

CHILDREN DESERVE QUALITY EDUCATION

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, our education system needs reform for America's children.

For far too long, we have watched as government red tape and regulations have robbed our youth from learning the skills necessary to succeed. Children deserve better than ineffective, status quo education practices. We must empower those who know what's best for our children rather than continue the tradition of Big Government mandates.

House Republicans, led by Education Chairman JOHN KLINE, have a plan to reform our education system with commonsense solutions. By removing the power of government bureaucracy and by empowering locally elected school boards, our teachers, parents, and local leaders, we will have the opportunity to develop a working educational plan to help our children succeed.

As the House votes on the Student Success Act today, it is my hope that Members from both sides of the aisle will join together and support this legislation for the sake of our children's future.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

THE REALITY OF CLIMATE CHANGE

(Mr. WELCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, climate change is real. The future damage that will be done if we fail to address it is foreseeable and predictable.

We are living through an extended period of radical weather. The weather systems of 2012 produced the secondmost damaging infliction to the economy in the history of our country—\$115 billion—much of it from Hurricane Sandy, much of it from an extended drought. Sea levels are rising. This is measurable. This is not debatable. It is fact.

What we are doing in this Congress is arguing about energy policy, but we are having that argument in the context of denying that the failure to address climate change won't have serious economic and social implications. Sea levels are rising. The damage to our Treasury is rising. The suffering of our people is real. So it is absolutely essential that the House of Representatives acknowledge the reality of climate change and include that in its debate on energy policy.

LANCASTER HEROES

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today, I come to the floor to recognize two young heroes from Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Last week, a young 5-year-old girl, Jocelyn Rojas, was abducted from her front yard by a stranger, an older man, who turned out to be a previously convicted sex offender.

The police and folks across the neighborhood quickly organized a search. Tamar Boggs and Chris Garcia set out on their bikes with other friends, and when the boys spotted a suspicious car wandering through their development, they checked it out and saw the young girl inside. They relentlessly chased the driver on their bikes for 15 furious minutes. In recognizing that the boys wouldn't give up, the man let Jocelyn out of the car and drove away. She immediately ran to the boys, asking for her mother, and they safely took her back home.

While they may not think of themselves as heroes, they certainly are. Thanks to Tamar and Chris, Jocelyn is home, and the suspect is now in custody.

PROPHETSTOWN FIRE

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the terrible fire earlier this week that destroyed much of Prophetstown, Illinois—a small town in Whiteside County, Illinois, that I have the honor of representing.

The blaze destroyed nearly all of downtown and disrupted the lives of so many people living and working in this northwestern Illinois town full of caring people. Several families of this town of more than 2,000 people lost all of their possessions, not to mention their livelihoods.

Angie Stegmiller lost everything she owned in the fire, including precious knickknacks that were handed down from her grandparents. Her cats are still missing. As Angie said, "It's not the stuff. It's the memories behind the stuff." She is still holding out hope that her cats will return.

The community's response to the fire should serve as an inspiration to all. Residents are coming together to help one another through this. The Methodist church has received so many food donations that its freezers are overfilled. Neighbors are helping neighbors clean up the rubble and are turning over spare bedrooms and bathrooms to those who are temporarily homeless. Residents have begun the slogan "Prophetstown Strong" to refer to the resiliency of this community.

I have no doubt that, due to the spirit and resolve of the citizens of Prophetstown, this town will recover and be stronger.

FOR HARDWORKING AMERICANS

(Mr. BENTIVOLIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, we've had a few acrimonious weeks over the last month, but, today, I want to talk about something that crosses the partisan divide, something that makes this country go. Whether you're a Republican or a Democrat, it's undeniable that the ethic of hard work is the glue that binds our Nation together, and when we go back and forth, yelling at each other, we in Congress tend to forget that.

Our task is to promote legislation that leads our country into the 21st century.

As Congress prepares to take up some major issues, we must keep in mind that the people of this Nation want solutions, solutions that empower them to achieve their American Dream. We must remember what keeps this country together. We must strive valiantly and dare greatly, and we must develop solutions that promote hard work and an honest wage.

LET'S GET AMERICA BACK TO WORK

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, since taking control of the House of Representatives, House Republicans have held 39 separate votes that would undermine all or part of the Affordable Care Act. What is most unfortunate is that, in those 2½ years, the House Republican leadership has refused to work across the aisle with Democrats to put people back to work and pass a comprehensive jobs bill, a bill that would help middle class families.

It's time for the House Republican leadership to put away political slogans and partisan gamesmanship and to get serious about governing.

Let's focus on rebuilding the crumbling infrastructure of our country so we can move goods, services, and information to compete in a 21st century economy. Let's harness American innovation and support the resurgence of American manufacturing by taking up the Make It In America agenda of the Democratic Caucus. Let's also protect young people and families from rising interest rates on student loans.

Mr. Speaker, let's stop wasting time, and let's get America back to work.

IN HONOR OF THE SERVICE OF TOM PRICE

(Mr. GOSAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished leader who has earned the respect of everyone who knows him, Mr. Tom

Price. Tom has lived in the Kingman area for almost 30 years and is married to Ada Calderon Mora. Together, they have six children and four grandsons.

Tom is a successful attorney who is happy to advise anyone on one's legal situation. He is a critical thinker—the kind of man who is able to take a complex situation, simplify it and put it into a context that is usable, workable, and solvable. Tom has that gift. He serves on several boards in the community, but, today, I honor him for his service to the Kingman Chamber of Commerce.

