

floor, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman DINGELL for his leadership and commitment to getting gas prices under control.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit this letter from Congressman RON KIND for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Mr. KIND has been a leader on this issue starting in January when he sent this letter to the President urging him to take action in suspending shipments to the SPR.

Mr. Speaker, in the face of skyrocketing fuel costs and growing economic concerns, Congress must take action.

Today we take the small but important step of temporarily suspending the fill of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Taking this action sends a strong message to the market that will lower fuel prices and provide immediate relief to consumers.

With the price of gas today at nearly \$4 a gallon and crude oil trading at a record high of \$126 a barrel, we cannot continue the outdated policy of topping off a full SPR.

Since 2002, the price of oil has risen a staggering \$100 a barrel, and prices at the pump have more than tripled. We must stop taking 70,000 barrels of oil off the market every day while hard working Americans are struggling to fill their gas tanks.

By continuing to top off our oil reserve, consumers are paying not once, but twice.

Taxpayer dollars are being used to pay record high prices for SPR oil, while the act of buying that oil is actually driving gas prices higher.

The reserve is currently 97 percent full and maintains a stockpile of over 700 million barrels of oil. By taking this action today, we can offer short term economic relief to the market and to all consumers.

This is a short term solution, and by no means a replacement for the long term energy policy we need to end our dangerous and costly addiction to oil. Last year this Congress made real progress by increasing CAFE standards for the first time in 2 decades by committing to combat oil and market manipulation, promoting the use of more affordable American biofuels, and making large investments in renewable energy development.

The U.S. consumes nearly 20 million barrels of oil a day. Prices are high in part because supply has not kept up with demand. The Department of Energy recently reported that suspension of shipments to the SPR could reduce prices by about \$2 a barrel of oil and 5 cents per gallon of gasoline. Other experts have estimated that the suspension could diminish speculation in the market, and lower the price by anywhere from 5 to 25 cents a gallon.

This action would provide real and immediate benefits. Twenty-five cents would add \$300,000 to the bottom line of a local trucking company in my district. A rural school district in E. Montpelier, Vermont would save \$30,000 in taxpayer financed busing costs. Families, workers, seniors and students need this relief.

Over the last 8 months, the Bush administration has purchased over 10 million barrels of oil to top off the SPR. In that same period of time the price of oil went from \$40 a barrel to over \$120.

In 2006, facing record high oil prices President Bush said “. . . by deferring deposits until the fall, we'll leave a little more oil on the market. Every little bit helps.” Every little bit does help, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to take this opportunity to provide them immediate relief.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 22, 2008.

Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I write to urge the U.S. Department of Energy to suspend oil shipments to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) to allow more oil to remain on the market and available to consumers. This action is necessary to address record prices and stimulate a precarious economy.

While the escalating cost of crude oil has made headlines for the past several years, never before have we seen as dire a situation for consumers as the one we are experiencing now. Even the price spikes following Hurricane Katrina did not come close to the \$100 per barrel oil we saw last month, yet your Administration wisely responded to that crisis by temporarily suspending purchases for the SPR. That action was successful in providing the type of immediate, targeted relief we need now.

The writing is on the wall: our country is clearly in danger of recession. Unemployment is up, retail sales are slowing, housing prices continue to slide, and consumers and lenders alike continue to suffer the fallout from the sub-prime mortgage crisis. Average families are feeling the effects more painfully than ever as they experience the worst inflation in 17 years, largely because of escalating food and fuel prices.

Suspending the 12.3 million barrels of oil scheduled to be delivered to the SPR over the next six months is a simple step your Administration can take immediately to lower gas prices, put money directly into the wallets of Americans, and save taxpayer dollars. Congressional investigations and independent experts have found that purchasing oil for the SPR drives up gas prices, and costs taxpayers billions. This is money that working men and women cannot put into other parts of the economy, harming American families and businesses alike.

