

to be one of the sponsors of this legislation and to be on this floor today to talk just briefly about it. I, along with Representative KAY GRANGER of Texas, introduced House Resolution 996, designating September 2010 as National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month. This is a bipartisan resolution, supported by over 75 national organizations including the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National Education Association, the YMCA, the YWCA, the American Medical Association, United Way, NAACP, and the National Indian Health Board.

Dedicating at least one month out of each year to bring awareness to the issue of childhood obesity will help maximize the effect of programming, messaging and campaigns—all aligned with the sole purpose of eradicating childhood obesity. According to the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, one in three children are already overweight or obese. Unless we work to reverse this epidemic, these 23 million kids will be in danger of never being grandparents. Imagine living a life, and you know that you may never live long enough to be a grandparent. Imagine a day when our children can't play on playgrounds because they can't play kickball because they're winded; or they can't play basketball because they're winded; or they can't run track. This is very, very important. I want to say that it is significant that we today work with the White House and so many others who are looking at how we deal with not just obesity but nutrition. It is important for us to be sure that young people receive a healthy start, and a lot of that is not in the hands of young people. It is in our hands.

The financial implications of childhood obesity are overwhelming, at \$14 billion per year in direct health care costs. Supporting awareness and prevention of childhood obesity will eliminate billions of dollars in unnecessary health care costs and help promote a healthier lifestyle that will prolong and improve the lives of the next generation of Americans.

□ 1345

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS).

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 996, a resolution to recognize September as National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month, and I applaud Congresswoman FUDGE for introducing this resolution to bring awareness to such an important issue.

Obesity has been linked to a wide range of negative health outcomes, and the alarming rise of childhood obesity, if left unchecked, could lead to a national health crisis. Obese children are at greater risk for a number of diseases

and are more likely to have health problems that put them at risk throughout their life for diabetes, cardiovascular illness, and cancer.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, childhood obesity has more than tripled in the past 30 years, so it is vital that we take action, recognize the problem, and begin to address it.

I, too, would like to commend First Lady Michele Obama and, in Nevada, State Senator Valerie Weiner for their tireless efforts to combat this problem.

I am also proud to serve on the Education and Labor Committee which will soon be taking up reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act. I look forward to the opportunity to address childhood obesity and the crisis it creates through that important legislation.

In the meantime, I am pleased to support the resolution before us today, H. Res. 996, brought by the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) because it will help raise awareness of childhood obesity, acknowledge its adverse lifetime consequences, and offer ways to combat the growing problem.

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, so I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 996, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 996, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

RECOGNIZING SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF U.S. AUTOMOBILE DEALERSHIPS

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 713) recognizing the significant contributions of United States automobile dealerships, and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that in the interest of equity, automobile dealers whose franchises have been terminated through no fault of their own be given an opportunity of first consideration once the auto market rebounds and stabilizes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 713

Whereas auto dealers have deep roots in local communities and have helped manufac-

turers with long-term customer relationships that create brand loyalty and maintain customer convenience;

Whereas dealerships across the country provide jobs, give direct investments to local economies, and supply tax revenue to State and local governments;

Whereas virtually all new cars and light trucks bought in the United States are sold through franchised dealers;

Whereas dealers are independently owned, and combined, represent the largest retail business in the United States, with approximately \$693,000,000,000 in revenues in 2007;

Whereas auto dealers are significant employers in local communities across the country;

Whereas franchised dealers employ over 1,100,000 people, comprise nearly 20 percent of all retail sales in the United States, and, in total, pay billions annually in state and local taxes;

Whereas the Nation's 20,700 independent franchised new car dealerships comprise an industry that is largely privately held, with private ownership accounting for 92 percent of the market;

Whereas the franchised dealership system in the United States is the independent link between the manufacturer's assembly line and the consumer and its functions include, but are not limited, to the following—

- (1) selling the product and providing information for consumers;
- (2) holding vehicle and parts inventory;
- (3) performing service and providing parts to fulfill manufacturer warranty obligations;
- (4) handling product safety recalls;
- (5) facilitating the exchange of used vehicles; and
- (6) arranging financing for consumers;

Whereas some restructuring of dealer networks was in the public interest and necessary to increase the competitiveness of automobile manufacturers;

Whereas the economic downturn put thousands of jobs at risk, including those at automobile dealerships and automobile manufacturers; and

Whereas auto dealers will play a key role in any effort to revive the United States auto industry: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the House of Representatives recognizes the significant contributions of United States automobile dealerships; and

(2) it is the sense of the House of Representatives that automobile dealerships which have been successful and are being closed not of their own doing, but instead as a function of the auto market as a whole, should be given consideration to obtain a dealership franchise when the automobile market rebounds and stabilizes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN).

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I thank the managing Member for yielding me this time, and I also thank the Member who is managing for the other side for allowing this important piece of legislation to come to the floor. I want to thank Representative HENSARLING who is not here today. He is in Financial Services, and we have a hearing there that is exceedingly important; but for that, I am confident he would be here. He and I serve on the committee together.

