

Mr. Speaker, the National Science Foundation was originally created by this very body—the United States Congress—in 1950. The intent of Congress at the time was to promote the progress of science, to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare, and to secure our nation through defense technology and innovation.

Since that time, the National Science Foundation has worked diligently to ensure that the United States maintains its expertise and precision in discovery and innovation in addition to education in science, engineering, and mathematics.

Additionally, the National Science Foundation was created with the intent of helping to educate the children of our nation and give them the tools necessary to become doctors, researchers, astronauts and chemists. As the Chairwoman of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I fully support the National Science Foundation in its efforts towards childhood education and I understand the great importance of educating our children in these areas.

Moreover, the National Science Foundation supports science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education at all levels from elementary schools to national research universities. We all know the great importance this type of education has on children and I applaud the National Science Foundation for its dedication to high-quality education for the children of our nation.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, the National Science Foundation had made many significant contributions to our collective standard of living and economy. By creating opportunities for research and innovation in new areas, our nation has benefited from cutting-edge medical tools, safer cars and transportation systems as well as defense innovations that have helped to protect the American people from those that would seek to do us harm.

Through its research capacities, the National Science Foundation supports a network of 200,000 individuals each year, including scientists, engineers, students, and educators at over 2,000 colleges and universities, schools, nonprofit organizations, science centers and museums, and small businesses throughout our Nation. The National Science Foundation also works with and funds multi-user facilities and tools for conducting world-class research and training initiatives.

In addition to these efforts, the National Science Foundation has taken a protective stance for our country against the threat of earthquakes and other natural and man-made disasters. Through its National Hazards Reduction Program, Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation, the Approaches to Combat Terrorism program, and similar research activities the National Science Foundation has contributed to predicting and reducing the risk of devastation from natural and man-made disasters during the past decade.

The National Science Foundation has also funded quick-response research at the sites of unprecedented national and international tragedies, including the September 11 attacks on the United States, the South Asian earthquake and tsunami, Hurricane Katrina, and the Haitian earthquake. These response and research efforts have helped to contribute to further preventing and mitigating the impact of future disasters.

I stand today with Representative BART GORDON and other members of Congress in

reaffirming our national commitment and appreciation for the National Science Foundation as it celebrates its 60th anniversary.

I would also like to thank and praise the thousands of scientists, engineers, researchers and administrators who have worked in conjunction with the National Science Foundation towards the creation of new technologies and the improvement of our collective standards of living.

I ask my colleagues for their support of H. Res. 1307, as well as for their continued support for the National Science Foundation and its initiatives. By maintaining and increasing the capacity of our nation to research and develop new technologies and innovations, I am confident that the United States will continue to be a leader in the market for technology products for years to come.

I would like to again thank my colleague Representative BART GORDON for his leadership in introducing this bill as well as for his support of the National Science Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1307.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1307.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. FUDGE. 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.

SUPPORTING THE IDEALS OF NATIONAL LAB DAY

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1213) recognizing the need to improve the participation and performance of America's students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields, supporting the ideals of National Lab Day, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1213

Whereas in 2005 the National Academy of Sciences published a report entitled "Rising Above the Gathering Storm", which estimated that in the United States innovations generated by the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields account for nearly half of the growth in gross domestic product;

Whereas in 2006 only 4.5 percent of college graduates in the United States received a diploma in engineering, compared with 25.4 percent in South Korea, 33.3 percent in China, and 39.1 percent in Singapore;

Whereas increasing the number of students pursuing careers in STEM fields is vital to

the global competitiveness of the United States;

Whereas many STEM occupations do not have representation of women and underrepresented minorities proportional to these groups in the population or their enrollment in higher education;

Whereas strengthening partnerships between the Federal and State governments, the private sector, nonprofit organizations, professional societies, and the education community will improve STEM education in our Nation's schools;

Whereas the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that science and engineering occupations are projected to grow by 21.4 percent from 2004 to 2014, compared to a projected growth of 13 percent in all occupations during the same time period;

Whereas an understanding of science and mathematics is necessary not only for those who will enter STEM fields as majors but for all citizens to understand scientific and technical issues that affect their lives;

Whereas scientific and technical skills are a requirement for an increasingly wide range of occupations and hands-on inquiry-based learning in the STEM fields is an essential element of a well-rounded education;

