Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. FLETCHER) for yielding me this time, and I also want to thank him for his help in passing this resolution, which I proposed last July.

Mr. Speaker, a good definition of character is summed up in the old saying -- Character is what you do when no one is looking. — 1415

Men and women of character are guided by principles of right and wrong. They do not look to others for approval or bend to peer pressure.

National polls indicate that moral concerns and family decline are some of the most important problems facing the country today. Too many of our children grow up in a culture that acknowledges no right or wrong.

Americans are concerned about the quality of their children's education. They are also troubled about the decline in our Nation's values and its effect on our children. Although parents should be the primary developers of character, educators play an increasingly important role. Communities across the Nation recognize that character education is an integral part of a well-rounded curriculum.

Our Nation's teachers are aware that character education can establish standards for behavior.

President Bush has made character education an important component of his education reform bill. By allocating funds to character education, States, local education agencies, parents, and students will have an opportunity to promote character and values. This resolution will encourage schools to embrace character education. It designates the third week of October of this year and 2002 as "National Character Counts Week."

I hope children across the Nation will participate in character-building activities in their schools. It is imperative that we teach our children the values that strengthen their character and make our country strong. To reap the rewards of a virtuous society, we must first sow the seeds of character when our children are young.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to just reiterate that this is a good bill and ask my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, let me just close before I yield back the remainder of my time.

In light of the recent events, it seems even more appropriate to quote Dr. Martin Luther King. Let me read his quote: "The function of education, therefore, is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. But education which stops with efficiency may prove the greatest menace to society. The most dangerous criminal may be the man gifted with reason and no moral unblemished character and encourage the young people of this nation to replicate these attributes in all their ways and conduct."

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further request for time, and I yield back the remainder of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. FLETCHER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 204.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

SMALL BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2001

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1860) to reauthorize the Small Business Technology Transfer Program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows: H.R. 1860

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the "Small Business Technology Transfer Program Reauthorization Act of 2001."

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF PROGRAM AND EXPENDITURE AMOUNTS.

(a) In General.—Section 9(n)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(n)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

"(1) REQUIRED EXPENDITURE AMOUNTS.—

"(A) In General.—With respect to each fiscal year through fiscal year 2009, each Federal agency that has an extramural budget for research, or research and development, in excess of $1,000,000,000 for that fiscal year, shall expend with small business concerns not less than the percentage of that extramural budget specified in subparagraph (B), specifically in connection with STTR programs that meet the requirements of this section and any policy directives and regulations issued under this section.

"(B) EXPENDITURE AMOUNTS.—The percentage of the extramural budget required to be expended by an agency in accordance with subparagraph (A) shall be—

"(i) 0.15 percent for each fiscal year through fiscal year 2003; and

"(ii) 0.3 percent for fiscal year 2004 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638) is amended in subsections (b)(4) and (e)(6), by striking "(B) EXPENDITURE AMOUNTS.—" and all that follows through "the table."

SEC. 3. INCREASE IN AUTHORIZED PHASE II AWARDS.