

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE VIOLENCE PREVENTION TRAINING FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS ACT

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 2, 1999

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Violence Prevention Training for Early Childhood Educators Act.

Students, parents, I rise to introduce the Violence Prevention Training for Early Childhood Educators Act.

Students, parents, teachers and members of communities across our country have been grappling with the issue of school violence. There is no magic solution to this difficult matter, there is no single cause that can be addressed to guarantee our schools will be violence-free. However, I believe that to effectively address this issue we must ensure that those who are entering careers in early childhood development and education are properly trained in violence prevention.

The legislation that my colleagues and I are introducing today will authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants ranging from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 to institutions of higher learning and other facilities in order to assist them in making violence prevention training available to prospective teachers and those returning for additional professional development. Moreover, the bill will ensure that teachers, school counselors and child care providers are provided with the skills necessary to prevent violent behavior in young children at the very earliest stages. In 1992, Congress enacted legislation which funded similar training programs at Eastern Connecticut State University, University of Colorado at Denver, University of Kansas, University of Minnesota, University of North Carolina, Temple University and a dozen other colleges and universities.

There is evidence that strongly suggests that early intervention and education is effective in preventing delinquency. For example, one study has indicated that when preschool teachers instruct young children about interpersonal problem-solving skills and other forms of conflict resolution, children are less likely to demonstrate problematic behavior, which is effective in preventing delinquency later on. In addition, there is further evidence that indicates that support programs for families with very young children—those under the age of five—are effective in preventing delinquency.

Teachers are on the frontline every day. They need to be prepared to discuss with the children and the entire family how to resolve issues without resorting to violence. I believe we must reinvest in this proven, worthwhile program in order to ensure that our teachers, daycare providers and school counselors have

the training they need to combat violence in school and society at large.

I am pleased to be joined in this effort by Mr. KUCINICH of Ohio, Mr. HILLIARD of Alabama, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. CHRISTENSEN of Virginia Islands, Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut, Mr. WU of Oregon, Mr. ETHERIDGE of North Carolina, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD of California, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. MCGOVERN of Massachusetts.

HONORING DINO PETRUCCI

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 2, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dino Petrucci for receiving the Senior Farmer of the Year Award. Dino Petrucci's efforts to educate and inspire young people toward agriculture render him deserving of this award.

Dino was born on a farm in Madera and still lives on the property his family cultivated while he was growing up. He attended Howard Elementary School, graduated from Madera High School in 1947, and earned a college degree in Crop Science from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

During his four years at Madera High, Dino was actively involved in student government and the Future Farmers of America. He was elected Student Body Vice President and Senior Class Speaker. He also served as Chapter President in 1947, and won the FAA State Speaking contest.

Petrucci went on to hold numerous leadership positions in various organizations as a young adult. He was elected the State FFA President and was a National Public Speaker at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City. In addition, he served as President of the Crop Science Department at Cal Poly.

Mr. Petrucci was successful in his undertakings on behalf of these organizations and in his academic endeavors. He earned the coveted American Farmer Degree and co-authored a book that was used in school agriculture departments across the state.

After college, Dino began his teaching career in the Ag Department in Victorville. Two years later, he returned to Madera and embarked upon a 29-year career with the Madera High Ag Department. During this time, Dino was actively farming a variety of crops with his brother, Enzo. Dino and wife Peggy were also raising a family of two children and supporting them on their 4-H and FFA projects.

Many of his former students attest that Mr. Petrucci was a committed teacher, giving more hours than were required of him. For fifteen years, he advised the California Young Farmers and was instrumental in the Madera

Chapter receiving recognition as "Outstanding Chapter" for many of those years. He also served as State President of the California Ag Teachers Association, and found time to serve as Chairman of the Livestock Department at the Madera District Fair.

While balancing a family and career Dino has made time for community involvement by serving as President of the Lion's Club, President of Madera Toastmasters, and President of Madera County Farm Bureau. He was also elected last year to serve as a Trustee on the Madera Unified School District Board. In addition, Mr. Petrucci began the MUST Center and served as its Director for two years. This program was designed to teach vocational skills to the underprivileged to order to afford them better job opportunities. Currently, Petrucci is actively involved at Howard Elementary School where he attended as a boy, his children attended, and his grandchildren now attend.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dino Petrucci for his outstanding accomplishments and service to his community. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Dino many more years of continued success and happiness.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 2, 1999

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following statement into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

On rollcall vote No. 344 on July 29, 1999 I mistakenly voted "yea." I would like the RECORD to reflect the fact that I oppose the amendment and should have voted "nay". The amendment would prohibit the District of Columbia from spending its own funds on a needle exchange program that has saved hundreds of residents from death and disease caused by the HIV-AIDS epidemic. I support such proven programs and oppose efforts by Congress to intrude into the affairs of the District of Columbia in such a misinformed and heavy-handed fashion.

TRIBUTE TO CORMAC HENNESSY

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday August 2, 1999

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the commitment and selfless dedication one young man, Cormac Hennessy has made to myself, my staff and the people of the Third District of New York. Cormac began interning in my office in the Summer of 1998 and since

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