ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNunu). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 6, rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken later today.

MISSING, EXPLOITED, AND RUNAWAY CHILDREN PROTECTION ACT

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 249) to provide funding for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 249

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 “Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children Protection Act”.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN.

(a) FINDINGS.—Section 402 of the Missing Children’s Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5771) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at the end and inserting a colon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(i) coordinate the operation of such telephone line with the operation of the national communications system referred to in part C of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5714–11);”.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 403 of the Missing Children’s Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5772) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting a colon; and

(3) by striking section (a) and inserting the following:

“(A) serves as the national resource center and clearinghouse congressionally mandated under the provisions of the Missing Children’s Assistance Act of 1984; and

“(B) worked in partnership with the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of State, and many other agencies in the effort to find missing children and prevent child exploitation;”.

(19) the Center is a model of public/private partnership, raising private sector funds to match congressional appropriations and receiving extensive private in-kind support, including advanced technology provided by the computer industry such as imaging technology used to age the photographs of long-term missing children and to reconstruct facial images of unidentified deceased children;

“(20) the Center was 1 of only 10 of 300 major national charities given an A+ grade in 1997 by the American Institute of Philanthropy;”.

“(21) the Center has been redesignated as the Nation’s missing children clearinghouse and resource center once every 3 years through a competitive selection process conducted by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the Department of Justice, and has received grants from that Office to conduct the crucial purposes of the Center.”.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES.

(a) ACTIVITIES.—(1) coordination of public and private programs that locate, recover, or reunite missing children with their families;

(b) development of international child abduction cases, serving as a representative of the Department of State at cases under The Hague Convention, and successfully resolving the cases of international child abductions, and providing greater support to parents in the United States;

“(19) services the Center have had a remarkable impact, such as in the fight against infant abductions in partnership with the healthcare industry, during which the Center has performed 668 onsite hospital walk-throughs and inspections, and trained 45,065 hospital administrators, nurses, and security personnel to help to reduce infant abductions in the United States by 82 percent;

“(20) the Center is now playing a significant role in international child abduction cases, serving as a representative of the Department of State at cases under The Hague Convention, and successfully resolving the cases of international child abductions, and providing greater support to parents in the United States;”.

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criminal justice system, public and private nonprofit agencies, and individuals in the prevention, investigation, prosecution, and treatment of cases involving missing and exploited children; and;

(3) provide assistance to families and law enforcement agencies in locating and recovering missing and exploited children, both nationally and internationally.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out this subsection, $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003.

(c) NATIONAL INCIDENCE STUDIES.—The Administrator, either by making grants to or entering into contracts with public agencies or nonprofit private agencies, shall—

(1) periodically conduct national incidence studies to determine for a given year the actual number of children reported missing each year, the number of children who are victims of abduction by strangers, the number of children who are the victims of parental or kinship child abduction, and the number of children who are recovered each year; and

(2) provide to State and local governments, public and private nonprofit agencies, and interested information to facilitate the lawful use of school records and birth certificates to identify and locate missing children.

(d) NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN.—Section 405(a) of the Missing Children’s Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5775(a)) is amended by inserting “the Center and will operate” after “public agencies”.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 406 of the Missing Children’s Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5777) is amended by striking “1997 through 2001” and inserting “2000 through 2003”.

SEC. 3. RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH.

(a) FINDINGS.—Section 302 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking “accurate reporting of the problem nationally and to develop” and inserting “an accurate national reporting system to report the problem, and to assist in the development of”;

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking paragraph (d) and inserting the following:

“(d) services for runaway and homeless youth are needed in urban, suburban, and rural areas;”.

(b) AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS FOR CENTERS AND SERVICES.—Section 311 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5711) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) GRANTS FOR CENTERS AND SERVICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make grants to public and nonprofit private entities (and combinations of such entities) to establish and operate (including renovation) local centers to provide services for runaway and homeless youth and for the families of such youth.

(2) SERVICES PROVIDED.—Services provided under paragraph (1)—

“(A) shall be provided as an alternative to involving runaway and homeless youth in the law enforcement child welfare, mental health, and juvenile justice systems;

“(B) shall include—

(i) safe and appropriate shelter; and

(ii) education, and group counseling, as appropriate; and

“(C) may include—

(i) street-based services;

(ii) services for families with youth at risk of separation from the family; and

(iii) drug abuse education and prevention services;”;

(2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands;”;

(3) by striking subsections (c) and (d).

