

to reducing crime all across this country and to supporting the victims of crimes.

I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) for introducing this resolution, I urge my colleague to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to join my colleague, Mr. TOWNS, in supporting House Concurrent Resolution 227.

More than 6 million people were victims of crimes in 2008; and more than 1 million violent crimes were committed in 2008. Violent crimes are especially frequent in cities and among gangs. Neighborhood crime harms persons and families and it degrades communities.

Studies show that crime can be reduced and communities saved if leaders in the communities are taught crime prevention techniques and become active in crime prevention programs. Crime prevention programs also help reduce domestic violence and aid victims and their families in recovery.

National Urban Crime Awareness Week promotes the work of organizations and individuals throughout the country who combat urban crime and treat victims. Law enforcement, victim advocates, health professionals, school teachers, and many others should be recognized and applauded for their work in helping victims and bringing criminals to justice.

Throughout my work on the Victims Rights Caucus, I have had the pleasure of working with some amazing people who advocate for victims of crime every day. They deserve to be commended for their work—such as the National Center for Victims of Crime, the Stalking Resource Center—which celebrates its 10-year anniversary this year—the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, the End Abuse and the National Network to End Domestic Violence—to name just a few. But there are hundreds more across the country, all of these groups working together on behalf of victims of crime.

□ 1545

I support the goals and ideals of National Urban Crime Awareness Week. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the Chair of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee and sponsor of this resolution, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS).

Mr. TOWNS. I thank Chairman SCOTT, Ranking Member POE, the full committee Chair, and the ranking member as well for moving this legislation forward.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 227, as amended, a concurrent resolution that designates the second week of February as National Urban Crime Awareness Week. This occasion pro-

vides an opportunity to shed light on the volatile issues affecting people within urban communities.

In September 2009, 133 metropolitan areas reported jobless rates above the national average. As a result of the economic downturn, many of our Nation's urban communities are experiencing a substantial growth in crime, which has been directly linked to increased unemployment rates. In other words, there is a definite correlation between unemployment and crime.

Madam Speaker, in 2008, there were an estimated 1,382,000 violent crimes that occurred nationwide. In New York, approximately 48,430 violent crimes took place, compared to 28,941 reported cases in non-New York City counties.

Over 60 percent of the Nation's youth have been exposed to violence in the past year. This exposure adversely affects their physical and mental health and long-term functioning into adulthood, and can force youth into gangs where they are more likely to perpetuate additional acts of violence.

This resolution seeks to properly acknowledge the men, women, and children who have been victims of violence in urban communities. It will also commend the tireless efforts of survivors, volunteers, and professionals who work to prevent urban violence, and will recognize them as well as law enforcement and health professionals for their hard work and innovative preventative strategies.

National Urban Crime Awareness Week is a time for us to advocate for people affected by urban violence. I urge all of my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me in support of this awareness campaign.

Again, I want to thank the ranking member of the committee, Mr. POE, and also thank the Chair of the committee, Mr. SCOTT, for their assistance in moving this legislation forward. I think it is so important that we do everything that we can to recognize and let people become aware of how important it is to come together to fight crime. I think it is just so important to deal with our young people at an early age and let them know that we are concerned about crime, and that we recognize that there is a correlation between unemployment and crime and we have to create jobs and should be working on that. I am hoping that we can pull together as a body here and work on creating jobs.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 227, brought forth by my esteemed colleague, Representative EDOLPHUS TOWNS, New York, which articulates support for the ultimate goal that the National Urban Crimes Awareness Week stands to convey. This message is not for a specific neighborhood, race or ethnicity, but is for all nationalities and communities. Through reaching out to various organizations, businesses, colleges and universities, crime awareness will spread through like "wild fire."

This resolution states that Congress realizes the importance of National Crime Awareness

Week and acknowledges and welcomes the opportunity to educate the public about urban violence and take steps to prevent violence and provide support to victims.