Whereas the President has launched an "Educate to Innovate campaign" which aims to increase STEM literacy so that all students can learn deeply and think critically in STEM, to move American students from the middle of the pack to the top in the next decade, and to expand STEM education and career opportunities for underrepresented groups, including women and girls;

Whereas National Lab Day is a nationwide initiative to foster community-based collaborations between educators and STEM professionals and other volunteers across the country to support high-quality, hands-on, discovery-based laboratory experiences for students;

Whereas more than 200 business, science and technology, and education organizations have declared their support for National Lab Day; and

Whereas schools and educators across the country will celebrate the first National Lab Day during the first week of May at a time of their own choosing: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the ideals of National Lab Day;

(2) calls upon the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the National Science Foundation to continue fostering partnerships such as those involved in National Lab Day; and

(3) encourages scientists, volunteers, and educators to participate in National Lab Day.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FUDGE. 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 H. Res. 1213.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 1213 recognizes the need to improve the performance of American students in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields. This resolution support the ideals of National Lab Day, a nationwide effort to connect students, STEM educators, and volunteers in order to build the STEM community.

All children have an innate curiosity about the world around them. Research shows students begin to lose this inquisitiveness as early as middle school. During National Lab Day, students in all grades participate in hands-on scientific educational projects to demonstrate real-life applications of the STEM fields. For example, a teacher in my district posted a project requesting a scientist to illustrate how chemistry is used in real-world applications and careers. The National Lab Day Web site will connect this teacher with a professional scientist to perform experiments and talk to students about careers in chemistry. These activities keep students interested and engaged in math and science throughout primary and secondary school. We hope that by keeping children interested early in life more American students will enter STEM fields.

America has a rich history as a leader in technology and information. However, we are at serious risk of losing our world status if we don't train and encourage and engage our youth. Research shows that the United States is graduating significantly lower percentages of students in STEM fields than other nations. In 2006, for example, a little over 4 percent of American students received undergraduate degrees in engineering compared to 33 percent in China. We can change this trend.

Last week, I was visited by a constituent named Sheari Rice. Sheari is a full-time engineer working toward a Ph.D. at Cleveland State University in my district. She is a strong, powerful role model for female minority students and said she would be thrilled to volunteer for National Lab Day. People like Sheari will make this initiative successful and teach our children that careers such as hers are within their reach.

There are Shearis in every district, and I hope my colleagues will join me in reaching out to these role models. Tell them they can visit www.nationallabday.org to sign up for projects in their communities. I look forward to seeing successful lab days all around the Nation and eventually a more technologically competitive America.

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

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I thank Ms. FUDGE for her good presentation, and I rise in support of H. Res. 1213, supporting the ideals of National Lab Day.

H. Res. 1213 recognizes the need to improve the participation and performance of America's students in science,

technology, engineering, and math fields, or STEM fields. In order for America to continue its competitive edge in technology and innovation, a solid foundation in STEM education for our students is very vital. Without early exposure to science in the classroom, students will either lack the interest to pursue a career in STEM fields, or will lack the preparation and skills required to be successful.

H. Res. 1213 puts one step forward to ensuring that our children and grandchildren, the innovators of tomorrow, have the well-rounded education they need if they are to become the leading minds of America's future.

National Lab Day's purpose is to raise awareness of the importance of STEM education by creating a "nationwide initiative to build local communities of support that will foster ongoing collaboration among volunteers, students and educators. Volunteers, university students, scientists, engineers, other STEM professionals and, more broadly, members of the community are working together with educators and students to bring discovery-based science experiences to students in grades K-12."

I applaud those efforts that do not rely on the Federal Government but engage our communities to become more involved in improving lab experiences for students in kindergarten through high school, and hope my colleagues will join me today in recognizing the importance of what National Lab Day presents.

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

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HARMAN).

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding and commend her leadership. As a former member of the Science Committee myself, I think this is a very important resolution which highlights an issue that directly impacts not just national security but employment in my district and many others.

Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics are the backbone of California's 36th District economy. We are the home to the Los Angeles Air Force Base Space and Missile Systems Center and to large facilities of all of the major aerospace firms, as well as critically important innovative second and third tier suppliers. As I am fond of saying, my district is the aerospace center of the universe.

L.A. County's unemployment rate is over 13 percent, but the 36th Congressional District's unemployment is half that, almost entirely because of science and technology jobs, especially in the aerospace industry. But the industry faces a coming "gray wave." Some 60 percent of aerospace workers are over age 50, and almost 26 percent are already eligible for retirement. Not enough young scientists and engineers are coming out of college to fill their ranks.