(c) ELIGIBILITY OF THE RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH ACT (42 U.S.C. 5712) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (8), by striking “paragraph (d)” and inserting “paragraph (7)”;

(B) in paragraph (10), by striking “and” at the end;

(C) in paragraph (11), by striking the period at the end and inserting “;” and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) drug abuse education and prevention services, an applicant shall include in the plan required by subsection (b)—

“(A) a description of—

(A) the types of such services that the applicant proposes to provide;

(B) the objectives of such services; and

(C) the types of information and training to be provided to individuals providing such services to runaway and homeless youth; and

“(B) an assurance that in providing such services the applicant shall conduct outreach activities for runaway and homeless youth.”.

(d) APPLICABILITY OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 313 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5713) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 313. APPLICABILITY OF APPROPIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—An application by a public or private entity for a grant under section 311(a) may be approved by the Secretary and be eligible for funding under the program and services under this part for which all grant applicants request approval;

(b) Priority.—In selecting applications for grants under section 311(a), the Secretary shall give priority to—

(1) applicants who have demonstrated experience in providing services to runaway and homeless youth; and

(2) eligible applicants that request grants of less than $200,000.

(e) AUTHORITY FOR TRANSITIONAL LIVING GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 321 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5714–1) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “PURPOSE AND”;

(2) in subsection (a), by striking “(a)” and (3) by striking subsection (b).

(f) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 322(a)(9) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5714–2) is amended by striking “(a)” and inserting “(e)”.

(g) COORDINATION.—Section 341 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5714–21) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 341. COORDINATION.

With respect to matters relating to the health, education, employment, and housing of runaway and homeless youth, the Secretary—

(1) in conjunction with the Attorney General, shall coordinate the activities of agencies of the Department of Health and Human Services with activities under any other Federal juvenile crime control, prevention, and juvenile offender accountability program and with the activities of other Federal entities; and

(2) shall coordinate the activities of agencies of the Department of Health and Human Services with the activities of other Federal entities and with the activities of entities that are eligible to receive grants under this title.”.

(h) AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS FOR RESEARCH, EVALUATION, DEMONSTRATION, AND SERVICE PROJECTS.—Section 343 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5714–23) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting “EVALUATION, AND” after “RESARCH,” and

(2) in subsection (a), by inserting “evaluation,” after “research,” and

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(3) in subsection (b)—
(A) by striking paragraph (2); and
(B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (10) as paragraphs (2) through (9), respectively.
(i) ASSISTANCE.—Part D of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5731 et seq.) is amended by adding after section 344 the following:

**SEC. 345. STUDY.** The Secretary shall conduct a study of a representative sample of runaways to determine the percent who leave home because of sexual abuse. The report on the study shall include—

"(1) in the case of sexual abuse, the relationship of the assaulter to the runaway; and
"(2) recommendations on how Federal laws may be changed to reduce sexual assaults on children.

The study shall be completed to enable the Secretary to make a report to the committees of Congress with jurisdiction over this Act, and to the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, a report on the status, activities, and accomplishments of entities that receive grants under parts A, B, C, D, and E, with particular attention to—

"(1) in the case of centers funded under part A, the ability or effectiveness of such centers in—

"(A) alleviating the problems of runaway and homeless youth;
"(B) providing appropriate or appropriate, reuniting such youth with their families and encouraging the resolution of intrafamily problems through counseling and other services;
"(C) family relationships and encouraging stable living conditions for such youth; and
"(D) assisting such youth to decide upon a future course of action; and

"(2) in the case of projects funded under part B—

"(A) the number and characteristics of homeless youth served by such projects;
"(B) the types of activities carried out by such projects;
"(C) the effectiveness of such projects in alleviating the problems of homeless youth;
"(D) the effectiveness of such projects in preparing homeless youth for self-sufficiency;
"(E) the effectiveness of such projects in assisting homeless youth to decide upon future education, employment, and independent living;
"(F) the morality of such projects to encourage the resolution of intrafamily problems through counseling and development of self-sufficient living skills; and
"(G) activities and programs planned by such projects for the following fiscal year.

"(b) CONTENTS OF REPORTS.—The Secretary shall include in each report submitted under subsection (a) the following:

"(1) the evaluations performed by the Secretary under section 386; and
"(2) descriptions of the qualifications of, and training provided to, individuals involved in carrying out such evaluations.

**SEC. 386. EVALUATION AND INFORMATION.**

"(a) IN GENERAL.—If a grantees receives grants for 3 consecutive fiscal years under part A, B, C, D, or E (in the alternative), then the Secretary shall evaluate such grantee on-site, not less frequently than once in the period of such 3 consecutive fiscal years, for purposes of—

"(1) determining whether such grants are being used for the purposes for which such grants are made by the Secretary;
"(2) collecting additional information for the report required by section 384; and

"(3) providing such information and assistance to such grantee as will enable such grantee to improve the operation of the centers, projects, and activities for which such grants are made.

