The program centers on four basic principles: praise people; give up put-downs; notice hurts and right wrongs; and, seek wise people. When PeaceBuilders praise people, they notice and express sincere appreciation when someone demonstrates acts of kindness or caring, giving attention to positive rather than negative acts. By giving up put-downs, program participants recognize and avoid what has become a mainstay of negative interaction in our culture. They also learn non-violent ways to respond when they are put-down. PeaceBuilders who notice hurts and right wrongs learn ways to make amends when they have caused another person pain, or merely to help another person in need. Finally, when they seek wise people as friends, mentors, and role models, PeaceBuilders surround themselves with the tools they need for continued success and an even brighter and more positive future.

Mr. Speaker, with so much attention today given to the negative, I want to shine the spotlight on the positive. I applaud the Paramous Unified School District not only for adopting this philosophy, but for fully embracing it. Paramous declared the “Outstanding PeaceBuilders District of the World for 1997–1998” by Heartstrings, Inc., the home of PeaceBuilders. The proclamation states that they “have been instrumental in the design of a K through 8 model which will henceforth be known as the ‘Paramous Model.’ May you continue to be a Model for the World to follow.” Congratulations to paramount on this great accomplishment, and may you spread your positive message to all of our nation’s schools.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that my colleagues base their vote on the latter. We have a chance to send this proposal back to the judiciary committee and instruct them to develop a plan that is focused and fair. However, the lines seem to be drawn and the Republican leadership has convinced their members to vote along party lines. The last chance for a pragmatic approach is lost. Therefore, I encourage my colleagues of both parties to join together and defeat the Republican proposal. The time of fairness, the Republican majority’s effort will move forward with an open-ended process designed not to follow the path of truth, but to simply embarrass the President one month before the congressional elections. All of us in Congress should be committed to searching for the truth, not political points. But if we choose to forego the search for truth, we do so with a blatant disregard for principles of fairness and justice.

Mr. Speaker, if we move with a process based on those ideas, then as a lawmaking body, we can get back to the important issues that have evaded us this session. In the waning days of the legislative session, we still have a chance to save Social Security, pass a real patients’ bill of rights, improve the quality of education and protect our environment. I plan to fight and oppose this arbitrary measure, and support a fair process. That process will put an end to this investigation in a timely fashion and gets the House of Representatives back on track to work on the issues that truly matter to this great nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join the entire John T. Mather Hospital community as we honor Alan Beck, a very deserving recipient of the “Theodore Roosevelt Award” for his dedicated service to the hospital and our entire Long Island community.

Mr. Speaker, the question at hand is not whether sufficient grounds exist for the impeachment of William Jefferson Clinton, President of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition of the Republican impeachment inquiry. The way the House proceeds on an impeachment inquiry is very serious and must be considered in a deliberative manner. Unfortunately, the proposal before us does not create a focused inquiry with realistic time limits on the length and scope. Instead of offering a proposal that is sound and has reasonable standards on what impeachable offenses are, the Republican leadership is rejecting a focused inquiry and is forcing us to vote on a proposal that is endless and causes damage to a fair and just process.

Mr. Speaker, the question at hand is not whether or not to proceed with a formal impeachment inquiry. The question is how do we proceed? We considering such an important matter, will we place such a vote in the hands of election year politics or do we place this vote and process in the hands of fairness, the tenets of our Constitution and good judgement?