

our Nation's wildlands will remain immeasurable.

Secretary Udall's lifetime of achievement will continue to be felt by every American. Thanks to his work, our national parks and public lands belong to every American and will remain a treasured part of our Nation's spirit for generations to come.

Throughout my life, I have drawn personal and professional inspiration from Mr. Udall's remarkable leadership. So I was proud to sponsor H.R. 5128, a bill that will designate the Department of the Interior building in Washington, DC, as the Stewart Lee Udall Department of the Interior Building. It is only fitting that we honor his legacy by naming the Interior building after Secretary Udall. I would urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. CAO. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TEAGUE. Madam Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Mexico, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN.

Mr. LUJÁN. Thank you very much to my colleague from New Mexico (Mr. TEAGUE).

Secretary Udall, a great American, a great New Mexican, and it's an honor to sponsor this legislation to name the United States Department of the Interior in his name.

Secretary Udall spent his later life in my district in Santa Fe, New Mexico, but his work is seen across the country from our pristine wilderness to our clean rivers. We lost a friend, a hero, a true champion this year, a gentleman who fought to protect resources that will serve us for years to come. He worked to protect our land, our water, and the air we breathe. And we are all better for Secretary Udall's service.

But Secretary Udall's legacy goes beyond our beloved and critical resources. His legacy is about the people he impacted throughout his life—from those in Indian Country who suffered the effects of uranium mining, to inspiring young conservationists and acting as an example to all of us.

In naming the Department of the Interior building after Secretary Udall, we honor not only his incredible professional contributions; we honor a wonderful, compassionate person who tirelessly fought for both our resources and for all of the people who loved him so very much.

It's an honor to be here. I urge adoption of this important legislation.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5128, as amended, a bill to designate the United States Department of the Interior Building located at 1849 C Street, Northwest, in Washington, District of Columbia, as the "Stewart Lee Udall Department of the Interior Building".

I knew Stuart Udall personally, and I have great admiration for the man. He was a great conservationist and environmentalist, and as fine a champion of this country's natural and cultural resources as the nation has ever produced.

Steward Udall served in the U.S. House of Representatives before President Kennedy appointed him Secretary of the Interior, a position he held from 1960 to 1969. In this role, he spearheaded the enactment of a broad range of groundbreaking conservation laws, including the Clean Air Act, the Water Quality and Clean Water Restoration Acts and Amendments, the Wilderness Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Solid Waste Disposal Act, the National Trail System Act and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

In the arena of historic preservation, Stewart Udall sought to make the Federal Government a partner—not an adversary—in the preservation of America's historic resources. He was instrumental in the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the most far-reaching preservation legislation ever enacted in the United States. Programs he helped shape include the National Register of Historic Places, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Historic Preservation Fund. This framework supports nearly every aspect of historic preservation today.

Stewart Udall was a naturalist, a conservationist, and an environmental activist: during the energy crisis of the 1970s, he advocated the use of solar energy as one means to remedy the country's growing dependence upon fossil fuels. As a member of the National Resources Defense Council, Udall defended the Environmental Protection Agency against closure due to budgetary cuts.

In 2008, High Country News published "A Message to Our Grand Children" signed by Stewart Udall and his late wife. A few excerpts from that document are illustrative of Udall's views:

"Americans must finally cast aside our notion that we can continue the wasteful consumption patterns of our past. We must promote a consciousness attuned to a frugal, highly efficient mode of living. . . . Foster a consciousness that puts a premium on the common good and the protection of the environment. . . . The lifetime crusade of your days must be to develop a new energy ethic to sustain life on earth. . . . Go well, do well, my children. Cherish sunsets, wild creatures and wild places. . . ."

Given Stewart Udall's lifetime commitment to championing, conserving and appreciating the earth's natural resources and beauties, I find that it is entirely fitting and appropriate that we designate the main office building for the Department of Interior as the "Stewart Lee Udall Department of the Interior Building".

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5128.

Mr. CAO. Madam Speaker, I yield back my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. TEAGUE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5128, 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.

Mr. TEAGUE. 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.