"(b) COOPERATION.—Recipients of grants under this title shall cooperate with the Secretary's efforts to evaluate the effectiveness of, and to collect information, under this title.

**SEC. 385. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.** Section 385 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5751) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 385. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary from—

"(1) announcing, in a single announcement, the availability of funds for grants under 2 or more of such parts in a single, consolidated application review process; and

"(2) reviewing applications for grants under 2 or more of such parts in a single, consolidated application review process.

**SEC. 386. DEFINITIONS.** In this title:

"(1) DRUG ABUSE EDUCATION AND PREVENTION SERVICES.—The term 'drug abuse education and prevention services'—

"(A) means services to runaway and homeless youth to prevent or reduce the illicit use of drugs by such youth; and

"(B) may include—

"(i) individual, family, group, and peer counseling;
"(ii) drop-in services;
"(iii) assistance to runaway and homeless youth in rural areas (including the development of community support groups);
"(iv) information and training relating to the illicit use of drugs by runaway and homeless youth, to the fullest extent involved in providing services to such youth; and

"(v) activities to improve the availability of local drug abuse prevention services to runaway and homeless youth.

"(2) HOME-BASED SERVICES.—The term 'home-based services'—

"(A) means services provided to runaway and homeless youth in rural areas (including the development of community support groups);

"(B) includes services that are provided in the residences of families (to the extent practicable), including—

"(i) intensive individual and family counseling; and
"(ii) training relating to life skills and parenting.

"(3) HOMELESS YOUTH.—The term 'homeless youth' means an individual—

"(A) who is—

"(i) not more than 21 years of age; and
"(ii) for the purposes of part B, not less than 16 years of age;

"(B) for whom it is not possible to live in a safe environment with a relative; and

"(C) who has no other safe alternative living arrangement.

"(4) STREET-BASED SERVICES.—The term 'street-based services'—

"(A) means services provided to runaway and homeless youth, and street youth, in
areas where they congregate, designed to assist such youth in making healthy personal choices, whether at home where they live and how to prevent and respond to violence that they perceive. A survey of the literature suggests that the problem of school violence is complex and multifaceted, involving social, economic, and individual factors. The solution requires a comprehensive approach that includes intervention and prevention strategies, as well as the development of policies and programs that address the root causes of violence. In this context, the Federal government plays a vital role in providing leadership and support for research, demonstration projects, and service programs to address school violence in urban, suburban, and rural settings.

The legislation also provides for the continuation of services under the Missing Children's Assistance Act. This legislation authorizes grants for research, demonstration projects, and service programs in areas such as abduction prevention education. The provision of this bill that I particularly want to focus my colleagues' attention on is its authorization of an appropriation for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Since 1984, the Center has worked with law enforcement on the cases of 67,173 missing children, resulting in the recovery of 46,031 children. In 1998 alone, it assisted in finding 5,835 missing children.

The Center works with the families of 80 missing children in my own State of Delaware. The Center services, including its National Missing Child Hotline, are essential to all families of missing children.

Recognizing the Center's substantial success rate in recovering missing children and its annual designation as the national clearinghouse for information on missing children, the legislation authorizes a $10 million yearly appropriation, including $2 million under Public Law 103-357 for the fiscal year 2003 for the Center. This authorization ensures that for the next 4 years the Center can focus on providing assistance to families without interruption.

Some of my colleagues may remember that I have been working to get this legislation passed since the 105th Congress. I am pleased we are one step closer to completing this effort. The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, the Missing Children's Assistance Act and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Youth provide much needed services for missing and runaway youth.

Finally, I would like to mention an important study contained in this legislation. As Members may know, my subcommittee has held hearings on the issue of school violence in response to the tragic shootings that have traumatized our Nation's schools. The Center for Missing and Exploited Children (Mr. Greenwood), an active member of the subcommittee, has crafted legislation to help us obtain information on why students commit such violent acts.
A great deal of blame has been spread around, and I believe it is important that we really understand the causal factors that place youth at risk for school violence.

Before I conclude, I would like to thank several Members for their assistance on this legislation. I would like to thank the chairman of the committee, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Goodling), and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. Kildee), who will be managing the bill on the opposite side of the aisle, as well as the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Scott), for their hard work on the school violence study.

Mr. Speaker, this is good legislation and it deserves the support of the House. An investigation that begins has already passed comparable legislation. We would like to pass our legislation and proceed to conference as quickly as possible. It has been far too long that these important programs have been without an authorization.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Goodling), the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Kildee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 249, the Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children Protection Act makes vital improvements to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act and deserves the strong support of all the Members here today.

This legislation will streamline and refocus the existing basic Center grants, the transitional living grants and the drug education program into one reauthorization, while maintaining the distinct nature of each program. I believe this is an important improvement that will strengthen the ability of localities to provide services to the vulnerable populations of runaway and homeless children.

