

as a right to be an American in every year that we will serve here in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to have been here on the floor with you presiding over this historic 21st century legislation. You are the right person to be here to create a ramp for the Internet, for the 21st century, for all Americans. I urge an "aye" vote on this legislation.

Mr. BOUCHER. Madam Speaker, today the House takes up a very important measure introduced by our colleague Mr. MARKEY that seeks to update the laws governing access to communications services by individuals with disabilities. Floor consideration of this measure marks the end of two years of effort by the gentleman from Massachusetts, and I commend him for his dedication to this critical issue.

I would also like to recognize the gentleman from Rhode Island, Mr. LANGEVIN, who is presiding over the House of Representatives for the first time today. Mr. LANGEVIN co-chairs the Bipartisan Disabilities Caucus and has been a champion of efforts to make the Capitol complex, including the Speaker's rostrum, accessible. It is therefore fitting that he is in the Chair as we consider this bipartisan, historic measure to make much needed updates to our communications laws.

Today marks the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. It is a significant milestone, and we have come a long way in the two decades since 1990.

We have also seen significant technological change since Congress enacted the ADA, including the emergence of the Internet as a core communications infrastructure; the daily use by many Americans of email, text messaging and video conferencing both at home and at work; and increasing use of the Internet to view video programming.

It is therefore timely to update our communications laws to ensure that new technologies are accessible to individuals with visual or hearing impairments.

As we learned at a legislative hearing before the Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet on this measure last this month, there are close to one million Americans who have severe or profound hearing loss and more than one million who are legally blind. Four percent of our population has great difficulty hearing, and an additional three percent are visually impaired.

Moreover, as much as some of us might not want to admit it, Americans are aging. There are approximately 40 million people over the age of 65 living in the United States today, or 13 percent of the population. One estimate shows that by 2050, that number will more than double to 88.5 million, or an estimated one-fifth of the population. Naturally, this growth will be accompanied by an increase in the number of Americans who are vision or hearing-impaired and who will need accessible communications products and services.

With the explosion in Internet-delivered services, both the variety of information and entertainment offerings and the complexity and variety of the devices that receive those services have multiplied. Our challenge is to assure that all Americans can benefit from those advances, including individuals with vision or hearing impairments.

The measure we take up today:

Requires that advanced communications services, including voice over Internet protocol, electronic messaging and video conferencing services, are accessible to the disabled if doing so is achievable.

Sets forth a list of factors the Federal Communications Commission shall consider to determine if making a product or service accessible is achievable, including whether the manufacturer or service provider makes available a range of accessible products with varying functionality and offered at different price points. A manufacturer or service provider may make a product accessible either by embedding accessibility in the device or relying on third-party applications that are available to consumers at nominal cost. To avoid stifling innovation, H.R. 3101 also allows the Commission to waive the accessibility requirements for small entities.

Requires the closed captioning of video programming on the Internet that has been displayed on television.

Reinstates Commission regulations regarding the provision of video described video programming that were previously invalidated by the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals on jurisdictional grounds and allows for future expansion of the video description requirements.

Requires that emergency information, such as screen crawls, be made accessible to persons with disabilities.

Ensures that Internet browsers on smart phones enable the disabled to navigate the Internet, if doing so is achievable.

Ensures that the Commission does not, in implementing the requirements of the Act, mandate the use of any technology that might result in one entity unfairly profiting from such a mandate or requirement.

These and other provisions in this measure will help ensure that persons with disabilities are not left behind as communications technology continues to advance.

I appreciate all of the stakeholders who have been working diligently with myself, Chairman WAXMAN, Mr. MARKEY, Ranking Members BARTON and STEARNS and our staffs on a bipartisan basis to reach consensus on this measure. I look forward to our continued work together to promote accessibility and innovation, as well as to House passage of this historic legislation.

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. I yield back the balance of my time.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3101, 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. MARKEY of Massachusetts. 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.

## RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1540

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. RICHARDSON) at 3 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.

## HONORING SOJOURN TO THE PAST ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1058) honoring and praising the Sojourn to the Past organization on the occasion of its 10th anniversary, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

### H. RES. 1058

Whereas the civil rights movement helped to better the lives of millions of people and secured equality, civil rights, and human rights for all people in the Nation;

Whereas in 1999, California public high school teacher Jeff Steinberg combined a civil rights history lesson and a field trip to civil rights movement landmarks to create the educational program Sojourn to the Past;

Whereas Sojourn to the Past takes high school students on a 10-day excursion along the path of the civil rights movement in the Southern United States, engaging them with historical sites and talks with prominent veteran leaders of the civil rights movement;

Whereas the goal of Sojourn to the Past is to inspire students to become civic leaders with a duty and ability to unite people in the communities in equality and justice, through knowledge, understanding, and compassion;

Whereas Sojourn to the Past is the longest running civil rights education and outreach program in the United States;

Whereas Sojourn to the Past has conducted 55 sojourns and introduced over 5,000 high school juniors and seniors to the lessons, locations, and leaders of the civil rights movement;

Whereas Sojourn to the Past teaches high school students how the history of the civil rights movement is relevant to ending discrimination, violence, hatred, bigotry, and inequity in schools and communities;

Whereas Sojourn to the Past's mission of making the civil rights movement relevant for younger generations strengthens society in the United States by promoting civil rights and equality; and

Whereas Sojourn to the Past continues to teach younger generations of people in the United States about the civil rights movement and challenges young people to define and defend individual conceptions of justice

in communities and classrooms: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the 10th anniversary of the founding Sojourn to the Past; and

(2) honors and praises Sojourn to the Past on the occasion of its anniversary, and for its work in educating the next generation of people in the United States about the civil rights movement and the importance of social justice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous materials on House Resolution 1058 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 1058, which honors the 10th anniversary of Sojourn to the Past, an educational program dedicated to developing students' appreciation for an understanding of the Civil Rights Movement.

