

I urge my colleagues to vote for passage of H.R. 6022.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6022.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1134) supporting the goals and ideals of Mental Health Month.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 1134

Whereas the mental health and well-being of Americans is a critical issue that affects not only the quality of life, but also the health of our communities and our economic stability;

Whereas the stigma associated with mental health persists;

Whereas more than 57,000,000 Americans suffer from a mental illness;

Whereas approximately 1 in 5 children has a diagnosable mental disorder;

Whereas more than 1 in 5 of our troops suffer from major depression or post traumatic stress disorder;

Whereas more than half of all prison and jail inmates suffer from mental illness;

Whereas mental illness is the most common disability in our Nation;

Whereas untreated mental illness costs businesses and the American economy over \$150,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas untreated mental illness is a leading cause of absenteeism and lost productivity in the workplace;

Whereas in 2004, over 32,000 individuals committed suicide in the United States, at twice the rate of homicides;

Whereas suicide is the third leading cause of death among people between the ages of 10 and 24;

Whereas in 2004, individuals aged 65 and older made up only 12.4 percent of the population, but accounted for 16 percent of all suicides, and the rate of suicide among older Americans is higher than for any other age group;

Whereas 1 in 4 Latina adolescents report seriously contemplating suicide, a rate higher than any other demographic;

Whereas studies report that persons with serious mental illness die, on average, 25 years earlier than the general population; and

Whereas it would be appropriate to designate May 2008 as Mental Health Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Mental Health Month in order to emphasize scientific facts and findings regarding mental

health and to remove the stigma associated therewith;

(2) recognizes that mental well-being is equally as important as physical well-being for our citizens, our communities, our businesses, our economy, and our Nation;

(3) applauds the coalescing of national and community organizations in working to promote public awareness of mental health, and providing critical information and support to the people and families affected by mental illness;

(4) supports the findings of the President's Commission on Mental Health that the Nation's failure to prioritize mental health is a national tragedy; and

(5) encourages all organizations and health practitioners to use Mental Health Month as an opportunity to promote mental well-being and awareness, ensure access to appropriate services, and support overall quality of life for those with mental illness.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, for far too long the topic of mental health has been pushed aside and swept under the rug. You don't see it, you don't talk about it, and you don't hear about it. It connotes people are crazy.

However, we cannot continue to ignore that mental illness does not discriminate. It touches all regardless of race, of gender, of class or of religion. It is time we address this issue at the forefront honestly and openly. Too many of our family members of our friends, our coworkers and especially our veterans and soldiers have had to suffer with mental illnesses in silence.

According to the U.S. Surgeon General, 57 million Americans suffer from some form of mental illness. Despite findings that most mental illnesses are highly treatable, only one in three individuals suffering from these illnesses seek and or receive any treatment.

This low treatment can be attributed to the strong stigma associated with mental health issue that is still pervasive and persist. Twenty percent of our United States population suffers from a diagnosable, treatable mental disorder, making the mental illness the leading cause of disability in our Nation, affecting our businesses and our economy.

The mental health and well-being of Americans are critical issues that affect not only the health of our communities, the quality of life, and, as im-

portantly, our economic stability. A new report by the National Institute of Mental Health found that serious mental illnesses cost Americans at least \$193 billion a year in lost earnings alone.

Our action is far overdue. We have had tests, screening for breast cancer, for heart attacks, for strokes and a myriad of other diseases and conditions. We have not yet woken up to the fact that the brain functions are vital to our body's health and survival.

It is critical that we will destigmatize mental illness so that our children, our families, our veterans receive the necessary help they need to lead productive lives with support from their families and their communities.

I respectfully encourage all of my colleagues to support this resolution to recognize May as Mental Health Month. We must all come together on this critical issue. It is vital that we recognize the scientific facts and real findings regarding mental health and work to remove the stigma associated therewith.

By increasing awareness of mental health issues we can insure that individuals have access to services including early detection and early prevention, and, most of all, to assure parity in our medical delivery systems.