Mr. Speaker, S. 249 also requires a National Academy of Sciences study to examine which factors contribute to violence around and in our schools. This study will better enable us to understand what leads our young people to commit such tragic acts as those in Littleton, Colorado, and other places that have shared the unfortunate experience of having school violence touch its teachers, parents, students and communities.

This study, which has been a cooperative effort between the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. Castle), the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Greenwood), the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Scott), the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Goodling), and myself is necessary so we can gain a better understanding of the profile of those most likely to commit violence and provide them with appropriate interventions and supportive services.

It is my hope we can constructively use the results of this study to lessen the violence which presently is troubling us all.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this legislation is worthy of Members' support, and I urge its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. Castle. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Goodling), the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Mr. Goodling. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

I, too, rise in support of the Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children's Protection Act. The programs and activities under this legislation aim to improve the well-being of our Nation's runaway, homeless, and missing children. This authorizes the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act. And one program under this Act is the Transitional Living Project for ages 16 to 21, children who cannot safely live at home.

I share the enthusiasm of the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. Castle) for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The Center has trained at least 42 law enforcement officers in Pennsylvania on how best to handle missing children's cases, a service available to law enforcement officers across the country.

Additionally, on its web site and through other avenues, the Center provides actual photographs of missing children along with age progression computerized images of the missing children. Currently, the Center's web site includes a photograph and computerized image of 51 missing children from Pennsylvania. I must commend the Center on its extraordinary success rate in finding missing children.

Another key provision of the legislation will address an issue that has weighed heavily on our minds over the past few months. In a hearing held by the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Youth and Families last week, we heard firsthand testimony from students who have been the victims of violent acts in their schools. We heard loud and clear the fear in their voices and their concerns about future violence in their schools.

But we still have no clear answers to the core casual factors of school violence. This legislation includes a study to be performed by the National Academy of Sciences which will explore the causes of school violence. Information gathered through this study will help us to improve the effectiveness of our current violence prevention efforts.

I would like to thank members of the committee for their hard work and their staffs, particularly the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. Castle) for his leadership. Also, I would like to thank the members from Pennsylvania (Mr. Greenwood), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. Kildee) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Scott) for their guidance on the School Science Study. The result is a quality piece of legislation.

I encourage my colleagues to support the legislation.

Mr. Kildee. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. McCarthy).

Mrs. McCarthy of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the House amendments to the Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children Protection Act. I want to thank the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce for their bipartisan work on this legislation.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. Castle) for his excellent work as a sponsor of this legislation and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. Kildee), my dear colleague.

The bill before us today provides the resources for families to deal with the terrible issue of missing, exploited and runaway children. The National Center for Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children operates a National Resource Center and a toll-free hot line to provide assistance to state and local governments in finding missing children and preventing the exploitation of children.

I believe this is important, Mr. Speaker. This legislation utilizes all of the tools once a child is missing, but the legislation also is designed to prevent the terrible occurrence of a missing, exploited or runaway child. I am glad that we are addressing this bill today.

In the last 6 weeks, I have had a personal experience. I got a call late one Saturday night and it was my girlfriend of over 30 years. She said, "Carolyn, I do not know what I am going to do. My daughter's two children have been kidnapped."

With that, I gave her the information, only because I have learned about this through Congress. I gave her the phone numbers to call. And within hours, the photos of the missing children were put out across this country. I am happy to say that one child has been recovered. The other one is still missing. But with all the resources coming together, I am grateful that we, hopefully, will find the other child.

Also, since being in Congress, one of the provisions of this bill is also helping with children that have nowhere else to go. I have been privileged to meet and work with a number of groups on Long Island; and I have to
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tell my colleagues, I was shocked on how many homeless children we have just on Long Island.

We have found that we can give them shelter. We have found that we can give them training. We have found that they turn their lives around and become productive citizens. This is something that helps our children and saved our children across this Nation. It is something that we should be working on more and more. It shows, when we work together, we can make a difference here in Congress.

I am glad that we are addressing this bill today, and I urge my colleagues to support this important bill. I thank the Committee on Education and the Workforce for their bipartisan work.

I believe the true measure of our Government’s efficiency can be found in the way we treat our children, the extent to which we protect our children. The legislation before us today demonstrates there is an important role for our children and saving our children’s lives. I thank everyone for the work that they have done, and may we continue to do this.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD), another distinguished gentleman from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who has worked hard in the Congress of the United States on the issues of children.

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his help and cooperation on this Nation.

