

The Medicaid statute already includes provisions which address the gentleman's concern. Under title 19, States are specifically required to provide adequate reimbursement. Section 1902(a)(30)(A) requires States plans to, and I quote, "provide such methods and procedures relating to the utilization of and the payment for care and services available under the plan as may be necessary to safeguard against unnecessary utilization of such care and services, and to ensure that payments are consistent with efficiency, economy and quality of care, and are sufficient to enlist enough providers so that care and services are available under the plan, at least to the extent that such care and services are available to the general population in the geographic area."

Mr. Speaker, this has been true in regulation for years, Mr. Speaker, but it was also codified in statute by the 1989 omnibus budget reconciliation act. Imposing additional mandates on the States would not accomplish any justifiable public policy purpose.

The other interpretation of the gentleman's motion to instruct is that in the spirit of Halloween, he is attempting to breathe life into the now-dead Boren Amendment. History has shown us that the use of such general terms as "adequate reimbursement" and "suppliers furnishing items and services" will lead to litigation.

Mr. PALLONE. Regular order, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The House is proceeding under regular order.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman asked for 1 minute.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman asked for 5 minutes. The gentleman will suspend. The gentleman from Florida has the time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Florida asked for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman was recognized for 1 minute.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, the original Boren Amendment was intended to serve as a ceiling for State reimbursement decisions, but over many years of judicial interpretation, it became a tool to create an ever-increasing floor.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge all to vote against this motion, and I thank the gentleman for his courtesy.

□

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on the motion to instruct just withdrawn by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BENTSEN).

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

There was no objection.

REQUEST TO SPEAK OUT OF ORDER

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order for 1 minute.

Mr. PALLONE. I object, Mr. Speaker. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

□

REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE HOUSE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for 1 minute.

Mr. PALLONE. I object, Mr. Speaker. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

□

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken tomorrow.

□

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION FOR EXCELLENCE IN ARTS EDUCATION BOARD

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2789) to amend the Congressional Award Act to establish a Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Board.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 2789

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION FOR EXCELLENCE IN ARTS EDUCATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 801-808) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"TITLE II—CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION FOR EXCELLENCE IN ARTS EDUCATION

"SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

"This title may be cited as the 'Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Act'.

"SEC. 202. FINDINGS.

"Congress makes the following findings:
 "(1) Arts literacy is a fundamental purpose of schooling for all students.

"(2) Arts education stimulates, develops, and refines many cognitive and creative skills, critical thinking and nimbleness in judgment, creativity and imagination, cooperative decisionmaking, leadership, high-level literacy and communication, and the capacity for problem-posing and problem-solving.

"(3) Arts education contributes significantly to the creation of flexible, adaptable, and knowledgeable workers who will be needed in the 21st century economy.

"(4) Arts education improves teaching and learning.

"(5) Where parents and families, artists, arts organizations, businesses, local civic and cultural leaders, and institutions are ac-

tively engaged in instructional programs, arts education is more successful.

"(6) Effective teachers of the arts should be encouraged to continue to learn and grow in mastery of their art form as well as in their teaching competence.

"(7) The 1999 study, entitled 'Gaining the Arts Advantage: Lessons from School Districts that Value Arts Education', found that the literacy, education, programs, learning and growth described in paragraphs (1) through (6) contribute to successful district-wide arts education.

"(8) Despite all of the literacy, education, programs, learning and growth findings described in paragraphs (1) through (6), the 1997 National Assessment of Educational Progress reported that students lack sufficient opportunity for participatory learning in the arts.

"(9) The Arts Education Partnership, a coalition of national and State education, arts, business, and civic groups, is an excellent example of one organization that has demonstrated its effectiveness in addressing the purposes described in section 205(a) and the capacity and credibility to administer arts education programs of national significance.

"SEC. 203. DEFINITIONS.

"In this title:

"(1) ARTS EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP.—The term 'Arts Education Partnership' means a private, nonprofit coalition of education, arts, business, philanthropic, and government organizations that demonstrates and promotes the essential role of arts education in enabling all students to succeed in school, life, and work, and was formed in 1995.