While I recognize this action should not be taken as a means of reducing prices in the long run, it can have temporary benefits that could go a long way to helping American families who are being squeezed, and to stimulate the economy. I urge you to take this important step.

Sincerely,

RON KIND,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6022.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays. The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1134) supporting the goals and ideals of Mental Health Month.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1134

Whereas the mental health and well-being of Americans is a critical issue that affects not only the quality of life, but also the health of our communities and our economic stability;

Whereas the stigma associated with mental health persists;

Whereas more than 57,000,000 Americans suffer from a mental illness;

Whereas approximately 1 in 5 children has a diagnosable mental disorder;

Whereas more than 1 in 5 of our troops suffer from major depression or post traumatic stress disorder;

Whereas more than half of all prison and jail inmates suffer from mental illness;

Whereas mental illness is the most common disability in our Nation;

Whereas untreated mental illness costs businesses and the American economy over \$150,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas untreated mental illness is a leading cause of absenteeism and lost productivity in the workplace;

Whereas in 2004, over 32,000 individuals committed suicide in the United States, at twice the rate of homicides;

Whereas suicide is the third leading cause of death among people between the ages of 10 and 24;

Whereas in 2004, individuals aged 65 and older made up only 12.4 percent of the population, but accounted for 16 percent of all suicides, and the rate of suicide among older Americans is higher than for any other age group;

Whereas 1 in 4 Latina adolescents report seriously contemplating suicide, a rate higher than any other demographic;

Whereas studies report that persons with serious mental illness die, on average, 25 years earlier than the general population; and

Whereas it would be appropriate to designate May 2008 as Mental Health Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Mental Health Month in order to emphasize scientific facts and findings regarding mental health and to remove the stigma associated therewith;

(2) recognizes that mental well-being is equally as important as physical well-being for our citizens, our communities, our businesses, our economy, and our Nation;

(3) applauds the coalescing of national and community organizations in working to promote public awareness of mental health, and providing critical information and support to the people and families affected by mental illness;

(4) supports the findings of the President's Commission on Mental Health that the Nation's failure to prioritize mental health is a national tragedy; and

(5) encourages all organizations and health practitioners to use Mental Health Month as an opportunity to promote mental well-being and awareness, ensure access to appropriate

services, and support overall quality of life for those with mental illness.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, for far too long the topic of mental health has been pushed aside and swept under the rug. You don't see it, you don't talk about it, and you don't hear about it. It connotes people are crazy.

However, we cannot continue to ignore that mental illness does not discriminate. It touches all regardless of race, of gender, of class or of religion. It is time we address this issue at the forefront honestly and openly. Too many of our family members of our friends, our coworkers and especially our veterans and soldiers have had to suffer with mental illnesses in silence.

According to the U.S. Surgeon General, 57 million Americans suffer from some form of mental illness. Despite findings that most mental illnesses are highly treatable, only one in three individuals suffering from these illnesses seek and or receive any treatment.

This low treatment can be attributed to the strong stigma associated with mental health issue that is still pervade and persist. Twenty percent of our United States population suffers from a diagnosable, treatable mental disorder, making the mental illness the leading cause of disability in our Nation, affecting our businesses and our economy.

The mental health and well-being of Americans are critical issues that affect not only the health of our communities, the quality of life, and, as importantly, our economic stability. A new report by the National Institute of Mental Health found that serious mental illnesses cost Americans at least \$193 billion a year in lost earnings alone.

Our action is far overdue. We have had tests, screening for breast cancer, for heart attacks, for strokes and a myriad of other diseases and conditions. We have not yet woken up to the fact that the brain functions are vital to our body's health and survival.

It is critical that we will destigmatize mental illness so that our

children, our families, our veterans receive the necessary help they need to lead productive lives with support from their families and their communities.

I respectfully encourage all of my colleagues to support this resolution to recognize May as Mental Health Month. We must all come together on this critical issue. It is vital that we recognize the scientific facts and real findings regarding mental health and work to remove the stigma associated therewith.

