the New York State government, and finally as Vice President and President of the United States. In fact, Mr. Speaker, in this very building, in the Old House Chamber, there is a plaque marking the location of then-Congressman Fillmore's desk. The spirit of hard work and rugged dedication shown by President Fillmore throughout his life is certainly carried on by this small but vibrant community that bears his name.

Fillmore's idyllic, pastoral setting in the Allegheny Mountain Range at the top of the Appalachian Region, makes it a beautiful natural local surrounded by attractions such as Letchworth State Park and the Swain Ski Resort. But the people of Fillmore make the community the success that it is today.

The citizens of Fillmore are very proud of their community, and rightly so. For the past 150 years, Fillmore has contributed much to our region, state and nation. From the character and successes of its young people—both those who remain in Fillmore and those who have moved on to serve other communities around the nation—to many of its citizens who have fought and sacrificed their lives on the world's battlefields.

One of Fillmore's greatest assets is their outstanding public school. Fillmore Central School, led by Superintendent Dave Hanks, is a shining example of rural public education at its finest—from its top notch instruction of subjects such as mathematics and social studies, to a firm commitment to technology, and the provision of creative outlets for for young people to participate in the arts through drama, visual arts, and music. As an added benefit, the mighty Fillmore Eagles have, on many occasions, brought great pride to the community by bringing home titles in sports such as basketball and tennis, and just last year made it to New York State's ''Final Four'' in soccer.

Before I close, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize one of Fillmore's greatest public servants, Alton Sylor, who passed away recently after years of service to the community, particularly as a member of the Allegany County Legislature for the past twenty-two years. We miss him greatly, and will remember him most during this celebration of Fillmore's history—a history that he helped shape.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me in extending our most hearty congratulations to Fillmore on the occasion of their 150th anniversary.

IMPROVING THE IMPACT AID PROGRAM

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to reauthorize and to make further improvements to the Impact Aid Program, Title VIII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. As you know, Impact Aid is part of the basic financial support for local school districts whose boundaries include military bases and other federal lands in lieu of local taxes which ordinarily support public schools.

In my congressional district, Impact Aid is an element of the basic financial support for schools in Cumberland, Robeson, Hoke, Richmond and Scotland Counties, just as local taxes support other school districts. In some cases, Impact Aid supplies a significant portion of school districts' operating budgets. For example, in Cumberland County, home of Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base, over one-third of the school district's budget comes from Impact Aid and other Federal education programs. In fact, the Cumberland County school system receives the most Impact Aid of any other school systems in North Carolina.

The ''Impact Aid Reauthorization Act of 2000'' builds on key improvements to the Impact Aid program enacted during the 103rd Congress. At that time, the program was rewritten so it would focus Impact Aid dollars on those school districts most heavily impacted by a Federal presence. Those changes have been extremely successful in getting funding to schools in greatest need of assistance, thus enabling them to improve the quality of education provided to students. In addition, those amendments created greater support in Congress for funding Impact Aid, and we have seen consistent increases in the Impact Aid budget ever since. The legislation I am introducing today will further improve the program, and should lead to even stronger support among colleagues for funding key needs in federally impacted school districts. As in my Congressional district, many of the children affected by this law are the children of members of the Armed Services. And, I believe all of you will agree that we should provide the best possible education to the children of those individuals who put their lives on the line to protect our great Nation.

Key provisions of the bill I am introducing today would:

1. Change to formula for payments for federal property to insure a more equitable distribution of funds.

2. Incorporate into the Impact Aid law the pilot program for heavily impacted school districts included in the past two Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations bills.

3. Insure equitable payment for children living on land formerly owned by the Federal Government. As the military privatizes more and more housing for military personnel, it is expected that school districts will not receive adequate funding under Impact Aid to make up for the difference in the amount of taxes paid on such property and the amount they would have received for each child if the property had retained its non-tax status. This provision would continue to count such children as on-base children, but would reduce the amount of their Impact Aid payment by the actual amount of the taxes used for educational purposes.

4. Require the Department of Education to provide a notice to schools that miss filing deadlines and provide them a period of time within which to submit applications for Impact Aid. This change would address the growing number of yearly Impact Aid amendments necessary because school districts have missed filing deadlines.

5. Revise the construction provisions of the Impact Aid to allow Federally impacted school districts with no bonding capacity or with schools that have health or safety hazards to apply for the existing Impact Aid construction program, and shift some of the existing construction money to serve these districts. The Secretary would then fund the highest priority projects.

6. Provide a funding floor to small school districts with fewer than 1,000 children who have a per pupil average lower than the state average. This provision would guarantee them a foundation payment of no less than 40 percent of what they would receive if the program were fully funded.