□ 1445

#### NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1339) expressing support for designation of May as National Foster Care Month and acknowledging the responsibility that Congress has to promote safety, well-being, improved outcomes, and permanency for the Nation's collective children.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1339

Whereas on average, the Nation's foster care system provides for nearly 500,000 children each day who are unable to live safely with their biological parents;

Whereas there is a shortage of foster parents and great need for their services, as there are fewer than 3 foster homes for every 10 children in care;

Whereas foster parents are the most front-line caregiver for children who cannot safely remain with their biological parents and provide physical care, emotional support, education advocacy, and are the largest single source of families providing permanent homes for kids leaving foster care to adoption;

Whereas 273,000 children entered the foster care system during fiscal year 2008 and an average of 123,000 children were waiting to be adopted every day;

Whereas almost 55,000 children were adopted out of foster care in fiscal year 2008, but the number of children "aging out" of the foster care system without finding a permanent family increased to an all-time high of nearly 30,000 in fiscal year 2008;

Whereas children "aging out" of foster care need and deserve a support system as they work to secure affordable housing, obtain health insurance, pursue higher education, and acquire adequate employment;

Whereas youth in foster care are much more likely to face educational instability with 65 percent of former foster children experiencing at least 7 school changes while in care;

Whereas an increased emphasis on prevention and reunification services is necessary to reduce the number of children that are forced to enter the foster care system;

Whereas Federal legislation over the past three decades, including the Adoption Assistance and Safe Families Act of 1980, the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, and the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, provided new investments and services to improve the outcomes of children in the foster care system;

Whereas foster children, like all children, deserve no less than a safe, loving, and permanent home; and

Whereas May would be an appropriate month to designate as National Foster Care Month to provide an opportunity to acknowledge the accomplishments of the child welfare workforce, foster parents, advocacy community, and mentors and the positive impact they have on children's lives: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the designation of National Foster Care Month;

(2) honors the tireless efforts of those who work to improve outcomes for children in the child welfare system;

(3) acknowledges the exceptional alumni of the foster care system who serve as advocates and role models for youth who remain in care;

(4) recognizes the significant improvements to Federal, State, and local child welfare policy; and

(5) reaffirms the need to work through the title IV programs in the Social Security Act and other programs to support vulnerable families, invest in prevention and reunification services, promote adoption in cases where reunification is not in a child's best interest, adequately serve those children brought into the foster care system, and facilitate the successful transition into adulthood for children that "age out" of the foster care system.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. McDERMOTT. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, the month of May marks National Foster Care Month, which provides us with an opportunity to recognize the unsung heroes, that is, the frontline workers and the foster parents who work tirelessly to improve the lives of our most vulnerable children, and to reaffirm Congress' commitment to foster care. We have a responsibility to work with State officials to ensure that they have the resources they need to care for these children and to help them move to a permanent home as quickly as possible.

Today, there are 463,000 children in the foster care system. While the number of children placed in care has recently declined, far too many children must wait far too long to safely reunify with their parents or find a new family to call their own. Right now, the average length of stay for a child in foster care is nearly 16 months. That is a significant amount of time in the life of any child, much less those who have been maltreated or separated from their parents, their siblings, their friends, and their community.

More than 120,000 children are currently waiting to find a new family to call their own through adoption. Children who are waiting to be adopted spend an average of nearly 2½ years in foster care as they await a new family.

Sadly, nearly 30,000 children left foster care or emancipated from the sys-

tem in fiscal year 2008 without finding a permanent home, leaving these young people on their own as they transition from foster care to adulthood.

While we clearly have, still, lots of work to do, Congress made great progress in the last 2 years to improve the outcomes of vulnerable children in care. In 2008, Congress passed, with Jerry Weller on the Republican side and myself, bipartisan legislation called the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act.

This bill provided additional services and support to children in foster care, promoting the connection of children in care with their relatives and communities, and providing additional support for caseworker training. It also allowed States to extend foster care services to older youth, up to the age of 21, so that these young people can receive critical support services as they transition to adulthood, as they age out, so to speak.

