

205 and ensure that implementation does not negatively impact children's access to the program.

I also further request that the Secretary provide the Committee on Education and Labor and the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee in the Senate, annual reports describing implementation and an assessment of any consequences or impact from implementation. These reports should also include any recommendations for administrative or legislative adjustments to the policy, if necessary.

PROTECTING STUDENTS PRIVACY AND REDUCING STIGMA OF PARTICIPATION IN THE CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

The school environment has an important influence on children's behavior and their choices, which can strongly impact their health and wellbeing. The cafeteria and food service setting, such as the display of foods, the integration of reimbursable school meals with foods sold outside of the reimbursable meal programs, and methods of payment can result in the unintentional identification of children by their household income status, or in social stigma for receiving reimbursable meals.

Children should be able to participate in the child nutrition programs with dignity and without consequence of social stigma. Currently, the Richard. B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires that school food authorities ensure children eligible for free or reduced price school meals are not overtly identified as low-income by their participation in the school meal programs. I am concerned, however, that the current guidance to school districts to ensure that children participating in the school meal programs are not overtly identified is not keeping up with the modern school food environment.

Section 143 of this legislation requires the Secretary to review local policies on meal charges and the provision of alternate meals for compliance with requirements for preventing overt identification. I urge the Secretary to also include in the review an examination of the design of the school foodservice area, the methods for conducting payment transactions, and policies for providing reimbursable meals to children from households with outstanding debt to identify ways in which these practices may result in a negative social or nutritional impact on children.

There are increasing examples of schools implementing policies to provide alternate reimbursable meals for children that lack sufficient resources to pay for the meal. I understand the critical importance of balancing school district and school foodservice budgets, and many schools are not in a position to cover the additional cost of offering meals at no charge to children who are not eligible for free reimbursable meals. However, I believe it is important for schools to establish thoughtful policies to address circumstances in which children lack sufficient resources to pay for school meals to ensure that these policies do not stigmatize children, and to ensure that children are not forced to go hungry because of situations outside of their control. For example, if a school has a policy to provide a different meal to children that lack sufficient resources to pay for a reimbursable meal, this practice can identify the child for having insufficient resources and can result in social stigma.

As part of this review, the Secretary should also identify ways in which the modern school food environment may inadvertently stigmatize

children or fail to protect their privacy. For example, there is concern that when school foodservice areas separate lines for children with cash for non-reimbursable food and meals and children selecting reimbursable meals into other lines, that children selecting a reimbursable meal may be identified as low-income or otherwise differentiated from children paying cash for food.

In addition to the review and follow up actions required under provision 143 of this legislation, I urge the Secretary to provide schools with technical assistance and guidance to prevent overt identification. Furthermore, I urge the Secretary to reinforce policies regarding meal charges and alternate meals with guidance to States and school districts regarding appropriate efforts to determine whether children of households in arrears for school meal program payments may be eligible for free or reduced price school meals. Finally, in addition to enhanced technical assistance and guidance, I urge the Secretary to enhance oversight of schools' compliance with requirements to prevent overt identification to ensure schools are taking the necessary steps to protect the privacy of children participating in the school meal programs.

CONCLUSION

I feel strongly that these provisions are critical to the robust reforms to improve access to the child nutrition programs to end child hunger, to improve the quality of these programs to curb childhood obesity, and to better protect the Federal investment.

I look forward to working with the Secretary upon passage of this legislation to ensure effective implementation of this important legislation.

Today, I am pleased to support the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

THE AMERICAN DREAM ACT

HON. RUBEN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly urge my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, to vote for the American Dream Act. This legislation provides conditional non-immigrant status to young individuals of college age who are eager to contribute to our nation's workforce, economy, and Armed Forces.

I personally want to thank the Coalition for Educational Opportunity at the University of Texas—Pan American, and the thousands of students, civil rights groups, and prominent education, business, and religious leaders who have fought tirelessly to pass the DREAM Act. In my congressional district, I want to recognize Alex Garrido and Dora Martinez, two courageous UTPA college students, who fasted for one week to express their support for the DREAM Act.