By increasing awareness of mental health issues we can insure that individuals have access to services including early detection and early prevention, and, most of all, to assure parity in our medical delivery systems.

This will allow us to improve the lives of those suffering from mental illness and their loved ones while reversing the negative impact that mental illness has had on our economy, on our families, and on our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1134, acknowledging the month of May as National Mental Health Month. Mental Health Month has been recognized by Congress for over 50 years and has continued to raise awareness in our communities and to lower the stigma associated with mental disorders.

I would like to express my gratitude to the national and community organizations working to promote public awareness of mental health, providing the proper information for families affected by mental illness. Your work is critical to increasing the quality of life for those with mental illnesses.

I would also like to thank the author of the resolution, Congresswoman GRACE NAPOLITANO of California, for her leadership in helping Americans' well-being and addressing mental disorders.

I would encourage all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution.

With that, I would ask if Congressman MIKE CASTLE of the great State of Delaware could be the minority floor manager for the balance of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I want to thank the gentlewoman from California for yielding time, but I also want to commend her for the tremendous leadership that she continues to provide on this critical issue of mental health, mental illness. I am pleased to

join with her in support of H. Res. 1134, recognizing and acknowledging Mental Health Awareness Month during the month of May.

I agree with Representative NAPOLITANO that mental health is one of the major health issues facing our society, and yet it does not get the kind of attention that it needs and deserves.

When we think of all of the individuals who will suffer from substance abuse, all of the individuals who find themselves perplexed and not quite knowing how to navigate the society in which we live, and when we consider the fact that we have not reached the point of providing parity consideration nor parity treatment for mental illness, it's appropriate that we recognize May as Mental Health Awareness Month.

Again, I congratulate the gentlewoman from California for her leadership.

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

I also rise in strong support of the legislation. I think mental health is something that needs awareness in this country. What this resolution does in dedicating the month to it is very significant, and I would encourage support of all Members here.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I really am grateful to my colleagues on the other side for their support. This has been a bipartisan effort, both with Representative MURPHY, myself, and members of the Mental Health Caucus.

It has been quite important to us to continue working in airing the issue for this Nation's ability to be able to understand that we need to have more focus on how mental health affects our daily lives, our children in school, our seniors, mental health depression, our veterans, our soldiers in war after several deployments, all of those are parts of the whole that we need to understand in how it affects our lives.

The Army recently issued a memorandum to train the chain of command on mental health issues. They are encouraging their servicemembers to talk to their commanders on these issues openly and without fear of retribution in certain areas where they have already been deployed.

Parity was passed in February in the House, and it is a good first step and must be signed into law and it will help not only families but business as well.

Mr. Speaker, I can't tell you how much I appreciate the time my colleagues have put into this. It is an issue that is very pervasive and we need to encourage more effort into it, not only in funding for research, but also in assistance to be able to render services so that individuals who suffer from these illnesses can continue good, productive lives.

I reserve the balance of my time, and I have no other speakers, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I don't believe we have any other speakers at this time, so I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I have just one more word of thanks to my colleagues on both sides and I ask for continued support of this bill by a "yes" vote.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1134, supporting the goals and ideals of Mental Health Month. I would first like to thank my distinguished colleague, Representative GRACE NAPOLITANO of California, for introducing this important legislation. This legislation designates the month of May to raise awareness about mental health conditions and the importance of mental wellness for all. The mental health and well-being of Americans is a critical issue that affects not only the quality of life, but also the health of our communities and our economic stability.

Since the turn of this century, thanks in large measure to research-based public health innovations, the lifespan of the average American has nearly doubled. Today, our Nation's physical health has never been better. Moreover, illnesses of the body once shrouded in fear—such as cancer, epilepsy, and HIV/AIDS to name a few—increasingly are seen as treatable, survivable, even curable ailments. Yet, despite unprecedented knowledge gained in just the past three decades about the brain and human behavior, mental health is often an afterthought and illnesses of the mind remain shrouded in fear and misunderstanding.

