

The first evidence of what Gwen is doing right is found in the fact that she has one of the largest Parent Volunteer programs at the school every year. High school students, parents, and grandparents enjoy volunteering in her classroom because she makes them feel rewarded for helping out.

In addition to getting involved, many parents have also voiced their appreciation for the excellent way in which Gwen Sessions educates their children. Said one student's mother, "It's always scary turning your child over to their first teacher. It didn't take long, however, for our family to learn to completely trust, respect, and appreciate Mrs. Sessions for all her wonderful gifts she has to offer." Remarkd another mother, "The first time I entered Mrs. Sessions kindergarten classroom I know my daughter was in the best hands possible." One parent and long-time instructional aide puts it this way, "I feel her empathy with people and her desire to inspire others has made the difference in countless lives. She puts her heart and soul into her daily task of making the beginnings of our children's many years in school a joy."

As a final and perhaps supreme tribute, another mother has said, "She makes learning exciting and brings even the shyest of children out of their shell. . . . I know we will look back in years to come and say, This teacher made a difference between success and failure."

Congress has made improving education a top priority. As we continue searching for ways to better the educational system, we need to look at the positive things happening in schools across the country. I believe that Gwen Sessions is an excellent example of what is right with America's schools.

To my friend Gwen Sessions, the Rocklin Unified School District Elementary School Teacher of the Year, I say, "Thank you and congratulations on a job well done! Keep up the good work."

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RECOGNIZING NATIONAL LEARNING DISABILITIES MONTH AND THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR LEARNING DISABILITIES

**HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 17, 2000*

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, for millions of children with learning disabilities in this country, the future is brighter than any other time in this nation's history. That's because we know today what works for children learning to read. This is important because 90 percent of children with learning disabilities have difficulty with reading.

Learning disabilities, or LD, are neurological disorders that affect people's ability to read, write, compute and participate fully in society. The good news is that if LD is identified early, before the age of nine, the majority of children can work up to their potential. Without early detection, the statistics are sobering.

Thirty-five percent of students identified with learning disabilities drop out of high school.

Fifty percent of juvenile delinquents tested were found to have undetected LD. When of-

fered remedial services, their recidivism rates dropped to below 2 percent.

According to the Office of the Inspector General, learning disabilities and substance abuse are the most common impediments to keeping welfare recipients from becoming and remaining employed.

I have been working with learning disabilities issues in Congress for many years, from identifying educational needs, to calling for additional resources and promoting national policies that take into account the concerns of people with LD.

Important progress has been achieved over the last two decades in identifying and treating children with learning disabilities. This is critical, because our nation is in the grip of a monumental and global change. As opposed to previous generations when the United States was primarily an agricultural and manufacturing-based country, our brave new world of technology has elevated information processing as a required skill in today's workers. And the future will only demand more information technology workers across every profession as the global community expands and competition for enterprise increases.

This is why early identification of children with reading problems, and applying proven strategies to enable them to read, is fundamental to the future success of this great country's economy. More importantly, it is essential for the success of our children and our children's self esteem.

Today, in recognition of National Learning Disabilities Month, the National Center for Learning Disabilities is launching a new initiative aimed at beginning readers. The "Get Ready to Read" program will assess the reading progress of children ages four to five. It will target those at risk for reading failure and provide enrichment activities to strengthen their skills. Parents, teachers, and pediatricians will be involved in creating a "constellation of care" around a child, effectively making sure that early on, before the cycle failure and defeat wreaks its damage, that the child is provided help. And you, no doubt, will hear from your constituents as this program progresses, because an important component of "Get Ready to Read" is for parents and others to keep their legislators apprised of issues affecting young children with reading problems.

Reading is a basic building block in participating fully in society. In this country of opportunity and promise, we owe it to our children to make sure they learn to read, and read well. I applaud this effort by the National Center for Learning Disabilities to help our youngest Americans to hope, to learn and to succeed.

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CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4205, FLOYD D. SPENCE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001

SPEECH OF

**HON. BOB RILEY**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2000*

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, last year's Defense Appropriations Act (FY 00) contained \$10 mil-

lion for the specific purpose of improving the safeguards for storing classified material held by Department of Defense contractors. It is with deep regret that I must report that the Pentagon refused to release these funds which expired on September 30, 2000. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Command, Control, Communications and Information, Arthur Money, sent me and a number of other House and Senate members a letter on why the Pentagon chose to ignore the direction of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, beyond the fact that the Clinton/Gore Administration defied the law, their rationale for not complying with a federal security standard is troubling and their basis unfounded. First, on the issue of cost, DOD claims that upgrading existing security containers controlled by contractors by replacing old vulnerable mechanical locks with electronic locks that meet minimum federal security standards (FFL-2740A) would be cost prohibitive. The referenced report of the Joint Security Commission II sites an industry estimate from five contractors that is based on an inflated retail price of the electronic lock which is popularly called the "X07" or "X08" lock, rather than the wholesale price which would be the price of the lock in this upgrade program. This is not the first time that DOD has overestimated the cost of the program in an effort to resist implementation. In 1993, DOD grossly overestimated the cost of upgrading its own mechanical locks at \$500 million, but the internal upgrade only actually cost \$59 million. Based on the number of classified containers held by defense contractors, a lock upgrade program would cost between \$45 million and \$60 million, depending upon how the program was managed.

Secondly, on the issue of threat Mr. Speaker, the physical security threat to classified materials that exists with these 1950's vintage mechanical locks cannot be overstated. The threat is why the GSA established a federal standard in 1989 that requires locks on secure containers to withstand an attempt of twenty man-hours of surreptitious entry. Currently, an "insider" or foreign agent with readily available technology can determine the combination of a mechanical lock in a matter of minutes. Since this "safe cracking" can be done without detection on a mechanical lock, no one would ever know that an "insider" possessed the combination to access classified information including sensitive computer hard drives, laptops and access codes. To combat this problem, all new secure containers are fitted with the X08 lock (the only lock that meets the federal standard), but there are still thousands of mechanical lock containers and, worse yet, bar-locked file cabinets that are being used by contractors to protect our nation's classified information. Until all existing secure containers are upgraded with modern electronic locks, gaping security lapses will continue. No perimeter security apparatus involving guns, gates, guards, alarms, check points and other physical security barriers will protect against the "insider" threat to antiquated mechanical locks.

The Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) has identified 27 foreign intelligence organizations that have the capability to penetrate these old mechanical locks without leaving a visible