

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

I rise today in support of House Resolution 1472, which supports the designation of the week of September 13 as Adult Education and Family Literacy Week. This week recognizes the importance of adult education and family literacy programs to the success and well-being of those who strive to improve their and their children's education.

Adult education and literacy programs provide millions of Americans with the skills needed to lead productive and self-sufficient lives, boost their academic achievements, and engage in our 21st century workforce. These programs emphasize basic skills such as reading, writing, and math, prepare adult learners to take GED tests, and assist nonnative speakers in gaining English proficiency.

According to the 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy, the literacy skills of 90 million adults in the U.S. are currently considered "basic" or "below basic." Adult literacy programs address this national need for improved literacy. These programs also help participants obtain the skills they need to reenter the education pipeline and transition to college, a critical part of creating an internationally competitive workforce and meeting the President's goal of a nation with the highest proportion of college graduates by 2020.

Family literacy programs work with entire families to offer education opportunities to improve life skills and improve literacy. These programs help break cycles of poverty and illiteracy that affect some of our Nation's most vulnerable families. Most importantly, family literacy programs provide parents with the knowledge and skills they need to be full participants in their child's education and development. For children, family literacy programs help ensure that children start school ready to learn and on an equal footing with their peers.

Adult Education and Family Literacy Week is an opportunity for educators, advocates, and participants in these important programs to elevate adult education and family literacy nationwide with policymakers, the media, and the community. It is important for States, localities, schools, libraries, nonprofit organizations, community-based organizations, consumer advocates, institutions of higher education, labor unions, and businesses to all work together to support increased access to these adult education and family literacy programs. The outreach which occurs during this week is critical to reaching many of those who would benefit from these programs.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Representative POLIS for introducing this resolution and once again express my support for the designation of the week of September 13 as Adult Education and Family Literacy Week. I

urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of House Resolution 1472, expressing support for designation of the week of September 13, 2010, as National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week.

Illiteracy is a nationwide problem. According to a recent report, nearly one out of two adults is illiterate, without the minimum skills required in today's society. Unfortunately, many adults in this country cannot read a newspaper or fill out a job application.

The U.S. Department of Education estimates that 93 million U.S. adults have "basic" and "below basic" literacy skills. Department of Education studies have also found that adults living in poverty were more likely to have lower than average literacy scores than adults with higher incomes. Half of the adults who did not have a high school diploma performed in the "below basic" levels. Seniors and the elderly over age 65 had the lowest average literacy scores of any range, with 64 percent performing in the "basic" and "below basic" levels. And the more than 1 million incarcerated adults in the Nation had lower average literacy scores than adults in households on nearly every comparable scale.

Literacy skills impact every aspect of adult life. Adults who are more literate are more likely to read to their children and discuss school topics, be employed full time and receive a higher income, use the Internet and email and vote, volunteer, and access information about local and national events.

Unfortunately, only a fraction of low literate adults seek literacy services from community providers. Many people with low literacy do not perceive their skills as a problem until a crisis, such as the loss of a job or a child's need for school, helps make them aware of their literacy needs.

National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week highlights the importance of efforts to ensure each and every citizen has the necessary literacy skills to succeed at home, at work, and in society. It encourages people across the United States to support programs to assist those in need of adult education and family literacy programs.

I support this resolution and ask my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Res. 1472, "Expressing support for designation of the week of September 13, 2010, as National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week." The future of this country depends upon the level of education we provide our citizens, and the foundation of a good education is the ability to read and write well. In order to remain competitive in this global economy, we must emphasize the importance of raising our nation's literacy and English language skills.

Madam Speaker, National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week brings public attention to the importance of adult education and family literacy. Adult education and family literacy are both significant factors in determining the country's future. For example, reading to children from a young age and the mother's level of education both impact a child's academic success. Statistics show those who are often unemployed, underemployed, receive public assistance, or incarcerated are those with low educational skills. By improving such skills we take a momentous step to correcting a large number of problems that our country now faces.

With this resolution, the Congress states it is never too late to improve one's literacy or educational skills. With this designation, we improve our nation's future prospects and the lives of its citizens. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Mr. LOEBSACK. I again express my support for the designation of the week of September 13 as Adult Education and Family Literacy Week. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LOEBSACK) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1472.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. LOEBSACK. Madam 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 TITLE VI INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Mr. LOEBSACK. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 126) recognizing the 50th anniversary of Title VI international education programs within the Department of Education, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 126

Whereas the International Education Programs Services (IEPS) located in the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Post Secondary Education, manages 14 international education programs;

Whereas the International Education and Foreign Language Studies domestic programs are designed to strengthen the capability and performance of American education in foreign languages and in area and international studies;

Whereas overseas programs are intended to improve secondary and postsecondary teaching and research concerning other cultures and languages, training of specialists, and

the American public's general understanding of people of other countries;