Much remains to be learned about the causes, treatment, and prevention of mental and behavioral disorders. Obstacles that may limit the availability or accessibility of mental health services for some Americans are being dismantled, but disparities persist. Still, thanks to research and the experiences of millions of individuals who have a mental disorder, their family members, and other advocates, the Nation has the power today to tear down the most formidable obstacle to future progress in the arena of mental illness and health. That obstacle is stigma. Stigmatization of mental illness is an excuse for inaction and discrimination that is inexcusably outmoded in 1999.

The burden of mental illness on health and productivity in the United States and throughout the world has long been profoundly underestimated. Data developed by the massive Global Burden of Disease study, conducted by the World Health Organization, the World Bank, and Harvard University, reveal that mental illness, including suicide, ranks second in the burden of disease in established market economies, such as the United States. Mental illness emerged from the Global Burden of Disease study as a surprisingly significant contributor to the burden of disease.

Mental illness is the term that refers collectively to all diagnosable mental disorders. Mental disorders are health conditions that are characterized by alterations in thinking, mood, or behavior—or some combination thereof—associated with distress and/or impaired functioning. Alzheimer's disease exemplifies a mental disorder largely marked by alterations

in thinking, especially forgetting. Depression exemplifies a mental disorder largely marked by alterations in mood. Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder exemplifies a mental disorder largely marked by alterations in behavior, over activity, and/or thinking, inability to concentrate. Alterations in thinking, mood, or behavior contribute to a host of problems—patient distress, impaired functioning, or heightened risk of death, pain, disability, or loss of freedom.

Suicide is a major, preventable public health problem. In 2004, it was the eleventh leading cause of death in the U.S., accounting for 32,439 deaths. The overall rate was 10.9 suicide deaths per 100,000 people. An estimated eight to 25 attempted suicides occur per every suicide death. Suicidal behavior is complex. Some risk factors vary with age, gender, or ethnic group and may occur in combination or change over time. Older Americans are disproportionately likely to die by suicide. Of every 100,000 people ages 65 and older, 14.3 died by suicide in 2004. This figure is higher than the national average of 10.9 suicides per 100,000 people in the general population. Non-Hispanic white men age 85 or older had an even higher rate, with 17.8 suicide deaths per 100,000.

Depression and post-traumatic stress disorder are very high among veterans from wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, leading to suicide rates even higher than combat deaths. Since October 2001 in Iraq and Afghanistan wars fought about 1.6 million U.S. soldiers, about 4500 of them died, according to Defense Department. The Rand study has found that 20 percent of returning U.S. soldiers suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder or depression, but only half of them get treatment. Comparing these figures it becomes clear that troops suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder complications more than from actual war. Soldiers with combat traumas are more likely to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder. Of these troops 53 percent have received mental care during the last few years, but Rand report says that half of them did not receive adequate care. This is one of leading causes leading to depression development in veterans. There are currently 300,000 soldiers suffering from mental illnesses and they need new innovative treatment for depression or PTSD treatment.

Mr. Speaker, I support the goals and ideals of Mental Health Month in order to emphasize scientific facts and findings regarding mental health and to remove the stigma associated. I recognize that mental well-being is equally as important as physical well-being for our citizens, our communities, our businesses, our economy, and our Nation. I encourage all organizations and health practitioners to use Mental Health Month as an opportunity to promote mental well-being and awareness, ensure access to appropriate services, and support overall quality of life for those with mental illness.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1134, legislation to support the goals and ideals of Mental Health Month. I would like to thank my colleagues and co-chairs of the Mental Health Caucus, Representative NAPOLITANO and Representative MURPHY, for their continued dedication to educating Congress on this most important issue.

