

CLEAVER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3553.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH, 2010

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1257) supporting the goals and ideals of National Financial Literacy Month, 2010, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1257

Whereas personal financial literacy is essential to ensure that individuals are prepared to make informed financial choices so that they can become successful heads of households, investors, entrepreneurs, and business leaders;

Whereas financially informed individuals are better able to take control of their circumstances, improve their quality of life, and plan for their financial future;

Whereas personal financial management skills and lifelong habits begin to develop during childhood, making it all the more important to support youth financial education;

Whereas financial education is the first line of defense against financial fraud;

Whereas the results of the National Foundation for Credit Counseling's fourth annual Consumer Financial Literacy Survey suggest that while many United States adults are improving how they manage their money, and more consumers now have a budget and nonretirement savings, many Americans continue to struggle with their finances, especially young adults and minorities;

Whereas the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's "National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, December 2009" found that approximately 60,000,000 people in the United States are either unbanked or underbanked;

Whereas almost 54 percent of Black households, 44.5 percent of American Indian/Alaskan households, and 43.3 percent of Hispanic households are either unbanked or underbanked;

Whereas personal saving as a percentage of disposable personal income was 3.1 percent in February 2010, compared with 3.4 percent in January 2010, and a reduction from a 12-month average of 4.1 percent in 2009, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis;

Whereas public, community-based, and private sector organizations throughout the United States are working to increase financial literacy rates for Americans of all ages and walks of life through a range of outreach efforts, including media campaigns, Web sites, and one-on-one financial counseling for individuals;

Whereas the National Endowment for Financial Education provides consumers with the tools necessary to manage their money wisely and empower them to turn their financial education into action;

Whereas bankers across the United States will teach savings skills to young people on April 27, 2010, during "Teach Children to Save Day", which was launched by the

American Bankers Association Education Foundation in April 1997 and has now helped more than 80,000 bankers teach savings skills to more than 3,200,000 young people;

Whereas staff from America's credit unions will focus on the financial needs of young people, provide financial literacy education, and teach youth under the age of 18 the benefits of saving and goal setting during "National Credit Union Youth Week", April 18-24, 2010;

Whereas more than 100 Federal agencies have collaborated on a Web site, www.consumer.gov, which helps consumers shop for a mortgage or auto loan, understand and reconcile credit card statements and utility bills, choose savings and retirement plans, compare health insurance policies, and understand their credit report and how it affects their ability to get credit and on what terms;

Whereas Members of the United States House of Representatives established the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus in February 2005 to provide a forum for interested Members of Congress to review, discuss and recommend financial and economic literacy policies, legislation, and programs; to collaborate with the private sector, and non-profit and community-based organizations; and to organize and promote financial literacy resolutions, legislation, seminars, and events, such as "Financial Literacy Month" in April 2010, and the annual "Financial Literacy Day Fair" on April 27, 2010; and

Whereas the Council for Economic Education, its State Councils and Centers for Economic Education, the JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, its State affiliates, and its partner organizations, and JA Worldwide have designated April as Financial Literacy Month to educate the public about the need for increased financial literacy for youth and adults in the United States; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month, including raising public awareness about financial education;

(2) recognizes the importance of managing personal finances, increasing personal savings, and reducing personal debt in the United States; and

(3) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities with the goal of increasing financial literacy rates for individuals of all ages and walks of life.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may need.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 1257, Supporting

the Goals and Ideals of National Financial Literacy Month, 2010, and for other purposes. I will enter into today's RECORD President Barack Obama's National Financial Literacy Month proclamation, which I hold in my hands.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to bring this important resolution to the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. It contains some very important data on financial literacy and economic education. Unfortunately, I'm sad to have to report again this year that the surveys and the studies we reviewed while drafting this resolution indicate that the majority of Americans remain financially illiterate and are in desperate need of financial education.

I represent the 15th Congressional District of Texas, which includes Hidalgo County, one of the poorest counties in the whole country. It is 89 percent Hispanic and contains over 900 colonias. Many of the residents do not speak English fluently, and several speak English as a second language.