"(2) BOARD.—The term 'Board' means the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Awards Board established under section 204.

"(3) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL; SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The terms 'elementary school' and 'secondary school' mean—

"(A) a public or private elementary school or secondary school (as the case may be), as defined in section 14101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8801); or

"(B) a bureau funded school as defined in section 1146 of the Education Amendments of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 2026).

"(4) STATE.—The term 'State' means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau.

"SEC. 204. ESTABLISHMENT OF BOARD.

"There is established within the legislative branch of the Federal Government a Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Awards Board. The Board shall be responsible for administering the awards program described in section 205.

"SEC. 205. BOARD DUTIES.

"(a) AWARDS PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—The Board shall establish and administer an awards program to be known as the 'Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Awards Program'. The purpose of the program shall be to—

"(1) celebrate the positive impact and public benefits of the arts;

"(2) encourage all elementary schools and secondary schools to integrate the arts into the school curriculum;

"(3) spotlight the most compelling evidence of the relationship between the arts and student learning;

"(4) demonstrate how community involvement in the creation and implementation of arts policies enriches the schools;

“(5) recognize school administrators and faculty who provide quality arts education to students;

“(6) acknowledge schools that provide professional development opportunities for their teachers;

“(7) create opportunities for students to experience the relationship between early participation in the arts and developing the life skills necessary for future personal and professional success;

“(8) increase, encourage, and ensure comprehensive, sequential arts learning for all students; and

“(9) expand student access to arts education in schools in every community.

“(b) DUTIES.—

“(1) SCHOOL AWARDS.—The Board shall—

“(A) make annual awards to elementary schools and secondary schools in the States in accordance with criteria established under subparagraph (B), which awards—

“(i) shall be of such design and materials as the Board may determine, including a well-designed certificate or a work of art, designed for the awards event by an appropriate artist; and

“(ii) shall be reflective of the dignity of Congress;

“(B) establish criteria required for a school to receive the award, and establish such procedures as may be necessary to verify that the school meets the criteria, which criteria shall include criteria requiring—

“(i) that the school—

“(I) provides comprehensive, sequential arts learning; and

“(II) integrates the arts throughout the curriculum in subjects other than the arts; and

“(ii) 3 of the following:

“(I) that the community serving the school is actively involved in shaping and implementing the arts policies and programs of the school;

“(II) that the school principal supports the policy of arts education for all students;

“(III) that arts teachers in the school are encouraged to learn and grow in mastery of their art form as well as in their teaching competence;

“(IV) that the school actively encourages the use of arts assessment techniques for improving student, teacher, and administrative performance; and

“(V) that school leaders engage the total school community in arts activities that create a climate of support for arts education; and

“(C) include, in the procedures necessary for verification that a school meets the criteria described in subparagraph (B), written evidence of the specific criteria, and supporting documentation, that includes—

“(i) 3 letters of support for the school from community members, which may include a letter from—

“(I) the school's Parent Teacher Association (PTA);

“(II) community leaders, such as elected or appointed officials; and

“(III) arts organizations or institutions in the community that partner with the school; and

“(ii) the completed application for the award signed by the principal or other education leader such as a school district arts coordinator, school board member, or school superintendent;

“(D) determine appropriate methods for disseminating information about the program and make application forms available to schools;

“(E) delineate such roles as the Board considers to be appropriate for the Director in administering the program, and set forth in the bylaws of the Board the duties, salary, and benefits of the Director;

“(F) raise funds for the operation of the program;

“(G) determine, and inform Congress regarding, the national readiness for interdisciplinary individual student awards described in paragraph (2), on the basis of the framework established in the 1997 National Assessment of Educational Progress and such other criteria as the Board determines appropriate; and

“(H) take such other actions as may be appropriate for the administration of the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Awards Program.

“(2) STUDENT AWARDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—At such time as the Board determines appropriate, the Board—

“(i) shall make annual awards to elementary school and secondary school students for individual interdisciplinary arts achievement; and

“(ii) establish criteria for the making of the awards.