It is critical for Congress to recognize May as Mental Health Month because we have the leadership role and the responsibility to transform mental health care in America. We are working to change the access, the delivery system and the outcomes of care. But we are also working to bring down the barriers to action that exist because of stigma, ignorance and misunderstanding of mental illness and substance use.

Congress must work to increase public awareness and understanding of mental illness and substance use by funding research in genetics and functional medicine and developing and translating this research into effective treatments. We have the evidence to show how the brain suffers from the effects of mental illness and substance use. We know also that people who suffer the long term effects of mental illness die at an earlier age, suffer from untreated diabetes, hypertension and other chronic disease, because it is so difficult to get the care they need to protect their health and functioning.

Several years ago, our Nation did not talk about cancer because of our fears, our poor understanding and our dread of losing our loved ones. Now mental illness is emerging from that same silence and neglect. As President Kennedy said, "This neglect must end, if our Nation is to live up to its own standards of compassion and dignity."

For all our citizens bearing the burdens of mental illness and substance use, and their families, especially their children, we are working to improve the awareness, understanding and effective treatment of mental illness. We owe it to our veterans to fully treat the damaging psychological wounds of war as well as their physical injuries. We owe it to their children to return them well and sound to be the parents and spouses they deserve to be.

This leadership is a shared responsibility with Federal agencies, State and local governments, employers, businesses, churches, law enforcement, schools, sports, the entertainment industry, and every part of our community. I thank my colleagues for bringing this resolution to the floor and join them in their support recognizing May as Mental Health Month.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1134, supporting the goals and ideals of Mental Health Month.

Mental Health Month helps to educate our communities that mental health is a fundamental and humane priority for America's well-being.

The quiet suffering of the afflicted, the familial pain shared by their loved ones, and the societal stigma associated with mental illness all make mental health very important to all Americans.

We must realize the toll mental illness has taken on the young. One in five children has a mental disorder. Furthermore, suicide is the third leading cause of death among teenagers, and every one in four Latina teens report seriously contemplating suicide, a rate higher than any other demographic.

Mental illness continues to be a silent illness for our veterans and soldiers returning from serving overseas. More than one in five of our troops suffer from major depression or post traumatic stress disorder. No longer should

these conditions be swept under the rug, these are difficult situations that a lot of military families are facing every day.

Today senior citizens compose 12 percent of the population, but account for 16 percent of all suicides, higher than for any other age group. Our seniors are the foundation of this country and their mental health needs are under-served.

These are alarming and concerning statistics. Yet, many of us still don't know the extent of the mental health problems America is suffering from. Untreated mental illness costs the American economy over \$150 billion annually.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution and educate our communities that mental health is a fundamental and humane priority for America.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1134, a bill which supports the goals and ideals of Mental Health Month. I support this legislation because I believe that Congress should seek to raise awareness about mental health conditions and the importance of mental wellness for all.

The plight of families suffering from mental illness is immense and can often be linked to an absence of adequate social services available coupled with the unwarranted stigma surrounding mental health issues. Due to the unwarranted social stigma associated with mental illness and a systemic failure to provide health care coverage, over two-thirds of the people who suffer from mental illness go untreated according to the Department of Health and Human Services.

According to the National Institute on Mental Health, 20 percent of our children and 26.2 percent of American adults suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder in a given year. As the leading cause of disability in the U.S., many people suffer from more than one mental disorder at a given time. According to the Centers for Disease Control, one in two Americans has a diagnosable mental disorder each year.

Within minority communities, there is an increased need for mental health services. For example, according to the Centers for Disease Control, African Americans are more likely to experience a mental disorder and less likely to seek treatment than Caucasian Americans. When African Americans do seek treatment, they are more likely to use the emergency room for mental health care, and they are also more likely than whites to receive inpatient care.

In 2004, the House Government Reform Committee estimated \$100 million of taxpayers' money was spent on detention of youth awaiting community mental health services. I am alarmed by this number and therefore support H. Res. 1134 because it recognizes the dual need for preventative mental and physical healthcare.

