

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL WORK AND FAMILY MONTH

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1598) expressing support for the designation of the month of October as National Work and Family Month.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1598

Whereas, according to a report entitled "Attraction and Retention" published by an organization called WorldatWork, the quality of workers' jobs and the supportiveness of their workplaces are key predictors of job productivity, job satisfaction, commitment to employers, and retention;

Whereas, according to a 2008 report by the Families and Work Institute entitled National Study of the Changing Workforce, employees with a high level of work-life integration are, compared to employees with moderate or low levels of work-life integration, more highly engaged and less likely to look for a new job in the next year, and also enjoy better overall health, better mental health, and lower levels of stress;

Whereas, according to a 2004 report entitled "Overwork in America", employees who are able to effectively balance family and work responsibilities are less likely to report making mistakes or feeling resentment toward employers and coworkers;

Whereas, according to the Best Places to Work in the Federal Government rankings released by the Partnership for Public Service and American University's Institute for the Study of Public Policy Implementation, work-life balance and a family-friendly culture are among the key drivers of employee engagement and satisfaction in the Federal workforce;

Whereas finding a good work-life balance is important for workers in multiple generations, as indicated by a 2009 survey entitled "Great Expectations! What Students Want in an Employer and How Federal Agencies Can Deliver It", which found that attaining a healthy work-life balance was an important career goal of 66 percent of respondents, and a 2008 study entitled "A Golden Opportunity", which found that workers between the ages of 50 and 65 are a strong source of experienced talent for the Federal workforce and that nearly 50 percent of these potential workers find flexible work schedules "extremely appealing";

Whereas, according to research by the Radcliffe Public Policy Center in 2000, men in their 20s and 30s and women in their 20s, 30s, and 40s identified as the most important job characteristic a work schedule that allows them to spend time with their families;

Whereas, according to research by the Sloan Center for Aging and Work, a majority of workers age 53 and older attribute their success as an employee, by a great or moderate extent, to job flexibility, and also report that, to a great extent, job flexibility contributes to an overall higher quality of life;

Whereas employees who are able to effectively balance family and work responsibilities feel healthier and more successful in their relationships with their spouses, children, and friends;

Whereas 85 percent of United States wage and salaried workers have immediate, day-to-day family responsibilities outside of their jobs;

Whereas, according to the 2006 American Community Survey, 47 percent of wage and salaried workers are parents with children under the age of 18 who live with them at least half-time;

Whereas job flexibility often allows parents to be more involved in their children's lives, and parental involvement is associated with higher child achievement in language and mathematics, improved behavior, greater academic persistence, and lower dropout rates;

Whereas a 2000 study entitled Urban Working Families revealed that a lack of job flexibility for parents negatively affects child health by preventing children from making needed doctors' appointments and receiving adequate early care, which makes illnesses more severe and prolonged;

Whereas, from 2001 to early 2008, 1,700,000 active duty troops have served in Iraq and 600,000 members of the National Guard and Reserve (133,000 on more than one tour) have been called up to serve, creating a need for policies and programs to help military families adjust to the realities that come with having a family member in the military;

Whereas, according to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report, breastfeeding is the most beneficial form of infant nutrition, and the greater the duration of breastfeeding, the lower the odds of pediatric overweight and obesity;

Whereas, according to the CDC, less than half of mothers who work full time exclusively breastfeed their newborns;

Whereas, according to the CDC, employer policies that encourage breastfeeding benefit individual families as well as employers by improving productivity and staff loyalty, enhancing the employer's public image, and reducing absenteeism, health care costs, and employee turnover;

Whereas studies show that a third of children and adolescents in the United States are obese or overweight and that healthy lifestyle habits, including healthy eating and physical activity, can lower the risk of becoming obese and developing related diseases;

Whereas studies report that family rituals, such as sitting down to dinner together and sharing activities on weekends and holidays, positively influence children's health and development, and that children who ate dinner with their family every day consumed nearly a full serving more of fruits and vegetables per day than those who never ate family dinners or only did so occasionally;

Whereas unpaid family caregivers will likely continue to be the largest source of long-term care for elderly United States citizens, and the Department of Health and Human Services estimates the number of such caregivers to reach 37,000,000 by 2050, an increase of 85 percent from 2000, as baby boomers reach retirement age in record numbers; and

Whereas the month of October would be an appropriate month to designate as National

Work and Family Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the designation of National Work and Family Month;

(2) recognizes the importance of balancing work and family to job productivity and healthy families;

(3) recognizes that an important job characteristic is a work schedule that allows employees to spend time with families;

(4) supports the goals and ideals of National Work and Family Month, and urges public officials, employers, employees, and the general public to work together to achieve more balance between work and family; and

(5) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe National Work and Family Month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 1598 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WOOLSEY. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1598, which expresses support for designating October as National Work and Family Month.

Over the past 40 years, the family dynamic has changed. Women comprise nearly half of the United States workforce. For most working women, their responsibilities do not cease at the end of the workday but continue on at home as most women serve as their families' primary caregivers. Beyond caring for their own families, working women often take on additional caregiver responsibilities by caring for their parents and/or their spouses' parents.