Representative HENSARLING and I have been working on this resolution for some time. For us it has become a means by which we not only developed what I believe to be a good piece of legislation for the House, but also we have developed a good relationship as a result of working together. This is truly a bipartisan piece of legislation. We have 107 cosponsors from both sides of the aisle.

I also would like to thank Representative JOHN DINGELL for helping us with this piece of legislation. He, at a crucial time, stepped forward to help us move the legislation such that we are now on the floor with it. I would also mention the staff members from Congressman HENSARLING's office and from my office, my staff, I thank you for what you have done, Representative DINGELL's staff, and all of the persons who have been associated with this piece of legislation, especially Representative CAPPS because I thank you for helping us get it to the floor as well.

This resolution, H. Res. 713, does two things: it recognizes the significant contributions of the auto dealerships; and it expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that dealerships which were successful, and I highlight and underline successful, dealerships that were successful and are being closed, some have been closed because of the economic crisis, that these dealerships be given consideration when the market rebounds and we start to bring on new auto dealerships. It is an opportunity for consideration.

With these two things in mind, I would share these thoughts: one, that the auto dealerships are the face of the auto industry within our various communities. As the face of the industry, they do more than simply sell cars, which is a good thing to do. Selling cars promotes growth and jobs, and helps us have people who are employed, but they do more than this. They also engage in being good corporate citizens, which means that they allow their largess to be shared by various not-for-profit organizations in the community, various community organizations that are involved at the grassroots level in communities. For example, the Little League baseball teams will often be sponsored by auto dealerships. Other small, but significant, organizations in our communities benefit from these auto dealerships.

They are across the length and breadth of the community in large cit-

ies and small towns. They make it possible for us to experience the opportunity of having largess that we would not ordinarily have, and I will tell you that that largess is being sorely missed at this time of economic crisis. So we want to get them back. We want to get them back online because they are good corporate citizens.

My next point, 20,000 independently owned dealerships exist across the country—maybe a little more, maybe a little less, depending on who is counting and how you count—employing about 900,000 people, new car dealerships alone. These 900,000 jobs are jobs that our country benefits from greatly, and we have missed many of the jobs because of the dealerships going offline. We want to see these dealerships give the community the job base it has enjoyed by virtue of these many persons who were trained to do various and sundry things, giving these jobs back to the community.

Bringing them back will be an important part of these dealerships coming back online as a result of the rebound in the economy. In 2008, there was about \$650 billion that we can call revenue generated from the dealerships. They are truly small businesses at their best, and some of them large businesses because of just the sheer amount of revenue that they generate. But they are small businesses that benefit greatly from what we are trying to do in Financial Services today, but they are also small businesses that cause a community to benefit greatly because of what they do in the various communities wherein they are located.

I would simply remind us that as we vote on this, please, dear friends, give thought to your community; give thought to the fact that this is a small business that brings jobs back to the community; give thought to the fact that these corporations are good corporate citizens, for the most part; that they are part of the fiber and the fabric of the communities; that they help the Little League baseball teams, the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, all of these organizations that benefit from their largess; and give some thought to the fact that but for them, many of our communities would not be as vibrant as they are. In fact, many of our communities are not as vibrant as they were because we have lost some of these various small businesses, these auto dealerships.

I beg all of my colleagues, please support this resolution. It encourages us to do the right thing, and that is give these dealerships that were successful that went offline the opportunity, not because of some fault of their own but because of some economic crisis that they had little control over. In fact, no control over for the most part.

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 713, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the automobile dealers whose franchises

were terminated through no fault of their own, be given an opportunity of first consideration once the auto market rebounds and stabilizes.

Dealerships play an important function in the distribution model. It was the economic downturn that exacerbated the already slowing automobile sales. Some dealers assert that they had sufficient sales and should not have been marked for closure. Despite their importance to manufacturers, the fact that they were well-run businesses and the Federal Government's bailout of GM and Chrysler, to the tune of \$80 billion, many franchises were taken away from these dealerships. Jobs supported by these dealerships were eliminated, and this lost income continues to plague American families.

In addition, the lost tax revenue and absence of those dealerships that played an important civic role in their communities has further strained local communities. When the auto market recovers, these dealerships should be given an opportunity to reclaim their franchises as manufacturers expand their distribution channels.

I would like to commend Congressman GREEN and Congressman HENSARLING for their leadership on this issue. I support the resolution and urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I would like to make the point that several minor changes were made in House Resolution 713 in order to clarify that the focus of the resolution is on automobile dealerships and not on automobile manufacturers.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 713, 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 of the resolution was amended so as to read: "Recognizing the significant contributions of United States automobile dealerships, and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that in the interest of equity, automobile dealers be given consideration to enter the automobile market once it rebounds and stabilizes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1400

BLUE STAR/GOLD STAR FLAG ACT
OF 2009

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2546) to ensure that the right of an individual to display the Service flag on residential property not be abridged.