in the early grades by helping districts to hire and train 100,000 teachers. And the Title VII Bilingual Education proposal would help ensure that all teachers are well trained to teach students with limited English proficiency, who are found in more and more classrooms with each passing year.

Third, my bill would increase support for safe, healthy, disciplined, and drug-free learning environments where all children feel connected, motivated, and challenged to learn and where parents are welcomed and involved. The recent tragedy at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, reminds us that we must be ever vigilant against the risks of violence and other dangerous behaviors in our schools. Our reauthorization bill includes several measures to help mitigate these risks.

We propose the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act by concentrating funds on districts with the greatest need for drug- and violence-prevention programs, and by emphasizing the use of research-based programs for proven effectiveness. Moreover, with respect to students who bring weapons to school, this proposal would require schools to refer such students to a mental health professional for assessment and require counseling for those who pose an imminent threat to themselves or others; allow funding for programs that educate students about the risks associated with guns; expand character education programs; and promote alternative schools and expansion of alternative programs that will help them evaluate the quality of the school their children attend.

Based on high standards for all students, high-quality professional development for teachers, safe and disciplined learning environments, and accountability to parents and taxpayers, the Educational Excellence for All Children Act of 1999 provides a solid foundation for raising student achievement and narrowing the achievement gap between disadvantaged students and their more advantaged peers. More important, it will help prepare all of our children, and thus the Nation, for the challenges of the 21st century. I urge the Congress to take prompt and favorable action on this proposal.


RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule X, the Chair declares the House in recess until 6 p.m. Accordingly (at 3 o’clock and 18 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 6 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETRI) at 6 p.m.

NAOL CUSHING BATEMAN POST OFFICE BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 1251, by the yeas and nays: H.R. 1251, by the yeas and nays.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

Rearrange the text to read naturally.
Mr. BAIRD changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconvene was laid on the table.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 145, I was unavoidably detained by official business in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will reduce to a minimum of 5 minutes the period of time within which a vote by electronic device will be taken on the additional motion to suspend the rules on which the Chair has postponed further proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, we have an important item of business to take up. Pursuant to the rules, the vote on the suspension of the rules was taken by electronic device, and we haveylene 368, nays 0, not voting 65, as follows:

[Roll No. 146]

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ROXANNE H. JONES POST OFFICE BUILDING, FREEMAN HANKINS POST OFFICE BUILDING, AND MAX WERNER POST OFFICE BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 100.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 100, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 368, nays 0, not voting 65, as follows:

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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

May 24, 1999

10551

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