

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IMPROVING RESULTS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES ACT

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Improving Education Results for Children with Disabilities Act, which reauthorizes special education programs in our nation's schools. This legislation improves the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to ensure that children with special needs receive the high-quality education they deserve. I would like to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), the chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for his assistance in bringing this bill to this point.

For too many years, children with disabilities were denied access to public education. However, with the passage of the Education of All Handicapped Children Act in 1975, the doors of educational opportunity were opened. Today, more than ever, students with disabilities have an opportunity to accomplish their goals. According to the Department of Education, about 6.6 million students currently participate in these programs across the nation. Of those, almost 50 percent of students with disabilities spend 80 percent or more of their day in the regular education classroom. In addition, graduation rates for students with disabilities with a standard diploma are at an all-time high, while drop-out rates continue to fall.

Despite IDEA's many success stories, there is room for improvement in serving children with disabilities. These children are still among those at the greatest risk of being left behind. Now more than ever, we must make sure that children with disabilities are given access to an education that maximizes their unique abilities and provides them with tools for later successful, productive lives. We must continue to be vigilant in our efforts towards improving the quality of education of all children, including children with disabilities. We must shift from the current focus on compliance with bureaucratic rules to ensuring that children with disabilities are making progress and achieving to high expectations so that no child is left behind.

The Improving Education Results for Children with Disabilities Act aims to improve current law by focusing on improved education results, reducing the paperwork burden for special education teachers, and addressing the problem of over identification of minority students as disabled. In addition, this bill seeks to reduce litigation, and reform special education finance and funding.

One of the great benefits of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) is that we have raised expectations and will hold school districts accountable for the annual progress of all their students, including students with disabilities. Although we have made great progress in including students with disabilities in the regular

classroom, we now must make equally great progress in ensuring that they receive a quality education in the regular classroom. We must carefully align the IDEA with NCLB to ensure that students with disabilities are included in the accountability systems of States and school districts.

This bill will help reduce the paperwork burden so that school districts are able to retain and recruit highly qualified special education teachers. The excessive amount of paperwork currently inherent in special education continues to overwhelm and burden teachers, robbing them of time to educate their students. Teachers must have the ability to spend more time in the classroom rather than spending endless hours filling out forms that do not lead to a better education for students.

Furthermore, we are committed to implementing reforms that would reduce the number of students that are misidentified or over represented in special education programs. Minorities are often significantly over represented in special education programs. In fact, African Americans are nearly three times more likely to be labeled as mentally retarded, and almost twice as likely to be labeled emotionally disturbed. Current methods of identifying children with disabilities lack validity or reliability. As a result, thousands of children are inappropriately identified every year, while many others are not identified early enough or at all.

This bill seeks to reduce litigation and restore trust between parents and school districts. All too often miscommunication damages this relationship and results in a proliferation of litigation. We are committed to implementing reforms that provide ample opportunities for positive interaction before a problem becomes serious. We are also committed to ensure that parents are actively involved in their child's education experience. This bill will give parents greater access to be involved in making decisions about their child's education.

Finally, we are very proud of our record in securing the largest funding increases for IDEA over the past 7 years. Since 1995, Congress has nearly tripled federal spending for special education. This bill continues to lead the way in increasing funds for IDEA by creating a path to attain full funding of the federal government's 40 percent goal within 7 years.

We remain committed to build upon reforms already implemented and must keep these challenges in mind as we reauthorize IDEA. I look forward to working with the member of the Committee, other Members of Congress, and stakeholders as we work to craft legislation that will build upon and improve previous reforms and continue to ensure that children with disabilities receive a quality education. I urge my colleagues to join me and the other original co-sponsors in support of the Improving Education Results for Children with Disabilities Act.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DON WILCOX

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Don Wilcox for his outstanding achievements as the president of the Norwood Roping Club of Colorado. Through his leadership, the Roping Club has accomplished much, and it is my distinct honor to stand and recognize Don before this body of Congress and this nation.