I cannot stress enough the significance of Congress supporting the concept of the resolution; not only for actual crime prevention, but also for the victims of crime. By joining in a consensus, we are informing Americans that we empathize and sympathize with their issues, concerns and safety. We are also declaring that we support both in theory and implementation any approach necessary to increase support for victims, increase successful and fair prosecutions and applaud the courage of individuals who pick up the shattered pieces of their lives and triumph in the midst of adversity! This resolution also acknowledges more comprehensive rehabilitation programs for offenders.

This is especially important in my city, Houston, TX, where the population is the fourth largest in the United States. It is imperative to spread crime awareness, not only in this month, but every day, to maintain order and a safe living environment for all.

So in conclusion, I immensely support H. Con. Res. 227 and I encourage my colleagues to follow my lead.

Mr. POE of Texas. We have no other speakers. I strongly support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for introducing the resolution and urge my colleagues to support it.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 227, as amended.

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. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam 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 NUTRITION MONTH

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 274) expressing support for designation of March as National Nutrition Month.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 274

Whereas according to the American Dietetic Association good nutrition is vital to a healthy and long life;

Whereas according to the American Dietetic Association the National Nutrition

Month campaign focuses attention on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits;

Whereas the first Nutrition Campaign was launched with a presidential proclamation in 1973 as National Nutrition Week;

Whereas National Nutrition Week became National Nutrition Month in 1980;

Whereas poor nutrition and sedentary lifestyles are linked to obesity and health problems;

Whereas 17 percent of children between the ages of 6 and 11 are overweight;

Whereas 17.6 percent of adolescents between the ages of 12 and 19 are overweight;

Whereas 33.3 percent of adult men are obese and 35.3 percent of adult women are obese in the United States;

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control, since 1980 obesity rates for adults have doubled and rates for children have tripled;

Whereas dietary factors are associated with 4 of the 10 leading causes of death, including heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes;

Whereas these health conditions are estimated to cost the United States over \$600,000,000,000 each year in medical expenses and lost productivity;

Whereas access to proper nutrition helps fight off illness and disease and is vital to children's cognitive development;

Whereas poor nutrition, inactivity, and weight problems in school age children may cause low academic performance or behavioral problems resulting in additional costs; and

Whereas March would be an appropriate month to designate as National Nutrition Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the designation of National Nutrition Month;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Nutrition Month;

(3) encourages local communities to raise awareness surrounding nutritional health;

(4) encourages awareness about diseases and death caused by lack of nutrition; and

(5) recognizes and salutes health care professionals such as registered dietitians, that spread the knowledge and importance of nutrition each day.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to rule, the gentlelady from Florida (Ms. CASTOR) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlelady from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material therein.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We are going to continue to work for a healthier America, and this year marks the 30th year that March is celebrated as National Nutrition Month. The National Nutrition Month campaign focuses attention on the importance of making informed food choices,

developing sound eating habits, and promoting exercise in our daily lives.

The first nutrition campaign was launched in 1973, with the Presidential proclamation as National Nutrition Week, and became National Nutrition Month in 1980. I am especially proud to support National Nutrition Month, as First Lady Michelle Obama has just recently launched the Let's Move campaign to target childhood obesity.

This initiative has four components: One, making healthy choices; two, putting healthy foods in schools; three, increasing access and affordability of healthy foods; and, four, increasing physical education.

Good nutrition and healthy eating habits play a fundamental role in the overall health of both children and adults. The Children's Health Care Caucus, which I am proud to co-Chair with my Republican colleague Congressman DAVE REICHERT of Washington, is helping to raise awareness regarding good nutrition and healthy eating habits and how they improve the lives of all Americans. Poor nutrition and sedentary lifestyles are linked to obesity and countless health problems.

Today, one-third of adults in the United States are obese. Can you believe that? And childhood obesity rates have tripled since 1980. In my home State of Florida, one-third of children in our State are overweight or obese, and that is a statistic that replays itself in every State across America.

In my Tampa Bay area community, in Hillsborough County, more than 80 percent of children are not getting the recommended daily serving of fruits and vegetables. So we have a lot of work to do.

Dietary factors are associated with four of the 10 leading causes of death in the United States, including heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes. These health conditions are estimated to cost the United States over \$6 billion annually in medical expenses and lost productivity. We can do better.