But it isn't just women who face the challenge of balancing work and family, Mr. Speaker. More than ever before, men have taken on a greater share of family responsibilities in addition to their workplace duties.

With working families taking on extra hours to make ends meet during these tough economic times, the need for a work-life balance is more crucial than ever. Employers who afford their employees with policies that help to balance work and family reap substantial benefits, ranging from improving an employer's bottom line, increasing retention rates, decreasing absenteeism, and improving productivity and morale.

A 2008 report by the Families and Work Institute found that workers who are able to balance work and family

are more highly engaged in their work and less likely to look for jobs in the next year. They also enjoy better overall health, better mental health, and lower levels of stress.

Finding a good balance between work and family is important to most people. A 2009 survey of students found that two-thirds of respondents cited a healthy work-life balance as an important career goal. In addition, Mr. Speaker, research by the Radcliff Public Policy Center found that women in their 20s, 30s and 40s and men in their 20s and 30s identified the most important job characteristic to be a job schedule that allows them to spend time with their families.

According to research by the Sloan Center on Aging & Work, a majority of workers aged 53 and older attribute their success as employees to job flexibility, which contributes to an overall higher quality of life. Job flexibility often allows parents to be more involved in their children's lives, and parental involvement is associated with higher child achievement in language and mathematics, improved behavior, greater academic persistence, and lower dropout rates.

Families with working parents face many challenges when it comes to balancing family time with working hard to provide for their families, and it is so important that we recognize this every day, because it is such a challenge; but it is equally important to recognize that the substantial benefits accorded and afforded to parents, children and employers when workers have access to policies of support lead to a much healthier work-life balance.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1598, expressing support for the designation of the month of October as National Work and Family Month.

Establishing a healthy balance between work and family obligations is something that most workers—women and men both—struggle with at some point in their careers. Studies have shown that employees who are able to effectively balance family and work responsibilities are less likely to report making mistakes or to feel resentment toward employers or coworkers.

Eighty-five percent of United States wage and salaried workers have immediate, day-to-day family responsibilities outside of their jobs. Workplace flexibility often allows parents to be more involved in their children's lives. Parental involvement is associated with children's higher achievement in language and mathematics, improved behavior, greater academic persistence, and lower dropout rates.

Today, with this resolution, we support the designation of the month of October as National Work and Family Month. Through this designation, we recognize the importance of balancing work and family, and we urge public of-

ficials, employers, employees, and the general public to work together to achieve more balance between work and family.

With that, I stand in support of this resolution, and I ask my colleagues for their support.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the author of this resolution, the gentlewoman from New York, Congresswoman MCCARTHY.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. I want to thank Ms. WOOLSEY, who is my colleague on the Education Committee and who has been working with me on this also, and I want to thank Mr. ROE from Tennessee for bringing this up.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1598, a resolution supporting the recognition of National Work and Family Month. I think my colleague, Ms. WOOLSEY, really spoke about the essence of the bill, so I am going to speak a little bit shorter on this.

I want to thank Representative PLATTS for introducing this resolution with me, and I want to thank Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member KLINE for bringing this resolution to the floor today under suspension.

This resolution highlights the need to focus on a healthy work and family balance. Study after study has shown that finding the right balance between work responsibilities and family obligations is one of the most important things for all of our workers. Workers who have a better work-family balance have better overall health and have less stress. Children also benefit from having their parents available more often. Employees who are able to spend enough time with their families are happier at work and are more productive than those employees who do not have enough time to spend with their families. Achieving a work-family balance is good for all employers, employees and their families.

This resolution just basically asks all Americans to consider how to achieve a healthier work-family balance, to increase the quality of life for our employees and their families and improve productivity for our employers.

Thank you, and I urge the passage of this resolution.

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Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I will simply say that one of the great challenges in my life was to balance a professional practice with my family. And I will say also that you will never regret 1 minute that you spend with your children or your grandchildren. So I would encourage support of this.

I thank the gentlelady from California and New York for speaking about this. I think one of the most important issues we have today is time with our families. As our families break down, our children are left alone so much. I would encourage everyone, especially at this time of year, to spend

as much time with their families as they can. It will be the best investment you have ever made.

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, most children are lucky if they have a two-parent family these days, but if they even have one parent or two parents, both of those parents are in the workforce. They work long hours, they commute long distances to put food on the table, and quite often they are not able to sit at that table and share that food with their families because their work-life balance is so unbalanced. So families with working parents face many, many challenges when it comes to balancing family time with working to provide for their families, and it's important that we recognize this as an everyday challenge.

It is equally important to recognize that substantial benefits are afforded to parents, children, and employers when workers have access to policies that support a healthy work-life balance. So I want to thank Representative MCCARTHY for sponsoring this important resolution, and I thank Congressman ROE for being part of this with us. I encourage my colleagues to join me today in support of House Resolution 1598.

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for H. Res. 1598, a resolution expressing support for designating October as National Work and Family Month.