The Norwood Roping Club hosts their own rodeo every year and, because of Don and his community's efforts, the size of that rodeo has nearly doubled over the last year. Don aggressively set out to increase the number of sponsors, giving Norwood's rodeo the distinction of having the largest prize money pot in the state. Don's work caught the attention of the Colorado Pro-Rodeo Association, which presented the Norwood club with two awards. Furthermore, the Norwood rodeo now attracts some of the best cowboys in the state. On top of this extraordinary record of success, this year's rodeo will be sanctioned by rodeo associations in New Mexico and Arizona, bringing cowboys from three states to Norwood for the competition. Despite his important role in the advancement of Norwood's rodeo, Don remains a humble man, giving much of the credit to the community.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Don Wilcox and congratulate him on his accomplishments. His dedication to preserving our Western heritage through his club's rodeo is a credit to himself, the Norwood Roping Club, and the community of Norwood. Don possesses a cowboy's determined spirit, and it is truly an honor to acknowledge his success before this body of Congress and this nation. Keep on riding, Don.

HONORING DEE AND BEN GETTLER AS THEY ARE HONORED BY THE OHIO CANCER RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dee and Ben Gettler, good friends and distinguished constituents, who will be honored for their community service and commitment to cancer research on April 10, 2003, by the Ohio Cancer Research Associates. Dee and Ben's devotion to community and national organizations is legion.

Dee was born in Troy, New York, and graduated from the College of William and Mary. She has served Cincinnati as Chairman of the Women's Committee for the Cincinnati Ballet; President of the Umbrella Board and the

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Board of Trustees for the Seven Hills School; Business Manager for Conversation in the Arts; and Out of Town Chairman for the Cincinnati Opera; President of the Parents Organization for Anderson High School; Member of the Advisory Council for Indian Hill Schools; Board Member for the University of Cincinnati College of Nursing; and Chairman of the University of Cincinnati Presidents Ball. She has been President of the Women's Armed Forces Memorial and is a lifetime member of Hadasah.

Ben is an attorney and manufacturing company executive. Born in Louisville, Kentucky, he graduated from the University of Cincinnati with high honors in economics. In 1945, Ben received his J.D. from Harvard University and was selected as a Frankfurter Scholar. He served to the rank of Captain in the U.S. Army in 1955–56. From 1973 through 1987, Ben practiced law with Gettler, Katz and Buckley in Cincinnati, and is a member of the Ohio and U.S. Supreme Court bars. Currently, he is Chairman of the Board of Vulcan International Corporation, which is listed on the American Stock Exchange.

Ben served as Chairman of the Board of the University of Cincinnati, has been a Member of the Board of Trustees since January, 1984, and is a member of the Presidential Search Committee. He is Chairman of the Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati, and was Chairman of Cincinnati's Jewish Hospital for five years. Ben was National Chairman of the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA) from 1994–98 and is currently Chairman of its Policy Committee. He is also a Trustee of the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority.

All of us congratulate Dee and Ben as they are honored by Ohio Cancer Research Associates and thank them for their commitment to our community.

IN HONOR OF DONNA
RUTHERFORD

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished Californian, Donna Rutherford, as she is inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

Donna Rutherford was one of thirteen children who learned early in life the values of work, sharing and helping others. A mother of three, she became active in her children's schools as a parent volunteer, working to improve education for all children. This led to her being elected a Trustee of the Ravenswood City School District, a position she held for 12 years. In 2000, she became a member of the City Council of the City of East Palo Alto and she currently serves as the City's Vice Mayor.

Donna Rutherford worked in the food services industry for many years and became a part-time cook at Mateo Lodge's Wally's Place. She was promoted two years later to Social Rehab Coordinator and now serves as Wally's Place's Program Administrator where she supervises counseling staff and the care and management of the facility.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Donna Rutherford as she is inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a very disturbing issue to all Americans—child pornography. As co-chair of the Congressional Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus, I have been working for years with my colleagues, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the U.S. Attorney General and the U.S. Customs Service, to eliminate child pornography from the Internet.