Parents, you must focus on healthy choices for your children. You must become good role models for your kids.

For children, poor nutrition, inactivity, and weight issues can often lead to low academic performance or behavioral problems resulting in additional costs. Proper nutrition helps to fight illnesses, and it is vital to our children's cognitive development.

House Resolution 274 designates March as National Nutrition Month and encourages communities all across America to increase awareness about nutritional health.

Additionally, this resolution recognizes the hard work of registered dietitians and health care professionals that help to educate communities about good nutrition.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

On behalf of the ranking member and the Energy and Commerce Committee,

I rise in support of H. Res. 274, supporting the designation of March as National Nutrition Month.

Over the last 20 years, obesity rates have been steadily increasing in the United States. According to the CDC, in 2008, 32 States had a prevalence of obesity equal to or greater than 25 percent. Six of these States—Alabama, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, and West Virginia—had a prevalence of obesity equal or greater than 30 percent. I am glad that my home State of Nebraska is not on this, but we have been shoveling enough snow that our children are getting some exercise.

Obesity rates among children and adolescents are especially staggering and have led to increasing health problems such as diabetes and heart disease among this population. Poor nutrition habits and sedentary lifestyle both have been linked with many of the obesity and health problems that afflict Americans today. Many dietary factors have led to conditions such as heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes. But through proper nutrition, regular exercise, and controlling weight problems, these threats to our health are far less likely to occur.

It is important for Americans to recognize the significance of monitoring their own eating habits and that of their family. Proper nutrition, exercise, and healthy living could help lead to lower obesity rates, fewer medical expenses, and increased productivity.

I stand in support of this resolution and hope that my colleagues will join me.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to a champion for children from the Education and Labor Committee and the State of California, Congresswoman WOOLSEY.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I thank Madam CASTOR for her good leadership.

It is our job as adults to help children make the right decisions about everything, particularly about eating healthy and nutritious foods, because what they eat has a powerful impact on how they learn, how they grow, and how they thrive.

Children who have nutritious meals at home and in schools are more likely to get the most out of their education and to stay on a path toward a healthy lifestyle. We here in this Congress, we as adults, we as parents and grandparents have a responsibility to support good nutrition for all children, for teenagers, for adults, which is why I am proud to rise today as a cosponsor of H. Res. 274, which expresses strong support for designating March as National Nutrition Month.

Today, 23 million children and adolescents are obese or overweight. Obesity rates for children between 6 and 11 years old have more than quadrupled over the last 40 years. Throughout

their lives, these children are at a much greater risk for heart disease, type 2 diabetes, stroke, cancer, and social and psychological problems. Enabling children to make healthy choices is a smart down payment on supporting healthy future generations.

I commend the President, and I commend the First Lady and USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack for continuing to champion a strong investment in our children's nutrition programs and working with me to ensure that the only foods in schools will be healthy foods based on current nutrition science, and that only healthy foods are sold in the schools throughout the day.

Madam Speaker, it is time to update our nutrition standards for food sold in vending machines—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 1 minute.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Because those standards haven't changed for the last 30 years, standards for a la carte lines for school snacks and for outside vending machines.

□ 1600

All of this has to do with meeting obesity head on.

Recognizing the month of March as National Nutrition Month will shine a light on the problems of obesity and poor nutrition in this country. So I thank my colleague, Congresswoman CASTOR, for introducing this important resolution, and I urge my colleagues to join me in passing it today.

Mr. TERRY. I continue to reserve.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, at this time, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to one of the experts on nutrition in the Congress, Congresswoman DAHLKEMPER from Pennsylvania.

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 274, supporting March as National Nutrition Month.

Madam Speaker, for over 25 years I served as a clinical dietitian helping hospitals, schools, and other organizations prepare healthy menus and emphasizing good nutrition, good diet and long-term wellness.

