

should be the number one issue on our list.

A FOCUS ON CHILDREN

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is important that we focus on our children. I am delighted to congratulate the WIC program on its 25th anniversary, a program that has provided nourishment for women and children and infants, a program that has helped so many to be able to have the basic nourishment that allows them to go to schools and then be educated. Our children are our greatest asset.

Then I would like to note that this is Asthma Awareness Day and Month. I hope that we realize the importance of more research to help cure asthma. So many of our children and, yes, so many of our citizens are impacted by that.

Likewise, Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite and acknowledge that the Congressional Children's Caucus will be holding a hearing this afternoon at 2154 Rayburn on the crisis of school violence, how do we help our children. We want solutions and not accusations.

We hope to develop a mental health system for children, where children can be referred and helped and rehabilitated, because in fact they are our precious resource. We will be listening to children today, we will be listening to mental health experts on the crisis of school violence and how do we help our children. We hope the children will come and let us hear them today.

Mr. Speaker, today is a special day for several reasons. Today is the 25th Anniversary of the WIC Program and it is also Asthma Awareness Day. Also today, the Congressional Children's Caucus, which I am the chair, will have a hearing today on the psychology of school violence. I hope My Colleagues will join me for the hearing.

The WIC Program, or the Women, Infant and Children's Supplemental Nutrition Program, has been providing nutrition education and diet counseling since 1972. It is a federally funded program designed for low-income pregnant women, mothers and their children who face nutritional risk.

WIC helps mothers make infant feeding choices and provides breastfeeding support, children's growth checkups and referrals for other health services. WIC also gives mothers one-on-one instructions for making healthy meals for their families.

Families on WIC receive monthly supplies for food like milk, eggs, cereal and juice. This is an important program for mothers and children in need, and I am happy to salute them today on their 25th Anniversary.

Today is also Asthma Awareness Day. Asthma is a serious condition that causes difficulty in breathing and it affects children and adults. An estimated 4.8 million children under 18 have asthma and many more have undiagnosed asthma.

Asthma is the leading chronic illness in children and it is the leading cause of school absenteeism. Hospitalizations due to asthma are disproportionately high for inner-city children, particularly for children of color. Each year, 600 children die from asthma and 150,000 are hospitalized.

Today, there will be screenings for asthma and allergies and I urge everyone to get tested. As it is now allergy season, this is the time to find out how serious your allergies may be and also how to relieve your symptoms.

Finally, today there will be a hearing sponsored by the Congressional Children's Caucus on the issue of school violence. We have a panel of mental health experts who will discuss the need for mental health services in schools. We will also have a panel of students who will discuss their fears about violence in school. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the pending business is the question of agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. 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. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 359, nays 41, not voting 33, as follows:

[Roll No. 108]

YEAS—359

Abercrombie  
Ackerman  
Allen  
Andrews  
Archer  
Armey  
Bachus  
Baird  
Baker  
Baldacci  
Baldwin  
Ballenger  
Barcia  
Barr  
Barrett (NE)  
Barrett (WI)  
Bartlett  
Bass  
Bateman  
Bentsen  
Bereuter  
Berkley  
Berry  
Biggert  
Bilbray  
Bilirakis  
Blagojevich  
Biley  
Blumenauer  
Blunt  
Boehkert  
Boehner

Bonilla  
Bonior  
Bono  
Boswell  
Boucher  
Boyd  
Brady (PA)  
Brady (TX)  
Brown (FL)  
Brown (OH)  
Bryant  
Burr  
Burton  
Buyer  
Callahan  
Calvert  
Camp  
Campbell  
Canady  
Cannon  
Capps  
Capuano  
Cardin  
Castle  
Chabot  
Chambliss  
Chenoweth  
Clayton  
Clement  
Coble  
Coburn  
Collins

Combest  
Condit  
Conyers  
Cook  
Cooksey  
Cox  
Coyne  
Cramer  
Crane  
Crowley  
Cummings  
Cunningham  
Danner  
Davis (FL)  
Davis (IL)  
Davis (VA)  
Deal  
DeGette  
Delahunt  
DeLauro  
DeLay  
DeMint  
Deutsch  
Diaz-Balart  
Dicks  
Dingell  
Dixon  
Doggett  
Dooley  
Doolittle  
Doyle  
Dreier

