

Norwood	Ryan (WI)	Tauscher
Nussle	Ryun (KS)	Tauzin
Oberstar	Sabo	Taylor (MS)
Obey	Salmon	Taylor (NC)
Olver	Sanchez	Terry
Ortiz	Sanders	Thomas
Ose	Sandlin	Thompson (CA)
Owens	Sawyer	Thornberry
Oxley	Saxton	Thune
Packard	Schaffer	Thurman
Pallone	Schakowsky	Tiahrt
Pascrell	Scott	Tierney
Pastor	Sensenbrenner	Toomey
Payne	Serrano	Towns
Pease	Sessions	Trafficant
Pelosi	Shadegg	Turner
Peterson (MN)	Shaw	Udall (CO)
Peterson (PA)	Shays	Udall (NM)
Petri	Sherman	Upton
Phelps	Sherwood	Vento
Pickering	Shimkus	Visclosky
Pitts	Shows	Vitter
Pombo	Shuster	Walden
Pomeroy	Simpson	Walsh
Porter	Skeen	Waters
Price (NC)	Skelton	Watkins
Pryce (OH)	Slaughter	Watt (NC)
Quinn	Smith (MI)	Watts (OK)
Radanovich	Smith (NJ)	Waxman
Rahall	Smith (TX)	Weiner
Ramstad	Smith (WA)	Weldon (FL)
Rangel	Snyder	Weldon (PA)
Regula	Souder	Weller
Reyes	Spence	Wexler
Reynolds	Spratt	Weygand
Riley	Stabenow	Whitfield
Rivers	Stark	Wicker
Rodriguez	Stearns	Wilson
Roemer	Stenholm	Wise
Rogan	Strickland	Wolf
Rogers	Stump	Woolsey
Rohrabacher	Stupak	Wu
Ros-Lehtinen	Sununu	Wynn
Rothman	Sweeney	Young (AK)
Roukema	Talent	Young (FL)
Roybal-Allard	Tancredo	
Royce	Tanner	

NAYS—2

Hostettler Sanford

NOT VOTING—21

Bass	Fowler	Portman
Buyer	Hunter	Rush
Chenoweth	Jefferson	Scarborough
Clay	Kilpatrick	Sisisky
Clayton	McKinney	Thompson (MS)
Clement	Paul	Velazquez
Dingell	Pickett	Wamp

□ 1851

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof), the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

STEWART B. MCKINNEY HOMELESS EDUCATION ASSISTANCE IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, being without a home should not mean being without an education. Yet, that is what homelessness has meant for far too many of our children and youth today;

red tape, lack of information, and bureaucratic delays that result in their missing school and missing the chance at a better life.

That is why I rise today to introduce the McKinney Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 1999. This legislation reflects the best ideas of some of the most dedicated people throughout Illinois and nationwide: homeless advocates, educators and experts at the U.S. Department of Education.

When we say the word "student," what kind of individual do we envision? More than likely, the images of a youngster sitting at a desk, taking an exam, or sitting at the kitchen table doing his homework. What we do not imagine is a student who is homeless, living in a shelter or living in a car. Yet, an estimated 1 million children and youth will experience homelessness this year, a situation that has a devastating impact on their educational advancement.

Congress recognized the importance of school to homeless children by establishing in 1987 the Stewart B. McKinney Education of Homeless Children and Youth Program. This program is designed to ensure that homeless children have the opportunity to enroll in and attend and succeed in school, and it has made a positive difference. Yet, today, more than 10 years after the passage of that important program, inadequacies in the Federal law inadvertently are acting as barriers to the education of homeless children.

There is no better time for Congress to renew our commitment to homeless children. As the 106th Congress pushes to reauthorize our federal K through 12 education programs, we must act to ensure that all homeless children remain in school so that they acquire the skills needed to escape poverty and lead productive lives.

This legislation will incorporate into federal law provisions and practices that remove the educational barriers faced by homeless youth. Several of these provisions are derived from the Illinois Education for Homeless Children State Act, which many consider to be a model for the rest of the Nation. This bill will ensure that a homeless child is immediately enrolled in school. Our bill helps to ensure that red tape does not make children miss school.

The bill also allows homeless children to remain enrolled in the school they originally attended or to enroll in the one that is currently nearest to them. Homeless families move frequently because of limits on length of shelter stays, extended searches for affordable housing or employment, or to escape an abusive situation. It allows the States to select a liaison to provide resource information and resolve disputes relating to homelessness. Because many schools do not currently have a point of contact for homeless students, these children frequently go unseen and unserved.

Finally, this bill strengthens the quality of local programs by making subgrants more competitive and by enhancing State and local coordination. This bill also strengthens the quality and collection of data on homeless students at the Federal level. This is particularly crucial as the lack of a uniform method of data collecting has resulted in unreliable national data and a likely underreporting of the numbers of homeless students.

Mr. Speaker, Congress must take advantage of this window of opportunity to renew its commitment to helping provide homeless children with a quality education. I am a strong supporter of local control of education and believe the McKinney Homeless Education Improvements Act of 1999 meets this principle while making the best use of limited federal resources.

Regrettably, homelessness is and will likely be for the immediate future a part of our society. However, being homeless should not limit a child's opportunity to learn.

In closing, let me take a moment to thank Illinois State Representative Cowlshaw, as well as Sister Rose Marie Lorentzen and Diane Nilan and the Hesed House in Aurora, Illinois for bringing this issue to my attention and for their tireless work on behalf of the homeless. I also want to thank Barbara Duffield with the National Coalition for the Homeless for her help in putting together this bill; and the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE), the gentlewoman from New York, (Ms. SLAUGHTER), and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), my friends and colleagues, for being original cosponsors.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I insert the following letters for printing in the RECORD.

MARYLAND STATE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
Baltimore, MD, August 20, 1999.

Hon. JUDY BIGGERT,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE BIGGERT: I am writing to support your efforts to strengthen the McKinney Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act by amending it to include provisions from the Illinois State Education for Homeless Children Act.

In particular, the Illinois provisions relating to the immediate enrollment of homeless children and youth, clarification of responsibilities for transportation, and the application of the Act to cover the entire duration homelessness, would be of great benefit to homeless children in Maryland. These issues still challenge our public schools as they try to meet the educational needs of homeless children and youth. A stronger federal law based on the Illinois law would assist the efforts of schools, service providers, and families in Maryland to ensure homeless children and youth's access to and success in school.

In Maryland, The State Board of Education will publish on August 27, 1999 in the Maryland's Register, a set of regulations to cover programs for Homeless children. These regulations provide a standard that all school systems in Maryland must follow.