And, as States began to grapple with fiscal restraints, severe fiscal restraints as a result of the recession, Congress stepped in to provide nearly \$1 billion in targeted State relief for foster care programs as part of the Recovery Act.

While progress has been made over the last few years to support our national foster care system, there is plenty of additional work that still needs to be done. More focus must be placed on providing additional Federal support for prevention services to at-risk children and their families. By providing more resources that are targeted at preventing the incidents of child maltreatment and safely serving children and families in their own homes, we can ultimately reduce the number of children who are placed in foster care.

Foster kids, like all children, can and do grow up to make lasting positive impacts in their community and in the world. Many of you probably have read a recent article in The Washington Post that profiled Jelani Freeman, a foster child who completed a master's degree in history at American University, worked for 3 years in youth-related positions in the District, and graduated from Howard University Law School earlier this month.

I urge my colleagues to pay tribute to these remarkable young men and women in May, and every month of the year, by joining me and my colleague, Representative JOHN LINDER, and President Obama in recognizing May 2010 as National Foster Care Month and supporting this bipartisan resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

This resolution is one that, in a perfect world, would not be necessary. In that perfect world, every child would live with two married parents, and every parent would be unfailingly caring and loving for that child. But even as we promote the best environment

for raising children, we know that, sadly, that is not the way the world works. So institutions are needed to ensure that, when biological parents don't adequately care for their children, other responsible adults step in. That is the role played by our foster care system and, most important, the thousands of foster parents who make foster care work to protect children.

Every day, foster parents care for about 500,000 children across America who cannot safely remain with their own parents. For that, as this resolution expresses, our Nation says "thank you."

While we celebrate those who make personal sacrifices to protect and care for children, we must also admit that this system doesn't always work as it should. Just like not every biological parent is up to the task, not every foster parent or caseworker meets expectations either. Sometimes children are subjected to repeated abuse, or worse, from within the very system designed to protect them.

The subcommittee on which I serve has had many hearings on such cases in which children have met with horrific abuse while under the supposed supervision of the child welfare system. Those hearings serve as a sad but important reminder why these systems require constant monitoring to ensure children are adequately and appropriately protected.

One of those ongoing efforts is to better involve relatives in the care of children. This is a promising approach, with bipartisan support, which recent laws have encouraged. But we won't make the needed progress until the Department of Health and Human Services issues guidance about the "notification of relatives" provisions of section 103 of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008.

I urge the Department to act without further delay so relatives can play a greater role in the care of vulnerable children. Doing so during this month of May, which this resolution designates as National Foster Care Month, would be a fitting statement of our common desire to better protect children and also relieve some of the strains placed on the foster parents and caseworkers today. That is the intent of what Congress passed and the President signed into law now approaching 2 years ago.

This resolution reminds all Americans of the role foster parents especially play in helping children who have already missed out on so much in life. These children deserve to make progress like any other child. Through the efforts of tens of thousands of dedicated foster parents, they often do, against great odds. We owe these dedicated individuals our thanks and continued support.

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1339, to designate May as National Foster Care Month.

Nearly one half million children are currently in foster care. This is a sobering statistic, and one that we must tirelessly work to reduce.

For many children, a positive permanent outcome can be found in reunification with their biological parents, or adoption into a new family.

However, far too many children languish for years without getting the help and love they deserve from permanent families. In 2008 over 10% of children leaving foster care, nearly 30,000 children, did so through emancipation and without the family support they deserve.

Equally alarming, for 2008 the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System estimated that there were 1,740 child fatalities resulting from abuse or neglect. This is simply unacceptable.

With the passage of the 2008 Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act, Congress made a significant commitment to reforming our nation's foster care system, giving states and families new tools to cut down on the amount of time that kids spend in foster care and more opportunities to find permanent homes. Yet, more can and should be done to make the system work for foster children.