Mr. Speaker, we can't build rockets without rocket scientists, and other countries know that. The United States graduates about 70,000 engineers annually, a meager 15 percent. China graduates over half a million engineers every year. We not only need the next generation of spacecraft to reach Mars and beyond; we need the next generation of space engineers to get us there. And if we are to maintain space dominance when others, especially China, challenge us, we need more engineers.

While we are struggling to educate enough engineers to assume the torch from those retiring, we are also losing many of them to the sexy new world of Internet technology. Building rockets is losing luster to Facebook, eBay, Google and other IT firms. If we want to continue to be the world's leader in space, we have to get our young people dreaming bigger, literally dreaming out of this world. We need to inspire our young people the same way President Kennedy did 50 years ago when he committed the United States to winning the space race.

STEM education is the key, Mr. Speaker. I urge our colleagues to support this worthy resolution.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY).

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1213, a resolution supporting the ideals of National Lab Day.

I would also like to commend the two principal sponsors of this legislation, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS), for their continued leadership on the promotion of STEM education.

And I want to join my colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HARMAN), and I too am a former member of the Science Committee, and I agree completely with her remarks on this issue.

Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, better known as STEM, education is instrumental to our ability to stay on the cutting edge of the global economy. Yet the United States is indeed falling behind the rest of the world in the number of students that are graduating from STEM fields.

Mr. Speaker, according to a 2006 Association of American Universities study that is noted in the findings of H. Res. 1213, 33.3 percent of students in China receive their undergraduate degrees in engineering; in Singapore, that number is 39.1 percent; and 25.4 percent of South Korea's graduates fall into these fields. Unfortunately, the United States is lagging so far behind with a staggering 4.5 percent of graduates in engineering. In order for us to remain competitive in a global marketplace, it is imperative that we find ways to increase the number of students coming out of college with a degree in a STEM-related field. That means that we need to build the interest level within STEM education for students at all levels.

Mr. Speaker, as a graduate of Georgia Tech with a degree in chemistry, STEM education is an issue that is near and dear to me, and I am very happy to see that this body consider in a bipartisan way a resolution that supports National Lab Day. This is a nationwide initiative that provides a forum for scientists to work directly with students in a hands-on learning experience. By allowing students the opportunity to collaborate with scientists in this way, National Lab Day can provide them with the tools to keep them engaged in STEM fields, with the hope that those students will pursue higher education opportunities and careers in these cutting-edge fields.

During the 110th Congress, I believe our Nation took a very crucial step, due in large part to the leadership of Chairman BART GORDON and Ranking Member RALPH HALL of the Science Committee, to address this issue in the America COMPETES Act, and that was passed in a bipartisan way in 2007 and signed into law by former President Bush.

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As the former ranking member of the Science Committee's Technology and Innovation Subcommittee, I was so proud to support that important legislation, which will make STEM education a priority both now and in the future.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HALL of Texas. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. As we likely consider the reauthorization of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act next week, I hope this body will approach this legislation in the same manner.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this great resolution, H. Res. 1213.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY).

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to compliment our chairman, BART GORDON, and I would like to compliment Congresswoman FUDGE and our ranking member, Mr. HALL, for this resolution because it is greatly important.

I support H. Res. 1213, a resolution in support of improving participation in the STEM fields, STEM—Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

As a member of the House Education and Labor Committee and of the House Science and Technology Committee, it is absolutely clear to me that our country's ability to develop, to prosper, and to compete will depend upon investing in our children's educations and in the scientific community.

A central piece of this effort must be to encourage girls and underrepresented minorities to be involved in STEM at the K–12 undergrad and graduate levels so they can, if they choose,

turn their educations into careers. They don't have to take the careers of STEM, but they have to be prepared to make those choices by the time they get to college.

That is why I sponsored the Patsy T. Mink Fellowships, which President Bush signed into law in 2008 as part of the Higher Education Reauthorization Act. The Patsy T. Mink Fellowships provide encouragement for women and minorities to go into the graduate programs where they are represented, such as into the STEM programs, and then to move into teaching in these fields.

I am also preparing to reintroduce a bill, Go Girl, as it has been previously entitled for the many, many years that I've been here, which will provide grants to schools to promote STEM education for girls, and we have included underrepresented minorities for K–12 students.

