

Africa and Asia. Logging companies must halt the flow of illegal bushmeat from their operations. Long term support for protected areas, national parks, and buffer zones must be secured to protect habitat and wildlife. Law enforcement capacity to enable countries to enforce wildlife protection laws must be developed to prevent poaching. Finally, efforts must be undertaken to help rural populations develop alternative sources of protein that will reduce the demand for bushmeat.

While it is a formidable task, we cannot let the desperate straights of the great apes immobilize us. We must do what we can as quickly as possible. H.R. 4320 bill is a good step in the direction and will hopefully inspire a broad scale effort to restore ape populations worldwide.

Modeled after the successful and widely supported African and Asian Elephant Conservation Acts, the Great Ape Conservation Act would authorize the Secretary to provide up to \$5 million a year in grants to local wildlife management authorities and other entities in the range states to conserve and rebuild great ape populations. This is important because without the cooperation and commitment of the range states and the local communities, conservation efforts cannot be successful.

H.R. 4320 is supported by the Administration and a broad range of interest groups, and I hope Members can support its passage today.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4320, the Great Ape Conservation Act, and I compliment the author.

Today, great apes face multiple threats to their very survival. These include habitat destruction, civil wars, and an explosion in the devastating illegal hunting of apes for the commercial enterprise known as bushmeat trade. Unless immediate steps are taken, these magnificent animals will continue their slide toward extinction. We must not allow that to occur.

This legislation would continue the successful partnership established by the African Elephant Conservation Act by creating the Great Ape Conservation Fund, which would make grant money available to assist range state governments and nongovernmental organizations involved in the front-line battles to protect great apes.

These monies will complement established programs and, at the same time, leverage additional financial support from other organizations.

Mr. Speaker, great apes—defined as gorillas, orangutans, chimpanzees, bonobos, and gibbons—are listed both as endangered under the Endangered Species Act and Appendix I under CITES. In fact, one subspecies of gorilla—the mountain gorilla—made famous by the movie, “Gorillas in the Mist,” has been decimated to less than 700 animals, making it more endangered than the giant panda.

These grand animals—with whom we share 98 percent of our genetic material—deserve our help.

This bill is supported by the administration and by a diverse group of conservation leaders, including the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, World Wildlife Fund, Wildlife Conservation Society, and many other organizations.

H.R. 4320 is noncontroversial and should be supported by all Members.

I urge an “aye” vote on this important conservation legislation.

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

Mr. HANSEN. 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 Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4320, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks, and to include extraneous material on H.R. 2348, H.R. 3291, and H.R. 4320, the three bills just considered.

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

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING IMPORTANCE OF CHILDREN IN THE UNITED STATES AND SUPPORTING GOALS AND IDEAS OF NATIONAL YOUTH DAY

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 375) recognizing the importance of children in the United States and supporting the goals and ideas of National Youth Day, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 375

Whereas national evidence indicates that America's youth are faced with oppressive issues, such as violence, drugs, abuse, and even family stress, causing the future of the youth of the United States, and therefore the future of the Nation, to be at risk;

Whereas youth in America, regardless of their economic status, ethnic or cultural heritage, or geographic location, are experiencing the pressures caused by contemporary society;

Whereas although Americans realize the challenges of today's busy lifestyles and balancing work schedules and youth activities, they remain committed to education, physical fitness, and civic-mindedness;

Whereas it is imperative that the people of the United States act willfully and purposely to secure a positive future for the Nation by devoting time to youth, sharing traditions, and communicating values to children in an effort to sustain ongoing relationships with caring adults;

Whereas America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth, led by General Colin L. Powell,

United States Army (retired), is one of the Nation's most comprehensive nonprofit organizations dedicated to building and strengthening the character and competence of youth by mobilizing the Nation to fulfill the organization's “Five Promises” for young people:

(1) ongoing relationships with caring adults;

(2) safe places with structured activities during nonschool hours;

(3) a healthy start and future;

(4) marketable skills through effective education; and

(5) opportunities to give back through community service;

Whereas the citizens of the United States will celebrate American Youth Day and encourage all youth organizations to participate annually on a Saturday near the beginning of the school year; and

Whereas American Youth Day will provide opportunities for America's youth to reclaim the values which foster trust and build better communication and which will encourage parents, grandparents, and extended families to recognize the importance of being involved in the physical and emotional lives of their children: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) recognizes the importance of youth to the future of the United States;

(2) supports the goals and ideas of American Youth Day; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to participate in local and national activities that seek to fulfill the Five Promises to America's youth, as established by America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) and a member of the minority each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Concurrent Resolution 375.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 375, offered by my colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM).

House Concurrent Resolution 375 recognizes the importance of children and supports the goals and ideas of American youth today. This resolution enjoys bipartisan support, and I am pleased to have the opportunity today to speak on behalf of it.

America's young people, regardless of their economic status, ethnic heritage, or geographic location are faced every day with difficult problems, such as violence, drug abuse, and even family stress.

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Unfortunately, these problems also put the future of our youth and Nation