

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL HEALTHY SCHOOLS DAY

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 370) expressing support for designation of April 27, 2009, as "National Healthy Schools Day," as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 370

Whereas there are approximately 54,000,000 children and 7,000,000 adults who spend their days in the Nation's 120,000 public and private schools;

Whereas over half of schools in the United States have problems linked to indoor air quality;

Whereas children are more vulnerable to environmental hazards as they breathe in more air per pound of body weight due to their developing systems;

Whereas children spend an average of 30 to 50 hours per week in school;

Whereas poor indoor environmental quality is associated with a wide range of problems that include poor concentration, respiratory illnesses, learning difficulties, and cancer;

Whereas an average of 1 out of every 13 school-age children has asthma, the leading cause of school absenteeism, accounting for approximately 14,700,000 missed school days each year;

Whereas the Nation's schools spend approximately \$8,000,000,000 a year on energy costs, causing officials to make very difficult decisions on cutting back much needed academic programs in efforts to maintain heat and electricity;

Whereas healthy and high performance schools designed to reduce energy and maintenance costs, provide cleaner air, improve lighting, and reduce exposures to toxic substances provide a healthier and safer learning environment for children and improved academic achievement and well-being;

Whereas new building construction, especially new school buildings, should be designed to optimize energy efficiency, lower energy costs, and reduce carbon dioxide emissions;

Whereas Congress has demonstrated its interest in this compelling issue by including the Healthy High-Performance Schools Program in the No Child Left Behind Act and the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007;

Whereas our schools have the great responsibility of guiding the future of our children and our Nation; and

Whereas April 27, 2009, would be an appropriate date to designate as "National Healthy Schools Day": Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the House of Representatives supports the goals and ideals of National Healthy Schools Day.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) 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.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, in the coming months we will address critical problems in the areas of education, energy and health care. National Healthy Schools Day promotes positive changes in all three areas.

I'm pleased to present the amended version of House Resolution 370 for consideration. This legislation expresses the support of Congress for the goals and ideals of National Healthy Schools Day.

House Resolution 370 was introduced by my colleague and friend Representative PAUL TONKO from the Empire State of New York on April 27, which is actually the day that National Healthy Schools Day is annually commemorated.

The measure has the support of over 50 Members of Congress and has met requisite criteria for approval by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Madam Speaker, I am sure you will agree that it is important to ensure that our public schools are places that advance intellectual growth and provide healthy environments for our children to learn and to thrive.

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that only 22 percent of public schools in America have effective indoor air quality management programs. More stringent regulation of indoor air quality in public schools would protect students against dangerous environmental hazards such as carbon dioxide, radon and even asbestos.

The National Healthy Schools Day initiative encourages new efforts to combat these hazards and limits the prevalence of indoor environmental asthma triggers that have been reported to account for more than 14 million missed school days each year.

Steps to improve the indoor air quality of our public schools should work in conjunction with efforts to make our schools more energy efficient. Through the use of new ventilation systems and the construction of high-performance so-called green schools, we can make certain that our educational facilities are using less energy while providing a healthier environment for our students.

Through efforts to enhance healthy environments within our school systems, we can improve educational environments as well. Improved energy efficiency in our schools will reduce energy costs and allow more resources to be devoted to other areas, such as hiring new teachers and the acquisition of new educational tools.

Madam Speaker, the health and well-being of all American students is para-

mount. Therefore, let us take one step forward in providing a high-quality learning environment for our children by expressing our support for the goals and ideals of National Healthy Schools Day.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of House Resolution 370, as amended.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Some 54 million children and 7 million adults, Madam Speaker, spend a large part of their day in our 120,000 public and private schools. These hard-working teachers and students deserve a healthy school environment.

We share a great responsibility in shaping the future for our children, and it is critical that it is done in a clean and safe environment.

When these elements are in place, everyone's performance improves, test scores rise, and attendance levels increase. Our Nation's children, parents and educators deserve to know that their schools provide the safest and healthiest environment possible.

A National Healthy Schools Day will help promote school environments that are conducive to learning and protect student health.

In order to express support for the goals and ideals of National Healthy Schools Day, I also urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 370.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. I appreciate the gentleman's words.

At this time I would like to yield 5 minutes to the chief sponsor of this resolution, the one who has brought it to the floor, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO).

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from Massachusetts.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 370, a resolution I was proud to introduce to recognize National Healthy Schools Day.

National Healthy Schools Day recognizes the importance of having a clean, healthy and safe indoor environment for our Nation's schools.

Fifty-four million children, Madam Speaker, and 6 million adults spend their days in our Nation's schools. The EPA estimates that up to one-half of those schools have problems, problems with indoor air quality. Some 32 million students attend schools that have self-reported environmental problems with their facilities that can affect students' health and certainly students' learning.

