

people. Many American high school students are unable to balance a checkbook. They really have very little training in the basics of financial life—how to earn, spend, save and invest.

Without teaching our students these skills, we force young people to learn these lessons by trial and error—and by the costly mistakes that result.

In an era where young people have the highest access to credit cards in American history, yet no training in how to responsibly manage this opportunity, can we be surprised that debt and bankruptcy are on the rise?

A nationwide survey conducted in 1997 by the JumpStart Coalition for Financial Literacy, tested 1,509 12th graders on four knowledge areas: income, money management, savings and investment, and spending. Only 5 percent of the respondents received a "C" grade or higher.

Madam Speaker, these rates are abysmal. We can and must do better.

I commend the sponsors of this legislation and urge my colleagues to support it.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGBERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 213.

The question was taken.

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 213.

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

There was no objection.

SENSE OF HOUSE THAT U.S. REMAINS COMMITTED TO NATO

Mr. GILMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 59) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States remains committed to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 59

Whereas for 50 years the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (hereafter in this preamble referred to as "NATO") has served as the preeminent organization to defend the

territories of its member states against all external threats;

Whereas NATO, founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty, and the rule of law, has proved an indispensable instrument for forging a trans-Atlantic community of nations working together to safeguard the freedom and common heritage of its peoples, and promoting stability in the North Atlantic area;

Whereas NATO has acted to address new risks emerging from outside the treaty area in the interests of preserving peace and security in the Euro-Atlantic area, and maintains a unique collective capability to address these new challenges which may affect Allied interests and values;

Whereas such challenges to NATO Allied interests and values include the potential for the re-emergence of a hegemonic power confronting Europe; rogue states and non-state actors possessing nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons and their means of delivery; transnational terrorism and disruption of the flow of vital resources; and conflicts outside the treaty area stemming from unresolved historical disputes and the actions of undemocratic governments and sub-state actors who reject the peaceful settlement of disputes;

Whereas the security of NATO member states is inseparably linked to that of the whole of Europe, and the consolidation and strengthening of democratic and free societies on the entire continent, in accordance with the principles and commitments of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, is of direct and material concern to the NATO Alliance and its partners;

Whereas the 50th anniversary NATO summit meeting, held on April 24-25, 1999, in Washington, D.C., provided an historic opportunity to chart a course for NATO in the next millennium;

Whereas NATO enhances the security of the United States by providing an integrated military structure and a framework for consultations on political and security concerns of any member state;

Whereas NATO remains the embodiment of United States engagement in Europe and therefore membership in NATO remains a vital national security interest of the United States;

Whereas the European members of NATO are today developing within the Alliance a European Security and Defense Identity (ESDI) in order to enhance their role within the Alliance, while at the same time the European Union (EU) is seeking to forge among its members a Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP);

Whereas the Berlin decisions of 1996 provided the framework for strengthening the European pillar in NATO;

Whereas NATO should remain the core security organization of the evolving Euro-Atlantic architecture in which all states enjoy the same freedom, cooperation, and security;

Whereas NATO has embarked upon an historic mission to share its benefits and patterns of consultation and cooperation with other nations in the Euro-Atlantic area through both enlargement and active partnership;

Whereas the membership of the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland has strengthened NATO's ability to perform the full range of NATO missions and bolstered its capability to integrate former communist adversary nations into a community of democracies;

Whereas the organization of NATO national parliamentarians, the NATO Par-

liamentary Assembly, serves as a unique transatlantic forum for generating and maintaining legislative and public support for the Alliance, and has played a key role in initiating constructive dialogue between NATO parliamentarians and parliamentarians in Central and Eastern Europe; and

Whereas NATO Parliamentary Assembly activities, such as the Rose-Roth program to engage and educate Central and Eastern European parliamentarians, have played a pioneering role in familiarizing the new democracies with democratic institutions and a civil society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (hereafter in this resolution referred to as "NATO") is to be commended for its pivotal role in preserving trans-Atlantic peace and stability;

(2) the new NATO strategic concept, adopted by the Allies at the summit meeting held in Washington, D.C. in April of 1999, articulates a concrete vision for the Alliance in the 21st century, clearly setting out the continued importance of NATO for the citizens of the Allied nations, and establishing that defense of shared interests and values is as important for peace and stability as maintaining a vigorous capability to carry out collective defense;

(3) the Alliance, while maintaining collective defense as its core function, should, as a fundamental Alliance task, identify crisis management operations outside the NATO treaty area, based on case-by-case consensual Alliance decisions;

(4) the Alliance must recognize and act upon the threat posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism by intensifying consultations among political and military leaders, and deploying comprehensive capabilities to counter these threats to the international community at the earliest possible date;

(5) the Alliance should make clear commitments to remedy shortfalls in areas such as logistics, command, control, communications, intelligence, ground surveillance, readiness, deployability, mobility, sustainability, survivability, armaments cooperation, and effective engagement, including early progress in the NATO force structure review;

(6) the Alliance must ensure equitable sharing of contributions to the NATO common budgets and overall defense expenditure and capability-building;

(7) the Alliance should welcome efforts by members of the European Union (EU) to strengthen their military capabilities and enhance their role within the Alliance through the European Security and Defense Identity (ESDI);

(8) the key to a vibrant and more influential ESDI is the improvement of European military capabilities that will strengthen the Alliance;

(9) in order to preserve the solidarity and effectiveness that has been achieved within the Alliance over the last 50 years, it is essential that security arrangements elaborated under the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) complement, rather than duplicate NATO efforts and institutions, and be linked to, rather than decoupled from NATO structures, and provide for full and active involvement of all European Allies rather than discriminating against European Allies that are not members of the EU;

(10) the Alliance should remain prepared to extend invitations for accession negotiations