Whereas 10 of the programs are authorized under Title VI of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and 4 are authorized under the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act (Fulbright-Hays Act) of 1961;

Whereas Title VI was originally authorized as Title VI of the National Defense Education Act of 1958 as a response to launch of the Sputnik and the United States Government's recognition that a stronger and broader capacity in foreign language and area studies was needed;

Whereas Title VI was later incorporated in the Higher Education Act of 1965;

Whereas three programs that were included in the original 1958 legislation continue today as the National Resource Centers (NRC) program, the Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS) program, and the International Research and Studies (IRS) program;

Whereas over time, additional programs have been added to Title VI to address the Nation's growing interest in international education; and

Whereas Title VI programs now address business needs for international expertise, strengthening undergraduate education, international as well as area studies, advancement of technology use, overall improvement of foreign language training and assessment, and helps to prepare students for public service careers, including within the defense and intelligence agencies, and the foreign service: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Title VI international education programs; and

(2) recognizes the need to continue development and promotion of international education programs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LOEBSACK) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LOEBSACK. Madam Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous materials on House Concurrent Resolution 126 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 126, which recognizes the 50th anniversary of the Title VI international education programs within the Department of Education. Under the Office of Postsecondary Education, the International Education Programs Service, IEPS, manages a total of 14 such programs. These programs provide grants to individuals, institutions of higher education, and nonprofit organizations to build and strengthen international cooperation and enrich our students' cultural experiences.

International education has long been an important part of strength-

ening the capability and performance of American educational programs in foreign languages and in area and international study. International education programs also help our Nation's students, teachers, and researchers interact with other cultures and languages, train our specialists, and inform general understanding of peoples of other countries. On the 50th anniversary of the Title VI programs, we honor the contributions and benefits of international education programs to science, culture, government, and business.

International education programs were originally authorized as Title VI of the National Defense Education Act of 1958, in part as a response to the launch of Sputnik and with the recognition that a stronger and broader engagement with foreign language and area studies would strengthen American national security.

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Title VI was later incorporated into the Higher Education Act of 1965 and has continued to evolve to meet the needs of today's students. A well-rounded international education is also critically important to a globally competitive workforce. Title VI program grants help address business needs for international expertise, strengthen undergraduate education and research at National Research Centers, and improve foreign language training and assessment at Language Resource Centers.

In the academic setting, institutions have used title VI grants to establish or operate overseas research centers, support more than 800 graduate fellowships in foreign languages and area studies, and improve business curriculums, especially as it concerns U.S. trade and global competitiveness.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Representative WATSON for introducing this resolution, and once again express support for House Concurrent Resolution 126, which recognizes the 50th anniversary of title VI international education programs within the Department of Education.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 126, recognizing the 50th anniversary of title VI international education programs within the Department of Education.

Title VI was originally authorized as title VI of the National Defense Act in 1958 in response to the launch of Sputnik and the U.S. Government's recognition that a stronger and broader capacity in foreign language and area studies was needed to create a body of experts competent in foreign languages and cultures who could serve the government, especially our defense and intelligence agencies and the Foreign Service.

Three programs that were included in the original 1958 legislation continue today as the National Resource Centers program, the Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship program, and the International Research and Studies program. These programs support language area centers for expansion of postsecondary instruction in languages that are less commonly taught, as well as foreign language fellowships, research supporting language learning methodology, and language institutes to provide advanced language and training.

Over time, additional programs have been added to title VI in order to address the Nation's growing interest in international education. Title VI programs also help to address business needs for international expertise, strengthening undergraduate education, international as well as area studies, advancement of technology use, and overall improvement of foreign language training and assessment.

Today, as intended by the program's creators, title VI programs help to provide for our national defense by ensuring a Federal investment in ensuring a supply of citizens with international expertise. Title VI programs help to support American experts in, and citizens' knowledge about, world regions, foreign languages, and international affairs, as well as those with a strong research base in these areas.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 126, recognizing the 50th anniversary of Title VI international education programs within the Department of Education.

Since the terror attacks of 9/11 it is indispensable that we continue to strive to develop leaders, educators, foreign policy experts and individuals in matters of world affairs through research and specialty training in international affairs. Moreover, it is imperative that we continue to expand educational programs that will create opportunities for greater diversity in our knowledge of other nations. Such advancements will further equip citizens and experts within the United States with the necessary tools to contribute to national security and world development.

Every day our world changes and Title VI has played an important role in helping the United States respond to these changing events in a culturally sensitive manner. Therefore, I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution and support the goals and ideals of Title VI international education programs and recognize the need to continue development and promotion of these programs.