I would like to focus my remarks on that part that I worked on, and that is the study that we are asking the National Academy of Sciences to do a study on the antecedents of school violence. Researchers, the best social scientists and child psychologists that we can bring together, will literally travel to Pearl, Mississippi, to Paducah, Kentucky, to Jonesboro, Arkansas, to Springfield, Oregon, to Edinboro, Pennsylvania, to Fayetteville, Tennessee, indeed to Littleton, Colorado, and most recently we have had to amend this language to include Conyers, Georgia.

The scientists will interview, when they can, the perpetrators, the actual shooters. They will interview their parents, their siblings, their neighbors, their class mates, their teachers, their guidance counselors, any professionals that have dealt with these young people, to try to find out what were the early childhood experiences of these kids, what were the school experiences, what were the relationships between the perpetrators and the victims, how did the perpetrators gain access to firearms, and what were the impact of cultural influences and exposure to the media, video games and the Internet.

They will report back to America about their findings. And, hopefully, in a sober and thoughtful and disciplined way, America will understand how some of our communities impacted some of our children in ways that made them so inexplicably violent.

Mr. Speaker, it is my experience that the left-most of our political spectrum tends to look at this issue and turn immediately and almost exclusively to guns and the right-most of our political spectrum tends to look exclusively at the cultural impacts.

It is my belief that we need to look at the children. We need to understand how our children are affected by experiences in schools and how they run and in their communities and how we as a society can value our children more than we do so that all of our children are uplifted by our actions.

I would like to thank the chairman, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING), for his help and cooperation with this. I would like to thank the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the Speaker for his condolences, his help as well.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KLINK). Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I think a lot of good work has been done on this bill; and I would like to laud Members on both sides of the aisle for their support.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is a private, non-Federal corporation that was founded back in 1984; and they have helped over the last 15 years to recover over 40,000 missing children. I first worked with them back in 1986. They were one year in Congress at that time. And I was a news reporter working back in Pennsylvania.

One afternoon after getting off the school bus near the town of Cabot, Pennsylvania, 8-year-old Cherrie Mahan disappeared, never to be seen or heard from again. And then the Mahan family has had to live with the sadness that the community found the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

People in the community worked together. They searched. They looked for clues. They put out every kind of feeler they could trying to find out who knew about this young girl’s abduction. And they collected money. All told, they collected from their hard-earned dollars $58,000.

Last October, when it was determined that Cherrie was not going to come back and she was declared legally dead, that $58,000 was presented by me along with those people, the friends and neighbors of Cherrie Mahan, a $58,000 check, to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children so that that money could be used as a resource to help establish computer networks across this country to find runaway kids, to find kids who have been abducted, and to help fight against violence in our schools.

In return, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children gave an $8,000 TRAC system, called Technology to Recover Abducted Kids, back to the Butler State Police Barracks in Butler, Pennsylvania. And they hoped that if they ever have to see another sad situation like the tragic disappearance of Cherrie Mahan, that the community will be better prepared, that they will be better armed with this new technology, and that we in the Federal Government can be a partner in that, making sure that the resources are there so that the sadness that the Mahan family has had to live with will never be felt by other families across this Nation.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.
Mr. Speaker, this measure, S. 249, focuses on the terrible problem confronting all too many American families: missing, exploited and runaway children. I commend the sponsors of the House and Senate resolution, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) and the distinguished senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), for their diligence in bringing it to the Congress.

As a parent, few things can be more painful than the uncertainty and anxiety that arises when a child becomes missing. The void of not having a loved one present, plus the fear and anxiety of what that loved one may be undergoing, are cruel hardships that no one should ever have to endure.

Although this measure focuses primarily upon the domestic aspect of this problem and improves the way our Government addresses the problems that may be associated with missing or exploited children, I want to highlight an issue that I have become increasingly involved with, the problem of internationally abducted children.

In an interdependent world, we are finding American citizens often marrying and having children with foreign nationals and a corresponding increase in the number of children that are taken to or illegally retained in another country.

This measure highlights the excellent work of our National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. I join in commending that organization and add my voice to those who feel that the role of NCMEC should be strengthened in the cases of international parental abductions. Our citizens deserve an advocate for their rights as parents, and I am confident that NCMEC is the appropriate organization to serve this vital function.

The abduction is underway in some parts of our Government to curtail NCMEC's role in assisting our citizens recover their illegally abducted or wrongfully retained children from other countries. I urge that all supporters of this measure exercise their vigilance to make certain that does not occur. Our citizens who are victims of child abduction deserve to have an organization such as the NCMEC to support them.

I thank the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) for his courtesy in yielding, and I urge our colleagues to fully approve S. 249 on behalf of our missing, exploited and runaway children.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON).

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding me this time.

First, I would like to associate my Remarks with those of the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) regarding his work with the international effort to return children who are taken from our country, and I look forward to working with the gentleman from New York on that issue.