They tend to purchase refrigerators, washing machines, automobiles, televisions, and electronic equipment in cash. One of the reasons for this aberration is a question of trust. Another is that lower-income Americans are not aware of the benefits conveyed when they open a bank account at a mainstream financial institution.

A more pervasive problem is that mainstream financial institutions tend not to open branches in the neighborhoods in which these constituents live. Consequently, these residents are left to rely on non-mainstream financial servicers such as payday lenders, such as check cashers and other predatory entities.

For these reasons, I was not surprised by the findings of the FDIC's December 2009 national survey of unbanked and under-banked households. It revealed that approximately 60 million people in our United States are either unbanked or under-banked.

It is for situations such as this that Congresswoman JUDY BIGGERT and I began collaborating on financial literacy and economic education starting in 2003. Two years later, in 2005, we co-founded and currently co-chair the Financial Economic Literacy Caucus. I'm very pleased and grateful that she and I and the members of this caucus have worked together on a bipartisan basis on financial literacy and economic education over the years.

This year, 2010, the caucus has coordinated with several different associations on financial literacy events, including the National Consumer Protection Week Fair, America Saves Week, and the release of the National Foundation for Credit Counseling's, better known as the NFCC, their fourth annual consumer financial literacy survey.

On April 27th of this year, the Congresswoman and I are coordinating on the Annual Financial Literacy Day Fair with Senator DANIEL AKAKA from

Hawaii, with the Jumpstart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, with the Junior Achievement, and the Council for Economic Education. This fair, on April 27, will be held in the Senate Hart Building from noon to 3 p.m. I encourage you and all my colleagues to attend this special event. If you are unable to attend due to conflicts in your schedule, you might consider sending one of your staff in the Senate Hart Office building.

America Saves Week, the National Consumer Protection Week Fair, and the Financial Literacy Day Fair, as well as the resolutions Congresswoman BIGGERT and I introduce every year to support their goals and ideals, are substantive and an important statement of Congress' commitment to improving the financial literacy and economic education of all Americans.

The financial literacy fairs are very comprehensive and concrete. Agency staff are on hand at these events to provide our staff with the materials they need to hold events in our districts to help arm our constituents with the information and guidance they need to become more confident, savvy, and safe in the marketplace.

The NFCC's, which is the National Federation for Credit Counseling's, fourth annual consumer literacy survey indicates that a larger percentage of Americans, more than two in five adults, now keep close track of their spending. However, more than half still do not have a budget, and more than 11 million adults fail to monitor their overall spending.

Nearly 64 million adults admit to not paying all of their bills on time. Though 67 percent of adults say they pay for most purchases with cash or with a debit card, approximately 41 percent report that their household carries credit card debt, and more than 11 million say they carry \$10,000 or more in credit card debt from month to month.

Approximately 100 million people currently have a home mortgage, and of those, one in three say that the terms of their mortgage somehow turned out to be different than they and their family expected.

Eighty percent of adults feel there are situations where it is acceptable to default on a mortgage, and two of the top three most justifiable circumstances place the blame on the lender.

Despite all this negative data, the proportion of adults who have non-retirement savings has increased from 63 percent in 2007 to 67 percent this year.

So, Mr. Speaker, as you can tell, we have far to go to improve the financial literacy rate of all Americans across the United States during all stages of life. One of the ways that our caucus has moved the financial literacy cause forward is coordinating with several Federal agencies on the National Consumer Protection Week I mentioned earlier.

On a positive note, several Members of Congress have introduced com-

prehensive and beneficial legislation that will help Americans become financially literate and provide them with the necessary consumer protections.

One such legislation is the Credit Card Reform Act. Authored by my good friend and colleague from New York, Congresswoman CAROLYN MALONEY, it was signed into law by President Barack Obama in 2009. Congresswoman MALONEY could not be with us on the floor for this debate, but her presence is felt here and throughout the United States, and especially in the wallets of most Americans.