The Civil Rights Movement transformed the United States of America, ensuring legal equality and civil rights for all people in our country regardless of race or ethnicity.

Educator Jeff Steinberg understood the importance of teaching the meaning of the civil rights movement when, 11 years ago, he decided to lead a school trip to several civil rights landmarks. That field trip quickly grew into its own education and outreach program, engaging approximately 100 high school students in three trips each year through visits to historical sites and discussions with prominent veteran leaders of the civil rights era. The students visit five States and landmarks, including the Edmund Pettus Bridge; the site of the Bloody Sunday march of 1965, in Selma, Alabama; Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas; and the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee.

More than 10 years later, Sojourn to the Past has its own rich history, inspiring students to become civic leaders for the 21st century with a base of awareness of the importance of the civil rights movement of the 20th century. Newfound knowledge and personal understanding of the civil rights movement, these sojourners, these high school students, reflect on how they can fight to end discrimination, bigotry, and inequality in their own schools and their own communities.

Today, more than 5,000 high school juniors and seniors have learned these lessons through participation in Sojourn to the Past. Just like civil rights

leaders before them, these students will take responsibility for ending discrimination and promoting equality for all Americans moving forward.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank a great civil rights leader, who I am deeply honored to serve with in the House of Representatives, Representative JOHN LEWIS, for introducing this important resolution and serving on the Sojourn National Advisory Committee.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of House Resolution 1048, honoring and praising the Sojourn to the Past organization on the occasion of its 10th anniversary. Since 1999, Sojourn to the Past, a nonprofit organization, has taken thousands of students out of the classroom and across the country for a life-changing educational experience via hands-on lessons on the civil rights movement. Through a sometimes emotional and eye-opening 10-day journey through a period of segregation in the Deep South, students learn the history of the civil rights movement in the United States.

Sojourn to the Past is the longest-running civil rights education and outreach program in the United States. It has conducted 55 sojourns and introduced over 5,000 high school juniors and seniors to the history of the civil rights movement. This organization teaches high school students how the lessons of the civil rights movement are still relevant today.

We recognize Sojourn to the Past for teaching younger generations of people about the history of the civil rights movement and challenging them to make a difference in their schools and their communities, and I support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. I want to thank my friend and colleague from Colorado and my friend and colleague from Wisconsin for bringing this resolution before us.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member of the Education and Labor Committee for their support of this bill, and the Majority Leader for his support and for bringing this resolution to the floor.

Madam Speaker, this year marks the 10th anniversary of an outstanding organization called Sojourn to the Past, the longest-running civil rights program in the United States. Sojourn to the Past was founded by Jeff Steinberg, an inspired American history high school teacher from northern California. He started by taking his students on a 10-day field trip to the South to see where the most important moments of the civil rights movement actually happened. He took them to places like Atlanta, Tuskegee, Mont-

gomery, Birmingham, and Selma. He took them to Jackson, Little Rock, and Memphis.

While on these journeys, young people meet the leaders of the movement. They get out of the classroom and visit historic places that marked the time.

Through this program, I believe young people grow more informed about the movement. They learn how it changed our country and our society, and they are changed. They become better human beings and better citizens not just of the United States but of the world.

Since it began, Sojourn to the Past has taken over 5,000 high school students on these journeys, teaching them about the importance of social justice and the philosophy and the discipline of nonviolence. Like the civil rights movement itself, it challenges people to think about their own values and about what kind of country they want America to be.

Madam Speaker, I invite all of my colleagues to join with all of us in honor of this important organization.

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

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I once again express my support for House Resolution 1058, which honors the 10th anniversary of Sojourn to the Past, to help young Americans understand the importance and the history of the very recent civil rights movement in this country. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting 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 Colorado (Mr. POLIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1058, 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.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### HONORING DR. JANE GOODALL

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1543) honoring the educational significance of Dr. Jane Goodall's work on this the 50th anniversary of the beginning of her work in Tanzania, Africa.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 1543

Whereas, on July 14, 1960, Jane Goodall arrived at Gombe Stream Chimpanzee Reserve in western Tanzania, Africa;

Whereas Jane Goodall's research has led to numerous groundbreaking discoveries including the use of tools by chimpanzees;

Whereas these and other behavioral observations of chimpanzees forever changed human understanding of the differences between humans and other animal species;

Whereas between 1968 and 1986, Dr. Goodall published a collection of articles and books