

prepared to make informed financial choices. Indeed, we much learn how to effectively handle money, credit, debt, and risk. We must become better stewards over the things that we are entrusted. By becoming better stewards, Americans will become responsible workers, heads of households, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders and citizens.

I am reminded of how important this issue is to American society, as I was invited to attend a financial literacy roundtable panel on Monday evening at the New York Stock Exchange. The panel was sponsored by the Hope Literacy Foundation. The panel was moderated by John Hope Bryant. I was surrounded by some of the great financial literacy experts in the nation. At the roundtable, I discussed the importance of financial literacy for college and university students. It is important that students be taught financial literacy. The facts about students and financial literacy are astounding.

Owning a home is the American Dream, but hundreds of thousands of people are on the brink of losing their homes and becoming the next victims of the housing crisis. Recently, I joined the Democratic Congress in passing the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2008, which will provide mortgage-refinancing assistance that will help keep families from losing their homes and protect neighboring home values.

Through vital legislation such as this, and providing key resources and tools to my constituents, I will continue to fight and save homes and promote fair and informative mortgage policies in Houston as well as across this nation.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. McDERMOTT). All time for general debate has expired.

Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PASTOR of Arizona) having assumed the chair, Mr. McDERMOTT, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1728) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to reform consumer mortgage practices and provide accountability for such practices, to provide certain minimum standards for consumer mortgage loans, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 391) recognizing May as "National Foster Care Month"

and acknowledging that the House of Representatives should continue to work to improve the Nation's foster care system.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 391

Whereas on average, the Nation's foster care system provides for more than a half a million children each day who are unable to live safely with their biological parents;

Whereas National Foster Care Month provides an opportunity to recognize the important role that foster care parents, workers, and advocates have in the lives of children in the foster care system throughout the United States;

Whereas the primary goal of the foster care system is to ensure the safety and well-being of children, while working to provide such children with a permanent, safe, and loving home;

Whereas foster parents give children the opportunity to live with families and make lasting attachments instead of living in institutions, where they face a reduced chance for permanency;

Whereas States, localities, and communities should be encouraged to invest available resources on reunification services and post-permanency supports designed to allow more children in the foster care system to safely return to their biological parents, or find permanent placements through adoption or guardianship;

Whereas children of color are more likely to stay in the foster care system for longer periods of time and are less likely to be reunited with their biological families;

Whereas 293,000 children entered the foster care system during fiscal year 2007;

Whereas in fiscal year 2007, there was an average of 131,000 children in the foster care system each day who were waiting to be adopted;

Whereas while a majority of children in the foster care system have the goal of being reunited with their biological parents, more than 23 percent of children who were in the foster care system on the last day of fiscal year 2007 were seeking placement through the adoption process;

Whereas the overall reduction in the number of children in the foster care system in the last decade does not reflect a decline in the level of Federal assistance necessary to assist those living in foster care and the dedicated men and women in the child welfare workforce;

Whereas the number of children "aging out" of the foster care system without finding a permanent family increased to an all-time high of nearly 28,000 in fiscal year 2007;

Whereas children "aging out" of the foster care system lack the security of a biological or adoptive family to fall back on when struggling to secure affordable housing, obtain health insurance, pursue higher education, and acquire adequate employment;

Whereas the foster care system is intended to be a temporary solution, however, on average, children remain in the system for at least 2 years;

Whereas studies suggest that nearly 60 percent of children in the foster care system experience a chronic medical condition and 25 percent suffer from 3 or more chronic medical conditions;

Whereas while in the foster care system, children experience an average of 3 different placements, moves that often mean disrupting routines, changing schools, and moving away from brothers and sisters, extended family, and familiar surroundings;

Whereas the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-351) provided new investments and services to improve the outcomes of children and families in the foster care system; and

Whereas all children deserve a loving and stable family, regardless of age or special needs: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the designation of a "National Foster Care Month";

(2) acknowledges the needs of children in the foster care system;

(3) honors the commitment and dedication of those individuals who work tirelessly to provide assistance and services to children in the foster care system; and

(4) recognizes the need to continue work to improve outcomes of all children in the foster care system through the title IV program in the Social Security Act and other programs that are designed to help children in the foster care system reunite with their biological parents and, when children are unable to return to their biological parents, to find them a permanent, safe, and loving home.

