Nation's children from years of physical, mental and emotional scars, it also lessens the costs associated with child abuse and enables funding to be used to assist children in other ways.

In 2007, child abuse had an estimated total annual cost of almost \$104 billion in direct and indirect costs.

In 1974, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act was enacted to address the issue of child abuse and neglect in this country and to underscore the importance of assisting children in abusive situations. 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.

April was first declared Child Abuse Prevention Month by presidential proclamation in 1985 by President Reagan. Since then, in the month of April, child abuse and neglect awareness and prevention efforts are promoted throughout the country.

As members of school systems, neighborhoods, families and communities, all of us can help to prevent child abuse and neglect. Child Abuse Prevention Month provides us with an opportunity to work together to keep children safe and to lend families the support that they need to raise happy children in a safe and secure home.

This is why I stand in support of this resolution and ask for my colleagues' support.

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

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY).