

SUPPORTING NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY AND MONTH

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1648) supporting the goals and ideals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children in foster care awaiting families, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, recognizing current programs and efforts designed to promote adoption, and encouraging people in the United States to seek improved safety, permanency, and well-being for all children.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1648

Whereas there are over 423,000 children in the foster care system in the United States, and more than 114,000 of whom are waiting for families to adopt them;

Whereas 56 percent of the children in foster care are age 10 or younger;

Whereas the average length of time a child spends in foster care is more than 2 years;

Whereas for many foster children, the wait for a permanent, adoptive, “forever” family in which they are loved, nurtured, comforted, and protected seems endless;

Whereas the number of youth who “age out” of the foster care system by reaching adulthood without being placed in a permanent home has increased by more than 55 percent since 1999, as more than 29,000 foster youth “aged out” of foster care during 2009;

Whereas every day loving and nurturing families are strengthened and expanded when committed and dedicated individuals make an important difference in the life of a child through adoption;

Whereas while 3 in 10 people in the United States have considered adoption, a majority of them have misconceptions about the process of adopting children from foster care and the children who are eligible for adoption;

Whereas 71 percent of those who have considered adoption consider adopting children from foster care above other forms of adoption;

Whereas 45 percent of people in the United States believe that children enter the foster care system because of juvenile delinquency, when in reality the vast majority of children in the foster care system were victims of neglect, abandonment, or abuse;

Whereas 46 percent of people in the United States believe that foster care adoption is expensive, when in reality there is no substantial cost for adopting from foster care, and financial support in the form of an adoption assistance subsidy is available to adoptive families of eligible children adopted from foster care and continues after the adoption is finalized until the child is 18, so that income will not be a barrier to becoming a parent to a foster child who needs to belong to a family;

Whereas significant tax credits are available to families who adopt children with special needs;

Whereas the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, in a partnership with the Ad Council, supports a national recruitment campaign for adoptive parents;

Whereas the Collaboration to AdoptUsKids features a photolisting Web site for waiting foster children and prospective adoptive families at www.adoptuskids.org, and in Spanish at www.adoptel.org;

Whereas National Adoption Day is a collective national effort to find permanent, loving families for children in the foster care system;

Whereas since the first National Adoption Day in 2000, over 30,000 children have joined forever families during National Adoption Day;

Whereas in 2009, adoptions were finalized for nearly 5,000 children through more than 325 National Adoption Day events in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico;

Whereas National Adoption Month celebrates the gift of adoption, recognizing the adoptive and foster families who share their hearts and homes with children in need, and raises awareness of the need for families for the many waiting children, particularly older children and teens, children of color, members of sibling groups, and children with physical and emotional challenges; and

Whereas November 2010 is National Adoption Month, and November 20, 2010, is National Adoption Day, and activities and information about both are available at www.childwelfare.gov/adoption/nam/activities.cfm: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month;

(2) recognizes that every child in foster care deserves a permanent and loving family;

(3) recognizes the significant commitment of taxpayers to support adoption, including the \$1,900,000,000 provided to support adoption through the Title IV–E Adoption Assistance program, as well as the assistance provided through the Title IV–E Foster Care program to 114,000 children waiting for adoptive families, among other important programs; and

(4) encourages the citizens of the United States to consider adoption of children in foster care who are waiting for a permanent, loving family.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. 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 on H. Res. 1648.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1648, which supports the goals and the ideals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month. Children deserve nothing less than to grow up in a safe, stable, and loving home. While the vast majority of children are raised in such settings, there are a number of vulnerable children who are victims of child maltreatment or may have lost their parents in a tragedy and are now in search of a new home to call their own.

Today, there are more than 423,000 children in the foster care system in this country. Many of these children

will be reunited with their biological parents when it is safe for them to do so, while others will find a permanent home with a grandparent or other relative. Meanwhile, more than 114,000 children will be unable to safely return to their biological parents and need to find a new home.

Over the last several years, Congress has worked in a bipartisan manner to provide services that promote foster care outcomes for children in foster care that are positive and to facilitate the timely placement of a child into an adoptive home. In 2008, Congress passed the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act, which provided an array of new services to strengthen the foster care system. The legislation expanded the number of permanency options made available to children who are in search of new homes by allowing States to use Federal assistance to relatives to agree to become the legal guardians of foster children. The bill also extended and improved the Adoption Incentives Program and required States to inform prospective adoptive parents of their potential eligibility for the Federal Adoption Tax Credit.

So far, we have seen positive results in the area of adoption. Last year, 57,000 children were adopted out of foster care. That's a 3.5 percent increase over the previous year. The increase in the number of children adopted out of care reflects a trend that occurred over the last several years. Since 2006, the number of children adopted out of foster care has increased by 10.5 percent. Remarkably, this increase has occurred as the number of children who are served by the foster care system has steadily declined by 14 percent over the same period.

Earlier this year, as part of the landmark legislation that provided for health care coverage to all Americans, additional incentives and initiatives were taken to promote adoption. The Affordable Care Act included legislation that repealed the sunset date on the adoption tax credit for 1 year—from 2010 to 2011—and increased the maximum amount under the credit. The legislation also made the Adoption Tax Credit refundable for tax years 2010 and 2011.

While Congress has had great success in promoting the adoption of children out of foster care, there are still far too many children in foster care who are waiting far too long to find a permanent home. We need to continue to work together to ensure that States have the resources they need to swiftly move children into adoptive homes when it is appropriate to do so.

I look forward to continuing to work with all my colleagues to achieve that goal. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1648.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1648, which recognizes the goals and ideals of National Adoption Day and Month. As

you know, November 20 will mark this year's annual National Adoption Day celebration. All across our great country, communities will gather together to celebrate the adoptions that have been finalized this year and those that we hope will be finalized next year. In this spirit of community and family, this is what makes the National Adoption Day so very effective and also so very important in the lives of the Nation's more than 423,000 foster children—more than half of whom are under the age of 10.

The issue truly is an urgent one, Mr. Speaker. Each year as children grow older, it becomes harder and harder to place them with "forever" families. In fact, sadly, last year, 29,000 children "aged out" of the foster care system and are now on their own. As someone who adopted an older child, I know what this means to so many families and so many children—in particular, to older children. I call adopting an older child the toughest job I've ever had but also the one that was the most rewarding.

In so many cases, adoption is the key to breaking the cycle of abuse for children who otherwise would languish in dangerous homes. Perhaps it goes without saying how important it is for children to grow up in loving and supporting families. Yet with thousands upon thousands of children still being denied this most fundamental opportunity, Congress must continue to do what it can to support their efforts to find a home.

□ 1850

As such, the Federal Government has rightly stepped in to relieve the financial burden on adoptive families, and in doing so has made adoption more affordable to people of all income levels, but much still remains to be done. The resolution that we are considering today is an important reaffirmation of our commitment to improving the lives of foster children everywhere, and I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their support and attention to this matter.

While we are on the subject of adoption, Mr. Speaker, I want to mention one more thing. It has been brought to my attention that the Democratic leadership has pulled another very important adoption bill from the schedule this week. Actually, I understand that they hope to use it as a vehicle to pass an unrelated measure called the DREAM Act. The adoption bill in question is called the Help HAITI Act. It was introduced by Congressman FORTENBERRY in response to the tragic earthquake in Haiti some months ago. His legislation has passed the House and the Senate, and it was designated to assist children orphaned by one of the greatest natural disasters in recent memory.

A family in my district has adopted one of those children. He is a 3-year-old boy named Samuel. After being abandoned, with no record of who his par-

ents were, Samuel got a second chance at having a family. Sadly, his adoption is stuck in limbo now because of this action. Congressman FORTENBERRY's bill would change that. It has passed the House, and it has passed the Senate. All little Samuel needs is one clean vote and a stroke of the President's pen.

To hold these children hostage in an effort to disguise a vote on a controversial piece of legislation that has no hope of becoming law is completely unacceptable. Frankly, Mr. Speaker, this is exactly the kind of skullduggery that the American people have grown so sick of. If the DREAM Act or any other piece of legislation cannot stand on its own merits, then the sponsors of the bill need to go back to the drawing board and find something that can stand on its own merits.

The Help HAITI Act is one vote away from being sent to the President's desk. I strongly urge the Senate Democrat leaders to allow the House to vote to pass the Haiti adoption bill. If they choose not to, I hope that the current Speaker will at least have the decency to look Samuel and his parents in the eyes and explain the nefarious decision to them.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. I thank the distinguished gentleman of the Ways and Means Committee, and I thank the Ways and Means Committee for the very fine leadership that it has exhibited, particularly tonight, by bringing to the floor legislation sponsored by a very good friend, Mr. OBERSTAR.

Mr. Speaker, I chair the Congressional Children's Caucus, and I really wanted to rise and speak from the heart, for Mr. MCDERMOTT shared with us, as the minority manager as well, some of the pain that goes with children who need to be adopted.

Some years ago, I chaired the Foster Parent Task Force for Harris County, and I had the privilege of chairing it with one of our former colleagues, Congressman Mike Andrews. We chaired that task force to recruit, to restore, to rejuvenate foster parents, and to encourage them in their parenting and in their loving of foster children. In the course of that task, I learned of aging out—children who were in the foster care system and not adopted. Therefore, at the end of the foster care timeframe, they were aged out without any parental jurisdiction, love, affection, or nurturing. I met many of those children on the streets of Houston. I imagine, if I were to travel from the east coast to the west coast, I would meet children like that, children of America who deserve better lives.

So I rise to support this legislation. I applaud Mr. OBERSTAR, the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and of course the staff who saw fit to acknowledge that this is National

Adoption Day and National Adoption Month, because, if there is anything precious in our sights—and for those whose faiths point them to a higher authority—it is that about children. Adoption is an honorable and welcomed next step for a child in foster care, a child who is abused and possibly, if you will, unloved.

I ask my colleagues to support this enthusiastically because we need to end the pain in the eyes of the children and in their hearts by allowing them and hoping for them to be adopted.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY).

Mr. FORTENBERRY. I thank the gentlelady from Florida for the time and also for her good words earlier.

Mr. Speaker, the selfless love inherent in adoption shows the remarkable capacity of the human heart to strengthen a fractured world one child in need at a time, and I am very glad that Congress today is taking the time to honor adoption.

I must add, however, that I am very disheartened that a bill to help Haitian orphans, which has passed this House, as the gentlelady from Florida has said, and which has passed the Senate with amendments, has now been abandoned in secret meetings by this body's leadership.

The Help HAITI Act helps 1,200 Haitian orphans who were in the process of being adopted before the tragic earthquake hit that country. We could have passed this on Monday, and it could be law by now. Yet now, I understand, this bipartisan Help HAITI Act may be used as a vehicle for a controversial immigration measure for which there is no consensus in this body or across America.

While the legal status of these vulnerable Haitian orphans remains in limbo, they have fewer legal protections. They may not be eligible for critical resources, and they may be at risk of being returned to Haiti. Now, surely, we can act to solve this problem free of partisan provocation.

So, Mr. Speaker, I say this: These poor children and their heroic American families deserve better than what we are giving them today.

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

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, adoption was very near and dear to the heart of a friend of mine who passed away a few years ago. His name was Dave Thomas. Many of you have heard of him because he started a chain of restaurants called Wendy's, which is now known worldwide.

Dave was a child who was adopted. His adoptive mother died, and his father, because he couldn't take care of

him, left him in Fort Wayne, Indiana, at a YMCA when he was about 14 years old, and he was left pretty much to fend for himself. Because of that experience that Dave wrestled with as a boy, he ended up becoming one of the strongest advocates for adoption that I have ever known.

He worked very hard to get a postage stamp adopted—it was adopted—which spelled out the need to adopt children who didn't have homes. On every one of his restaurant maps, he had the ways to adopt a child, and he had pictures of children who should have been adopted. So, from a person who had that personal experience, who was Dave Thomas, I learned that adoption was extremely important for the security and the future of these children.

Now there are these children we are talking about from Haiti. Obviously, the problems there are herculean. Right now, there is a cholera epidemic down in Haiti, and it's probably going to get worse. They're talking about maybe thousands of people becoming infected with this deadly disease. Can you imagine if any of these children had to be sent back there under Haiti's current conditions? Even if they didn't have that kind of an epidemic, you wouldn't want to send them back there.

So I think the legislation this young lady is talking about is extremely important. It sends a message that we really care about those who don't have homes and who need to be adopted.

□ 1900

I sincerely hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will do everything they can to make sure this gets passed and to the President as quickly as possible.

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

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have no more Members who wish to speak on this, but I'd just like to close by saying I think that this House Resolution 1648 is a very good one. I urge my colleagues to support it but also to keep up the pressure on the current Speaker to release the Haiti adoption bill.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I think in closing it's important to point out that children are children, and while we may talk about some Haitian children who want to be adopted in the United States, we have an immigration policy in this country that is sending children back from my district to their country because we have got an immigration system that does not work. I actually think we ought to think a little bit more about people in this country and how we get the immigration policy rather than trying to say, well, we've got to worry about these people somewhere else. Part of this election was fought over the issue of immigration policy, and this country needs a fair way for people to proceed toward an ability to become a citizen.

Now, you want these Haitian kids to come in here. What about their citizenship? I mean, they just get here; they're going to sit here forever and never get citizenship? I have a boy in my district who was 6 years old when he came here, and no one told him he had to go down and fill out some papers when he got to be 18 and choose his citizenship. So now we're trying to send him back to a country that he never lived in since he was 6 when he came, and so there are real problems with children in this country, and I think we can deal with this one and we'll deal with the other one.

The other body has kept their foot on these issues over and over and over again, and I think we ought to deal with this issue and then we'll deal with the other issue. We'll see whether they're really serious about all children.

I urge my friends and the Members of the Congress to vote for this resolution.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in support of H. Res. 1648, a resolution that recognizes the importance of federal efforts to encourage adoption, and honors National Adoption Day and Month.

As an avid adoption supporter, I believe that Congress must continue to promote the adoption of children into safe and loving homes. Through our work in 1997 as part of the Adoption and Safe Families Act, and more recently through the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, Congress made significant advances in providing more options for children in need.

Yet, far too many children, about 114,000, are waiting in foster care programs throughout our country for families to adopt them. These children should be given every opportunity to lead successful lives, and one way to make that happen is to increase the adoption of these children into safe, permanent, loving homes.

That is why National Adoption Day and Month are so important. This year, National Adoption Day will take place on November 20, 2010, and is designed for communities around the country to highlight adoptions. Over the last decade, these events have grown more and more successful. Last year there were events in all 50 states during which the adoptions of 4,800 children were finalized. Since its inception, more than 30,000 adoptions have been finalized on National Adoption Day.

I have been honored to participate in National Adoption Day over the past several years. To be part of such a special occasion reinforces the need for further efforts to move kids into adoptive homes.

I would also like to highlight the efforts of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) to promote adoption through its annual Angels in Adoption Awards Ceremony, held in October. This event also highlights those that have opened their hearts and their homes.

These initiatives are critically important to not only recognizing those who have promoted adoption, but also to highlight the need for greater action on this important topic.

Before I close, I would like to recognize the efforts of Representative JIM OBERSTAR, the sponsor of this resolution, for his work on be-

half of adoption and children in foster care. JIM and I worked closely together on these important issues as co-chairs of Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. As an adoptive parent himself, he knows firsthand how life-changing adoption is, and with his experiences he has been an effective and tireless leader for children who need loving homes. His expertise will be missed, but his contributions in support of adoption will be lasting.

I would also like to congratulate and publicly thank Representative GINNY BROWN-WAITE for her role in promoting adoption and the wellbeing of all children. As a Member of the Ways and Means Committee, she has been an active supporter of efforts to promote adoption and child wellbeing, continuing her prior work as a member of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. GINNY is retiring at the end of this Congress, and her deep compassion for and active efforts on behalf of children who have been or are awaiting adoption will continue to inspire those of us she leaves behind. I wish both JIM and GINNY all the best in the years ahead and thank both of them for their distinguished service to our families and country.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1648, which recognizes the goals and ideals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month. I would also like to thank Chairman OBERSTAR for introducing this resolution and for his recognition of this important issue.

As a practicing OB/GYN physician for nearly 30 years before being elected to Congress, I have seen first hand the life-changing role of adoption services for families and children all across the Nation. Adoption and foster care are extraordinary means for child survivability. In fact, 45 percent of Americans believe that children are placed in foster care due to some form of juvenile delinquency, but the unfortunate reality is that these children are primarily victims of abuse or neglect. For so many of these youth, the care they receive in foster homes and adoption agencies provides them the only home they ever know. Sadly, year after year, we see thousands of children "age out" of foster care and enter adulthood.

Mr. Speaker, every child in this Nation and around the world deserves a loving family that will take care of them and provide for their basic needs. I applaud the many organizations across the United States that tirelessly strive to provide a home for foster care children and offer them a temporary place to live until they are placed in a permanent home. With local adoption agencies and foster homes doing their part, we must also do ours. I am proud that this body has voted to provide significant tax credits to families adopting children with special needs.

Today there are over 423,000 children in the United States foster care system, and 114,000 of these young individuals are waiting for a loving family to adopt them. The vast majority of these youth are victims of abandonment, abuse, or neglect, and they are in dire need of a family that will provide a home so that they can grow into successful adults.

Mr. Speaker, families that adopt should also be recognized for their commitment to improving the lives of children through the expansion and strengthening of their own families. These families come from all walks of life, but what ties them together is an abounding love for the neglected and the happiness that their new

families enjoy after adoption. Their noble actions in caring for our youth are a public service—but more importantly—an act of service and humility in love for humanity.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution recognizes and honors the foster care and adoption agencies around the Nation that provide our youth with a sense of hope and a future. I support and congratulate all of these agencies and families in their honorable endeavors, and charge them to continue their efforts into the future.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1648, the annual National Adoption Day and National Adoption month resolution. I would like to thank my colleagues on the House Ways and Means Committee for their work to bring this resolution to the Floor, and I want to commend in particular, my friend JIM McDERMOTT, the Chairman of the Income Security and Family Support Subcommittee, for his leadership on adoption, foster care and child welfare issues.

Adoption has been an essential part of my life and legislative service since 1968, when my late wife, Jo, unsuccessful in our hope for biological children, turned enthusiastically to adoption.

Like all prospective adoptive parents, we completed the paperwork and the home study process—which every adoptive parent can remember. We were overjoyed to welcome home our adorable 3-week old son Ted in 1968. Jo and I had no doubt that since we made the decision to accept as our own, one of God's children, that He blessed us with Noelle, Annie and Monica.

For these past 36 years, I have reveled in wearing my legislative hat, as a Member of Congress, as an advocate for effective public policy to eliminate the barriers to adoption and the need to work on behalf of children and families to promote this life-affirming experience.

Adoption has made enormous strides in these 36 years. In the late 1970s, I had the opportunity to bend the ear of President Carter with my radical proposal for an adoption deduction that would be equivalent to the cost of childbirth. In the 1980s, I joined with my former colleague, Tom Bliley, to create the Congressional Coalition on Adoption. In the 1990s, we enacted the \$5,000 tax credit for adoption and in 2001, we were successful in doubling the adoption tax credit to \$10,000. That same year, we created CCAI, the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, to enhance our adoption advocacy.

As part of that advocacy, CCAI is one of the sponsoring organizations for National Adoption Day that celebrates the adoption finalization for thousands of families. National Adoption Day also raises awareness for the 114,000 children in foster care who are available for adoption and are seeking their “forever family.” I also want to commend the following sponsors for their leadership in promoting National Adoption Day: The Alliance for Children's Rights, Casey Family services, Children's Action Network, the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, and the Freddie Mac Foundation. I also want to express my appreciation for the work of my Legislative Director, Chip Gardiner, who has been a great advocate for the cause of adoption for the past 25 years.

It is fitting and proper for the House of Representatives to approve this resolution in No-

vember which is National Adoption Month and National Adoption Day which will take place this year on Saturday, November 20. As families prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving next week, National Adoption Day is held the Saturday before Thanksgiving as we celebrate this very special day when the dream of family has been realized for so many Americans. This year, more than 350 events will take place across all 50 states and Washington, D.C. to finalize over 4,500 adoptions from foster care.

When I have the opportunity to share my personal experience of adoption, I am reminded of the words of the Nobel Prize-winning Chilean poet, Gabriela Mistral. “We are guilty of many errors and faults, but our worst crime is abandoning children, neglecting the fountain of life. Many things we need can wait; the child cannot. To the child, we cannot answer: ‘Tomorrow’ The child's name is ‘Today!’”

Today, let us reaffirm our support to assist the thousands of children in America in foster care who seek the love, support and stability of a family.

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. 1648.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3774) to extend the deadline for Social Services Block Grant expenditures of supplemental funds appropriated following disasters occurring in 2008.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3774

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

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF EXPENDITURE DEADLINE OF SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT DISASTER FUNDING.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, amounts made available to the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, under the heading “Social Services Block Grant” under chapter 7 of division B of Public Law 110-329, shall remain available for expenditure through September 30, 2011.

SEC. 2. BUDGETARY PROVISIONS.

(a) STATUTORY PAYGO.—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 Senate Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

(b) EMERGENCY DESIGNATIONS.—This Act—

(1) is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4(g) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-139; 2 U.S.C. 933(g));

(2) in the House of Representatives, is designated as an emergency for purposes of pay-as-you-go principles; and

(3) in the Senate, is designated as an emergency requirement and necessary to meet emergency needs pursuant to section 403(a) of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. 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 on S. 3774.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 3774, which extends the deadline for the use of supplemental social service block grant funds, also known as SSBG, that were made available following the disasters that occurred in 2008.

This extension would provide a 1-year extension for the use of supplemental SSBG grant funds that were appropriated in the Disaster Assistance and Continuing Appropriation Act of 2009 in response to the natural disasters that occurred in 2008. The legislation provided \$600 million for disaster recovery for States affected by hurricane, floods, and other natural disasters that occurred in the year 2008.

Over 60 percent of the money that was appropriated has been spent, leaving a great deal of funding available to address the ongoing needs in States that have been adversely affected by natural disasters. While a number of States have been successful in quickly drawing down the funds that were available to support disaster cleanup, many others need additional time to utilize the resources effectively.

The legislation follows a precedent that was established by the Congress in recent years when we acted to extend the availability of supplemental SSBG funds that were appropriated for the recovery efforts following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. These funds were extended for a 2-year period to allow additional time for affected States to make use of these resources.

Additionally, the legislation is PAYGO compliant and will not add one dime to the Federal deficit. The funding has already been allocated. The bill simply makes the appropriation available for an additional year.

The legislation, which passed the Senate in late September by unanimous consent, is very similar to a bill