This will allow us to improve the lives of those suffering from mental illness and their loved ones while reversing the negative impact that mental illness has had on our economy, on our families, and on our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1134, acknowledging the month of May as National Mental Health Month. Mental Health Month has been recognized by Congress for over 50 years and has continued to raise awareness in our communities and to lower the stigma associated with mental disorders.

I would like to express my gratitude to the national and community organizations working to promote public awareness of mental health, providing the proper information for families affected by mental illness. Your work is critical to increasing the quality of life for those with mental illnesses.

I would also like to thank the author of the resolution, Congresswoman Grace Napolitano of California, for her leadership in helping Americans' well-being and addressing mental disorders.

I would encourage all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution.

With that, I would ask if Congressman Mike Castle of the great State of Delaware could be the minority floor manager for the balance of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I want to thank the gentlewoman from California for yielding time, but I also want to commend her for the tremendous leadership that she continues to provide on this critical issue of mental health, mental illness. I am pleased to join with her in support of H. Res. 1134, recognizing and acknowledging Mental Health Awareness Month during the month of May.

I agree with Representative NAPOLITANO that mental health is one of the major health issues facing our society, and yet it does not get the kind of attention that it needs and deserves.

When we think of all of the individuals who will suffer from substance abuse, all of the individuals who find themselves perplexed and not quite knowing how to navigate the society in which we live, and when we consider the fact that we have not reached the point of providing parity consideration nor parity treatment for mental illness, it's appropriate that we recognize May as Mental Health Awareness Month.

Again, I congratulate the gentlewoman from California for her leadership.

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Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I also rise in strong support of the legislation. I think mental health is something that needs awareness in this country. What this resolution does in dedicating the month to it is very significant, and I would encourage support of all Members here.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I really am grateful to my colleagues on the other side for their support. This has been a bipartisan effort, both with Representative MURPHY, myself, and members of the Mental Health Caucus.

It has been quite important to us to continue working in airing the issue for this Nation's ability to be able to understand that we need to have more focus on how mental health affects our daily lives, our children in school, our seniors, mental health depression, our veterans, our soldiers in war after several deployments, all of those are parts of the whole that we need to understand in how it affects our lives.

The Army recently issued a memorandum to train the chain of command on mental health issues. They are encouraging their servicemembers to talk to their commanders on these issues openly and without fear of retribution in certain areas where they have already been deployed.

Parity was passed in February in the House, and it is a good first step and must be signed into law and it will help not only families but business as well.

Mr. Speaker, I can't tell you how much I appreciate the time my col-

leagues have put into this. It is an issue that is very pervasive and we need to encourage more effort into it, not only in funding for research, but also in assistance to be able to render services so that individuals who suffer from these illnesses can continue good, productive lives.

I reserve the balance of my time, and I have no other speakers, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I don't believe we have any other speakers at this time, so I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I have just one more word of thanks to my colleagues on both sides and I ask for continued support of this bill by a "yes" vote.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1134, supporting the goals and ideals of Mental Health Month. I would first like to thank my distinguished colleague, Representative GRACE NAPOLITANO of California, for introducing this important legislation. This legislation designates the month of May to raise awareness about mental health conditions and the importance of mental wellness for all. The mental health and well-being of Americans is a critical issue that affects not only the quality of life, but also the health of our communities and our economic stability.

Since the turn of this century, thanks in large measure to research-based public health innovations, the lifespan of the average American has nearly doubled. Today, our Nation's physical health has never been better. Moreover, illnesses of the body once shrouded in fear—such as cancer, epilepsy, and HIV/AIDS to name a few—increasingly are seen as treatable, survivable, even curable ailments. Yet, despite unprecedented knowledge gained in just the past three decades about the brain and human behavior, mental health is often an afterthought and illnesses of the mind remain shrouded in fear and misunderstanding.

Much remains to be learned about the causes, treatment, and prevention of mental and behavioral disorders. Obstacles that may limit the availability or accessibility of mental health services for some Americans are being dismantled, but disparities persist. Still, thanks to research and the experiences of millions of individuals who have a mental disorder, their family members, and other advocates, the Nation has the power today to tear down the most formidable obstacle to future progress in the arena of mental illness and health. That obstacle is stigma. Stigmatization of mental illness is an excuse for inaction and discrimination that is inexcusably outmoded in 1999.