Last year, I introduced H. Con. Res. 86 to express the sense of Congress that an appropriate month should be recognized as Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month. Bebe Moore Campbell was a premier journalist who, before her untimely death, authored a children's book titled, *Sometimes My Mommy Gets Angry*, winner of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill

Outstanding Literature Award. Through this story of how a little girl copes with being reared by her mentally ill mother, Moore Campbell was able to raise public awareness on mental health issues and heighten the consciousness of this topic within minority communities.

We must strive to accomplish the goals and ideals associated with Mental Health Month in order to alleviate the obstacles and burdens many people and families who are affected by mental illness face on a daily basis. Again, I would like to affirm my support of H. Res. 1134.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice my strong support for H. Res. 1134, supporting the goals and ideals of Mental Health Month. This legislation applauds the hard work of practitioners and national and community organizations in promoting mental health awareness, and supports improving the overall quality of life for those with mental illness. H. Res. 1134 also supports the findings of the President's Commission on Mental Health that the nation's failure to prioritize mental health is a national tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, mental health is no less important than physical health. In fact, as science is proving, mental health and physical health are intertwined in complex ways that are only beginning to be understood. The relationship between depression and heart disease is just one example of the inherent symbiosis of psychiatric and somatic illnesses.

Just as the heart is the organ upon which heart disease preys, the brain is the organ plagued by diseases of the mind. Likewise, death as a result of suicide is no less tragic than death secondary to a heart attack. Those suffering from severe psychiatric illness should not be held to a lesser standard of care than those suffering from physical illnesses.

Ensuring access to appropriate services is central to improving the quality of life for those with mental illness. The issue of mental health insurance parity, in my opinion, is a civil rights issue. Inequity of coverage with regard to mental health and substance abuse treatment benefits is tantamount to discrimination against the mentally ill, and it reinforces the strategy of insurance companies to deny care rather than provide care.

The mental health community scored a victory for its patients earlier this year when the House voted to pass H.R. 1424, the "Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007."

It has taken courage on the part of Congressmen like my colleague PATRICK KENNEDY to stand up to special interests and "do the right thing" when it comes to ending discrimination against the mentally ill and standing up to health insurance companies. There is still work to be done before a mental health insurance parity bill is signed into law. Hopefully, the bill will soon be reconciled into a form which will benefit psychiatric patients and end discrimination against the mentally ill.

Mr. Speaker, let us applaud the tireless work and unending determination of those fighting to improve the lives of the mentally ill. Let us also be reminded that there is much work to be done before the stigma associated with mental illness is ended, and the lives of those suffering from mental illness are valued

as much as those suffering from other medical illnesses.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1134.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

NATIONAL TRAIN DAY

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1176) supporting the goals and ideals of National Train Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1176

Whereas, on May 10, 1869, the "golden spike" was driven into the final tie at Promontory Summit, Utah, to join the Central Pacific and the Union Pacific Railroads, ceremonially completing the first transcontinental railroad and therefore connecting both coasts of the United States;

Whereas, in highly populated regions, Amtrak trains and infrastructure carry commuters to and from work in congested metropolitan areas providing a reliable rail option, reducing congestion on roads and in the skies;

Whereas, for many rural Americans, Amtrak represents the only major intercity transportation link to the rest of the country;

Whereas passenger rail provides a more fuel-efficient transportation system thereby providing cleaner transportation alternatives and energy security;

Whereas passenger railroads emit only 0.2 percent of the travel industry's total greenhouse gases;

Whereas Amtrak annually provides intercity passenger rail travel to over 25,000,000 Americans residing in 46 States;

Whereas an increasing number of people are using trains for travel purposes beyond commuting to and from work;

Whereas our railroad stations are a source of civic pride, a gateway to our communities, and a tool for economic growth; and

Whereas Amtrak has designated May 10, 2008, as National Train Day to celebrate the way trains connect people and places: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the contribution trains make to the national transportation system;