Her legislation takes financial literacy and economic education 10 steps forward. It requires issuers that extend credit to young consumers under the age of 21 to obtain an application that contains the following: The signature of a parent, guardian, or other individual 21 years or older who will take responsibility for the debt; or that person who signs is proof that the applicant has an independent means of repaying any credit extended.

□ 1445

It limits prescreened offers of credit to young consumers and prohibits increases in the credit limit on accounts where a parent, legal guardian, spouse or other individual is jointly liable unless the individual who is jointly liable approves the increase. This law increases the protections for students against aggressive card marketing and increases transparency of affinity arrangements between the credit card company and university. I commend her for her dedication to financial literacy and for managing to pass that legislation.

I coauthored the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act that passed both Houses and was signed into law recently by President Barack Obama. That law invests \$750 million in the College Access Challenge Grant Program. These formula grants to States help organizations provide services such as financial literacy and debt management skills that increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in college and manage their student loans.

This Congress is also considering legislation that will establish an office of financial literacy that I requested in the Financial Services Committee. Other financial literacy proposals are being reviewed, including establishing financial literacy centers across the United States.

Mr. Speaker, financial literacy and economic education are both a life skill and a key component of financial and economic stability and development. It is imperative that we pay more attention to the financial literacy rates of our citizens from pre-kindergarten all the way to retirement. The sooner a person begins to learn good saving habits, the better off he or she will be in the future.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and join the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

[For Immediate Release—April 2, 2010]

NATIONAL FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH, 2010

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

In recent years, our Nation's financial system has grown increasingly complex. This has left too many Americans behind, unable to build a secure financial future for themselves and their families. For many, financial literacy can mean economic prosperity and protection against fraud and predatory banking practices. During National Financial Literacy Month, we recommit to teaching ourselves and our children about the basics of financial education.

Our recent economic crisis was the result of both irresponsible actions on Wall Street, and everyday choices on Main Street. Large banks speculated recklessly without regard for the consequences, and other firms invented and sold complex financial products to conceal risks and escape scrutiny. At the same time, many Americans took out loans they could not afford or signed contracts without fully understanding the terms. Ensuring this crisis never happens again will require new rules to protect consumers and better information to empower them.

The new Consumer Financial Protection Agency I have proposed will ensure ordinary Americans get clear and concise financial information. We must put an end to confusing loan contracts, hidden fees attached to mortgages, and unfair penalties that appear without warning on bank statements. The Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act of 2009 began reining in some of these deceptive tactics when it recently took effect. The President's Advisory Council on Financial Capability is also looking for new ways to help individuals make informed decisions and to educate our children on core financial competencies.

While our Government has a critical role to play in protecting consumers and promoting financial literacy, we are each responsible for understanding basic concepts: how to balance a checkbook, save for a child's education, steer clear of deceptive financial products and practices, plan for retirement, and avoid accumulating excessive debts. To learn more, visit: MyMoney.gov or call toll-free 1-888-MyMoney for helpful guidance and resources.

Our Nation's future prosperity depends on the financial security of all Americans. This month, let us each take time to improve our own financial knowledge and share that knowledge with our children. Together, we can prevent another crisis and rebuild our economy on a stronger, more balanced foundation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 2010 as National Financial Literacy Month. I call upon all Americans to observe this month with programs and activities to improve their understanding of financial principles and practices.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand ten, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fourth.

BARACK OBAMA

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a cosponsor of House Resolution 1257, which recognizes April as Financial Literacy Month, and I would strongly urge my colleagues to support it.

I would like to begin by thanking my good friend and fellow chair of the House Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus, Mr. HINOJOSA, for sponsoring this legislation and for his continuing efforts to improve financial literacy rates in America.

Since 2005, when Mr. HINOJOSA and I formed the caucus, financial literacy has grown from an interesting offshoot of economic education to a key element in numerous efforts on and off the Hill to protect consumers, improve financial security, help manage debt, assist in retirement planning, and prepare our children to prosper in today's sophisticated marketplace.