Some of the hazards common to schools include overcrowding, indoor air pollution, mold infestation, airborne fiberglass particles, lead and copper-contaminated drinking water, playgrounds and classrooms with high levels of pesticides, unchecked furnaces and buses leaking carbon monoxide, chemical spills, renovation fumes, demolition dust, exhaust from gasoline-powered equipment and emissions

from hazardous facilities next door to their school campus.

These problems can contribute to absenteeism, the need for medication use amongst students and can contribute also to learning difficulties, sick building syndrome, staff turnover and liability issues for our school districts across this great country.

Children are more vulnerable than adults to environmental hazards in their schools simply because of their developing immune systems and small bodies. Poor indoor environmental quality has been linked to asthma and other illnesses in our children. With one out of every 13 children suffering from asthma, the number one cause of missed school days, it is very important that we address these issues and address them boldly.

Research shows that simple steps can be taken to make our Nation's schools healthier. Heating and ventilation equipment can be improved upon to enhance indoor air quality. New schools can be built with a healthy design and can be located at nonpolluted sites. Nontoxic products can be used for cleaning, for maintenance and for teaching. The use of natural light should be encouraged. Certainly we can improve on that dynamic heavily.

Many States have adopted guidelines for building healthy high-performing schools that incorporate these steps and more. H.R. 2187, the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public Schools Facilities Act, which we will be considering in this body later this week, would do just that. It would require States to adopt similar guidelines.

I was very proud to work with my colleagues at the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to develop New York State's High Performance Schools Guidelines. I would suggest that they are some of the most effective and most rigid guidelines in the country and will score wonderful opportunities for our students.

National Healthy Schools Day draws attention to the importance of having a safe and a healthy school environment for all of our Nation's children.

National Healthy Schools Day is supported by the Healthy Schools Network, the EPA, the National Educational Association and many more organizations.

I am proud to be counted as a supporter of National Healthy Schools Day and look forward to working with my colleagues here to ensure that every student has a healthy environment in which to learn. Our students require that, and our students deserve that.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, again, let us join with the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) and send a strong message to the public that we are committed to ensuring the develop-

ment and growth of healthy learning environments and schools for our children by supporting House Resolution 370.

With that, I ask my colleagues to join us.

I yield back the balance of our 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. 370, 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.

The title was amended so as to read: "Resolution expressing the support of the House of Representatives for the goals and ideals of National Healthy Schools Day."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 84) supporting the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 84

Whereas the vigilance of the members of the Armed Forces has been instrumental to the preservation of the freedom, security, and prosperity enjoyed by the people of the United States;

Whereas the success of the Armed Forces depends on the dedicated service of its members, their families, and the civilian employees of the Department of Defense and the Coast Guard;

Whereas the role of the United States as a world leader requires a military force that is well-trained, well-equipped, and appropriately sized;

Whereas the Federal Government has a responsibility to raise awareness of and respect for this aspect of the heritage of the United States and to encourage the people of the United States to dedicate themselves to the values and principles for which Americans have served and sacrificed throughout the history of the Nation;

Whereas service in the Armed Forces entails special hazards and demands extraordinary sacrifices from service members and their families;

Whereas the support of the families of service members enhances the effectiveness and capabilities of the Armed Forces;

Whereas the observance of events recognizing the contributions of the Armed Forces is a tangible and highly effective way of sustaining morale and improving quality of life for service members and their families;

Whereas, on April 30, 1999, the Senate passed S. Res. 33 (106th Congress), entitled "Designating May 1999 as 'National Military Appreciation Month'", calling on the people of the United States, in a symbolic act of unity, to observe a National Military Appreciation Month in May 1999, to honor the current and former members of the Armed Forces, including those who have died in the pursuit of freedom and peace;

Whereas, on March 24, 2004, the House of Representatives passed H. Con. Res. 328 (108th Congress), entitled "Recognizing and honoring the United States Armed Forces and supporting the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month", and on April 26, 2004, the Senate passed H. Con. Res. 328 by unanimous consent; and

Whereas it is important to emphasize to the people of the United States the relevance of the history and activities of the Armed Forces through an annual National Military Appreciation Month that includes associated local and national observances and activities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) supports the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month; and

(2) urges the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States, all Federal departments and agencies, States, localities, organizations, and media to annually observe a National Military Appreciation Month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) 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.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 84, sponsored by my friend and colleague from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP), a resolution supporting the goals and objectives of National Military Appreciation Month.

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Each May since 1999, Congress has taken the time to honor our Nation's bravest men and women serving in the Armed Forces. Throughout our history, they have put themselves in harm's way all over the world in order to protect and defend our country. They continue to do so today, and they deserve our gratitude.

In the wake of the tragic shooting yesterday at Camp Victory in Baghdad, we are reminded of the perils and the stress that our Armed Forces face constantly during periods of deployment. It is important, I think, that we always show our appreciation for their service, but as we continue to face two long wars, they need and deserve our support now more than ever. I am glad we are taking the time today to thank them for their service, and I know that all my colleagues keep them and their families in our thoughts and prayers.

This measure was introduced this year on March 26 by Representative WAMP of Tennessee and was referred to