National Nutrition Month is an important tool for health and wellness advocates across the country. Every year, we as dietitians and those in the health care field use this designation to promote nutritious diets and to educate people about healthy eating habits. Proper nutrition and healthy eating are essential to improving our Nation's long-term health and to lowering the rate of chronic diseases such as heart disease, diabetes and cancer.

Madam Speaker, I call upon my colleagues to support House Resolution 274 to help make healthy living a national priority.

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my col-

league, Congressman TERRY from the Energy and Commerce Committee, and urge my colleagues to support this House resolution designating March as National Nutrition Month.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I stand before you today in support of H. Res. 274 "Expressing support for designation of March as National Nutrition Month."

I would like to begin by thanking my colleague Representative KATHY CASTOR for introducing this resolution in the House of Representatives, as it is important that we acknowledge and recognize the importance of good nutrition toward maintaining a healthy and productive nation.

Furthermore, it is important that we continue to educate and encourage our local communities to raise their awareness of nutritional health and encourage an expanded knowledge within the community regarding the benefits of proper nutrition. By improving nutrition standards within our communities we can help support people in their efforts toward living a long, healthy and productive life.

Unfortunately, obesity and poor nutrition among citizens is especially prevalent in my home city of Houston, Texas. For years Houston has been consistently rated as the "fattest city in America." Currently, 58 percent of adults and 39 percent of children are classified as overweight or obese in the Greater Houston community. This resolution would also seek to help the people of my district in Houston by raising the awareness of nutritional health issues.

It is estimated that since 1980, obesity rates for adults have doubled and obesity rates for children have nearly tripled due to poor nutrition and sedentary lifestyles in the United States. Furthermore, four of the top ten causes of death including heart disease, cancer, stroke and diabetes have been attributed to factors surrounding a person's nutrition and diet. These four health conditions are estimated to cost the United States over \$600 billion each year in medical expenses and lost productivity.

These are several of the major factors highlighting the importance of good nutrition in our nation. It also shows the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits. In conjunction with good nutrition, it is also important that citizens take on healthy physical activity on a regular basis to maintain good health.

These health and nutrition factors take an even greater level of importance when we discuss the effects of nutrition on our nation's children. Poor nutrition and lack of exercise in school-age children has been shown to cause a decrease in academic performance in addition to behavioral problems. In younger children, poor nutrition can manifest itself in more severe ways. Lack of proper nutrition also makes young children more prone to illness and disease and inhibits children's cognitive development.

Furthermore it is important that we recognize the gaps in school lunch programs at public schools. The National School Lunch Program was designed to provide low cost or free school lunch meals to qualified students through subsidies given to schools. In many school districts however, this poses a problem as children are only in school around 180 days out of the year. How is this federally

mandated program supposed to adequately provide for and supplement children's diets when it is only available to them for half of the year?

It is vitally important that we work together as a nation to improve nutrition standards across the board; particularly for children and the elderly. It is appalling to me that children still go hungry in this great nation and it is our duty to ensure that all children receive proper nutrition in addition to great physical education in schools.

Officially establishing the month of March as "National Nutrition Month" would seek to improve the lives of our citizens as well as increase our citizen's awareness of the importance of good nutrition in living a healthy and productive life. Furthermore, by providing education and instruction to adults and children alike, we can help to ensure that the United States continues to serve as a model of balanced nutrition to the world.

I ask my colleagues for their support of this legislation as well as their support for the improving nutrition across our country. I strongly urge you to support this resolution.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 274.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF AFRICAN AMERICANS TO THE TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1085) honoring and celebrating the contributions of African-Americans to the transportation and infrastructure of the United States.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1085

Whereas African-Americans have played an instrumental role in developing and improving the transportation and infrastructure of the United States through leadership, design, and innovation;

Whereas the contributions of African-Americans have had significant and far-reaching impacts on modern transportation systems, including airways, highways, and railways, and have led to momentous improvements to transportation safety and security;

Whereas, in aviation, for example, Elizabeth "Bessie" Coleman, a daring stunt pilot known as "Queen Bess", was the first African-American woman to become a licensed airplane pilot in 1921 and the first United States citizen of any race or gender to hold an international aviation license from the Federation Aeronautique Internationale;