I am pleased that we are taking the opportunity today to discuss the pressing needs of our foster care system. Children in foster care deserve our unwavering support. We must redouble our efforts to find them permanent families and until then, ensure their safety while in our care.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, the number of children in foster care continues to rise in the United States. The current population exceeds 500,000 children. Most of these children are placed into foster care due to parental abuse or neglect making them vulnerable to adverse situations and negative social outcomes. Luckily, the foster care system serves as a safety net for our most vulnerable children. Therefore, both children and parents of the foster care system rely and depend on Congress to improve permanency and support systems for them.

Even though children who enter foster care remain in care for an average of thirty months many of them spend the majority of their childhood being placed from family to family. Without a permanent family, frequent moves from home-to-home and school-to-school creates a difficult level of instability to recover from. As a result, children face poor academic performance and higher rates of grade retention, absenteeism, tardiness, truancy, and dropout. Moreover, those that age out of the system do so without the necessary educational and job training skills. Quite naturally, these factors contribute to the risk of emotional and behavioral problems that lead to very negative future outcomes later in life. Therefore, it is necessary that Congress promotes the safety and well being of children placed into foster care.

I want to acknowledge all the individuals—including, foster parents, community advocates, mentors, and others—in the child welfare workforce for their dedication and commitment to improving outcomes for children placed into foster care.

I support H. Res. 1339 and hope that the month of May be designated as National Foster Care Month to provide an opportunity to acknowledge the accomplishments of the child welfare workforce, foster parents, advocacy community, and mentors and the positive impact they have on children's lives. I encourage my colleagues to support the resolution.

Mr. LINDER. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. McDERMOTT. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1339.

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. McDERMOTT. 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.

#### EXTENDING IMMUNITIES TO THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH REPRESENTATIVE IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA AND THE INTERNATIONAL CIVILIAN OFFICE IN KOSOVO ACT OF 2010

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5139) to provide for the International Organizations Immunities Act to be extended to the Office of the High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the International Civilian Office in Kosovo, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5139

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Extending Immunities to the Office of the High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the International Civilian Office in Kosovo Act of 2010".

##### SEC. 2. AUTHORITY TO EXTEND THE PROVISIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IMMUNITIES ACT TO THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH REPRESENTATIVE IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA AND THE INTERNATIONAL CIVILIAN OFFICE IN KOSOVO.

The International Organizations Immunities Act (22 U.S.C. 288 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 17. The provisions of this title may be extended to the Office of the High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina (and to its officers and employees) or the International Civilian Office in Kosovo (and to its officers and employees) in the same manner, to the same extent, and subject to the same conditions, as such provisions may be extended to a public international organization in which the United States participates pursuant to any treaty or under the authority of any Act of Congress authorizing such participation or making an appropriation for such participation. Any such extension may provide for the provisions of this title to continue to extend to the Office of the High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina (and to its officers and employees) or the International Civilian Office in Kosovo (and to its officers and employees) after that Office has been dissolved."

##### SEC. 3. BUDGET COMPLIANCE.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. McMAHON) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in strong support of this bill that provides legal protection for U.S. personnel working in two Balkans-based organizations.

I wish to thank my good friend from California and the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Representative HOWARD BERMAN, for introducing this important measure.

The Office of the High Representative, or OHR, in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the International Civilian Office, the ICO, in Kosovo arose out of efforts by the international community, with the United States' leadership, to bring peace and stability to the Balkans following the conflicts in the 1990s.

The OHR has been performing an invaluable function in overseeing the civilian implementation of the Dayton Accords, while the ICO has been ensuring implementation of provisions of the Comprehensive Proposal of the Kosovo Status Settlement. Over 200 Americans have worked at these organizations.

H.R. 5139 amends the International Organizations and Immunities Act, or the IOIA, by authorizing the President to extend privileges and immunities to the officers and employees of the OHR and ICO.

This technical fix seeks to help avoid costly and politically sensitive litigation in the United States' courts against employees of these organizations who are not otherwise guaranteed immunity under the IOIA.

Unlike typical international organizations designated under the IOIA, neither the OHR nor the ICO is intended to endure beyond a limited timeframe necessary for implementing their mandates. Thus, H.R. 5139 enables the President to extend the privileges and immunities after these bodies are dissolved, since even then litigation may