I rise today to encourage all of my colleagues to cast their votes in favor of S. 249, the Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children Protection Act. Two years ago when I first joined all of you in Congress, I wanted to address all of the problems that we face here, education, Social Security and health care. But unfortunately in April, right after my first swearing-in, all of my plans drastically changed when a 12-year-old little girl, Laura Kate Smither from Friendswood, Texas, was abducted and savagely murdered. After seeing the faces of the Smither family and the outpouring of support from the community, I knew that I wanted to work on behalf of our children and their families.

After meeting Ernie Allen, the President of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and his dedicated staff, I worked diligently to establish the first-ever Congressional Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus with my colleagues the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CRAMER) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANK) to provide a unified and loud voice for missing and exploited children here in Congress.

I am pleased to report, as of today, this bipartisan caucus now has 126 members. We work on legislation to impose tougher penalties on those who commit sexual offenses against children and to make sure our communities are notified when convicted sex offenders move into their neighborhoods.

The caucus would not be nearly as effective in producing innovative legislation and helpful district safety workshops without the advice and programs offered at the National Center. The Center's outreach programs help chiefs of police and sheriffs to develop fast response plans through the Jimmy Ryce Law Enforcement Training Program, to comb neighborhoods and streets for our children who have been reported as missing. The Center also focuses its educational outreach programs toward children who can learn how to protect themselves from the dangers that they face in today's world. I am proud to have helped the Center unveil a national-wide program called "Know the Rules." It was a public service campaign that was started here in Washington just a couple of years ago.

"Know the Rules" is a set of simple rules all children, but especially teenage girls between the ages of 12 and 17, should use in their everyday lives to build self-esteem and to help them escape potentially dangerous situations. I have two daughters and will become a grandfather for the first time in November. I am convinced that funding the National Center is as good an investment of taxpayer dollars as can be made to ensure the safety of our Nation's children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of our colleagues from Oregon to Ohio and California to Connecticut to support the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children on this National Missing Children's Day by voting for S. 249.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) who is not only from Colorado, but has been through a difficult 5 weeks living in the shadow of Columbine High School.

Mr. TANCREDO. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, the Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children's Act, but more specifically in support of the school violence study that has been referred to here several times.

Mr. Speaker, it is a fact that we have now had to deal with for quite some time, but it has been brought home to us more dramatically in the last few weeks than perhaps anytime in the recent past. That fact is that we are a violent country.

The character of the American people, unfortunately, we have a violent character. The history of this Nation is replete with violence. It is not a good thing that I say but it is unfortunately a true thing.

What is completely unusual, what is not at all to be explained by our history, however, is the violence we see now in schools and with children. Because although we have always had a violent society, the fact is we have never in the history of this country had a situation where children were participants to the extent that they are today in that violent nature.

Something has happened. Something has changed. This is one thing we know for sure, that this is a brand new phenomenon. We have to figure out why this is occurring.

There was a recent study that was a fascinating study I commend to my colleagues. It was done by an individual who works for the armed forces. His task really is to desensitize members of the armed forces to the actual act of killing another human being because, as he says, this is a very difficult thing. People do not do it naturally.

Taking the life of another member of your own species is not natural and you have to work on it. You have to work on it in the armed forces under controlled circumstances, you use technology to desensitize members of the armed forces to actually taking a life. But that is in a very controlled environment.

What has happened is that some of the same technology that is used by the armed forces, in particular a computerized game called Doom, is a game...
that is now available to everyone, to youngsters in our society, over the Internet. As a matter of fact, the two shooters in Columbine, Mr. Klebold and Mr. Harris, were compulsive about this game. Doom, were into it to a very great extent.

I do not know whether or not that one thing had everything to do with what happened in Columbine, I do not know how much of an impact it had on what they decided to do. All I do know is this, that something has changed in our society, and we are turning children into killers. We are turning children into individuals without a conscience.

This is new, Mr. Speaker, and this is frightening. We have to find out why this is happening. Therefore, I commend my colleagues on the committee for this little girl speech also for the study on school violence, which I hope will bring to our attention the cause of this new phenomenon.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the bipartisan spirit in which this bill has been written from beginning to end. I think we have a very good bill here. I urge its passage.

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

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER).

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, it is a parent’s worst nightmare when you come in from work and you call out your child’s name and she does not answer, and you begin to look for her and you cannot find her; and as you begin to search, your apprehension turns to panic and then your concern turns to pure terror.

Unfortunately, that happens in literally thousands of homes in America today. In fact, if you are the parent of an 11-year-old girl, you will be sad to know that that group is the most at risk for murder and abduction in this country today.