The burden of mental illness on health and productivity in the United States and throughout the world has long been profoundly underestimated. Data developed by the massive Global Burden of Disease study, conducted by the World Health Organization, the World Bank, and Harvard University, reveal that mental illness, including suicide, ranks second in the burden of disease in established market economies, such as the United States. Mental illness emerged from the Global Burden of Disease study as a surprisingly significant contributor to the burden of disease.

Mental illness is the term that refers collectively to all diagnosable mental disorders. Mental disorders are health conditions that are

characterized by alterations in thinking, mood, or behavior—or some combination thereof—associated with distress and/or impaired functioning. Alzheimer's disease exemplifies a mental disorder largely marked by alterations in thinking, especially forgetting. Depression exemplifies a mental disorder largely marked by alterations in mood. Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder exemplifies a mental disorder largely marked by alterations in behavior, over activity, and/or thinking, inability to concentrate. Alterations in thinking, mood, or behavior contribute to a host of problems—patient distress, impaired functioning, or heightened risk of death, pain, disability, or loss of freedom.

Suicide is a major, preventable public health problem. In 2004, it was the eleventh leading cause of death in the U.S., accounting for 32,439 deaths. The overall rate was 10.9 suicide deaths per 100,000 people. An estimated eight to 25 attempted suicides occur per every suicide death. Suicidal behavior is complex. Some risk factors vary with age, gender, or ethnic group and may occur in combination or change over time. Older Americans are disproportionately likely to die by suicide. Of every 100,000 people ages 65 and older, 14.3 died by suicide in 2004. This figure is higher than the national average of 10.9 suicides per 100,000 people in the general population. Non-Hispanic white men age 85 or older had an even higher rate, with 17.8 suicide deaths per 100,000.

Depression and post-traumatic stress disorder are very high among veterans from wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, leading to suicide rates even higher than combat deaths. Since October 2001 in Iraq and Afghanistan was fought about 1.6 million U.S. soldiers, about 4500 of them died, according to Defense Department. The Rand study has found that 20 percent of returning U.S. soldiers suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder or depression, but only half of them get treatment. Comparing these figures it becomes clear that troops suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder complications more than from actual war. Soldiers with combat traumas are more likely to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder. Of these troops 53 percent have received mental care during the last few years, but Rand report says that half of them did not receive adequate care. This is one of leading causes leading to depression development in veterans. There are currently 300,000 soldiers suffering from mental illnesses and they need new innovative treatment for depression or PTSD treatment.

Mr. Speaker, I support the goals and ideals of Mental Health Month in order to emphasize scientific facts and findings regarding mental health and to remove the stigma associated. I recognize that mental well-being is equally as important as physical well-being for our citizens, our communities, our businesses, our economy, and our Nation. I encourage all organizations and health practitioners to use Mental Health Month as an opportunity to promote mental well-being and awareness, ensure access to appropriate services, and support overall quality of life for those with mental illness.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs.

NAPOLITANO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1134.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### NATIONAL TRAIN DAY

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1176) supporting the goals and ideals of National Train Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 1176

Whereas, on May 10, 1869, the "golden spike" was driven into the final tie at Promontory Summit, Utah, to join the Central Pacific and the Union Pacific Railroads, ceremonially completing the first transcontinental railroad and therefore connecting both coasts of the United States;

Whereas, in highly populated regions, Amtrak trains and infrastructure carry commuters to and from work in congested metropolitan areas providing a reliable rail option, reducing congestion on roads and in the skies;

Whereas, for many rural Americans, Amtrak represents the only major intercity transportation link to the rest of the country;

Whereas passenger rail provides a more fuel-efficient transportation system thereby providing cleaner transportation alternatives and energy security;

Whereas passenger railroads emit only 0.2 percent of the travel industry's total greenhouse gases;

Whereas Amtrak annually provides intercity passenger rail travel to over 25,000,000 Americans residing in 46 States;

Whereas an increasing number of people are using trains for travel purposes beyond commuting to and from work;

Whereas our railroad stations are a source of civic pride, a gateway to our communities, and a tool for economic growth; and

Whereas Amtrak has designated May 10, 2008, as National Train Day to celebrate the way trains connect people and places: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the contribution trains make to the national transportation system;

(2) urges the people of the United States to recognize such a day as an opportunity to learn more about trains; and

(3) supports the goals and ideals of National Train Day as designated by Amtrak.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 1176.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

National Train Day celebrates the 139th anniversary of the "golden spike," which was driven into the final tie in Utah and marked the completion of our Nation's first transcontinental railroad in 1869.

