

passed the House in October of 1999. I am hopeful that this year's version of the legislation will garner the same kind of bipartisan support as did the last bill and ultimately will find its way into law.

Mr. Speaker, I think you would agree that being homeless should not mean foregoing an education. Yet, that is what homelessness means for far too many of America's children and youth today.

Even with our healthy economy, estimates are that one million kids will experience homelessness this year. Due to red tape, lack of information, and bureaucratic delays, some homeless children are missing school or are being turned away at the schoolhouse door and, as a result, losing out on the chance for a better life.

Studies show that as a result of these problems, some 45 percent of homeless children do not attend school on a regular basis. In addition, homeless children are twice as likely to repeat a grade and have four times the rate of delayed development.

Congress recognized the importance of school to homeless children by establishing the Stewart B. McKinney Education of Homeless Children and Youth program. This program is designed to remove barriers that prevent or make it hard for homeless youth to enroll, attend and succeed in school. And, for many homeless children, it may make the difference between success in the classroom and failure in life.

Yet today, more than a decade after the passage of that important program, inadequacies in the federal law inadvertently are acting as barriers to the education of homeless children. We must act to strengthen these weak areas, and we must act now.

This Congress has the rare chance to review, redefine, and improve our federal education policies. Not since 1994, when programs under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) were last authorized, has Congress had a similar opportunity to examine K through 12 education in total.

I believe it is incumbent for Members from both sides of the aisle and in both chambers to take advantage of this unique opportunity to renew our commitment to homeless children. As the 107th Congress rushes forward to reauthorize our federal K-12 education programs, we must pause long enough to ensure that all homeless children are guaranteed access to a public education, so that they acquire the skills needed to escape poverty and lead productive lives. In doing so, we will be meeting America's commitment to, as President Bush has clearly stated, leaving no child behind.

Mr. Speaker, the following is what the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act does. The bill:

One: ensures that homeless children are immediately enrolled in school. This means that no homeless child will be prevented for days or weeks from walking through the school doors because of delayed paperwork or other bureaucracy;

Two: limits the disruption of education by requiring schools to make every effort to keep homeless children in the school they attended before becoming homeless, unless it is against their parents wishes. This provision

ensures that homeless children are not unwillingly ripped away from their friends and environments where they are comfortable learning;

Three: keeps homeless students in school while disputes are being resolved. Homeless children often spend weeks or even months out of school while enrollment disputes remain unresolved. This legislation addresses this serious problem by creating a mechanism to quickly and fairly resolve such disputes, ensuring that the enrollment process burdens neither the school nor the child's education;

Four: requires local school districts to select a contact person to identify, enroll and provide resource information and resolve disputes relating to homeless students. Because many schools don't currently have a point of contact for homeless students, these children frequently go unseen and unserved;

Five: strengthens the quality and collection of data on homeless students at the federal level. This is particularly crucial, as the lack of a uniform method of data collection has resulted in unreliable information and the likely underreporting of the numbers of homeless students;

Six: prohibits federal funding from being used to segregate homeless students. Despite McKinney Act requirements to remove enrollment barriers and to integrate homeless students into the mainstream school environment, some school districts continue to segregate these children into separate schools or

Seven: increases accountability by providing States with greater flexibility to use authorized funds to provide technical support to local school districts in order to bring them into compliance with the Act;

Eight and finally: assists overlooked and underserved homeless children and youth by raising the program's authorized funding level to \$90 million in FY2002 and reauthorizing the program for another five years.

Mr. Speaker, a majority of these provisions are derived from the Illinois Education for Homeless Children State Act, which many consider to be a model for the rest of the Nation. These provisions also are a reflection of the best ideas of some of America's most dedicated people—homeless advocates, educators, and experts at the US Department of Education.

Like many of my colleagues here in the House, I am a strong supporter of local control of education. I believe the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act of 2001 meets this principle while making the best use of limited federal resources.

Regrettably, homelessness is and will likely be for the immediate future a part of our society. However, being homeless should not limit a homeless child's opportunity to receive what every child in America is entitled—a free and quality public education. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this much-needed and timely bill.

In closing, let me take a moment to thank Illinois State Representative Mary Lou Cowlshaw, as well Sister Rose Marie Lorentzen and Diane Nilan with the Hased House in Aurora, Illinois for bringing this issue to my attention and for their years of tireless, and often unrecognized, work on behalf of the homeless.

I also want to thank Barbara Duffield with the National Coalition for the Homeless for her help in putting together this bill and my colleagues Representative DOUG OSE of California and CHAKA FATTAH of Pennsylvania for being original cosponsors.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE SERVICE CORPS OF RETIRED EXECUTIVES

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of SCORE, the Service Corps of Retired Executives. SCORE is a prototypical model for a nonprofit, non-governmental association that melds American expertise and entrepreneurial spirit with a uniquely American tradition of service and esprit de corps. SCORE utilizes the talents of current and retired American business executives, a talent pool that many consider to be among the finest business minds in the world, to provide volunteer business consulting service to the small business community. SCORE provides these services free of charge thanks to the efforts of its tireless volunteers.

Founded in 1964, there are currently 389 locally based chapters of the organization that provide business counseling at the community level. SCORE currently has over 11,000 volunteers and since its inception, has helped nearly four million business people throughout the nation with free advice. SCORE success stories run the gamut of the business world and include technology oriented companies, retail establishments, restaurants, and service providers, just to name a few. President Bush has repeatedly pointed out that community based organizations such as SCORE can provide an invaluable service to the nation without relying on government bureaucracy and expenditures of taxpayer dollars.

I salute the volunteers of the Service Corps of Retired Executives and hope that they serve as a model for a new generation of Americans dedicated to excellence with a commitment to service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SAMUEL H. DAY, JR.

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sam Day, Jr., a tireless advocate for peace and justice. Sam Day's efforts to preserve our planet from nuclear destruction have been recognized not only in our home community of Madison, Wisconsin, but across the country and around the world.

I first heard of Sam Day long before I ever had the honor of meeting him. It was back in the late 70s. In high school, I studied Sam's legal, ethical, and moral case against the U.S.