As the mom of a three year old and another one on the way, I know first hand the struggles parents face. One of the most challenging aspects is how to balance work and family responsibilities—knowing that our attention to both is critical. We know that parental involvement plays a direct role in our children's growth and development. We know that providing direct care to our aging parents may sometimes be the best and/or only option. Yet, we also know that our employers are looking at ways to stay in business and improve their bottom lines.

H. Res. 1598 highlights the benefits of balancing work and family needs and recognizes the efforts that employers have undertaken.

Statistics demonstrate that a growing number of employers recognize the benefits of providing flexibility in the workplace and are successfully meeting the needs of their employees. Employers understand that having programs in place to address work-life balance issues are effective and necessary and are to the companies' benefit.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1598.

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. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a

quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

RECOGNIZING PARENTS OF SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1576) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a National Day of Recognition for Parents of Special Needs Children should be established, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1576

Whereas the reported prevalence of children with special needs, which may include children with healthcare needs, behavioral needs, learning needs, and mental health needs, has grown significantly throughout the last 50 years;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that an average of 1 in 110 children in the United States have an autism spectrum disorder and 1 in 1000 children are born with Down syndrome;

Whereas active and supportive parents serve a critical role in the development of children with special needs and in preparing them to succeed in school and in life;

Whereas parents of children with special needs deserve annual national recognition for their selfless dedication, compassion, and sacrifice; and

Whereas it is appropriate that the Nation reserve a special day each year to celebrate and honor the parents of children with special needs across the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the importance of honoring the Nation's parents of children with special needs;

(2) expresses its sense that a National Day of Recognition for Parents of Children with Special Needs should be established to honor such parents; and

(3) urges the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe such a day with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 1576 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1576, which supports the establishment of a National Day of Recognition for Parents of Children With Special Needs.

Parents of children with special needs serve a critical role in the development of their children and in preparing them to succeed in school and in life. Through selfless dedication and sacrifice, these parents work with their schools and communities to ensure that their children are granted equal access to a free and appropriate education that recognizes their individual learning, behavioral, and mental health needs in a healthy and supportive learning environment.

We know that the number of parents raising children with special needs is significant, and it is growing. A National Day of Recognition for Parents of Children With Special Needs not only serves to honor the dedication of these parents, but to highlight resources that they can turn to for information and support.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Representative BURTON of Indiana for introducing this resolution and once again express my support for House Resolution 1576, which supports the establishment of a National Day of Recognition for Parents of Children With Special Needs. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1576, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a National Day of Recognition for Parents of Special Needs Children should be established.

Parents of special needs children must give their children extra time, attention, care, and love. For this reason, they deserve recognition for their selfless dedication, compassion, and sacrifice.

According to the Department of Health and Human Services, 14 percent of children between age 1 and 17 years of age in the United States are diagnosed as having special health care needs. Children with special needs are defined as those who have a chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional condition that requires special health-related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally.

Those of us who have children understand the time, effort, and sacrifice being a parent requires. However, having a child with a disability or chronic illness requires additional time and effort. These parents must find and manage treatment, attend doctor appointments, handle conflicts at daycare or school, and most importantly, seek the right educational choices for their children. In addition, they advocate for their child and must be proactive and take necessary steps to make sure

their child receives appropriate services.

Active and supportive parents of children with special needs play an integral role in their children's development and in preparing them for school and for life. Parents of children with special needs often work tirelessly on behalf of their children in the face of financial hardship and maintaining a work-life balance. Although these parents often have additional stress, it is indeed a labor of love in which the rewards are many.

In recognition of the day-to-day love and sacrifice by the parents of children with special needs, and for the exemplary example of courage and devotion these parents provide—in many instances a lifetime of care for their children—I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I would just close by saying that in 30-plus years of practicing medicine and delivering many thousands of babies—many of those special needs children—in a smaller community where I am from, I have seen the stresses personally that this has put on families and have so much respect for these families and what the children offer the parents and the community. I have had my own daughter work in high school in a special needs classroom. I have attended many special needs classrooms while I have been in Congress. So I would urge support for this. This is a terrific resolution, and I appreciate very much the support of this House.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 1576, expressing the Support of the House of Representatives for the establishment of a National Day of Recognition for parents of special needs children. I would like to thank the members of the Education and Labor Committee, especially Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member KLINE for their effort to bring this resolution to the floor today. As the author of the resolution, I also would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all my colleagues who agreed to co-sponsor this resolution. Finally, I would like to thank Representative TURNER of Ohio—a leading co-sponsor of the resolution—who inspired this resolution based on the experiences of one of his constituents, a Mr. George Brooks.

Mr. Brooks, who himself is a disabled veteran, worked for 2 years as an attendant on a handicapped school bus for Centerville City Schools in Ohio. Every day he realized how demanding his job was just providing a safe trip to and from school for these children. However, the more he thought about it, the more he realized that the challenges he faced paled in comparison to what the parents of these children had to cope with every single solitary day of their child's life.

As many of my colleagues already know, my own grandson is autistic, so I know firsthand the kind of challenges Mr. Brooks was contemplating. In addition, as an autism advocate I have talked with countless families who