District. Under his direction, Acalanes Union School District has served as a model for schools in Contra Costa County and throughout the State of California. I believe that school districts across the country should follow Dr. Perino’s example and take the opportunity to learn from his successful and innovative ways.

THE ELDERLY HOUSING + HEALTH SUPPORT DEMONSTRATION ACT

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, elderly and disabled Americans in the United States currently face a dire problem—inadequate public housing. Approximately 40% of HUD’s 1.3 million public housing units are occupied by the Elderly and the Disabled who are paying in excess of half their income towards rent. Public housing apartment buildings have amassed a backlog of $5.7 billion in needed repairs. Nearly two-thirds of the buildings were constructed prior to 1970 and have frequently been passed over for modernization due to inadequate appropriations. Many of these public housing units need significant upgrading to meet basic safety and comfort standards in order to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Upgrading these units creates opportunities to bring supportive health and other services to help residents age with mobility and avoid costly and depressant institutionalization.

The Elderly Housing + Health Support Demonstration Act seeks to meet these aims by providing competitive awards to Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) for the most innovative proposals to address the soaring needs of the Elderly and Disabled to have access to health-related supportive and congregate housing services. Specifically, the bill provides: (a) $250 million of capital funding for physical rehabilitation of the building and installation of facilities for health-related services; (b) a pool of up to $10 million (maximum grant to a selected PHA is $400,000) for service coordinator funds; and (c) $15 million (maximum grant to a selected PHA is $750,000) for congregate housing services. The total cost of this demonstration grant program is $275 million.

Please join me in co-sponsoring The Elderly Housing + Health Support Demonstration Act. Upgrading public housing and providing a continuum of care will enable Elderly and Disabled public housing residents to have a quality assisted-living environment, a viable health care system, and an independent life. This program has the additional benefit of providing much needed cost savings and preventing premature institutionalization of one of our most vulnerable populations.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO SUSIE HAAS—2000 NATIONAL TEACHER’S HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

HON. KEN CALVERT
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, today I commend Kindergarten Teacher Susie Haas, one of only five, who will be inducted into the National Teachers Hall of Fame in 2000. I am particularly proud, because Susie teaches at one of my own hometown elementary schools in Contra, California—the John Adams Elementary School. In fact, I went to school with Susie. Susie, I promise not to tell any stories if you’ll do the same for me!

Susie says, and I quote, that her “philosophical beliefs concerning how children make sense of the world around them are the foundation of the instructional program I have created for my students. I believe all children deserve to be taught in an environment that will promote, value, and nurture their natural desire to learn.”

Susie’s own teaching philosophy seems like common sense—straightforward and easy. However, it is the hands-on practice of her philosophy that has made such an incredible impact on all of the children and parents with whom she has come into contact. As a result, Susie has been recognized numerous times by her students, colleagues, community, state and nation. In 1999 alone, Susie was a Disney American Teacher of the Year Honoree, California Teacher of the Year, one of the Inland Empire Magazine’s “Teachers Making a Difference,” Walmart Teacher of the Year, Riverside County Teacher of the Year and Corona-Norco Unified School District Teacher of the Year.

And Susie has not stopped her work at the door of her own classroom. She has written a variety of documents and books and given seminars across the United States to share her expertise in teaching, most significantly in literacy instruction. The Lap-Reading program created by Susie has educated thousands of parents across the nation on how they can boost their own child’s school performance by offering monthly ideas on how parents can increase reading at home. For her students, she has created Spot, a stuffed classroom mascot, who travels home with each child two nights each year. Spot has done almost everything from birthday parties to dentist visits. All of the adventures have been recounted in drawings and writings by each child into Spot’s personal journal.

Mr. Speaker, as we debate the need to reform our education system this year and years to come, I ask my colleagues to look in their own backyard for advice from teachers, parents and students. They are living and breathing the adventures of the key to success for all future generations. To Susie Haas, I offer my deepest appreciation. Her passion and commitment to teaching America’s next generation is truly awesome and inspiring.