Mr. Speaker, helping young women and minorities go into these STEM fields is an investment in our future as a country, so I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H. Res. 1213.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1213 to support the goals and ideals of National Lab Day.

I want to commend National Lab Day and its partners for their efforts to ensure America's workforce is proficient in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). In order to keep the United States at the leading edge of discovery, it will take committed partnerships with volunteers, university students, scientists, engineers, other STEM professionals, and communities to inspire and cultivate our youth.

I strongly believe that in order for a child to believe, they must first see. Today, our children are in desperate need of positive role models. When STEM professionals enter the classroom and work with children, they are providing an example of what one day they too can become. We need to increase professional involvement with our youth throughout our educational pipeline. Efforts such as National Lab Day will help bring about positive change for our country.

It is no mystery that STEM professionals will cure the next epidemic and invent the next technological breakthrough. Ultimately, a nation that graduates a high amount of STEM professionals will be a nation that will thrive in the 21st century. These fields are among the highest paying and the most stable. Their rate of growth is increasing exponentially as our society grows increasingly technological and our world becomes more interconnected.

Mr. Speaker, the time to act is now. I ask my fellow colleagues today to join me in honoring National Lab Day and efforts that will raise standards, improve teaching, and motivate more students to pursue careers in science and math.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as a former member of the Science Committee and a strong supporter of education, I rise in strong support of this resolution Recognizing the need to improve the participation and performance of America's students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields.

This legislation recognizes the importance of equipping young minds with the technological

and scientific knowledge necessary to compete in a globalized economy. Further, within the context of globalization, I strongly believe that this country's ability to achieve and maintain a high standard of living is dependent on the extent to which it can harness science and technology. Thus, in order to enhance the international competitiveness of the country, it is critical for us to promote and support students pursuing careers in meteorology, climatology and atmospheric research.

From Ben Franklin to NASA to Silicon Valley, America has a great history of scientific innovation. In recent years, however, we have diverged from this path and have endangered our reputation as a nation at the forefront of science and technology. In 2006 only 4.5 percent of college graduates in the United States received a diploma in engineering, compared with 25.4 percent in South Korea, 33.3 percent in China, and 39.1 percent in Singapore. Today, American students rank 21st out of 30 in scientific literacy among students from developed countries, and 25th out of 30 in math literacy.

If this trend continues, there are dire consequences for our children and our economy. As this bill notes, "In 2005 the National Academy of Sciences published a report entitled 'Rising Above the Gathering Storm', which estimated that in the United States innovations generated by the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields account for nearly half of the growth in gross domestic product."

Mr. Speaker, it is essential that we invest in a workforce ready for global competition by creating a new generation of innovators and make a sustained commitment to federal research and development. We need to spur and expand affordable access to broadband, achieve energy independence, and provide small business with tools to encourage entrepreneurial innovation.

The establishment and maintenance of a capable science and technological workforce remains an important facet of U.S. efforts to maintain economic competitiveness. Pre-college instruction in mathematics and scientific fields is crucial to the development of U.S. science and technological personnel, as well as our overall scientific literacy as a nation. The value of education in science and mathematics is not limited to those students pursuing a degree in one of these fields, and even students pursuing nonscientific and non-mathematical fields are likely to require basic knowledge in these subjects.

In particular, there is a need to extend access to mathematics and scientific education to a number of specific groups. Even as certain minorities, including African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans, comprise an increasingly large proportion of the U.S. population, they continue to be underrepresented in science and engineering disciplines. Together, these three groups comprise over 25 percent of the population, but earn only 16.2 percent of the bachelor degrees, 10.7 percent of the masters degrees, and 5.4 percent of the doctorate degrees in these fields.

Mr. Speaker, as we develop the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), we must fully integrate and fund STEM education programs. Such programs are vital to the future of our nation.

