

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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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

struggle to deal with the most severe behaviors associated with autism such as seizures with severe breakdowns and explosive behaviors which have caused injury to their child, as well as other children. For these families, broken bones and stitches have become a part of their everyday life. I have also spoken with families who have mortgaged their homes and gone into bankruptcy in their pursuit of treatments to help their children cope with their autism—some treatments, which have helped but are not covered by any insurance, driving these families thousands of dollars into debt with no end in sight.

And autism, although it affects an average of 1 in 110 children in the United States according to Centers for Disease Control's latest figures, is simply one of the many medical and educational special needs that families may face. Cancer and heart defects, muscular dystrophy and cystic fibrosis; chronic conditions like asthma and diabetes; congenital conditions like cerebral palsy and dwarfism; and health threats like food allergies and obesity; ADHD, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, Tourette Syndrome, Down syndrome, dyslexia; Mr. Speaker, the list could go on and on.

It has been said that if you pick any two families of children with special needs, you would think that they have very little in common; as a family dealing with developmental delays has different immediate concerns than one dealing with chronic illness, or one dealing with mental illness or learning problems or behavioral challenges. Yet the truth is that all of these families share a common thread, their incredible love and devotion to their children. And it is this love and devotion that gives them the strength to fight for appropriate care and accommodations for their children; for their children to be accepted in their extended family, school and community; plan for their children's uncertain future; and constantly adjust routines and expectations to meet their children's needs.

H. Res. 1576 is a very straight-forward resolution; it: (1) recognizes the importance of honoring the Nation's parents of special needs children; (2) expresses the sense that a National Day of Recognition for Parents of Special Needs Children 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.

Parents of children with special needs are often more flexible, compassionate, stubborn and resilient than other parents because they have to be. And I strongly believe it is appropriate for this House to honor their sacrifices. To that end, I respectfully ask all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 1576.

Mr. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support for H. Res. 1576, a resolution expressing support for a National Day of Recognition for Parents of Special Needs Children.

Three years ago, my husband Brian and I were blessed with our amazing son, Cole. Not only has Cole given us a new perspective on life, but he has introduced us to so many other parents of special needs children, who have selflessly dedicated their lives for the betterment of their children. It is these parents who have opened their hearts and shared their lives in order to pave the road forward for Cole and other children.

H. Res. 1576 recognizes the tireless efforts of these parents and urges the rest of the Nation to recognize them as well.

Everywhere Brian and I go—we meet families who share with us their stories about a loved one who has special needs. They all speak passionately about the positive impact that their children have on their lives. And it is these parents who have helped Brian and I to see the amazing impact that Cole will continue to have on our lives and in this world.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 1576.

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to again thank Representative BURTON from Indiana for introducing this resolution and Representative ROE for his support of this resolution. I want to 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 us in supporting 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. 1576, 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. 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.

□ 1730

SUPPORTING CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER MONTH

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1313) expressing support for designation of May as "Child Advocacy Center Month" and commending the National Child Advocacy Center in Huntsville, Alabama, on their 25th anniversary in 2010.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1313

Whereas, in May 1985, the National Child Advocacy Center opened its doors in Huntsville, Alabama;

Whereas there are now more than 900 Child Advocacy Centers in the United States, all based off of the first one in Huntsville, Alabama;

Whereas, in 2009, child advocacy centers served more than 260,000 children;

Whereas services are offered to children who are physically and sexually abused entirely for free to the family;

Whereas child advocacy centers work to streamline the investigation process so that the child may be helped most effectively;

Whereas this is done through a multidisciplinary team managing alleged cases of abuse from the initial investigation all the way through prosecution;

Whereas, during this time, child advocacy centers offer medical, therapeutic, and other support services to victim's and victim's families;

Whereas 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 7 boys will be sexually abused before the age of 18;

Whereas child advocacy centers also reach out to the community and sponsor programs that help bring awareness to this problem;

Whereas education and support for communities has proven to be successful in preventing abuse from occurring;

Whereas the United States Department of Health and Human Services sponsored the Fourth National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect Report to Congress which found that from 1993 to 2006 there was a 44 percent decrease in the rate of sexual abuse; and

Whereas May would be an appropriate month to designate as "Child Advocacy Center Month": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the designation of "Child Advocacy Center Month"; and

(2) commends the National Child Advocacy Center in Huntsville, Alabama, on their 25th anniversary.

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 1313 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 1313, which supports the designation of the month of May as Child Advocacy Center Month and commends the National Child Advocacy Center for 25 years of service and leadership in confronting the epidemic of child abuse.

Tragically, Mr. Speaker, five children die each day as a result of child abuse and neglect in the United States of America. In 2008, a total of 1,740 children died as a result of such abuse. The National Child Advocacy Center provides critical training, prevention intervention, and treatment services to fight this urgent national problem.

In May of 1985, the National Children's Advocacy Center in Huntsville, Alabama, was founded by a young district attorney from Madison County named Robert Cramer, Jr. Mr. Cramer—who went on to be a Member of the House of Representatives from 1991 to 2009—organized the center to improve assistance to abused children and work to end child abuse.