Unfortunately, there are so many of the colleagues that could speak today who will name the name of a child who is missing in their community. In my case, her name is Opal Jennings. She is a darling little girl who is missing from our community. Unfortunately, a number have been missing from our community. That is what we are talking about today.

The Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children Protection Act would do something to help those parents. It would authorize $10 million a year for a period of 5 years for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Among other things, this money would help operate a 24-hour toll free telephone line to report those children and public and private programs to locate, recover and hopefully reunite them with their family. This is something that needs to be done, it should have wonderful bipartisan support in this Congress, and it is the least we can do for our children.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I would just point out a couple of things. One, we have spoken to various parts of this legislation, but I think we all in this House of Representatives need to understand the importance and the components of what we are dealing with here. It first authorizes, as I said in my opening, the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act and Missing Children’s Assistance Act. It also provides an authorization, which we heard about very eloquently from several speakers for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children; and it does, as we also heard from the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. Gruener) and others, direct the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study of the cultural influences on youth violence.

These things, in and of themselves, may not present all of the problems of youth in this country, it will not; but it may in some small way start the mending process which we consider to be so important.

I would just like to thank all of those who have had the time to come to the floor to speak to this today and all the Members of the House, who I believe will be supportive of what we consider to be very significant legislation to help with these problems.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, organizations like the Center for Missing and Exploited Children should be commended and supported for their work on this critical issue. However, I must oppose this legislation as it is outside the proper Constitutional role for the federal government to spend money in this way; such spending is being used to support sectarian organizations.

What I do know is that—thanks to a COPS grant recently awarded to the Sonoma County Police Consortium—such a computer system will soon be in place. This $6.2 million grant will permit the agencies in my district to upgrade dispatch systems, connect mobile police units, and increase the efficiency in filing incident reports. This is just one important step in improving our safety net for children.

Mr. Speaker, it is only fitting that today we will vote on S. 249. The Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children Protection Act. This legislation would spend more than $268 million on issues that are simply outside the constitutional jurisdiction of the federal government. In addition, legislation like this blurs the lines between public and private funds, and opens good organizations to needlessly register for Congress. The legislation even opens the door to public money being used to support sectarian organizations, in direct violation of the First Amendment.

The moral decay of our nation is a serious issue that must be addressed. However, after some forty years of federal meddling in education and other social issues, it is clear politicians on Capitol Hill have made matters worse for our children, not better.

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, today is National Missing Children’s Day. Fitting enough, today we are also voting on legislation to help locate missing, exploited and runaway children in our society.

Congress first established Missing Children’s Day in 1982 to increase public awareness regarding the thousands of children who disappear each year. Through the hard work of organizations such as the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children Protection Act. This legislation will provide funds for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to meet several of our nation’s needs as they work to reunite missing and exploited children and their families.

For parents who have missing children, every day is a struggle. I urge my colleagues to help families stricken with this awful tragedy by supporting S. 249.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, this legislation is very important, and it is particularly significant to me due to the tragic murder of Polly Klaas that occurred in my home town of Petaluma in 1993.

Polly Klaas was taken from her home at knife point during a slumber party while her mother slept in the next room. Richard Allen Davis, the brutal kidnapper, was later stopped by police in a nearby community. The officers did not know that there was a suspect being sought at that moment, so unfortunately they let him go. Could Polly have been saved if a more sophisticated computer system had been in place allowing different police jurisdictions to communicate? We’ll never know.

What I do know is that—thanks to a COPS grant recently awarded to the Sonoma County Police Consortium—such a computer system will soon be in place. This $6.2 million grant will permit the agencies in my district to upgrade dispatch systems, connect mobile police units, and increase the efficiency in filing incident reports. This is just one important step in improving our safety net for children.

Mr. Speaker, it is only fitting that today we will vote on S. 249. The Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children Protection Act, will allow such vital assistance programs as the Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the national toll-free hotline to continue. Without such resources, it is nearly impossible to conduct a responsive, nationwide search that could be the key to the missing child’s survival.

I am also proud to be a Member of the Missing and Exploited Children’s Caucus in Congress, because it heightens awareness that we must continue to make progress in protecting our children. We cannot let our guard down. Saving the lives of the most vulnerable in our population should be our most important priority. Children are 25% of our population, but they are 100% of our future.

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to encourage my colleagues to support the Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children Protection Act. Today I would like to focus on one specific facet of this Act, the authorization of Congressional support for the National Center
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for Missing and Exploited Children. Since 1984, the Center has proven to be an invaluable resource for state and local governments who struggle each day to recover missing children and to prevent the exploitation of children.

