

a virtual death sentence. We can proudly say that because of medical breakthroughs, 70 percent or more of the children diagnosed today will be alive and well 5 years later.

I believe we need to continue to support cancer research so children will no longer suffer needlessly.

LITERACY INVOLVES FAMILIES
TOGETHER ACT

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2000

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, the House passed H.R. 3222, the Literacy Involves Families Together Act, otherwise known as the LIFT bill. Passage of this bill not only lifts our spirits, but it will help lift the level of excellence in our teachers, which will benefit our children.

The LIFT program makes improvements to the Even Start Program. Even Start programs work with adults without GED or high school diploma and their children to break cycles of illiteracy. It also provides parents with the skills they need to be their child's teachers and most important advocate. Simply put, the LIFT bill stresses the need for teacher professional development, the use of scientific research, and expands the program so that faith-based programs may partner with the federal government to improve literacy skills throughout our communities.

Earlier this year, Sharon Darling from the National Center for Family Literacy testified before the appropriations subcommittee about the disconnect between what we know from science about how children learn to read and what teachers practice. Many teachers have admitted their frustration about not being equipped with the latest information—they want training and additional professional development. That is why LIFT is so important. It allows states to use federal money to provide training and technical assistance to instructors in Even Start and other programs with a focus on family literacy. In addition to providing instruction, LIFT requires the use of instructional reading programs which are based on scientifically-based research. Thanks to our investments in the National Institutes of Health, we know how we can best teach children to read. This is especially important for children with learning disabilities.

Understanding that children are not the only ones with learning difficulties, the LIFT bill funds research to find the most effective ways to improve literacy among adults with reading difficulties. We know that family literacy is a key component to our children being successful. The Even Start program has helped parents obtain their high school equivalency certificate. By understanding the importance of furthering their own education, parents are more inclined to become more involved in their child's education. The LIFT bill builds on the success of the Even Start program, improves the quality of the program, and holds states accountable for the progress of local literacy programs.

This Congress is fortunate to have members like Congressman BILL GOODLING to shepherd

this bill to the floor. Bill has worked diligently to improve the quality of education programs, whether it is improving elementary school programs, helping disabled children, or working on adult education programs. Since my time in Congress, BILL and I have worked closely together to stress the importance of scientifically based reading research and to get that information in the hands of teachers and parents. He is a fine leader on education and we will miss him when he retires after this year. With the LIFT bill, our families can lift themselves up and achieve their dreams.

ENSURE EQUAL WAGES AND DUE
PROCESS FOR DAY LABORERS

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2000

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Day Laborer Fairness and Protection Act," a bill to ensure equal wages and due process for day laborers. Twenty-five representatives have joined me as original co-sponsors of this important legislation.

Day laborers are individuals who are hired by agencies to work on a day-to-day basis for employers who pay for the services of temporary laborers. Day labor is not of a clerical or professional nature. Most day laborers perform construction, warehouse, restaurant, janitorial, landscaping or light industrial work—usually for the minimum wage.

In the absence of federal guidelines, day laborers are often subjected to long, unpaid wait-periods before being assigned to a job. Commonly, these workers also face dangerous working conditions and are paid lower wages than full-time workers performing the same or similar jobs. Further, day laborers are frequently charged high (often undisclosed) fees for on-the-job meals, transportation to and from job sites and special attire and safety equipment necessary for jobs.

Partially due to these unfair labor conditions, many day laborers are caught in a cycle of poverty. A recent study by the University of Illinois Center for Urban Economic Development found that 65 percent of 510 surveyed day laborers receive \$5.15 per hour. Taking into consideration the number of hours spent waiting to be assigned to work (of-ten between 1.5 and three hours), the real value per hour of work is reduced to less than about four dollars per hour. This low figure does not reflect transportation and food and equipment fees, which are often deducted from day laborers' wages.

To address these problems, this Act includes the following definitions and requirements:

Day laborer is defined as an individual who contracts for employment with a day labor service agency.

Day labor service agency is defined as any person or entity engaged in the business of employing day laborers to provide services for any third party employer.

Day laborer wages that are equal to those paid to permanent employees who are performing substantially equivalent work, with

consideration given to seniority, experience, skills & qualifications.

Wages for job assignment wait-times lasting more than thirty minutes. Such wages shall be at a rate that is not less than federal or state minimum wages.

Itemized statements showing deductions made from day laborers' wages.

When a day laborer is hurt on the job, coverage of health care costs by the employer who has requested the services of the day laborer.

Enforcement of the "Day Laborer Fairness and Protection Act" by the U.S. Department of Labor.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO BOY
SCOUT TROOP 224 OF OTTAWA,
OHIO ON THE DEDICATION OF
ITS NEW BOY SCOUT HOUSE

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2000

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great pleasure today to pay special tribute to a truly outstanding organization from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. This Sunday, September 17, Boy Scout Troop 224 of Ottawa, Ohio will celebrate an historic and remarkable event. They dedicate the new Boy Scout House, which will serve as the new headquarters for Troop 224.

Boy Scouting in Ottawa, Ohio has a long and rich tradition. Sponsored by the Ottawa Kiwanis Club for some sixty-eight years, Boy Scout Troop 224 and Cub Scout Pack 224 have become staples of the community and have served the area with great pride and distinction. Currently, there are 89 Boy Scouts in Troop 224 and 150 Cub Scouts. These fine young men are part of the family of more than 900 boys who have participated in Scouting in Ottawa.

Known not only as the largest Boy Scout Troop in the Black Swamp area, Troop 224 has turned out 109 Eagle Scouts over the years. In fact, three Boy Scouts from Troop 224 have achieved the National Court of Honor Award for Lifesaving. Troop 224 undertakes a myriad community service projects including the Scouting for Food campaign, landscaping projects for the village of Ottawa and local churches and schools, safety programs, and nature activities.

Now, Boy Scout Troop 224 prepares for one of its biggest celebrations—the opening of its new Boy Scout House. The new facility will replace the current home, which was built in the mid 1930's and has served Troop 224, for decades. The old facility, once shared by the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, will give way to the new 2,400 square foot facility. The new home for Troop 224 includes several separate rooms, storage space for supplies and equipment, and space for Troop and Pack meetings, Blue and Gold banquets, and Courts of Honor.

Mr. Speaker, Boy Scouting is truly one of America's longest-standing traditions. It instills in our young people the values of hard work, honesty, discipline, safety, honor, and much