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, 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, 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 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, 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 he 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 Senator Class Speaker. He also served as Chapter President of FFA 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 rollover 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
that time he has exhibited all the qualities: intel- 
et, wit and a certain style that make him truly the son of a Diplomat's Diplomat. In fact, Cormac was an inspiration to those who loved the game of golf, for there was never too dull an assignment or too onerous a task that Cormac did not shirk for the sake of eight- 
een holes. I am confident that in the care of two truly wonderful people, Pat and Pauline, Hennessy, Cormac will amount to something more than the self-proclaimed title of “King of all Interns.” Indeed I am certain that his unsur-
passed sarcasm, his indecipherable “South-
ern” dialect and his unique charm will cause 
him to rise to the highest levels of leadership 
and success. I wish him all the best in his fu-
ture endeavors and I thank him for all that he 
has done and meant to me.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ASA HUTCHINSON
OF ARKANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, August 2, 1999

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, 
July 30, 1999, I was inadvertently detained 
and did not vote on rolloff No. 354 or 355. 
Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” 
on both.

HONORING JAN DUKE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, August 2, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today 
to honor Jan Duke for receiving the presti-
gious Milken Educator Award. Duke teaches 
fourth grade at John Adam’s Elementary 
School in the Madera Unified School Dis-
trict.

Jan Duke was one of four teachers in Cali-
ifornia to receive this honor, and one of 160 
to be honored nationwide. She is the first from 
Madera Unified School District to be given this 
award.

Beyond her role as an exemplary teacher, 
Jan is a skilled writer and presenter. Duke has 
written two books on teaching fourth-graders 
and co-authored, with her husband, a book on 
teaching individuals to read. She also advises 
national scholastic book clubs on what lit-
erature would be best for children. In addition, 
she conducts 5 to 20 seminars annually for 
fourth-grade teachers nationwide.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jan Duke 
for her achievements and service to the com-
munity. I urge my colleagues to join me in 
wishing Jan many more years of continued 
success and happiness.

CONCERN FOR RESIDENTS OF 
VIEQUES, PUERTO RICO

HON. DAN BURTON
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, August 2, 1999

Mr. BURTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to 
bring to the forefront a very important issue 
that has not been given the attention it de-
serves by this Congress. More than 9,000 
American citizens, living on the island of 
Vieques, live in fear. But, it isn’t a fear of drug 
trafficking. It isn’t a fear of violent gang or ter-
rorism either. Our fellow citizens live in fear of 
our own military, and I would like to explain 
why.

For more than 50 years, the residents of 
Vieques, Puerto Rico, an island encompassing 
fewer than 52 square miles of which the Navy 
occupies 35 square miles, have had to endure 
life military ammunition and bombing exer-
cises. Vieques is the largest area in the West-
ern hemisphere used for military exercises 
with live ammunition, and the only place 
where bombing still occurs near a substantial 
civilian population. For years, the residents of 
Vieques have expressed their concerns about 
the negative impact that the bombing and live 
ammunition exercises are having on their health and safety. Unfortunately, their voices 
have not been heard and that concerns me.

On April 19, 1999, the people of Vieques 
raised their voices once again, this time in de-
spair. It was on that date, during routine mili-
tary practices conducted by two Navy FA–18 
Hornet jets, that two bombs were accidentally 
dropped near an observation post manned by 
civilian security guards. As a result, a security 
guard was killed and four others were wound-
ed. I believe that if the citizens of Puerto Rico 
had equal representation in Congress, legis-
lative concerns for their safety and health 
would have been better safeguarded.

Since that accident, the Navy has tempo-
rarily ceased military maneuvers while an 
investigation is carried out, and Puerto Rico’s 
Governor, the Honorable Pedro Rossello, ap-
pointed a Commission that investigated the in-
cident and reported its findings to the Presi-
dent’s Special Panel on Military Operations on 
Vieques. On July 9, 1999, the Governor’s Commission unanimously concluded that it is 
not possible to protect the people of Vieques, 
or the environment, from the extreme danger 
posed by live ammunition testing. The Navy 
argues that Vieques is a unique site for train-
ing exercises which are essential to our Na-
tional security. I’ve always worked to protect our National security, how-
ever, it should never be achieved at the ex-
 pense of the personal rights or safety of our 
own citizens. The only solution may be to end 
permanently the military’s live ammunition 
testing on Vieques.

No one in this House would tolerate what 
the military is doing on Vieques if it were tak-
ing place in our Congressional district, and 
neither would our constituents. Imagine trying 
to explain to the voters why they should wel-
come the bombardment of their communities 
with live ammunition. Try convincing your con-
stituents to accept, and in return thank you, for 
having uranium-coated bombs dropped within 
a few miles of their homes, schools, hospitals, 
and public parks. Imagine asking your con-
stituents to accept having their children attend 
classrooms which reverberate during the 
school day as live shells explode nearby. No 
one in this chamber would permit the continu-
anation of a practice by our own military that 
en-dangers the lives of so many very people we 
have been elected to represent.

There’s a reality about Puerto Rico, one that 
is wonderful and abhorrent at the same time.

The people of Puerto Rico are truly American 
citizens, part of America’s great democracy, 
and that is wonderful. However, the people of 
Puerto Rico currently lack the single most im-
portant tool that our democracy provides, two 
Senators and a voting delegation in the House of 
Representatives, and that is abhorrent. It is 
precisely because the people of Puerto Rico 
don’t have equal representation in Congress 
that they need our help now. If they had real 
representation here, the military would have 
the proper incentive to solve the problem of 
live ammunition testing on Vieques. I trust that 
my colleagues in the House of Representa-
tives would agree with me. If this practice 
were occurring in any one of the fifty States, 
I know we would all stand together to oppose it. 
We owe our fellow American citizens in 
Puerto Rico the same level of respect. They 
are no less. Their safety and their lives may depend on it.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my col-
leagues to take a hard look at this issue.

CELEBRATING THE CITY OF 
LOMITA

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, August 2, 1999

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today 
to recognize the City of Lomita, California. 
Lomita is celebrating its 35th year as an incor-
porated city. The City of Lomita is widely rec-
ognized for its rustic, small-town atmosphere 
amongst the larger cities of the South Bay.

Lomita was first established as a German 
farming community in 1807. The farming com-
munity continued to grow throughout the years, and in June of 1964, after several un-
succesful attempts, Lomita was finally incor-
porated as a city.

While surrounding communities have experi-
enced tremendous growth, Lomita has re-
mained relatively unchanged since incorpora-
tion. Lomita’s small town attributes attract 
young families in search of a safe, close knit 
community. Lomita is a culturally diverse 
community and it also boasts one of the lowest 
crime rates in the South Bay region. It is an 
ideal place to raise a family and live the Amer-
ican Dream, and many of its residents are 
homeowners and small business entre-
preneurs.

The future looks bright for the city of Lomita. 
Preparations are currently underway for an 
ambitious revitalization of Lomita’s downtown 
area to ensure that Lomita maintains its small-
town atmosphere.

Lomita has thrived over the last 35 years, 
and as we enter the 21st century, Lomita will 
continue to stand out as a small, unique town 
of the South Bay. I congratulate the City of 
Lomita and its 20,000 residents on this mile-
stone.