As one of the over 150 Members of the House Impact Aid Coalition—one of the largest bipartisan coalitions in Congress—we have worked together to support our local school systems that provide support for military men and women and those citizens that are affected by Federal properties. This bill has the support of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools, the association that represents over 1600 school districts nationwide that will benefit from this legislation, and the National Military Impacted Schools Association. I would like to submit their letters of support for the RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, we have a responsibility to assist those school districts impacted by a Federal presence. The ''Impact Aid Reauthorization Act of 2000'' will help insure school districts receive the support they need to provide children with the best possible education. These are thoughtful improvements to a very important law. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

NATIONAL MILITARY IMPACTED SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION,
Bellevue, NE, February 10, 2000.

CHAIRMAN BILL GOODLING,
House Education and the Workforce Committee, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN GOODLING: The Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA) is extremely proud of the leadership you and your staff have demonstrated in developing the legislative proposal to reauthorize the Impact Aid Program.

There has been a real sensitivity to the needs of military children and your support is greatly appreciated.

Your discussion on the proper weight for a military (b) child is also appreciated and I hope this can be discussed further.

On behalf of the public schools serving the educational needs of over 550,000 military children, we wholeheartedly endorse and support your Impact Aid reauthorization proposal.

Warmest regards,

JOHN F. DEEGAN, ED.D.,
Chief Executive Officer.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERALLY IMPACTED SCHOOLS,
Washington, DC, February 10, 2000.

Hon. ROBIN HAYES,
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE HAYES: Over the past six months the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) has been working closely with the Education and the Workforce Committee in a bi-partisan manner to write legislation that would reauthorize the Impact Aid Program. The legislation that the committee is about to introduce is the product of that effort. The legislation reauthorizes the Impact Aid Program and includes only minor changes that NAFIS and the committee agreed to that either refines the present law to make the program work better and/or to address some changes brought about due to actions of the Department of Defense designed to implement policies to improve the quality of life of our military personnel. The committee bill also addresses issues of great concern to school districts educating Native American children. NAFIS is very appreciative of the willingness of the committee to allow us to work

with them on this legislation and we would urge all members of the House of Representatives to join with yourself. Chairman Goodling, Ranking Minority Member Clay, and Representative Kildee in supporting this bill that is about to be introduced.

NAFIS is very pleased with the refinements included in the bill to insure that all local educational agencies eligible for funding under Section 8002 of the program (federal properties) are treated equitably. Although the changes that were made to this section of the program in 1994 did a better job of measuring the financial impact that federal property presents to the taxing authority of a local educational agency, it did—due to the lack of funding for this element of the Impact Aid Program—pose a real threat to primarily rural school districts. The changes included in this legislation will both insure that small rural schools are provided a foundation payment while at the same time recognizing the true fiscal impact of federal property to the tax base of the community served by the school system.

The bill also puts into law, a pilot project that has been included in both the Fiscal Year 1999 and 2000 Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriation Bill. The project being placed into the Impact Aid statute will mean that ''Heavily Impacted Local Educational Agencies'' will now receive their additional funding under the regular Impact Aid basic support program and will not have to wait up to 18 to 24 months after the appropriation is made to receive their funding. This change will make it easier for these school districts to budget their Impact Aid funding and it also insures that the Federal Government reimburses a school district only for the cost of the impact of the federal dependent child rather than the cost for all children, both federal and non-federal, enrolled in the school district. These changes are welcomed by the heavily impacted community and NAFIS appreciates the understanding of the committee to incorporate the pilot project that has already proved to work into the Impact Aid reauthorization.

NAFIS also supports the recognition by the committee of the problems that a changing military force have placed on those school systems educating military dependent children. Committee language addressing the issue of privatization of on-base housing will insure that the funding levels provided under current law for on-base children will remain, even if on-base housing and the land upon which it is built is turned over to a private developer. This a realistic approach to an issue that could become potentially a major threat to school systems providing educational programs to the children of our military personnel.

NAFIS would also like to commend the committee for recognizing the facility needs of school systems that are highly impacted with Indian land and military children. The committee bill recognizes that many of these school systems lack the capacity to issue capital construction bonds and in addition, many of these same school systems are currently educating children in facilities that pose a serious health threat to the students and faculty working within them. The responsible approach taken by the committee to address this very serious issue is welcomed by the impact aid community and NAFIS urges the Congress to support the committee's recognition of the federal obligation to address this serious facilities issue.

Although NAFIS would like to see an increase in the weights for on-base military and civilian dependent children, we strongly support the bill that the committee is about to introduce and again offer our gratitude to you for introducing this legislation and Chairman Goodling and his committee staff as well as to Representatives Clay and Kildee for the work that has been put into this legislation. In summary, NAFIS urges all members of the House to support this legislation when it comes before the full House for a vote in the near future.