I am extremely grateful to Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, Defense Secretary Robert Gates, the former Secretary of State Colin Powell, Carlos Gutierrez, former Secretary of Commerce, and many chancellors and many university presidents for underscoring the urgency of passing the DREAM Act.

As Subcommittee chairman for Higher Education, Lifelong Learning and Competitiveness,

I believe that our nation should encourage all students to succeed in school, particularly those students who are working hard and serving as role models to their peers. In the Rio Grande Valley of deep South Texas and across the country, DREAM act students are exceptional young men and women. Despite facing difficult circumstances, these students have excelled in school, and become valedictorians, AP scholars, and distinguished student leaders.

Our nation cannot afford to turn away these talented youth. In order to remain competitive in the global economy, our country must train a new generation of highly skilled STEM professionals—scientists, engineers, and mathematicians—to bolster scientific discovery and spur the technological innovation that our nation desperately needs. Above all, these students will help our nation meet its college completion goals.

Our Armed Forces need courageous service men and women to ensure our Nation's military readiness. Our schools need great teachers to help us close the achievement gap.

I urge my colleagues to vote for the DREAM Act and give these deserving students a chance to make meaningful contributions to our Nation's workforce, economy, military and civic life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, December 7, 2010 I missed roll-call votes 608, 609, 610. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on those rollcall votes.

IN RECOGNITION OF SHERIFF JOSEPH SPICUZZO

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sheriff Joseph Spicuzzo, a life long resident of Central New Jersey and an outstanding member of the community. Throughout his tenure, Sheriff Spicuzzo has contributed to labor organizations, made innovative improvements to the Sheriff's Department operations and enthusiastically dedicated his time to charitable organizations. Sheriff Spicuzzo will retire from his position after dedicating thirty years of service to the Middlesex County Sheriff's office. Today, I applaud Sheriff Spicuzzo, as his accomplishments should serve as an inspiration to us all.

Sheriff Spicuzzo has a long and accomplished political career. From 1976 to 1980, Mr. Spicuzzo served as Mayor of the Borough of Spotswood, New Jersey. In April 1980, Mr. Spicuzzo was appointed Middlesex County Sheriff by Governor Brendan Byrne and completed an unexpired term. Since his appointment, Sheriff Spicuzzo has earned the respect and affection of his colleagues and constituents. He worked particularly well with the

members of the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders as, together, they addressed a wide variety of issues affecting the County and its residents. Sheriff Spicuzzo's sincerity and concern for his constituents was apparent, as he consistently worked to improve services, and insured that the public was treated with dignity and respect. He has also been a tireless supporter of local law enforcement as well as State and Federal agencies. During his tenure, Sheriff Spicuzzo has been instrumental in implementing specialized programs including DWI checkpoints and "Operation Spinal Cord". Foreclosure property listings have also been published on the internet in advance, informing and assisting the County and its residents. Sheriff Spicuzzo's thirty years of service to the County Sheriff's Department is an example of unwavering commitment and devotion.

In addition to his role as Sheriff Mr. Spicuzzo has also served as Spotswood Democratic Municipal Chairman and Middlesex County Chairman. In his capacity as Middlesex County Chairman, he led the Middlesex County Democrats toward electoral success and increased the number of minority and women elected officials in the county.

Before entering politics, Sheriff Spicuzzo's background included extensive involvement with various labor organizations. Influenced by both his grandfather and father, Mr. Spicuzzo began as a member of the Laborer's Union Local 156 in New Brunswick, New Jersey. He also served as Business Agent for Local 196, International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers. His passion and history with these organizations continues to reflect in his daily and political activities.

Sheriff Spicuzzo is well-known for his compassionate and charitable contributions. Specifically, he has been commended for his tireless efforts on behalf of the Middlesex County Heart Association, most notably during radio station WCTC annual telethon. He has also offered his services to the March of Dimes, National Cancer Association, American Red Cross, United Jewish Appeal, B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League and the Salvation Army.

As a result of his actions, Sheriff Spicuzzo was the recipient of the 1996 Hubert M. Humphrey Friend of Labor Award. He has also been honored with the 1980 "Outstanding Young Man of America" Award, the 1992 George Otowski Citizen's League "Man of the Year" Award, the March of Dimes "Franklin Award", the Salvation Army "OTHERS" Award and was honored by the American Heart Association. Sheriff Spicuzzo currently resides in Helmetta with his wife, Mary Ann. He also has two children, JoAnn and Charlie, daughter-in-law Denise and two grandsons, Joey and Dominic.