“(B) AWARD MODEL.—The Board may use as a model for the awards the Congressional Award Program and the President's Physical Fitness Award Program.

“(c) PRESENTATION.—The Board shall arrange for the presentation of awards under this section to the recipients and shall provide for participation by Members of Congress in such presentation, when appropriate.

“(d) DATE OF ANNOUNCEMENT.—The Board shall determine an appropriate date or dates for announcement of the awards under this section, which date shall coincide with a National Arts Education Month or a similarly designated day, week or month, if such designation exists.

“(e) REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall prepare and submit an annual report to Congress not later than March 1 of each year summarizing the activities of the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Awards Program during the previous year and making appropriate recommendations for the program. Any minority views and recommendations of members of the Board shall be included in such reports.

“(2) CONTENTS.—The annual report shall contain the following:

“(A) Specific information regarding the methods used to raise funds for the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Awards Program and a list of the sources of all money raised by the Board.

“(B) Detailed information regarding the expenditures made by the Board, including the percentage of funds that are used for administrative expenses.

“(C) A description of the programs formulated by the Director under section 207(b)(1), including an explanation of the operation of such programs and a list of the sponsors of the programs.

“(D) A detailed list of the administrative expenditures made by the Board, including the amounts expended for salaries, travel expenses, and reimbursed expenses.

“(E) A list of schools given awards under the program, and the city, town, or county, and State in which the school is located.

“(F) An evaluation of the state of arts education in schools, which may include anecdotal evidence of the effect of the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Awards Program on individual school curriculum.

“(G) On the basis of the findings described in section 202 and the purposes of the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Awards Program described in section 205(a), a recommendation regarding the national readiness to make individual student awards under subsection (b)(2).

“SEC. 206. COMPOSITION OF BOARD; ADVISORY BOARD.

“(a) COMPOSITION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall consist of 9 members as follows:

“(A) 2 Members of the Senate appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate.

“(B) 2 Members of the Senate appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate.

“(C) 2 Members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

“(D) 2 Members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

“(E) The Director of the Board, who shall serve as a nonvoting member.

“(2) ADVISORY BOARD.—There is established an Advisory Board to assist and advise the Board with respect to its duties under this title, that shall consist of 15 members appointed—

“(A) in the case of the initial such members of the Advisory Board, by the leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives making the appointments under paragraph (1), from recommendations received from organizations and entities involved in the arts such as businesses, civic and cultural organizations, and the Arts Education Partnership steering committee; and

“(B) in the case of any other such members of the Advisory Board, by the Board.

“(3) SPECIAL RULE FOR ADVISORY BOARD.—In making appointments to the Advisory Board, the individuals and entity making the appointments under paragraph (2) shall consider recommendations submitted by any interested party, including any member of the Board.

“(4) INTEREST.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Members of Congress appointed to the Board shall have an interest in 1 of the purposes described in section 205(a).

“(B) DIVERSITY.—The membership of the Advisory Board shall represent a balance of artistic and education professionals, including at least 1 representative who teaches in each of the following disciplines:

“(i) Music.

“(ii) Theater.

“(iii) Visual Arts.

“(iv) Dance.

“(b) TERMS.—

“(1) BOARD.—Members of the Board shall serve for terms of 6 years, except that of the members first appointed—

“(A) 1 Member of the House of Representatives and 1 Member of the Senate shall serve for terms of 2 years;

“(B) 1 Member of the House of Representatives and 1 Member of the Senate shall serve for terms of 4 years; and

“(C) 2 Members of the House of Representatives and 2 Members of the Senate shall serve for terms of 6 years,

as determined by lot when all such members have been appointed.

“(2) ADVISORY BOARD.—Members of the Advisory Board shall serve for terms of 6 years, except that of the members first appointed, 3 shall serve for terms of 2 years, 4 shall serve for terms of 4 years, and 8 shall serve for terms of 6 years, as determined by lot when all such members have been appointed.