Through its toll-free hotline, its training programs for state and local professionals, and its coordination of recovery programs, the Center is a focal point mobilizing citizens and communities in the pursuit of safety for all of America’s children. The convergence of public and private resources in pursuit of this common goal has resulted in the recovery of more than 40,000 children—40,000 children who could have been lost without the contributions of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

The Center is particularly important to South Florida because one of its affiliated programs, the Jimmy Ryce Law Enforcement Training Center, was established by Congress in 1996 in memory of my constituent, Jimmy Ryce, the son of Don and Claudine Ryce. In 1995, at 9 years of age, Jimmy was abducted and brutally murdered while walking home from school. The Ryce Center, a joint project of the Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the Justice Department’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, trains Chiefs of Police and Sheriffs in the most up-to-date methods of searching for missing children. The Ryce Center promotes swift, effective investigative response to missing and exploited children cases, provides comprehensive training in case investigations, ensures the consistent and meaningful use of reporting systems, and promotes the use of important national resources to assist in these cases.

The Ryce Center is an invaluable resource to law enforcement officials throughout the country, and in just a few short years has made enormous strides in changing the way America deals with cases of missing and exploited children. In the face of a problem which none of us should have to face, Don and Claudine have turned their personal tragedy in to a positive effort to help ensure the safety of millions of American children just like Jimmy. I urge all of my colleagues to support the passage of this bill.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 249.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Delaware?

There was no objection.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 249, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand a 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.

TRADE AGENCY AUTHORIZATIONS, DRUG FREE SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND PREVENTION OF ON-LINE CHILD PORNOGRAPHY ACT OF 1999

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1833) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2000 and 2001 for the United States Customs Service for drug interdiction and other operations, for the Office of the United States Trade Representative, for the United States International Trade Commission, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1833

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 “Trade Agency Authorizations, Drug Free Schools, and Prevention of On-Line Child Pornography Act of 1999”.

SECTION 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

TITLES I—UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE

TITLES II—OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

TITLES III—UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

TITLES IV—UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE

Subtitle A—Drug Enforcement and Other Noncommercial and Commercial Operations

SEC. 101. Authorization of appropriations for noncommercial operations, commercial operations, and air and marine interdiction.

SEC. 102. Illicit narcotics detection equipment for the United States-Mexico border, United States-Canada border, and Florida and the Gulf Coast seawords.

SEC. 103. Peak hours and investigative resource enhancement for the United States-Mexico and United States-Canada borders.

SEC. 104. Compliance with performance plan requirements.

Subtitle B—Child Cyber-Smuggling Center of the Customs Service

SEC. 111. Authorization of appropriations for program to prevent child pornography/child sexual exploitation.

Subtitle C—Personnel Provisions

CHAPTER 1—OVERTIME AND PREMIUM PAY OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CUSTOMS SERVICE

Sec. 121. Correction relating to fiscal year cap.

Sec. 122. Correction relating to overtime cap.

Sec. 123. Correction relating to premium pay.

Sec. 124. Use of savings from payment of overtime pay for additional overtime enforcement activities of the Customs Service.

Sec. 125. Effective date.

CHAPTER 2—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 131. Study and report relating to personnel practices of the Customs Service.

Title II—Office of the United States Trade Representative

Sec. 201. Authorization of appropriations.

Title III—United States International Trade Commission

Sec. 301. Authorization of appropriations.

Title IV—United States Customs Service

Subtitle A—Drug Enforcement and Other Noncommercial and Commercial Operations

SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR NONCOMMERCIAL OPERATIONS, COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS, AND AIR AND MARINE INTERDICTION.

(a) NONCOMMERCIAL OPERATIONS. Section 301(b)(1) of the Customs Procedural Reform and Simplification Act of 1978 (19 U.S.C. 2075(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) $999,563,000 for fiscal year 2000.”;

(2) in subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

“(B) $999,464,000 for fiscal year 2001.”;

(b) COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS. Section 301(b)(2)(A) of the Customs Procedural Reform and Simplification Act of 1978 (19 U.S.C. 2075(b)(2)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i) to read as follows:

“(i) $1,154,359,000 for fiscal year 2000.”;

(2) in clause (ii) to read as follows:

“(ii) $1,194,534,000 for fiscal year 2001.”;

(c) REPORTS. Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not later than each subsequent 90-day period, the Commissioner of Customs shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a report demonstrating that the development and establishment of the automated commercial environment computer system is being carried out in a cost-effective manner and meets the modernization requirements of title VI of the North American Free Trade Agreements Implementation Act.

Title III—United States International Trade Commission

Sec. 301. Authorization of appropriations.

Title IV—United States Customs Service

Subtitle A—Drug Enforcement and Other Noncommercial and Commercial Operations

SEC. 101. Authorization of appropriations for noncommercial operations, commercial operations, and air and marine interdiction.

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SEC. 104. Compliance with performance plan requirements.

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