Madam Speaker, please join me in acknowledging Sheriff Spicuzzo's thirty years of service as Middlesex County Sheriff. His dedication and commitment are positive examples of what steadfast determination and allegiance can accomplish.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, yesterday, I was unable to participate in rollcall vote No. 609. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on H. Res. 1642, Recognizing the centennial of the City of Lilburn, Georgia, and supporting the goals and ideals of a City Lilburn Day. This year the City of Lilburn celebrated its centennial anniversary and I am proud to honor its history.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I was detained from voting on Tuesday, December 7. If present, I would have voted yea on the following rollcall votes: rollcall 608, rollcall 609, and rollcall 610.

HONORING DONALD L. CARCIERI

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Donald L. Carcieri, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, for his remarkable leadership in the Ocean State. Governor Carcieri will conclude his second term as Governor in January after serving two incredible terms. His record of public service and advocacy for the people of Rhode Island is simply unmatched.

Governor Carcieri was inaugurated as Rhode Island's 57th Governor on January 7, 2003. A native Rhode Island resident, his election followed a career in business that was capped with his tenure as Chief Executive Officer of Cookson America and Joint Managing Director of Cookson Group Worldwide. He retired from that position in 1997.

Governor Carcieri, born December 16, 1942, was the first of Nicola and Marguerite Carcieri's five children. The family lived in East Greenwich where Nicola Carcieri was a beloved teacher and coach at the town high school. As a family man with four children and fourteen grandchildren, ten of whom live in Rhode Island, Governor Carcieri has always taken an active interest in what is going on in his community and the state.

Governor Carcieri has been instrumental in preserving the historic face of Providence: at his urging, the former Providence train station became the headquarters of Cookson America. The company offices overlooked Burnside Park on one side and the Rhode Island State House on the other. He exhibited unwavering leadership during the tragic Station nightclub fire and during the state's disastrous floods.

He memorialized Rhode Island's heroes who fell during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

I wish Don all the best in his future endeavors. He will continue to carry my own admiration, and that of all who have had the privilege to work with him.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANKS' AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 20th anniversary of a program that has truly served this Nation well: the Federal Home Loan Banks' Affordable Housing Program, AHP. The AHP is funded by contributions of 10 percent of the Federal Home Loan Banks' net income. The AHP represents the largest, single source of private sector grants for housing and community development in the country targeted at underserved segments of the market. The Federal Home Loan Banks have distributed nearly \$4 billion in AHP funds since the program's initiation in 1990.

The AHP is a flexible source of grants and loans designed to help community-based lending institutions and their community partners develop affordable owner-occupied and rental housing for very low- to moderate-income families and individuals. Applicants are encouraged to leverage their awards with other funding sources, including conventional loans, government-supported financing, tax-credit equity, foundation grants, and bond financing.

The Federal Home Loan Banks' affordable housing funds are a significant driver of job growth, housing production, and expanded tax bases, according to a research study recently completed by The Hendrickson Company and The Shimberg Center for Housing Studies at the University of Florida. The study sought to quantify the "ripple effect" of AHP dollars in employment, broader development spending, and growth of municipal tax bases. By creating more jobs and building tax bases, as well as developing affordable housing, AHP funds are having a unique and very positive economic impact that goes far beyond the units AHP helps fund or the dollars AHP awards, researchers found.

Created by Congress in 1932, the Federal Home Loan Banks are 12 regional banks, cooperatively owned and used by financial institutions serving America's communities to finance housing and economic development. More than 8,000 lenders are members of the Federal Home Loan Bank System, representing approximately 80 percent of America's insured lending institutions. The Federal Home Loan Banks and their members have been the largest and most reliable source of funding for community lending for nearly eight decades.

As Congress turns to housing finance reform next year, I strongly encourage returning and new Members of Congress to consider the successes of the Federal Home Loan Bank System and seek to only build upon them in crafting a stronger, more stable housing finance system in the United States for generations to come.