Child pornography was a worldwide industry that was all but eradicated in the 1980's. Unfortunately it has resurfaced with a vengeance thanks to computer technology and the Internet—thus requiring those who fight this crime to come up with new ways and seek new allies in our war to save our children. I am pleased to report that Visa U.S.A. (Visa), one of the world's largest credit card companies, has recently begun a program to try to stave off this ever-rising tide of child smut.

Visa's program is designed to put a stranglehold on this growing illegal industry by going after the one thing that keeps it going—money. The way Visa's program works and what it does is pretty amazing, so I'd like to share it with you.

Using sophisticated technical and forensic software tools, they identify sites that advertise that they accept Visa for payment. In fact, Visa's system monitors up to one million Web pages every day. Merchants dealing in child pornography are then reported back to Visa. Tests are conducted to determine who the merchant is and who owns the website and to trace the transaction trail. What this means is that child pornographers will no longer be able to hide by moving from site to site, because they will be found if they post Visa as their payment method. Visa acceptance privileges are terminated and finally—and I like this part throughout the world work together to either establish or support criminal investigations.

The results of Visa's monitoring system represent an invaluable intelligence contribution to the FBI's Innocent Images Program, a multi-agency investigative initiative to combat the proliferation of child pornography and exploitation over the Internet. I can tell you that the Innocent Images Program has been highly successful in identifying and investigating the people involved in this predatory crime. And when the FBI gets this level of cooperation from industry, the program becomes even more efficient and effective.

Such cooperation is encouraging and provides a fine example to our friends in private industry of how they can play a role in partnership with government and law enforcement agencies. While we here in Congress must continue to work for legislation that will take away avenues for the merchants who traffic in this abhorrent trade, we must actively seek out new partnerships with the private sector to find additional ways to drive child pornography from the Internet and to protect the interests of children worldwide.

HONORING FRANK BOYER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Colonel Frank Boyer of Colorado Springs, Colorado for his extraordinary service to this country. After joining the United States Air Force, Col. Boyer sacrificed his career as a jet fighter pilot to pursue nine years of medical training, eventually becoming an Air Force surgeon. That career change was especially important in the winter of 2001, when Col. Boyer was instrumental in saving the lives of seventeen young soldiers injured during their service in Afghanistan. Today I am privileged to honor Col. Boyer for his service before this body of Congress and this nation.

In October 2001, Col. Boyer and his team of seventy doctors, nurses and medical staff from the Air Force Academy set up a combat hospital in Oman to support American troops fighting for Operation Enduring Freedom. Just forty-five days later, a B-52 dropped an errant bomb on a group of American Special Operations fighters in Afghanistan, killing three and wounding twenty, many severely.

On that day, seventeen of the injured soldiers were rushed to Col. Boyer's military hospital. Every one of them survived. Col. Boyer and his team worked for thirty-six continuous hours, performing twenty-three surgeries, including four life-saving procedures. For this exceptional effort under extreme pressure, Col. Boyer received the Bronze Star.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Col. Frank Boyer for his outstanding service to the United States of America. I want to thank him on behalf of this nation and this Congress for his calm leadership through a chaotic and frightening incident. Seventeen young soldiers owe their lives to Col. Boyer and his medical team. All of our nation is in Col. Boyer's debt.

IN HONOR OF VICKI SMOTHERS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished Californian, Vicki Smothers, as she is inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

As Vice President of Free at Last's Board of Directors, Vicki Smothers has devoted herself to treating substance abuse and its tragic effects on the people of our community. She has been with this highly effective, grassroots organization which specializes in community recovery and rehabilitation from its inception. She was also one of the cofounders of the East Palo Alto AIDS Task Force.

Vicki Smothers is Community Programs Specialist for Prenatal Advantage where she coordinates prenatal services and counsels teen mothers in an effort to reduce infant mortality rates. A long-time East Palo Alto resident, she has a keen awareness of the needs of the community and is devoted to assisting others.