

and agree to the Senate amendment on H.R. 435, the Miscellaneous Trade and Technical Corrections Act; and rollcall vote 169 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1915, to provide grants to the States to improve the reporting of unidentified and missing persons.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 167, 168, and 169.

TEMPLETON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL—A NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Templeton Elementary School, located in my Congressional District in Riverside, Maryland, for being named a National Blue Ribbon School. Templeton Elementary has a diverse enrollment of approximately 750 students with just over 70% coming from low income households.

This Blue Ribbon Award bestowed upon Templeton Elementary School by the U.S. Department of Education is a tribute to the school's academic accomplishments. Working within the tenants that "learning is valuable, respect is essential, communication is vital, consistent attendance is necessary, and teachers and parents must form a partnership to ensure student success," the students, parents and dedicated staff have demonstrated what is possible through their collective efforts.

Despite having a high percentage of children from low income homes and being within a school system with severe financial constraints, this school has excelled. Templeton serves as a model of the odds that can be overcome through both commitment and dedication.

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON MENTAL HEALTH

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the following speech delivered at the White House Conference on Mental Health by the President of the Special Olympics, Mrs. Shriver, does an excellent job in describing the challenges faced by individuals that suffer from both psychiatric disorders and mental retardation.

I urge my colleagues to take the time to read this particularly informative speech.

MRS. SHRIVER'S STATEMENT FOR THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON MENTAL HEALTH

It has been known for at least the last 25 years that individuals with mental retardation suffer from the full spectrum of psychiatric disorders—depression, schizophrenia, anxiety states and more. In fact, it is now estimated that as many as 30% of the individuals with mental retardation also

have a coexisting mental illness, yet they remain one of the most underserved populations in the United States. These undiagnosed and untreated disorders prevent millions of people with mental retardation from leading productive lives.

Clinicians tell me that often emotional or aggressive outbursts are labeled normal behaviors for those with mental retardation when serious depression or other psychiatric disorders may be present. Too often in these situations psychotropic medicines in large doses may be administered with unnecessary toxic side affects.

Let me tell one short story that exemplifies this unfortunate situation. A forty-year-old woman with moderate mental retardation in an institution in a state not far from here was very heavily sedated because of severe aggressive behavior. Because of one well-trained clinician this woman's life was completely turned around. He diagnosed her as having a bi-polar affective disorder and treated here with Lithium. Shortly thereafter, she returned to here community, obtained a job and is now a productive member of society in contact with family and friends.

Another unfortunate example is when a non-retarded child is hyperactive he is often diagnosed as having an attention deficit disorder and treated properly. but when a child with mental retardation is hyperactive that behavior is typically attributed to his mental retardation and not adequately diagnosed or treated. We do know that children with attention deficit were very very rarely included into "Federal studies" on attention deficit disorder.

What can we do to improve these dreadful situation?

First, all psychiatric training should include exposure to children and adults with mental retardation and the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology should require such experiences for certification.

Secondly, most of us agree that the earlier treatment is started, the more effective it is. Therefore, when a young child with mental retardation attends primary grades and acts up that shouldn't be automatically attributed to his mental retardation. The child should be referred to the school psychologist for proper diagnosis and treatment.

To accomplish all these goals, basic and clinical research that can benefit people with mental retardation and mental illness should be a priority at the National Institute of Mental Health working cooperatively with the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and mentally retarded must be included in new research.

Finally, we must remember that persons with mental retardation are finding their own voice, telling their own stories, reminding the world that they are not to be pitied nor neglected, but rather individuals with ideas and feelings and dreams for their future. They stand with us today announcing their abilities and proclaiming that their time has come. From the Special Olympics Movement I have seen over and over again their promise, their potential and their unbridled human spirit.

I am confident that this conference and Mrs. Gore's leadership will forcefully move us into the next millennium where the mental health needs of those with mental retardation will be fully studied and addressed. I look forward to hearing others' thoughts and comments on this critical issue.

I thank you for this opportunity to talk on behalf of these wonderful human beings.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT L. EHRlich, JR.

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. EHRlich. Mr. Speaker, I missed 3 recorded votes because I was unavoidably delayed on June 7. I missed rollcall vote numbers: 167 on approving the Journal; 168 (H.R. 435); and 169 (H.R. 1915). Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on each of the three votes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the House Chamber for rollcall votes held the evening of Monday, June 7th. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 167, 168, and 169.

GUN CRIME PROSECUTION ACT OF 1999

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today, I along with Congresswoman MCCARTHY and Congressman MOORE and other co-sponsors introduce a bill that will put at least one Federal prosecutor in every State to focus upon prosecuting gun crimes.

There is no question that our nation is facing a growing scourge of gun violence that is holding an increasing number of our communities under siege. Crimes committed with firearms are among the most heinous, and should be prosecuted as quickly and forcefully as possible.

While the federal government has, in the past, approached the problem of gun violence by passing new federal laws and putting more cops on the beat, there is nothing that can be done to attack the problem if our prosecutors do not have the resources they need to enforce these existing laws.

Simply put, we must give them the resources they need to fully enforce existing gun laws. That is why we have introduced the Gun Crime Prosecution Act of 1999.

This legislation will give every United States Attorney for each judicial district an additional Assistant US Attorney position whose sole purpose would be the prosecution of crimes committed with a firearm. Specifically, each new prosecutor position would give priority to violent crimes and crimes committed by felons. By committing a full-time position within each US Attorney's office to prosecuting gun crimes, we will be giving our prosecutors the tools they need to enforce the laws that already exist in statute.

We hope you will join us in this effort by signing on to the Gun Crime Prosecution Act