“(c) VACANCY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Any vacancy in the membership of the Board or Advisory Board shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

“(2) TERM.—Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which the member's predecessor was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of such term.

“(3) EXTENSION.—Any appointed member of the Board or Advisory Board may continue

to serve after the expiration of the member's term until the member's successor has taken office.

"(4) SPECIAL RULE.—Vacancies in the membership of the Board shall not affect the Board's power to function if there remain sufficient members of the Board to constitute a quorum under subsection (d).

"(d) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

"(e) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Board and Advisory Board shall serve without pay but may be compensated, from amounts in the trust fund, for reasonable travel expenses incurred by the members in the performance of their duties as members of the Board.

"(f) MEETINGS.—The Board shall meet annually at the call of the Chairperson and at such other times as the Chairperson may determine to be appropriate. The Chairperson shall call a meeting of the Board whenever 1/3 of the members of the Board submit written requests for such a meeting.

"(g) OFFICERS.—The Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson of the Board shall be elected from among the members of the Board, by a majority vote of the members of the Board, for such terms as the Board determines. The Vice Chairperson shall perform the duties of the Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson.

"(h) COMMITTEES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board may appoint such committees, and assign to the committees such functions, as may be appropriate to assist the Board in carrying out its duties under this title. Members of such committees may include the members of the Board or the Advisory Board.

"(2) SPECIAL RULE.—Any employee or officer of the Federal Government may serve as a member of a committee created by the Board, but may not receive compensation for services performed for such a committee.

"(i) BYLAWS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—The Board shall establish such bylaws and other requirements as may be appropriate to enable the Board to carry out the Board's duties under this title.

"SEC. 207. ADMINISTRATION.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—In the administration of the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Awards Program, the Board shall be assisted by a Director, who shall be the principal executive of the program and who shall supervise the affairs of the Board. The Director shall be appointed by a majority vote of the Board.

"(b) DIRECTOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Director shall, in consultation with the Board—

"(1) formulate programs to carry out the policies of the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Awards Program;

"(2) establish such divisions within the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Awards Program as may be appropriate; and

"(3) employ and provide for the compensation of such personnel as may be necessary to carry out the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Awards Program, subject to such policies as the Board shall prescribe under its bylaws.

"(c) APPLICATION.—Each school or student desiring an award under this title shall submit an application to the Board at such time, in such manner and accompanied by such information as the Board may require.

"SEC. 208. LIMITATIONS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to such limitations as may be provided for under this section, the Board may take such actions and make such expenditures as may be necessary to carry out the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Awards

Program, except that the Board shall carry out its functions and make expenditures with only such resources as are available to the Board from the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Awards Trust Fund under section 211.

"(b) CONTRACTS.—The Board may enter into such contracts as may be appropriate to carry out the business of the Board, but the Board may not enter into any contract which will obligate the Board to expend an amount greater than the amount available to the Board for the purpose of such contract during the fiscal year in which the expenditure is made.

"(c) GIFTS.—The Board may seek and accept, from sources other than the Federal Government, funds and other resources to carry out the Board's activities. The Board may not accept any funds or other resources that are—

"(1) donated with a restriction on their use unless such restriction merely provides that such funds or other resources be used in furtherance of the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Awards Program; or

"(2) donated subject to the condition that the identity of the donor of the funds or resources shall remain anonymous.

"(d) VOLUNTEERS.—The Board may accept and utilize the services of voluntary, uncompensated personnel.

"(e) REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY.—The Board may lease (or otherwise hold), acquire, or dispose of real or personal property necessary for, or relating to, the duties of the Board.

"(f) PROHIBITIONS.—The Board shall have no power—

"(1) to issue bonds, notes, debentures, or other similar obligations creating long-term indebtedness;

"(2) to issue any share of stock or to declare or pay any dividends; or

"(3) to provide for any part of the income or assets of the Board to inure to the benefit of any director, officer, or employee of the Board except as reasonable compensation for services or reimbursement for expenses.

"SEC. 209. AUDITS.