This weekend I celebrated National Train Day by holding events throughout my district, including press conferences and events in Jacksonville, Winter Park, and Sanford Auto Train station. We had a great turnout at every event, and I heard firsthand from people who use Amtrak every day to go to work and visit friends and family all over the country.

As Chair of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, I have had the privilege to see firsthand passenger rail systems in other countries. I have taken high-speed trains from Brussels to Paris, 200 miles, 1¼ hours; and from Barcelona to Madrid, 300 miles, 2½ hours; and the advantage for travelers and for business are tremendous. We need to catch up with the world, and with gas prices edging toward \$4 a gallon, some places \$5 and \$6, now is the perfect time for us to begin to make serious investment in passenger rail.

Indeed, Amtrak ridership and revenue has never been stronger. In 2007, Amtrak set a new record for ridership, exceeding 25.8 million passengers. In the same year, ticket revenues increased by 11 percent, to more than \$1.5 billion. For my State of Florida, Amtrak expenditures for goods and services in the State soared to nearly \$40 million last year, and Amtrak currently employs over 700 Florida residents.

I have traveled all over the country and have conducted many transportation roundtable events that feature rail and its importance, and the people I have talked to love Amtrak. It is a great way to commute to work, takes cars off our congested highways, and improves the environment. In many areas of the country, it is the only means of public transportation available.

Now what I can't understand is why the Bush administration, again, in the midst of sharp increases in gas prices, continues in its efforts to destroy passenger rail in this country. Every industrialized country in the world is investing heavily in rail infrastructure because they realize that this is the fu-

ture of transportation. But sadly, as their systems get bigger and better, our system gets less and less money.

While the administration has spent nearly a trillion dollars on the war in Iraq, it continues to decrease their requests for Amtrak. This year they only requested \$800 million for Amtrak's 25.8 million passengers. Well, that is an improvement from zero. For Amtrak, just one week's investment in Iraq would significantly improve passenger rail across the country for an entire year. This is another perfect example of how out of touch this administration is because I can assure the President that there is a whole lot more support for Amtrak in this country than there is for the war in Iraq.

Unfortunately, there is a lot of misinformation about Amtrak, and it is important for people to know the facts. Ridership numbers and ticket revenue are at a record level. Outstanding debt has been reduced by \$600 million over the past 6 years, and many major infrastructure projects have been completed. And this has been achieved with a workforce that has been reduced by over 4,000 employees. We still have a lot of work ahead of us when it comes to Amtrak, and it took a major step forward last week when we introduced legislation reauthorizing Amtrak at a level that would allow it to grow and prosper. The legislation developed by the chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Mr. JAMES OBERSTAR and myself, and introduced with Congressmen MICA and SHUSTER, provides over \$2 billion a year for capital and operating grants, \$500 million per year for developing State passenger corridors, \$345 million per year to pay down debt, \$345 million per year for high-speed rail programs, \$600 million to start working on constructing a new tunnel through Baltimore, and requires a plan for restoring service to the Sunset Limited, one of my top priorities.

Major infrastructure improvements are also necessary to improve the safety and security of the system and its passengers and workers. Amtrak has and will continue to play a critical role in evacuating and transporting citizens during national emergencies. Unfortunately, it is also a prime target for those who wish to harm us and we must provide resources to make the system less vulnerable.

Fifty years ago, President Eisenhower created the national highway system that changed the way we travel in this country. Today we need to do the same thing with our rail system, and with Amtrak reauthorization we are doing just that.

The United States used to have a first class passenger rail system. However, after years of neglect, we are now the caboose, and they don't even use cabooses anymore. The American people deserve better, and I believe our Amtrak reauthorization bill will go a long way to restoring the American passenger system.