

more young people, I would suggest that a hearing on the Congressional Award program would be appropriate. The future growth of this program requires that Congress examine its development over the last 20 years as well as its future. I hope my good friend and colleague Chairman GOODLING will give full consideration to this request.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Congressional Award Program. This program has an Olympian quality because it encourages young people to stretch to their limits. The difference is that they set the high goals themselves. The experience is that the self-initiated goals are set so high that only 400 of the 1,000 students who start the program complete it.

Too often, we allow the impressive accomplishments of our youth to go unrecognized and unappreciated. We must encourage our young women and young men to strive to do their best in activities which develop themselves or their communities. The Congressional Award Program does just that by challenging students to set high goals for themselves in either personal development, physical fitness, or public service and provides them with recognition when they reach these goals. Last year I was proud to present seven awards representing a total of at least 400 hours of work to D.C. high school students, and this year, I believe that I will be able to award many more. I would like to recognize the 1998 recipients of the Congressional Award:

Leidi Reyes of Bell Multicultural High School, Silver medal; Jehan Carter—Banneker Senior High School, Bronze medal; Christin Chism—Bishop McNamara High School, Bronze medal; Brian Ford—Eastern Senior High School, Bronze medal; Miya Jackson—Eastern Senior High School, Bronze medal; Christiana Hodge—Eastern High School, Bronze medal; and Kate Ottenberg—Maret High School, Bronze medal.

These young people's families and community are rightly proud of them. They are members of an elite group of only 400 young people across the country who completed the program. I ask my colleagues to support them by supporting the re-authorization of the Congressional Award Program through 2004.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to support this bill (S. 380) that will re-authorize the Congressional Award Act. The re-authorization of this Act is significant because the program that is supported by this bill is one way in which the Congress provides an opportunity for the youths of the United States to better their own lives.

The Congressional Award has existed since 1979 as a way to encourage and reward American youth who undertake community service to benefit their community and themselves. It teaches our young people about such American values as citizenship, civic responsibility, and the importance of setting and achieving personal goals. Several thousand youths have participated in this program since its inception and have received recognition for their efforts.

Congressional awards come in different forms: certificates, which are "introductory" level awards; and medals, which are more difficult to achieve. Certificates and medals come

in the form of gold, silver and bronze awards. Each award is earned through the accumulation of hours of community service. When an award is earned, those hours can be applied toward the achievement of the next award. The gold medal, which is the highest level of the awards, is extremely prestigious and very difficult to earn, because it requires a minimum of 800 hours of service accumulated over a period of at least 24 months.

I am one of the Members of Congress currently serving on the Board of Directors of the Congressional Award Foundation and I am honored to serve in this position. I have the privilege of working alongside Congresswoman BARBARA CUBIN in this capacity.

In addition to serving on the Board of Directors of the Foundation, I am equally proud that the congressional award will soon be established in Puerto Rico. We hope to publicize the award in schools on the island and I am confident that there will be large numbers of school children who will take up the challenge to earn their own congressional medals.

I would like to encourage other members to publicize the award and ask the young people in their districts to participate in the Congressional Award process. This is an excellent way to motivate young people to make positive contributions in their local communities and to develop important leadership skills for the future. I believe it is the duty for all of us serving in this body to make the Congressional Award more readily available to every young person in our communities. The first step in this process is through the passage and enactment of this Congressional Award reauthorization bill.

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

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 380.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof), the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 380, the Senate bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

MULTIDISTRICT, MULTIPARTY, MULTIFORUM TRIAL JURISDICTION ACT OF 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 2112) to amend title 28, United States Code, to allow a judge to whom a case is transferred to retain jurisdiction over certain multidistrict litigation cases for trial, and to provide for Federal jurisdiction of certain multiparty, multiforum civil actions, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2112

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Multidistrict, Multiparty, Multiforum Trial Jurisdiction Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION.

Section 1407 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the third sentence of subsection (a), by inserting "or ordered transferred to the transferee or other district under subsection (i)" after "terminated"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(i)(1) Subject to paragraph (2) and except as provided in subsection (j), any action transferred under this section by the panel may be transferred for trial purposes, by the judge or judges of the transferee district to whom the action was assigned, to the transferee or other district in the interest of justice and for the convenience of the parties and witnesses.

"(2) Any action transferred for trial purposes under paragraph (1) shall be remanded by the panel for the determination of compensatory damages to the district court from which it was transferred, unless the court to which the action has been transferred for trial purposes also finds, for the convenience of the parties and witnesses and in the interests of justice, that the action should be retained for the determination of compensatory damages."

SEC. 3. MULTIPARTY, MULTIFORUM JURISDICTION OF DISTRICT COURTS.

(a) BASIS OF JURISDICTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 85 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"§ 1369. Multiparty, multiforum jurisdiction

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The district courts shall have original jurisdiction of any civil action involving minimal diversity between adverse parties that arises from a single accident, where at least 25 natural persons have either died or incurred injury in the accident at a discrete location and, in the case of injury, the injury has resulted in damages which exceed \$75,000 per person, exclusive of interest and costs, if—

"(1) a defendant resides in a State and a substantial part of the accident took place in another State or other location, regardless of whether that defendant is also a resident of the State where a substantial part of the accident took place;

"(2) any two defendants reside in different States, regardless of whether such defendants are also residents of the same State or States; or

"(3) substantial parts of the accident took place in different States.

"(b) SPECIAL RULES AND DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

"(1) minimal diversity exists between adverse parties if any party is a citizen of a State and any adverse party is a citizen of another State, a citizen or subject of a foreign state, or a foreign state as defined in section 1603(a) of this title;