Sincerely,

JOHN B. FORKENBROCK,
Executive Director.

IN TRIBUTE TO HAZEL WOLF

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Hazel Wolf. Having achieved her goal to have a foot in three centuries, Hazel passed away on January 19, 2000 at the young age of 101. Tomorrow I hope to join hundreds of her friends gathering in my district to celebrate her life of tenacious dedication to the environment and human rights.

Hazel was born in Victoria, British Columbia on March 10, 1898. She immigrated to the United States in 1923 as a single mother seeking work to support her young daughter. After a successful career as a legal secretary, Hazel officially became a citizen in 1976.

Through all her years Hazel championed issues of importance for women, working people, human rights, and the environment. A true citizen of the world, her efforts were recognized with awards by numerous international, national, state, and local organizations. Her work continues in the hearts of all who were privileged to share her goals and projects.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in tribute to Hazel for demonstrating to us the value of a life of simplicity adorned with the riches of gracious service to humanity and nature. We will miss her wit and wisdom, and we will cherish her memory by pursuing her lessons of love and understanding for all living creatures.

YELTSIN'S NUCLEAR THREAT SHOULD ALARM AN UNDEFENDED AMERICA

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, former Russian President Boris Yeltsin's startling and sobering reminder last November of his country's robust nuclear weapons capability was as accurate as it was menacing. Firing back at Bill Clinton's public criticism of Russian military assaults on Chechen rebel strongholds, Yeltsin roared, ''[Clinton] must have forgotten for a moment what Russia has. It has a full arsenal of nuclear weapons.''

Though arguably an impulsive response to embarrassing and unwanted criticism, Yeltsin could not have delivered a more concise and troubling threat to our Nation's security, nor a more valid and fortified one. Despite highly publicized accounts of Russia's deteriorating economic, political, and conventional military realities and capabilities, the country is anything but lightly armed in nuclear weaponry. In fact, Mr. Speaker, Russia still maintains over 20,000 nuclear weapons, most sitting atop highly accurate and fully functioning silo- and sub-launched ballistic missiles awaiting final target coordinates and a ''fuel and fire'' command.

Yeltsin's impetuous warning—however untenable to an America placated by decisive United States victories in the cold war and the gulf war, and blessed with 60 years of domestic tranquility and tremendous economic prosperity—should be taken quite seriously. In 1993, Russia adopted a national security policy placing even greater reliance upon nuclear deterrence due to its worsening economic crisis and deteriorating conventional military capabilities. Not only does this reality enhance the threat of an intentional launch, it heightens the prospects for an unintentional launch too.

Mr. Speaker, the United States remains defenseless against any such launch. American citizens trust that the first responsibility of their government is ''to provide for the common defense,'' and must accordingly assume there must be in place an effective shield against missile attack. This, however, is not the case. Public opinion polls show most Americans still do not realize the U.S. military—the most powerful, most technologically-advanced, and most lethal military force ever assembled—could not stop even a single ballistic missile from impacting American soil today.

In fact, long-range ballistic missiles are the only weapons against which the U.S. Government has decided, as a matter of policy, not to field a defense. Bill Clinton is a fierce defender of this doctrine of deliberate vulnerability and repeatedly threatened to veto any serious congressional legislation enacted to the contrary.

Clinton's doctrine is predicated upon antiquated agreements dating back to 1972 when the United States signed the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty with the former Soviet Union. At the time, and until relatively recently, the U.S.S.R. was the only nation known to be capable of delivering nuclear warheads to our shores. The world is different now, and the U.S.S.R. no longer exists.

Not counting Yeltsin's unexpected reminder of Russia's formidable nuclear arsenal, Mr. Speaker, Russia is generally considered on the lower end of America's threat scale. That's because it's predictable, if not rational. United States and other intelligence sources have firmly documented the aggressive—and in some cases successful—attempts by many of the worlds most violent, unstable, and anti-American entities to develop and acquire weapons of mass destruction, and the means to deliver them.

In 1998, the bipartisan Commission to Assess the Ballistic Missile Threat to the United States, led by former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, asserted the United States may have little or no warning before the emergence of specific new ballistic missile threats to our Nation. The Commission estimated some 20 Third World and outlaw nations, including North Korea, Iran, Iraq, and Libya already have, or are vigorously developing, such capabilities.

Mr. Speaker, Communist China already has this capability. In 1998, the Central Intelligence Agency confirmed 13 of China's 18 long-range nuclear-tipped missiles were targeted at U.S. cities. In 1996, Chinese officials threatened to launch those missiles at American targets, including Los Angeles, if our Nation intervened