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

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would ask that my colleagues support H. Res. 1213.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1213.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Ms. FUDGE. 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.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LASER

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1310) recognizing the 50th anniversary of the laser.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1310

Whereas the invention of the laser was one of the groundbreaking scientific achievements of the 20th century;

Whereas in 1953, Charles H. Townes, along with graduate students James Gordon and Herbert Zeiger produced the first master device, which was a precursor to the laser that relied on microwave radiation instead of visible or infrared radiation;

Whereas concurrent to Charles H. Townes' activities, Nikolay Basov and Aleksandr Prokhorov of the Soviet Union independently produced a maser with significant technical advances which allowed continuous output;

Whereas Charles H. Townes, Nikolay Basov, and Aleksandr Prokhorov shared the 1964 Nobel Prize in Physics for their "fundamental work in the field of quantum electronics", which led to the construction of masers, and subsequently lasers;

Whereas in 1960, Theodore H. Maiman constructed the first functioning laser at Hughes Research Laboratories in Malibu, California, and the laser was first operated on May 16, 1960;

Whereas Theodore H. Maiman was the recipient of the 1983/1984 Wolf Prize in Physics for his realization of the first operating laser;

Whereas since being created in 1960, lasers have become an integral and essential part of our daily lives. Lasers can be found in a wide range of applications including in compact disc players, laser printers, barcode scanners, digital video devices (DVDs), industrial welders, and surgical apparatus, amongst others;

Whereas total global sales of lasers in 2010 is expected to top 5.9 billion dollars;

Whereas innovations flowing from basic research such as the laser have made America into the world leader in technology development;

Whereas continued support of scientific research programs is indispensable to maintaining America's position as the global leader in technology and innovation; and

Whereas LaserFest is a year-long celebration of the 50th anniversary intended to bring public awareness to the story of the laser and scientific achievement generally, and was founded by the following partners: the Optical Society of America, the American Physical Society, the International Society for Optical Engineering, and IEEE: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the 50th anniversary of the laser; and

(2) recognizes the need for continued support of scientific research to maintain America's future competitiveness.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Res. 1310, the resolution now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. FUDGE. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1310, which celebrates the 50th anniversary of the creation of the first laser.

The world's first laser was operated on May 16, 1960. It was constructed by Theodore Maiman at Hughes Research Laboratories in Malibu, California. This was a significant engineering and scientific feat.

Theodore Maiman's work was preceded by theoretical work by Charles Townes, James Gordon, Herbert Zeiger, Nikolay Basov, and Aleksandr Prokhorov. Townes, Basov, and Prokhorov won the 1964 Nobel Prize in Physics for their work.

One of the peculiarities of the achievement of the invention of the laser is that, for many years after its creation, the laser was an invention without many practical applications. However, as time went on, scientists and engineers recognized the incredible potential of the laser. Today, the laser is almost ubiquitous. It can be found in almost every home, office, and automobile in America. Lasers are also big business, with annual laser sales approaching \$6 billion per year, and growing.

The story of the laser is illustrative of how investments in basic R&D can have huge economic and scientific implications down the road. It is a story to remember well as this Congress prepares to take up the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act in the coming weeks.

I would like to take a moment to recognize the sponsor of this resolution, Dr. VERN EHLERS. It is my under-

standing that, in a prior life, Dr. EHLERS knew one of the persons cited in this resolution, Dr. Townes, so it is especially fitting that he is the sponsor.

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

Mr. HALL of Texas. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 1310 celebrates the 50th anniversary of the construction of the laser, marking a major milestone in scientific discovery.

In 1953, Charles Townes produced what would become a precursor to the laser—the first microwave amplifier. Townes and his colleagues teamed up with Bell Laboratories in 1957 to begin extensive research on the amplification devices. Their focus shifted only to those amplifiers which produced visible light. In 1958, Bell Laboratories submitted a patent for an optical laser. However, such a device had yet to be successfully created. It was not until Charles Townes and Gordon Gould met in 1958 that the fundamentals of the laser and of the open resonator design were first discussed. In 1960, Theodore Maiman constructed the first operational laser. He used theories and plans published by Bell Labs, Gould, and Townes to construct this remarkable device.

Charles Townes was later awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics, along with scientists Nikolay Basov and Aleksandr Prokhorov, for their work in quantum electronics, which laid the groundwork for the construction of lasers.

We rely on lasers in our daily lives, and they are found in everyday products, such as laser printers, barcode scanners, and numerous medical devices. The world sales of lasers are estimated at well over \$5 billion to date.

Today, in large part, we realize that great success stories, such as the construction of lasers, are due to American ingenuity, which stems directly from the investment in basic research and in our outstanding institutions of higher learning. The laser is a prime example of basic research that ended up having multiple applications well beyond what its creators could have ever conceived.

The construction of the laser is but one example that leaves me confident in America's place at the top of the scientific world. I applaud these great scientists for their contributions to our community, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I would just ask that my colleagues support this resolution, H. Res. 1310, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1310.