We've also seen financial literacy programs become successful centerpieces of campaigns to bring independence and family security to impoverished and underserved populations, women, minorities, and even victims of hurricanes or domestic violence.

For example, with help from the Allstate Foundation and the National Network to End Domestic Violence, thousands of abuse victims nationwide have benefited from the Economic Empowerment for Domestic Violence Survivors program. It empowers victims of domestic violence with a financial strategy to escape abusive households and help provide them with resources and training to achieve independence.

Mr. Speaker, Financial Literacy Month is a chance to recognize and support the work of countless organizations like these around America—and the leadership of groups like the Jumpstart Coalition, Junior Achievement, and the Council for Economic Education—for all they do to educate American consumers and, most importantly, our children.

It's also an opportunity to recognize how much more work remains to be done. According to the FDIC, as was mentioned, approximately 60 million people in the United States are either unbanked or underbanked. Sixty percent of preteens do not even know the difference between cash, credit cards, and checks, and yet only 26 percent of new students are actively learning financial planning from their parents.

And according to the national Foundation for Credit Counseling's latest consumer survey, one-third of adults, or more than 75 million people, are not putting any part of their income towards retirement, up from 28 percent in 2008. These are troubling numbers. And in today's economic climate, the financial challenges and choices facing consumers have only grown.

That's why, as Congress reviews our national education guidelines and takes up far-reaching changes to our country's regulations, we must keep in mind one of the most important benefits of financial literacy as expressed in this resolution today before us: Finan-

cial education is the first line of defense against financial fraud.

When it comes to preparing against economic uncertainty, recognizing deceptive practices, building credit, or making dozens of other day-to-day financial decisions, nothing protects consumers and their financial security more effectively than arming them, even as young students, with a sound foundation in financial literacy.

Consumers benefit most from more financial options, not fewer, and with the right information and education, individual Americans are best equipped to avoid financial pitfalls, analyze risk, and make financial decisions that hold the greatest benefit for their future and that of their families.

With that, I would just like to once again thank my good friend and colleague, Mr. HINOJOSA, for bringing this resolution to the floor, and I would like to also recognize the hard work of his dedicated staff, especially Greg Davis, for all their efforts.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage all of my colleagues and their staffs to attend this year's financial literacy day fair on Capitol Hill. As Mr. HINOJOSA mentioned, but I think it bears repeating, it's going to be held next Tuesday, April 27, where Members will be able to find a broad array of financial education materials and ideas for reaching out to constituents on this important issue. This year, it is being hosted on the Senate side, in Hart 902, by Senators AKAKA and ENZI, and invitations should be arriving soon to each office.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 1257, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to yield as much time as she may consume to my friend and colleague in the Financial Services Committee, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas.

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support this resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month, and I commend the gentleman from Texas and the gentlelady from Illinois for introducing this resolution and for their commitment to financial literacy.

During my service as Kansas State Treasurer, I was proud to partner with financial institutions across our great State to increase financial literacy for Kansans of all ages. As a certified public accountant, I'm committed to this cause and believe it is critical to equip our students with good financial habits at a very young age. The lesson that must be learned as our Nation emerges from this financial crisis is that additional regulation is meaningless if personal responsibility is not our primary objective.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution and to support increased financial literacy—not just this month, but always.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1257, supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month. I would also like to commend the gentleman from Texas, Mr. HINOJOSA, and the gentlelady from Illinois, Mrs. BIGGERT, the co-chairs of the Financial Literacy Caucus, for all of their hard work on this important issue.

In today's 21st century economy, in which Americans have access to a wide variety of financial products, a greater understanding of finance is critically important to our economy. As we all know, the roots of the financial meltdown can be traced to a number of factors, including unscrupulous lenders who took advantage of consumers, irresponsible homeowners who borrowed more than they could afford and reckless speculators who gambled on bad financial bets.