The Speaker Pro Tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) each will control 20 minutes. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

The month of May marks National Foster Care Month, which provides Congress with an opportunity to recognize the contributions of the unsung heroes who commit their lives to children in foster care, including foster parents who unselfishly open their homes to our most vulnerable children. On any given day, half a million children seek safety, comfort and assistance through our Nation's foster care system. Roughly 130,000 of those children in foster care are unable to return safely to their parents and are now waiting for an adoptive home.

Sadly, in 2007, a record 28,000 of those children "aged out" of the foster care system at the age of 18 without finding a permanent home to call their own.

As the de facto parents or the real-life parents of the Nation's foster children, we, the Congress, have a responsibility to ensure that they have the same opportunity to succeed that our children and our grandchildren have.

Congress recently passed landmark bipartisan legislation which represented the most significant reform in the child welfare system in more than a decade. The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act

included numerous provisions that were designed to significantly improve the outcomes of all children and their families who are in the foster care system.

As a result of this bipartisan legislation, grandparents and other relatives who became the legal guardian of a child for whom they cared for as a foster parent now receive greater assistance in caring for these children. The legislation also provides additional support to older foster children, up to the age of 21, who are engaged in school, work or other productive activities. The new law also requires much greater oversight of the health care system and education needs of each of these children in the foster care system.

Mr. Speaker, while last year's bipartisan child welfare legislation provided greater resources and services aimed at improving the outcomes of children and families in the foster care system, additional investments and reform are still needed. The job is not done.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating National Foster Care Month by recommitting themselves to continuing our bipartisan work to further improve the foster care system.

Finally, I want to recognize the children in the system that are waiting to be reunified with their families or waiting for an adoptive home. Many of these children have endured great pain and suffering at a very young age, but are able to overcome their grief and turmoil, and go on to succeed beyond anyone's expectation. I applaud these young children for the bravery and determination that they have shown. Behind each number is the face of a foster child who has the same hopes and aspirations as our very own children. We need to make these hopes and aspirations a reality.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday, millions of American families will honor mom on Mother's Day. Next month, our Nation will celebrate Father's Day. So it is appropriate to also note the contribution of so many adults who step in as foster parents to care for children when biological moms and dads cannot do so.

This resolution recognizes those enormous contributions by foster parents. Every day they step in to care for hundreds of thousands of children across America who cannot safely remain with their own parents. For that, as this resolution expresses, our Nation says "thank you."

The children aided by foster care range in age from birth to 21 and come from a wide range of homes. In the congressional district I represent, they include the infant born to a drug-addicted mom, three boys taken in on Christmas Eve after their single mother died of pneumonia, and a little girl who lived in abandoned cars while her father was on drugs. Those are some

stories relayed by Suzanne Geske, the executive director of the Foster Children's Foundation based in Duluth, Georgia. The Foster Children's Foundation reflects the efforts of organizations nationwide that coordinate thousands of volunteers, all to better support foster kids and foster parents.

As Ms. Geske says of kids in foster care, "These children all experience the fear of their unknown futures. Thanks to the love and support they receive from foster parents, mentors and organizations that provide many services to them, there is hope. May is a time when we recognize these individuals and raise awareness so others can get involved to save our children. These children live in our own communities and need our help. Please encourage everyone you know to find out how they can reach out to make a difference in the lives of our children."

Sound advice.

This town often focuses on policy questions about where billions of dollars will be spent and where the money will come from. We have these discussions in foster care, too, including developing major reforms last year. We hope those reforms work as intended and improve the lives of children and families.

But children care little about policy discussions. What matters to them is if mom is there to see them in the school play or if dad can play catch after work, or if their birthday is remembered and they get their favorite dinner that night. If only that's where the concerns ended for children who suffer from abuse or neglect.