He has served in each of the executive officer positions within the Kingman Chamber of Commerce, and is serving in his last year as immediate past chairman. He is the chairman of the Business and Government Committee, which concentrates on educating the community on political issues and candidates.

Tom, thank you for your work and for your dedication to our community. I truly believe that the entire Kingman area is a better place to live in because of you.

For a life that has included more than 30 years of service, I am pleased to recognize Tom Price, in this great body, as a true American and a leader for the businessmen and -women of Kingman, Arizona.

SUPPORTING FEDERAL FUNDING FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

(Mr. MCNERNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring your attention to the development of an exciting new fabric that was recently created by biomedical engineers at the University of California at Davis—a fabric that drives moisture away.

Two graduate students, Siyuan Xing and Jia Jiang, at the Micro-Nano Innovations Laboratory, led by Professor Tingrui Pan, with the financial support of the National Science Foundation, developed a textile that stays dry by forming moisture into droplets that drain away by attaching a network of water-attracting threads to water-repellent fabric.

Now, discoveries like these have led to significant advances in a variety of applications. This project could be used to develop and improve active gear; but, more significantly, it is likely to be developed in the materials that will help our firefighters and our troops stay cool while in the field or that will help astronauts conserve precious liquids while in space.

I am proud to support Federal funding for scientific research, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

□ 0915

STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). Pursuant to

House Resolution 303 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 5.

Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) kindly take the chair.

□ 0915

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5) to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes, with Mr. COLLINS of Georgia (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday, July 18, 2013, amendment No. 21 printed in House Report 113-158 offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROWN), had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 22 OFFERED BY MR. CULBERSON

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 22 printed in House Report 113-158.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 481, after line 22, insert the following new subpart:

“Subpart 4—Restoration of State Sovereignty Over Public Education and Parental Rights Over the Education of Their Children

“SEC. 5561. STATES TO RETAIN RIGHTS AND AUTHORITIES THEY DO NOT EXPRESSLY WAIVE.

“(a) RETENTION OF RIGHTS AND AUTHORITIES.—No officer, employee, or other authority of the Secretary shall enforce against an authority of a State, nor shall any authority of a State have any obligation to obey, any requirement imposed as a condition of receiving assistance under a grant program established under this Act, nor shall such program operate within a State, unless the legislature of that State shall have by law expressly approved that program and, in doing so, have waived the State's rights and authorities to act inconsistently with any requirement that might be imposed by the Secretary as a condition of receiving that assistance.

“(b) AMENDMENT OF TERMS OF RECEIPT OF FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—An officer, employee, or other authority of the Secretary may release assistance under a grant program established under this Act to a State only after the legislature of the State has by law expressly approved the program (as described in subsection (a)). This approval may be accomplished by a vote to affirm a State budget that includes the use of such Federal funds and any such State budget must expressly include any requirement imposed as a condition of receiving assistance under a grant program established under this Act so that by approving the budget, the State legislature is expressly approving the grant program and, in doing so, waiving the State's rights and authorities to act inconsistently with any requirement that might be imposed by the Secretary as a condition of receiving that assistance.

“(c) SPECIAL RULE FOR STATES WITH BIENNIAL LEGISLATURES.—In the case of a State with a biennial legislature—

“(1) during a year in which the State legislature does not meet, subsections (a) and (b) shall not apply; and

“(2) during a year in which the State legislature meets, subsections (a) and (b) shall apply, and, with respect to any grant program established under this Act during the most recent year in which the State legislature did not meet, the State may by law expressly disapprove the grant program, and, if such disapproval occurs, an officer, employee, or other authority of the Secretary may not release any additional assistance to the State under that grant program.

“(d) DEFINITION OF STATE AUTHORITY.—As used in this section, the term ‘authority of a State’ includes any administering agency of the State, any officer or employee of the State, and any local government authority of the State.

“(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section applies in each State beginning on the 90th day after the end of the first regular session of the legislature of that State that begins 5 years after the date of the enactment of the Student Success Act and shall continue to apply in subsequent years until otherwise provided by law.

“SEC. 5562. DEDICATION OF SAVINGS TO DEFICIT REDUCTION.

“Notwithstanding any formula reallocations stipulated under the Student Success Act, any funds under such Act not allocated to a State because a State did not affirmatively agree to the receipt of such funds shall not be reallocated among the States.

“SEC. 5563. DEFINITION OF STATE WITH BIENNIAL LEGISLATURE.

“In this Act, the term ‘State with a biennial legislature’ means a State the legislature of which meets every other year.

“SEC. 5564. INTENT OF CONGRESS.

“It is the intent of Congress that other than the terms and conditions expressly approved by State law under the terms of this subpart, control over public education and parental rights to control the education of their children are vested exclusively within the autonomous zone of independent authority reserved to the States and individual Americans by the United States Constitution, other than the Federal Government's undiminishable obligation to enforce minimum Federal standards of equal protection and due process.”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 303, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My amendment will restore state sovereignty over public education and restore parental rights over the education of their children by restoring the State legislature's power to accept or reject Federal education grant dollars.

I've worked closely with the committee to ensure that this amendment supports the goals of local control and flexibility as promoted by H.R. 5, and I sincerely appreciate Chairman KLINE's support of this important amendment, as well as his continued leadership to improve our Nation's education system.