"The financial records of the Board may be audited by the Comptroller General of the United States at such times as the Comptroller General may determine to be appropriate. The Comptroller General, or any duly authorized representative of the Comptroller General, shall have access for the purpose of audit to any books, documents, papers, and records of the Board (or any agent of the Board) which, in the opinion of the Comptroller General, may be pertinent to the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Awards Program.

"SEC. 210. TERMINATION.

"The Board shall terminate 6 years after the date of enactment of this title. The Board shall set forth, in its bylaws, the procedures for dissolution to be followed by the Board.

"SEC. 211. TRUST FUND.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND.—There shall be established in the Treasury of the United States a trust fund which shall be known as the "Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Awards Trust Fund". The fund shall be administered by the Board, and shall consist of amounts donated to the Board under section 208(c) and amounts credited to the fund under subsection (d).

"(b) INVESTMENT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to invest, at the direction of the Director of the Board, such portion of the fund that is not, in the judgment of the Director of the Board, required to meet the current needs of the fund.

"(2) AUTHORIZED INVESTMENTS.—Such investments shall be in public debt obligations with maturities suitable to the needs of the fund, as determined by the Director of the Board. Investments in public debt obligations shall bear interest at rates determined by the Secretary of the Treasury taking into consideration the current market yield on outstanding marketable obligations of the United States of comparable maturity.

"(c) AUTHORITY TO SELL OBLIGATIONS.—Any obligation acquired by the fund may be sold by the Secretary of the Treasury at the market price.

"(d) PROCEEDS FROM CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS CREDITED TO FUND.—The interest on, and the proceeds from the sale or redemption of, any obligations held in the fund shall be credited to and form a part of the fund."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 801-808) is amended—

(1) by inserting after section 1 the following:

"TITLE I—CONGRESSIONAL AWARD PROGRAM",

(2) by redesignating sections 2 through 9 as sections 101 through 108, respectively,

(3) in section 101 (as so redesignated)—

(A) by striking "Act" and inserting "title", and

(B) by striking "section 3" and inserting "section 102",

(4) in section 102(e) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by striking "section 5(g)(1)" and inserting "section 104(g)(1)", and

(B) by striking "section 7(g)(1)" and inserting "section 106(g)(1)", and

(5) in section 103(i), by striking "section 7" and inserting "section 106".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 2789.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 2789, a bill to establish the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts, or "Create," awards.

Mr. Speaker, S. 2789 passed the Senate on Saturday by unanimous consent. The Senate bill, S. 2789, establishes awards for schools that include the arts in their regular curriculum and is identical to a bill I introduced, H.R. 5554.

Many studies have shown that there is a strong relationship between arts education to brain development, student achievement, career potential, and other quality-of-life issues.

For example, arts activity has been shown to lower the likelihood of delinquent behavior. The National Dropout Prevention Center reported that school arts classes and activities encourage attendance and achievement of at-risk high school students.

S. 2789 establishes within the current Congressional Award Act a Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts and Education awards board, made up of nine members, four members from the House of Representatives, and four from the Senate, plus the director of the board who shall serve as a nonvoting member.

Additionally, an advisory board shall be established to assist and advise the congressional board with respect to its duties and shall consist of 15 members from among recommendations received from outside arts organizations.

Membership on the advisory board shall represent a balance of artistic and education professionals and must include at least one representative who teaches in each of the four disciplines of music, theater, visual arts, and dance.

By recognizing the importance of arts instruction and granting them an award from this body, it is our hope that arts classes in schools will be as common as English or math.

Finally, I am pleased that Senator COCHRAN worked with me on strengthening the role of arts educators on the advisory board. Their strong participation is vital for this program.

In conclusion, I urge my colleagues to join the other body and support this important piece of legislation.

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

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

First of all, it is great to be defending a bill with the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON), my good friend, as we did 2 years ago with the higher education bill. It is a pleasure to be working with him. He is one who I number among my friends.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2789, the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Act. This legislation was introduced by Senator COCHRAN and passed the Senate on October 27 by unanimous consent. This bill amends the Congressional Award Act, which is authorized until fiscal year 2005, to establish a board towards schools and students for excellence in the arts and in arts education.