Through this resolution today, we remind all Americans of the role they can play in helping children who have already missed out on much in life and who need assistance. These children surely deserve to make progress in life, like any other child. Through the efforts of tens of thousands of dedicated foster parents, they often do, against great odds. We owe these dedicated individuals our thanks and continued support.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN).

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 391, which recognizes May as National Foster Care Month and calls for continued improvements in our foster care system. My parents welcomed many foster children into our family over the years, and I know firsthand the value, and the challenges, of the foster care system.

All children need love and support. And this is especially true for the more than half a million children currently in our foster care system, and many more who still need help. We also must

address the issues affecting older youth as they transition out of foster care. Unfortunately, research shows that current and former foster youth are more likely to have difficulty making the transition to adulthood and are more likely to forgo higher education, be in poor health, become homeless and rely on public support. They deserve better, and we can do better.

Further, let me thank the many compassionate individuals who take in foster children. Foster parenting is an act of true selflessness, requiring significant financial and emotional investment. Sadly, many foster children have been abused or neglected, treatment that leaves indelible scars for years, which foster parents lovingly attempt to heal.

Mr. Speaker, these foster children need our continued support, our care and our love, as do the foster families who take them in. And we need to re-dedicate ourselves to improving our foster care system.

I want to thank the gentleman for yielding and his hard work on this resolution.

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, does the gentleman have any further speakers?

Mr. LINDER. I do not. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I only would like to add that when you meet these youngsters, Lupe, Chris and Nichole, and get to know them, you realize what they have gone through and why we should have a month that helps people think about this, and we realize that these youngsters have tremendous potential.

Many of the youngsters I met yesterday are going to college. They went through the system, many of them with a dozen or more placements, and still were able to put it together and carry on their lives.

We need to have this month to make us aware of the needs of foster kids in this country.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be a cosponsor on this Resolution that recognizes May as "National Foster Care Month" and acknowledges that the House of Representatives should continue to work to improve the Nation's foster care system.

In FY 2007, the number of children in foster care was 496,000, a sharp decline from the number of foster children in 2002. However, over this same period, the number of older children in foster care increased. Children ages 13 through 17 comprised 34.7% of the children in foster care in FY 2006.

Our older youths who spend their teenage years in foster care and those who are likely to age out of foster care face challenges as they transition to adulthood that their counterparts in the general population might not. During their early adult years, these youth are much more likely than their peers

to forego higher education, more likely to be in poor health, and more likely to become homeless.

Taking care of our foster care youths is a very important issue for me. I have just re-introduced legislation that I had filed in the last Congress, which would help former foster youth find housing and guidance as they transition to becoming adults. Instead of celebrating their 18th birthday with family and friends, too many of our foster care youth are marking this milestone by aging out of the foster care system and abruptly losing their support system. Our responsibility to foster care youths should not expire when a young person reaches the age of majority.

Our most recent statistics from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services show that each year about 26,500 youth age out of the foster care system. These foster care youth are vulnerable to becoming homeless. A national study of 21-year-olds who had aged out of foster care found the percentage of the population who experienced homelessness to be 25%. Of equal concern is the fact that these youths are very often without adult role models, and as such, have no one to guide or otherwise assist them as they transition to adulthood.

My legislation provides an incentive for individuals to mentor and house foster care youths who are no longer able to remain in the foster care system because they have attained the age of 18. We need to help these young adults, many of whom are homeless, jobless, and without any adult role model.

My bill allows a \$1,000 nonrefundable tax credit to individual adults who provide housing and mentoring to former foster care youths between the ages of 18 and 21 who have aged out of the foster care system.

We need to do more to provide incentives for families to take all of our foster care children in, whether they be under the age of 18 and still in the system, or over the age of 18 and have aged out of the system.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in recognizing May as "National Foster Care Month". This occasion provides an opportunity to examine key issues affecting foster children. I am very pleased that Congress recently improved our child welfare laws greatly, extending coverage till the age of 21 and promoting kinship care. The Recovery Act also included additional funds for child welfare to support states in caring for vulnerable children during hard economic times.

