America. He joined the scouts when he was twelve years old and rose to the rank of Eagle Scout before joining the Air Force. He credits the training he received as a Boy Scout to much of his success in military and civilian life. He has given back to the scouts throughout his career and in 2009 received the Distinguished Eagle Award, the Boy Scouts of America's highest honor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Gannon on this milestone and thanking him for his outstanding contributions to Florence, the Pee Dee area, to South Carolina, and to our great country. I wish him Godspeed and a happy and healthy 90th birthday celebration in the company of his friends and family.

STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration 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:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to express my opposition to H.R. 5, the Student Success Act. This bill undermines the fundamental purpose of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which was created to ensure that disadvantaged children are provided a high-quality education that allows them to compete on a level playing field with their more-advantaged peers.

Among its many problematic provisions, this bill cuts crucial education funding, fails to hold states and districts accountable for supporting and improving the achievement of all students, eliminates and weakens protections for disadvantaged students, and lacks critical support systems for our nation's educators.

I believe No Child Left Behind (NCLB) is flawed and must be reformed, and reauthorization presents a tremendous opportunity to make much-needed improvements and bring our education system into the 21st century. However, instead of fixing the problems of NCLB, the Student Success Act does not reflect best practices and fails to strike the appropriate balance between flexibility and accountability.

Reauthorization should support college and career-ready standards, address the overuse of testing in teacher and school evaluations that currently forces educators to substitute test preparation for instruction, and feature an accountability system that includes meaningful targets for improving student attainment that gives schools and districts flexibility in how they achieve those goals.

I urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 5 and instead support reauthorization that restores our nation's commitment to providing equal opportunity for all students regardless of their background and protect our country's students including the most vulnerable, which was the intention of this landmark civil rights law.

KINGWOOD PARK HIGH SCHOOL SWIM TEAM

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday, the boys from Kingwood Park High School in Houston, Texas won another state swim title. This marks the fourth state championship for the high school. According to the team's head coach, Greg McLain, this wasn't even supposed to happen. But, he said that they believed in each other and worked hard, noting that they didn't do it with superstars, but ''as a team.''

The Kingwood Park Panthers swim team pays homage to the old saying: ''when it comes to talent versus hard work, hard work will always win.''

Congrats to Kingwood Park's State Championship team: David Amoruso, Spencer Balog, Brenden Bennett, Austin Bradshaw, Eric Broussard, Matt Crowe, Trae Floyd, Christian Frey, David Johnson, John Johnson, Hunter Lang, Ryan Logan, Sam Poulin, Tate Stevens.

Go Panthers!

And that's just the way it is.