The legislation would also set up a trust fund and allow board members to seek and accept from sources other than the Federal Government funds to carry out activities for the award program. This would be done at little, if any, direct expense to the taxpayers.

This bill supports arts education for our most important population, our children. Studies have shown that arts education stimulates, develops, and refines many cognitive and creative skills in children and young adults. Emphasizing high-quality art and art curriculum through this award will further these worthwhile objectives.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support this legislation.

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

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan

(Mr. KILDEE), my good friend, and tell him that I also appreciate the opportunity of working together on this bill with him.

Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers; but I do have some thanks I would like to give at this time, to Karen Weiss, my legislative director; Jo Marie St. Martin, our legal counsel; Rich Stombres with the majority staff; Alex Nock with the minority staff; and Kirk Boyle with the majority leader's office, for their great help in bringing this bill to this point.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2789, the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Act and I commend the House Speaker, the gentleman from California, Mr. MCKEON.

Over the past 30 years, our quality of life has been improved by the arts. Support for the arts illustrates our Nation's commitment to freedom of expression, one of the basic principles on which our Nation is founded.

We must understand and appreciate the importance of the arts on our Nation's children. Whether it is music or drama or dance, children are drawn to the arts. By giving children something to be proud of and passionate about, they can make good choices and avoid following the crowd down dark paths.

S. 2789 establishes the sense of Congress that arts literacy is a fundamental purpose of schooling for all students. Arts education stimulates, develops, and refines many cognitive and creative skills, critical thinking and nimbleness in judgment, creativity and imagination, cooperative decisionmaking, leadership, high-level literacy, and communication, and the capacity for problem-posing and problem-solving.

As chairman of the International Relations Committee, I recognize the importance of the arts on an international level, as they help foster a common appreciation of history and culture that are so essential to our humanity.

Accordingly, I urge all my colleagues to support this measure, to recognize the importance of arts literacy in our Nation's schools.

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2789.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□

MINORITY HEALTH AND HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACT OF 2000

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1880) to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of minority individuals.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1880

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Minority Health and Health Disparities Research and Education Act of 2000".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Findings.

TITLE I—IMPROVING MINORITY HEALTH AND REDUCING HEALTH DISPARITIES THROUGH NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH; ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL CENTER

Sec. 101. Establishment of National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities.

Sec. 102. Centers of excellence for research education and training.

Sec. 103. Extramural loan repayment program for minority health disparities research.

Sec. 104. General provisions regarding the Center.

Sec. 105. Report regarding resources of National Institutes of Health dedicated to minority and other health disparities research.

TITLE II—HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH BY AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY

Sec. 201. Health disparities research by Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

TITLE III—DATA COLLECTION RELATING TO RACE OR ETHNICITY

Sec. 301. Study and report by National Academy of Sciences.

TITLE IV—HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION

Sec. 401. Health professions education in health disparities.

Sec. 402. National conference on health professions education and health disparities.

Sec. 403. Advisory responsibilities in health professions education in health disparities and cultural competency.

TITLE V—PUBLIC AWARENESS AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON HEALTH DISPARITIES

Sec. 501. Public awareness and information dissemination.

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 601. Departmental definition regarding minority individuals.

Sec. 602. Conforming provision regarding definitions.

Sec. 603. Effective date.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds as follows:

(1) Despite notable progress in the overall health of the Nation, there are continuing disparities in the burden of illness and death experienced by African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Asian Pacific Islanders, compared to the United States population as a whole.

(2) The largest numbers of the medically underserved are white individuals, and many of them have the same health care access problems as do members of minority groups. Nearly 20,000,000 white individuals live below the poverty line with many living in non-metropolitan, rural areas such as Appalachia, where the high percentage of counties designated as health professional shortage areas (47 percent) and the high rate of poverty contribute to disparity outcomes. However, there is a higher proportion of racial and ethnic minorities in the United States represented among the medically underserved.