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

Mr. LOEBSACK. Madam Speaker, I again express support for House Concurrent Resolution 126, which recognizes the 50th anniversary of title VI international education programs within the Department of Education. And I appreciate the support from the other side of the aisle on this resolution as well. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LOEBSACK) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 126, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. LOEBSACK. Madam 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 DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER AS NATIONAL CHILD AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. LOEBSACK. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1219) expressing support for designation of September as National Child Awareness Month.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1219

Whereas millions of American children and youth represent the hopes and future of the United States;

Whereas numerous individuals, children's organizations, and youth-serving organizations that work with children and youth collaborate to provide invaluable services to enrich and better the lives of the young;

Whereas heightening awareness of, and increasing support for, organizations that provide access to healthcare, social services, education, the arts, sports, and other services will assist in the development of character and the future success of youth in the United States;

Whereas September is a time when parents, families, teachers, school administrators, and communities in general increase their focus on children and youth nationwide as the school year begins;

Whereas September is a time for the people of the United States as a whole to highlight and be mindful of the needs of children and youth;

Whereas the House of Representatives unanimously passed H. Res. 1296 in 2008 and H. Res. 438 in 2009 to support the designation of September as "National Child Awareness Month";

Whereas private corporations and businesses have joined with hundreds of national and local charitable organizations throughout the United States in support of a month-long focus on children and youth; and

Whereas designating September as National Child Awareness Month would recognize that a long-term commitment to children and youth is in the public interest, and will encourage widespread support for the charities and organizations that seek to provide a better future for the children and youth of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the designation of a National Child Awareness Month to promote awareness of children's charities and youth-serving organizations across the United States;

(2) recognizes the efforts of children's charities and youth-serving organizations on behalf of children and youth as a critical contribution to the future of the United States; and

(3) encourages the President to issue a proclamation to emphasize the importance of National Child Awareness Month.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LOEBSACK) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LOEBSACK. Madam Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 1219 into the record.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of House Resolution 1219, which supports the designation of the month of September as Child Awareness Month and encourages us to focus on children and youth nationwide as the school year begins.

There are more than 75 million children in the United States today, and they represent the hopes and future of our country. Throughout America, thousands of individuals, organizations, and schools are working to enrich the lives of our children and youth, and they deserve our thanks. Child Awareness Month raises awareness of these organizations and charities that provide access to health care, social services, education, the arts, sports, and other services for our kids.

We know today how a child's early years are truly critical to their development as adults, and how important it is to ensure that our children have access to quality health care, positive educational experiences, opportunities to participate in sports and healthy activities, and safe and nurturing home environments. Our Nation's child- and youth-serving organizations link children to the arts, encourage them to set new fitness goals, engage in school activities, and teach them to care for their communities.

During Child Awareness Month, corporations and businesses will join with national and local nonprofit groups to focus on children and youth returning to school. Some will provide free back-to-school supplies, while others will support fall athletics programs. While this nationwide focus is just 1 month long, it reminds us of our year-round commitment to build a better future for our children.

Madam Speaker, once again I express my support for Child Awareness Month, and I thank Representative CALVERT for bringing this bill forward.

I urge my colleagues to join in support of this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of House Resolution 1219, expressing support for the designation of September as National Child Awareness Month.

National Child Awareness Month is an opportunity to recognize the individuals and charitable organizations who work so diligently to improve the lives of children every day. Most young Americans are raised in healthy families, and they grow up to be responsible and productive citizens. However, there are children who do not have a healthy environment in which they can thrive, and whose daily realities make their dreams seem forever out of reach. Charitable children's organizations and youth organizations play a significant role in helping to make up for those daily deficits for millions of disadvantaged youth.

Charitable organizations that serve our Nation's children provide invaluable services that enrich the lives of children and their families and our Nation as a whole. The work they do every day in communities across the country, including after-school tutoring, counseling services for at-risk youth, camps and the like, should be acknowledged and praised, particularly in these tough economic times.

I am pleased to recognize the organizations that work tirelessly every day in the interests of our children. I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, as the lead Democrat sponsor of H. Res. 1219 I rise in support of this bipartisan resolution expressing support for recognizing the month of September as National Child Awareness Month.

My colleague from California, Congressman KEN CALVERT and I were pleased to introduce H. Res. 438 because it will raise awareness of children's charities and youth-serving organizations across the United States. This resolution recognizes that these organizations' efforts on behalf of children and youth are critical contributions to the future of our nation.

As we know, September is traditionally back-to-school month, a time when families focus on preparing children for the coming school year. In addition to academic preparation, it is also a time when the American public should be focused on the physical, social and economic well-being of our nation's children.

It is my hope that H. Res. 1219 will encourage more individuals to volunteer for or contribute to causes that help our children.

An enhanced awareness of children's charities and youth-serving organizations, made possible by this resolution, will assist these organizations' efforts to encourage volunteers to become involved in the lives of the most disadvantaged children in our communities across the country.

I am confident that National Child Awareness Month will serve as a banner that will unite charitable organizations of diverse missions, size, geography and scope to focus on a common goal—improving the lives of our nation's youth.