Duncan  
Dunn  
Edwards  
Ehlers  
Ehrlich  
Emerson  
Eshoo  
Etheridge  
Evans  
Everett  
Ewing  
Fletcher  
Foley  
Forbes  
Fossella  
Fowler  
Frank (MA)  
Franks (NJ)  
Frelinghuysen  
Frost  
Gallegly  
Ganske  
Gejdenson  
Gekas  
Gilchrest  
Gillmor  
Gilman  
Gonzalez  
Goode  
Goodlatte  
Goodling  
Gordon  
Goss  
Graham  
Green (TX)  
Hall (OH)  
Hall (TX)  
Hansen  
Hastings (WA)  
Hayes  
Hayworth  
Herger  
Hill (IN)  
Hill (MT)  
Hilleary  
Hinchey  
Hinojosa  
Hobson  
Hoefel  
Hoekstra  
Holden  
Hooley  
Horn  
Hostettler  
Houghton  
Hoyer  
Hulshof  
Hunter  
Inslee  
Isakson  
Jackson (IL)  
Jackson-Lee  
(TX)  
Jefferson  
Jenkins  
John  
Johnson (CT)  
Johnson, Sam  
Jones (NC)  
Jones (OH)  
Kanjorski  
Kaptur  
Kasich  
Kelly  
Kennedy  
Kildee  
Kilpatrick  
Kind (WI)  
King (NY)  
Kingston  
Klecza  
Knollenberg  
Kolbe  
Kuykendall  
LaFalce  
LaHood  
Lampson  
Lantos  
Largent

Larson  
Latham  
LaTourette  
Lazio  
Leach  
Levin  
Lewis (CA)  
Linder  
Lipinski  
Lofgren  
Lowe  
Lucas (KY)  
Lucas (OK)  
Luther  
Maloney (CT)  
Maloney (NY)  
Manzullo  
Markey  
Martinez  
Mascara  
Matsui  
McCarthy (MO)  
McCarthy (NY)  
McCollum  
McCrery  
McHugh  
McInnis  
McIntosh  
McIntyre  
McKeon  
McKinney  
McNulty  
Meehan  
Meek (FL)  
Meeks (NY)  
Menendez  
Metcalf  
Mica  
Millender-  
McDonald  
Miller (FL)  
Miller, Gary  
Minge  
Mink  
Moakley  
Mollohan  
Moore  
Moran (VA)  
Morella  
Murtha  
Myrick  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Nethercutt  
Ney  
Northup  
Norwood  
Nussle  
Obey  
Olver  
Ortiz  
Ose  
Owens  
Oxley  
Packard  
Pallone  
Pascrell  
Pastor  
Paul  
Payne  
Pease  
Pelosi  
Peterson (MN)  
Peterson (PA)  
Petri  
Phelps  
Pickering  
Pitts  
Pombo  
Pomeroy  
Porter  
Portman  
Price (NC)  
Pryce (OH)  
Quinn  
Radanovich  
Rahall  
Regula

Reyes  
Reynolds  
Riley  
Rivers  
Rodriguez  
Roemer  
Rogan  
Rogers  
Rohrabacher  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Rothman  
Roukema  
Roybal-Allard  
Royce  
Ryan (WI)  
Ryun (KS)  
Salmon  
Sanchez  
Sandlin  
Sanford  
Sawyer  
Saxton  
Schakowsky  
Sensenbrenner  
Serrano  
Sessions  
Shadegg  
Shaw  
Shays  
Sherman  
Sherwood  
Shimkus  
Shows  
Shuster  
Sisisky  
Skeen  
Skelton  
Smith (MI)  
Smith (TX)  
Smith (WA)  
Snyder  
Souder  
Spence  
Spratt  
Stabenow  
Stark  
Stearns  
Stenholm  
Strickland  
Stump  
Sununu  
Talent  
Tancredo  
Tanner  
Tauscher  
Tauzin  
Taylor (NC)  
Terry  
Thomas  
Thornberry  
Thune  
Thurman  
Toomey  
Towns  
Traficant  
Turner  
Udall (CO)  
Udall (NM)  
Upton  
Velázquez  
Vento  
Walden  
Walsh  
Wamp  
Watt (NC)  
Waxman  
Weiner  
Weldon (FL)  
Weldon (PA)  
Wexler  
Weygand  
Whitfield  
Wicker  
Wilson  
Wise  
Wolf  
Woolsey