Last year, we enacted into law a credit card reform bill to crack down on abusive lending practices. This law also requires credit lenders to provide borrowers with clear information on lending terms, such as the consequences of making only the minimum monthly payment, late payment deadlines, penalties and interest rate changes. We must hold creditors accountable and ensure full transparency in their lending practices; at the same time, borrowers must carefully review this information and use it to make sound financial decisions.

Mr. Speaker, we must all do our part to enhance financial literacy. A strong foundation in financial literacy will help Americans meet today's needs, prepare for the unexpected and plan for future goals. This week, the Credit Union National Association is holding its annual National Credit Union Youth Week to highlight the importance of financial literacy for our children. In addition, on April 27, the American Bankers Association Education Foundation will be holding their annual Teach Children to Save Day. Since 1997, 80,000 bank volunteers have participated to teach 3.4 million children about basic spending and savings decisions.

A solid understanding of sound financial principles can also help families trim their expenses and reduce debt. The Financial Literacy Education Commission's website, www.mymoney.gov, has helpful tools, resources and savings tips from a number of federal agencies to help consumers make informed personal finance choices, whether shopping for loans, reducing household costs, planning for savings and retirement, or understanding credit card terms.

Mr. Speaker, financial literacy is about opportunity. It is about empowering individuals and families to take control of their finances and effectively plan for the future. Working together, we can encourage Americans to enhance their understanding of personal finance, which will ultimately help to strengthen our financial system and economy. I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1257, and I support the goals of Financial Literacy Month. I recognize the importance of encouraging Americans to educate themselves on financial responsibility.

However, the irony of this legislation is not lost on me. If April is to be recognized as Financial Literacy Month, might I suggest that Congress take the time to educate itself on fiscal responsibility and restraint? Last year, the federal deficit reached \$1.4 trillion, undoubtedly an unsustainable figure. Additionally, as

the House considers this resolution, the chairman of the Budget Committee ponders whether to forgo a budget resolution for the next fiscal year.

While Americans across the country evaluate their priorities and make tough choices to responsibly adhere to their budgets, Congress ought to do likewise. When times get tough, it's not the American way to stick our head in the sand, but to address our issues head-on.

This resolution "recognizes the importance of managing personal finances, increasing personal savings, and reducing personal debt in the United States," yet this Congress has consistently operated counter to the principles of managing, saving, and reducing debt. I encourage my colleagues to heed the advice we are giving the American people, and take a serious look at our finances. I believe the time has come for Congress to manage our nation's finances, increase our national savings, and reduce our national debt.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1257, supporting the goals and ideals of National Financial Literacy Month, 2010. The resolution recognizes the importance of managing personal finances, increasing personal savings, and reducing personal debt in the United States.

Creating a national culture of financial responsibility is incredibly important in these difficult economic times. I believe that a financially literate public is a key component to having a strong and robust economy. Resolutions like the National Financial Literacy Month help to promote broad-based financial literacy initiatives that are absolutely essential for the well-being of our country.

A recent survey done by the National Foundation for Credit Counseling has shown that more than 60 million adults admit to not paying all of their bills on time; approximately 150 million people report that they have not ordered their credit report in the last year, and more than 75 million people are not putting any part of their income toward retirement.

I am always surprised to hear statistics like this, and it is alarming because there are very simple things people can do to save money and lead more financially stable lives. We must do whatever is necessary to educate the public on financial matters and develop unbiased financial literacy training programs within our communities.

I want to acknowledge the vigorous efforts of Congressman RUBÉN HINOJOSA and Congresswoman JUDY BIGGERT, co-chairs of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus, to improve the overall economic situation of all those residing in the United States. I would also like to acknowledge Greg Davis and Zachary Cikanek for their endless work and dedication to financial education.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that together we can continue to make a difference and help empower people to take control of their financial lives. I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1257, "Supporting the goals and ideals of National Financial Literacy Month, 2010, and for other purposes." Let me begin by thanking my colleague Representative RUBÉN HINOJOSA from my home state of Texas for introducing this legislation into the House of Representatives as it is important that we continually promote

and encourage honest and thrifty financial decision making abilities in our citizens.

