

prepared to make informed financial choices. Indeed, we much learn how to effectively handle money, credit, debt, and risk. We must become better stewards over the things that we are entrusted. By becoming better stewards, Americans will become responsible workers, heads of households, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders and citizens.

I am reminded of how important this issue is to American society, as I was invited to attend a financial literacy roundtable panel on Monday evening at the New York Stock Exchange. The panel was sponsored by the Hope Literacy Foundation. The panel was moderated by John Hope Bryant. I was surrounded by some of the great financial literacy experts in the nation. At the roundtable, I discussed the importance of financial literacy for college and university students. It is important that students be taught financial literacy. The facts about students and financial literacy are astounding.

Owning a home is the American Dream, but hundreds of thousands of people are on the brink of losing their homes and becoming the next victims of the housing crisis. Recently, I joined the Democratic Congress in passing the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2008, which will provide mortgage-refinancing assistance that will help keep families from losing their homes and protect neighboring home values.

Through vital legislation such as this, and providing key resources and tools to my constituents, I will continue to fight and save homes and promote fair and informative mortgage policies in Houston as well as across this nation.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. McDERMOTT). All time for general debate has expired.

Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PASTOR of Arizona) having assumed the chair, Mr. McDERMOTT, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1728) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to reform consumer mortgage practices and provide accountability for such practices, to provide certain minimum standards for consumer mortgage loans, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 391) recognizing May as "National Foster Care Month"

and acknowledging that the House of Representatives should continue to work to improve the Nation's foster care system.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 391

Whereas on average, the Nation's foster care system provides for more than a half a million children each day who are unable to live safely with their biological parents;

Whereas National Foster Care Month provides an opportunity to recognize the important role that foster care parents, workers, and advocates have in the lives of children in the foster care system throughout the United States;

Whereas the primary goal of the foster care system is to ensure the safety and well-being of children, while working to provide such children with a permanent, safe, and loving home;

Whereas foster parents give children the opportunity to live with families and make lasting attachments instead of living in institutions, where they face a reduced chance for permanency;

Whereas States, localities, and communities should be encouraged to invest available resources on reunification services and post-permanency supports designed to allow more children in the foster care system to safely return to their biological parents, or find permanent placements through adoption or guardianship;

Whereas children of color are more likely to stay in the foster care system for longer periods of time and are less likely to be reunited with their biological families;

Whereas 293,000 children entered the foster care system during fiscal year 2007;

Whereas in fiscal year 2007, there was an average of 131,000 children in the foster care system each day who were waiting to be adopted;

Whereas while a majority of children in the foster care system have the goal of being reunited with their biological parents, more than 23 percent of children who were in the foster care system on the last day of fiscal year 2007 were seeking placement through the adoption process;

Whereas the overall reduction in the number of children in the foster care system in the last decade does not reflect a decline in the level of Federal assistance necessary to assist those living in foster care and the dedicated men and women in the child welfare workforce;

Whereas the number of children "aging out" of the foster care system without finding a permanent family increased to an all-time high of nearly 28,000 in fiscal year 2007;

Whereas children "aging out" of the foster care system lack the security of a biological or adoptive family to fall back on when struggling to secure affordable housing, obtain health insurance, pursue higher education, and acquire adequate employment;

Whereas the foster care system is intended to be a temporary solution, however, on average, children remain in the system for at least 2 years;

Whereas studies suggest that nearly 60 percent of children in the foster care system experience a chronic medical condition and 25 percent suffer from 3 or more chronic medical conditions;

Whereas while in the foster care system, children experience an average of 3 different placements, moves that often mean disrupting routines, changing schools, and moving away from brothers and sisters, extended family, and familiar surroundings;

Whereas the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-351) provided new investments and services to improve the outcomes of children and families in the foster care system; and

Whereas all children deserve a loving and stable family, regardless of age or special needs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the designation of a "National Foster Care Month";

(2) acknowledges the needs of children in the foster care system;

(3) honors the commitment and dedication of those individuals who work tirelessly to provide assistance and services to children in the foster care system; and

(4) recognizes the need to continue work to improve outcomes of all children in the foster care system through the title IV program in the Social Security Act and other programs that are designed to help children in the foster care system reunite with their biological parents and, when children are unable to return to their biological parents, to find them a permanent, safe, and loving home.

The Speaker Pro Tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) each will control 20 minutes. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which 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 gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

The month of May marks National Foster Care Month, which provides Congress with an opportunity to recognize the contributions of the unsung heroes who commit their lives to children in foster care, including foster parents who unselfishly open their homes to our most vulnerable children. On any given day, half a million children seek safety, comfort and assistance through our Nation's foster care system. Roughly 130,000 of those children in foster care are unable to return safely to their parents and are now waiting for an adoptive home.

Sadly, in 2007, a record 28,000 of those children "aged out" of the foster care system at the age of 18 without finding a permanent home to call their own.

As the de facto parents or the real-life parents of the Nation's foster children, we, the Congress, have a responsibility to ensure that they have the same opportunity to succeed that our children and our grandchildren have.

Congress recently passed landmark bipartisan legislation which represented the most significant reform in the child welfare system in more than a decade. The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act