Costello  
DeFazio  
English  
Filner

NAYS—41

Ford  
Gephardt  
Gibbons  
Gutknecht

Hastings (FL)	McDermott	Stupak
Hefley	McGovern	Sweeney
Hilliard	Miller, George	Taylor (MS)
Holt	Moran (KS)	Thompson (CA)
Johnson, E. B.	Oberstar	Thompson (MS)
Klink	Pickett	Visclosky
Kucinich	Ramstad	Waters
Lee	Rush	Weller
Lewis (GA)	Sabo	Wu
LoBiondo	Schaffer	

## NOT VOTING—33

Barton	Granger	Scott
Becerra	Green (WI)	Simpson
Berman	Greenwood	Slaughter
Bishop	Gutierrez	Smith (NJ)
Brown (CA)	Hutchinson	Tiahrt
Carson	Hyde	Tierney
Cubin	Istook	Watkins
Dickey	Lewis (KY)	Watts (OK)
Engel	Rangel	Wynn
Farr	Sanders	Young (AK)
Fattah	Scarborough	Young (FL)

□ 1052

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 833, BANKRUPTCY REFORM ACT OF 1999

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 158 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

## H. RES. 158

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 833) to amend title 11 of the United States Code, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. Points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with section 302 or section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against the amendments printed in the report are waived. The chairman of the Committee of

the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommend with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

H. Res. 158 is a fair, structured rule providing 1 hour of general debate divided equally between the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on the Judiciary.

The rule waives points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act which prohibits consideration of legislation which exceeds a committee's allocation of new spending authority, or section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act which prohibits consideration of legislation that would cause the total level of new budget authority or outlays in the most recent budget resolution to be exceeded or cause revenues to be less.

□ 1100

The rule provides that it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill. The rule waives all points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute and amendments thereto.

The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in the Committee on Rules report accompanying the resolution. The rule provides that amendments made in order may be offered only in the order printed in the report and may be offered only by a Member designated in the report. These amendments shall be considered as read and be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and opponent. They shall not be subject to amend-

ment and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

The rule allows for the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes during consideration of the bill and to reduce voting time to 5 minutes on a proposed question if the vote follows a 15-minute vote.

Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 833, the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1999, will fundamentally reform the existing bankruptcy system into a needs-based system. I am proud of the tireless efforts of the House Committee on the Judiciary to address this issue and ensure that our bankruptcy laws operate fairly, efficiently, and free of abuse.

This should not be a controversial issue because Congress has spoken on this issue before. Both the House and the Senate overwhelmingly approved bankruptcy reform legislation last year on a bipartisan basis. Although the measure fell short in the waning days of the 105th Congress because the Senate failed to act on the conference report, the House voted by a veto-proof majority of 300 to 125 to pass very similar legislation last year.

There is great need for this bill now. A record 1.42 million personal bankruptcy filings were recorded in 1998. This is a stunning increase of 500 percent since 1980. Despite an unprecedented time of economic prosperity, unemployment, and rising disposable income, personal bankruptcies are rising, costing over \$40 billion in the past year.

Without serious reform of our bankruptcy laws, these trends promise to grow each year, costing businesses and consumers even more in the form of losses and higher costs of credit.

As we debate and vote today, we should keep in mind two important tenets of bankruptcy reform.

First, the bankruptcy system should provide the amount of debt relief needed that an individual needs, no more and no less. Second, bankruptcy should be a last resort and not a first response to a financial crisis.

As a businessman with over 16 years' experience in the private sector and because of many conversations that I have had with leaders, consumers and others who are associated with loan defaults, I am well aware of the problems that are associated with the abuse of our bankruptcy laws.

A record 1.4 million personal bankruptcies were filed last year. That is one out of every 75 households in America. The debts that remained unpaid as a result of those bankruptcies each year cost American families that do pay their bills on time \$550 a year in the form of higher cost for credit, goods and services.