EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HON. TIM ROEMER
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, June 19, 2000
Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, due to a family commitment I was unable to cast the following House Rollcall votes on June 15, 2000: No. 285, a quorum call; No. 286, on the amendment offered by Representative SANDERS; and No. 287, a motion that the committee rise.
Had I been present, I would have voted "present" on rollcall No. 285, "aye" on rollcall No. 286, and "aye" on rollcall No. 287.

NEW JERSEY SENATE OBJECTS TO SCHOOL-TO-WORK

HON. BOB SCHAFFER
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, June 19, 2000
Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a resolution recently approved by the New Jersey Senate. Approved on May 10, 1999, Senate Resolution #73 expresses the objection to the State Senate to the School-to-Work provisions being developed by the New Jersey Department of Education.

State Senators Joseph Kyrillos, William Gormley, Scott Garrett, and Guy Talarico have been working on a resolution opposing the federal School-to-Work curriculum and its goals.

The concerns expressed in this resolution cut to the heart of education reform today. Basic academics, local control, unlimited student opportunity and sufficient, quality instruction time are at the forefront of local education efforts and threatened by School-to-Work. New Jersey is clearly concerned about a radical restructuring of its education system which will fundamentally reform the Statewide assessment system. This new code provisions will result in limiting students' choices far too early in their lives and imposing job specific skills training on record opposing the federal School-to-Work program.

Whereas, The Department of Education is proposing a minimum of one day per week or the equivalent thereof, participate in a structured learning experience which is linked to the student's career plan and which could include volunteer activities, community service, paid or unpaid employment opportunities, school-based enterprises, or participation in an apprenticeship program; and

Whereas, The new code provisions will make school-to-work a requirement for all students in the State, and will result in the loss of 20% of academic instructional time, putting students at a competitive disadvantage in collegiate academic programs; and

Whereas, The school-to-work provisions of the new code provisions will result in limiting students' choices far too early in their lives and imposing job specific skills training on the education system at the expense of instructional time in academic subjects; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:
1. This House objects to the school-to-work provisions incorporated into the new chapter of administrative code being developed by the Department of Education to implement the core curriculum content standards and the Statewide assessment system. This House urges that school-to-work provisions be eliminated and that school-to-work education be allowed to determine the necessity and nature of any career program for their own school district.
2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a duly authenticated copy of this resolution to the State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education.

This resolution expresses the objection of the Senate to the school-to-work provisions incorporated into the new chapter of administrative code being developed by the Department of Education to implement the core curriculum content standards and the Statewide assessment system. The resolution also
I had been present during Roll Call #286, I would have voted "YES". If I had been present during Roll Call #284, I would have voted "YES". If I had been present during Roll Call #282, I would have voted "NO". If I had been present during Roll Call #288, I would have voted "YES". If I had been present during Roll Call #285, I would have voted "PRESENT". If I had been present during Roll Call #289, I would have voted "NO". If I had been present during Roll Call #290, I would have voted "YES". If I had been present during Roll Call #291, I would have voted "NO".

CELEBRATION OF JUNETEENTH

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, June 19, 2000

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Father, I stretch my hand to thee—no other help I know. Oh my rose of Sharon, my shelter in the time of storm. My prince of peace, my hope in this harsh land. We bow before you this morning to thank you for watching over us and taking care of those you touched us and brought us out of the land of slumber, gave us another day—thank you Jesus. We realize that many that talked as we now talked—this morning when their names were called—failed to answer. Their voices were hushed in death. Their souls had taken flight and gone back to the God that gave it, but not so with us.

Now Lord, when I come to the end of my journey; when my praying days are done and time for me shall be no more; when these knees have bowed for the last time; when I too, like all others must come in off the battle-field of life; when I'm through being bucked and scorned, I pray for a home in glory.

When I come down the river to the river of Jordan, hold the river still and let your servant cross over during the calm. Father, I'll be loosing during the river; I'm looking for that land where Job said the wicked would cease from troubling us and our weary souls would be at rest; over there where a thousand years is but a day in eternity, where I'll meet with loved ones and where I can sing praises to the God of the saints of old, Free at Last, Free at Last, Thank God almighty, I am free at last. Your servants prayer for Christ sake. Amen!

Mr. Speaker, this traditional prayer is similar to prayers recited across the south as many African Americans and others celebrate the 19th of June. The deep south spiritual faith of the enslaved is reflected in this traditional prayer and continues to speak for us of the unquenchable hope that American slaves possessed for freedom.

Juneteenth, or June 19th, 1865, is considered the date when the last slaves in America were freed. Although the rumors of freedom were widespread prior to this, actual emancipation did not come until General Gordon Granger rode in Galveston, Texas and issued General Order No. 3, on June 19, almost two years and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. Unfortunately, news of the emancipation was brutally suppressed due to the overwhelming influence of powerful slave owners.

President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862, notifying the states in rebellion against the Union that if they did not cease their rebellion and return to the Union by January 1, 1863, he would declare their slaves forever free. Needless to say, the proclamation was ignored by these states that seceded from the Union.

Furthermore, the proclamation did not apply to those slave-holding states that did not rebel against the Union. As a result, about 800,000 slaves were unaffected by the provision of the proclamation. It would take a civil war to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution to formally outlaw slavery in the United States.

For many African Americans, Juneteenth has come to symbolize what the 4th of July symbolizes to all Americans—FREEDOM! Annually, on June 19th, in more than 200 cities in the United States, African Americans celebrate this great event. Texas is the only state that has made Juneteenth a legal holiday. Some cities sponsor week-long celebrations, culminating on June 19th, while others hold shorter celebrations.

The anniversary of freedom was not to be forgotten by people who had spent their entire lives in bondage—people for whom the lash had been a common punishment, but whose sting had been compared with the pain of family separations, the indignity of compelled deference, the thought that only the grave would bring emancipation. So in the ensuing years, the joyous events of June 19, 1865, were re-enacted, becoming as Juneteenth celebrations. Best Sunday dress, American flags, thankful prayer, music, baseball games and massive quantities of food characterized these African-American gatherings.

Juneteenth not only symbolizes the end of slavery, it also serves as a historical milestone reminding Americans of the triumph of the human spirit over the cruelty of slavery. It honors those African-American ancestors who survived the inhuman institution of bondage as well as demonstrating pride in the marvelous legacy of resistance and perseverance.

When the blacks in the south heard the news that they were set free, they sang, danced and prayed. There was much rejoicing and jubilation that their lives long hopes had finally been answered. Many of the slaves left their masters upon being freed, in search of family members, economic opportunities or simply because they could. They left with nothing but the clothes on their backs and hope in their hearts.

Listen to this account of a former slave—Susan Ross. "When my oldest brother heard we were free, he gave a whoop, ran, jumped a high fence, and told mommy good-bye. Then he grabbed me up and hugged me and said, 'Brother is gone, don't expect you'll ever see me any more.' I don't know where he went, but I never did see him again."

Freedom meant more than the right to travel freely. It meant the right to name one's self and many freedmen gave themselves new names. They abandoned their former Christian names and took on names of Africa. It was a period of great rejoicing, as well as demonstrating pride in the marvelous legacy of resistance and perseverance.

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