

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION
ON INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES
ACT FUNDING**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleagues to introduce a resolution calling on the President and Congress to fully fund the federal government's obligation under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

In 1975, Congress passed the Education for All Handicapped Children Act, commonly known as P.L. 94-142. The Act built upon previous legislation to mandate that all States provide a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to all disabled children by 1978. It also established the federal commitment to provide funding aid at 40% of the average per pupil expenditure to assist with the excess costs of educating students with disabilities. Historically, however, the appropriations for IDEA have not come close to reaching the 40% level. Federal funding has never risen above 12% of the cost. As a result, local schools and States are picking up the tab for an additional 28% above their fair share of special education costs.

As a former Governor, I have a unique understanding of special education funding and the tremendous burden this unfunded mandate places on schools. Local school districts spend on average 20 percent of their budgets on special education. Put simply, local schools are expected to pay much more than their fair share. This needs to change. If the federal government fulfilled its special education obligation for local schools, Washington would not have to step in to address issues such as class size reduction and building new school buildings. These decisions could be left up to local school districts who better understand the dynamics and needs of their students. This is precisely why the federal government must fulfill the commitment it made in 1975.

In Delaware, for instance, our largest school district, the Christina School District, currently receives \$800,000 per year in special education funding. The federal commitment is to pay Christina School District \$4.4 million. This means that if we fulfilled our commitment, Christina School District would have an additional \$3.3 million to focus on the needs of their students and teachers. The entire State of Delaware, if special education were fully funded, would receive an additional \$24.8 million. This is a tremendous amount of money, that is desperately needed by local schools in order to reduce class size, build and modernize schools, and implement technology into education. If the federal government fulfills its commitment to fund 40% of special education costs, States and schools across the nation would have the opportunity to focus their funds on the unique and individualized needs of their schools.

The Republican Congress has worked to increase special education funding. Since 1995, IDEA funding has increased by over 85%. This is an increase of approximately \$1.4 billion. Congress now needs to garner the support of the President and the Administration to make IDEA funding a priority for our nation's schools.

WOMEN AND BUSINESS

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the enormous contribution women have made to the economy. As a Member of the Small Business Committee and life-long Long Islander, the issue of small business is an important one to me.

As we approach the new millennium, an increasing number of women are starting their own businesses. According to the National Foundation of Women's Business Owners, as of 1997 there were 8.5 million women-owned businesses in the United States employing over 23 million people and generating close to 3.1 trillion in sales as of 1997. Between 1987 and 1997, the number of women-owned firms increased by 89% nationwide, and as of 1996 women-owned businesses accounted for 36% of all firms in the United States.

Knowing how important small businesses are to our economy, I hope we will continue supporting the collection of data on women owned businesses as a regular part of the economic census of business. The knowledge such data provides is truly priceless, and I want to ensure it remains fully funded every year. Thousands of remarkable women have made significant advances for our economy, and they deserve nothing less than our full support.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained yesterday returning from my Congressional District. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the following three roll call votes: No. 78 on H. Res. 135 regarding amendments to H.R. 98, Aviation War Risk Insurance Program Extension; No. 79 on H.R. 911, to designate the new Federal Building in Raleigh, North Carolina, as the "Terry Sanford Federal Building"; and No. 80 on H. Con. Res. 68, instructing conferees on the FY 2000 budget to protect Social Security and Medicare.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHNSON'S CORNER

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, in Larimer County, Colorado, there is a family-owned business, Johnson's Corner, which has been named as one of the top ten best places in the world to eat breakfast, and was the only United States restaurant to be named. Founded by Joe Johnson in 1953 along Interstate 25 before it was an interstate, it is now run by his widow, Virginia, and stepson, Chauncey Taylor.

What distinguishes Johnson's Corner from all the rest? According to Travel & Leisure magazine, it's the restaurant's cinnamon rolls. Today, I wish to confirm that the "World Famous Cinnamon Rolls" are the best and deserve recognition as does the restaurant business itself.

A way station for travelers driving the interstate highway, this old-fashioned, 24-hour truck stop lit up with neon signs, serves up cinnamon rolls and other good food on formica-topped tables in a family atmosphere. The nearly 50-year old business maintains a great deal of pride in its service to a clientele of farmers, truckers, cowboys, bikers, and tourists. In addition, its location and hospitality have proven to be a good place for Members of Congress and other elected officials to hold town meetings.

It is for these reasons I happily rise today to honor the Johnson family and their employees at Johnson's Corner. I hold them up to the House and to all Americans, as a fine example of the best of America's businesses. They exemplify the industrious spirit and can-do-attitude that have made America great.

CONGRATULATING THE SIKH NATION
ON ITS 300th BAISAKHI DAY
SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE
SIKHS**HON. GARY A. CONDIT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, on April 14, the Sikh Nation will celebrate its 300th Baisakhi Day. This is a major milestone for the Sikhs of America and the world, and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them on this occasion.

More than 40,000 Sikhs came to Washington, D.C. this past weekend to celebrate with a march organized by Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, who is a friend of many of ours. The march was a huge success, and I would like to congratulate Dr. Aulakh and everyone who was involved in this very successful event. Through their hard work one of the largest groups that Washington has seen in a long time showed up to celebrate the Sikh heritage and declare the need for a free and independent Khalistan.

There are about 500,000 Sikhs in the United States. They are part of a vibrant 22-million strong Sikh community around the world. They have added to America in many different fields of endeavor. Here the Sikhs live in freedom and prosperity. Yet in their homeland, Punjab, Khalistan, they suffer under the brutal tyranny of the Indian government. Under this brutal policy, the Indian government has murdered more than 250,000 Sikhs since 1984. Thousands more are held in Indian jails, most without charge or trial.

Sikhism is an independent, monotheistic, revealed religion. It is not part of any other religion, though it does have some beliefs that are also held by other religions. Like Christians and Muslims, Sikhs have been victims of the Hindu extremists who dominate Indian life. Like Christians and Muslims, Sikhs are religiously and culturally distinct from Hindu India.

The Sikhs have a heritage of self-rule. They ruled Punjab independently from 1765 to