Considering the current state of our economy, Mr. Speaker, it is critically important that we begin raising public awareness about financial education. A recent study put forth by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) stated that approximately 54 percent of Black households, 44.5 percent of American Indian/Alaskan households, and 43.3 percent of Hispanic households either have no checking or savings accounts or have used non-bank money orders, non-bank check-cashing services, payday loans, rent-to-own agreements, or pawn shops at least once or twice a year.

This statistic is alarming to many in our nation, Mr. Speaker, and it highlights an increasing lack of financial awareness in our nation. By educating our citizens on the proper use of checking and savings accounts as well as educating citizens of other financial instruments we will seek to see a reduction in the use of payday loans, pawn shops and other predatory financial transactions in our nation.

Furthermore, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis the U.S. aggregate personal savings rate as a percentage of disposable personal income dropped 0.3 percent between January and February of this year. In February the aggregate personal savings rate as a percentage of disposable personal income was 3.1, as compared with 3.4 percent in January 2010.

Still further, troubled loans, mortgages and toxic assets are still plaguing our economy and making it increasingly difficult for the average person to make sound financial decisions.

This is why it is critically important that we help give people the tools needed to manage their personal finances. Some of the basic encouragements we can pass along to our citizens through education programs would be to increase personal savings, and reduce personal debt.

Helping our citizens to become economically empowered and in control of their personal finances is also essential toward the recovery of our national economy. By giving our citizens the ability to plan for their financial future and by giving our citizens the ability to make important investment and entrepreneurial decisions, we will help to improve the quality of life of all Americans through the next generation.

While it is important to focus on educating adults in the areas of thrift and finance, it is even more important that we educate our youth about the importance of making sound economic and financial decisions. These types of financial decision making habits—whether they be wise or careless—are often developed during childhood and usually become lifelong tendencies.

An added benefit that would come from increasing our nation's financial literacy and providing financial education programs for our citizens would be the additional protection against financial fraud that would be created. Giving people the resources to understand and control their own finances and to understand potential risks and hazards would empower people against identity theft and other financial schemes that attempt to do them harm.

I ask my colleagues for their support of H. Res. 1257, as well as their continued support for the economically downtrodden in this nation. By increasing the capacity of our citizens

to make prudent economic decisions, I am sure that we will see a return to American prosperity that will last for generations to come.

I would like to again thank my colleague Representative RUBÉN HINOJOSA for his leadership in introducing his bill as well as for his support of the American people and our economy.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H. Res. 1257 and ask for its immediate adoption.

Mrs. BIGGERT. I would urge all of our colleagues to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1257.

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. HINOJOSA. Mr. 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 LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF REV. BENJAMIN LAWSON HOOKS

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1271) honoring the life and achievements of Rev. Benjamin Lawson Hooks.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1271

Whereas Benjamin Lawson Hooks, a native Memphian, was the fifth out of seven children born to Robert B. and Bessie Hooks;

Whereas his grandmother, Julia Britton Hooks, was the second African-American female college graduate in the Nation, graduating from Berea College in Kentucky in 1874;

Whereas Dr. Hooks studied prelaw at LeMoyne College in Memphis and continued his studies at Howard University in Washington, DC, and at Depaul University Law School in Chicago, Illinois;

Whereas Dr. Hooks was a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity;

Whereas after college, he then served in the United States Army during World War II and had the job of guarding Italian prisoners who were able to eat in restaurants that were off limits to him, an experience that he found humiliating and that deepened his determination to do something about bigotry in the South;

Whereas in 1949, Dr. Hooks met teacher Frances Dancy and the couple married in 1952;

Whereas the couple had a daughter, Patricia Gray;

Whereas from 1949 to 1965 he was one of the few African-Americans practicing law in Memphis, Tennessee;

Whereas in 1954, Dr. Hooks served on a roundtable with Thurgood Marshall and