As unemployment rates continue to rise, it is critical that we continue to invest in safety net programs that ensure our children are protected and are able to develop into healthy adults. Most children in the child welfare system are from low-income families. As policymakers, we must stand ready to provide the aid needed to help families so that child welfare supports are not needed. We must continue to promote all permanency options so that children do not remain in the foster care system longer than necessary. And, we must

ensure to integrate the needs of foster care children in relevant policy areas. For example, there currently are federal protections for homeless youth to ensure that they have stability in their educational environments during elementary and high school. We should expand these protections to cover all foster children.

In the areas of health care reform, job training, and higher education, we must consider the needs of foster care children.

National Foster Care Month is a time for us to remember that it is crucial that we support foster care families and children by making a national investment in our children. Our children are entitled to stable, caring homes; if we deny them what they truly deserve, we can anticipate a colder, more uncertain future for our nation.

Mr. MCDERMOTT. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 391.

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.

#### HONORING JACK KEMP

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 401) honoring the life and recognizing the far-reaching accomplishments of the Honorable Jack Kemp, Jr.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 401

Whereas the Congress is greatly saddened by the passing of Jack Kemp on Saturday, May 2, 2009;

Whereas Jack Kemp's commitment to public service was an inspiration to millions of Americans;

Whereas Jack Kemp had an unwavering belief in the American dream, saying "There are no limits to our future if we don't put limits on our people";

Whereas prior to his election to Congress, Jack Kemp was a champion on the professional football field, leading the Buffalo Bills to 2 American Football League championships in 1964 and 1965 and earning Most Valuable Player honors in 1965, and was named as one of the top 50 quarterbacks of all time by the Sporting News in 2005;

Whereas Jack Kemp was elected to Congress in 1970 and honorably served the people of western New York as a Congressman for 18 years, during which time he served as Chairman of the House Republican Conference from 1981 through 1987 and was a member of the Republican Study Committee;

Whereas during his time in Congress, Jack Kemp pioneered innovative solutions for the American people, including the Kemp-Roth provisions of President Ronald Reagan's Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981, which provided tax relief to the American people by reducing marginal income tax rates by 25 percent over 3 years;

Whereas Jack Kemp served for 4 years as Secretary of Housing and Urban Develop-

ment and was a champion of efforts to encourage entrepreneurship and job creation in urban America;

Whereas Jack Kemp received the nomination of the Republican Party for Vice President in 1996;

Whereas at the conclusion of his service in the United States Government, Jack Kemp never ceased in his efforts to make the American dream a reality for everyone, including his efforts to cofound Empower America, a public policy and advocacy organization, and the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, a nonpartisan think tank;

Whereas as Chairman of the National Commission on Economic Growth and Tax Reform, Jack Kemp wisely advocated for reform and simplification of the United States tax code that would unleash the American entrepreneurial spirit, increase capital growth, and expand access to capital for all people;

Whereas Jack Kemp believed that "real leadership is not just seeing the realities of what we are temporarily faced with, but seeing the possibilities and potential that can be realized by lifting up people's vision of what they can be"; and

Whereas while Jack Kemp will be remembered as a honorable and cherished public servant, he will more importantly be remembered by his wife as a loving husband, by his children as a wonderful father, and by his grandchildren as a doting grandparent: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its appreciation for the profound dedication and public service of Jack Kemp;

(2) tenders its deep sympathy to his wife, Joanne, to his children, Jeffrey, Jennifer, Judith, and James, and to the entire family, friends, and former staff of Jack Kemp; and

(3) directs the Clerk of the House to transmit a copy of this resolution to the family of Jack Kemp.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY) and the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the resolution now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution before us today is in honor of a former colleague of the House of Representatives who served the House for 18 years, Jack Kemp. Kemp was elected to the House in 1970, serving the western part of New York for nine terms. He later served the public as United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Although he is best known for his position on tax cuts and supply side economics, he championed a variety of social causes supporting tax incentives for inner city enterprise zones to combat urban blight, speaking out in favor