

guidance developed at Northern Command, including concept of operations plans and functional plans for military support to civilian authorities.

41. There was a lack of coordination of Joint Task Force Katrina and the National Guard Joint Forces headquarters in supporting states.

42. The Department of Defense has not adequately incorporated or funded the National Guard to participate in joint exercises in military assistance to civil authorities, which would have allowed for a more effective response to Hurricane Katrina and other homeland emergencies.

43. Northern Command does not have adequate insight into State response capabilities or adequate interface with governors, which contributed to a lack of mutual understanding and trust during the Katrina response.

44. There is an unresolved tension between the Department of Defense and the States regarding the role of the military in emergency response that could be resolved if along with the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Defense adopted and made the National Incident Management System a priority for emergency management.

45. The National Guard lacked communication equipment during Hurricane Katrina, suggesting that the Pentagon does not assign homeland defense and military assistance to civilian authorities a sufficiently high priority.

46. The Department of the Army decided to reduce Army National Guard force structure and end-strength without substantive consultation with National Guard Bureau leaders or State Adjutants General, and the Air Force has decided to reduce Air National Guard force structure and end-strength without substantive consultation with National Guard Bureau leaders or State Adjutants General.

47. The Department of the Army currently plans to scale back the Army National Guard to 324,000 soldiers from 350,000. The Department of the Air Force plans to scale back the Air National Guard by 14,000 airmen and women. To cut Guard manpower in this time of increased homeland need, and the fluxation of current Department of Defense transformation policies affecting the Army and Air National Guard, creates an unacceptable risk to the security of this Nation.

48. States and Governors are not adequately represented at the Department of Defense when planning and exercising for homeland events.

49. The role of the National Guard Bureau as the channel of communications between the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security and the States needs to be enhanced.

50. USNORTHCOM and its subordinate headquarters lack knowledge of their domestic theater of operations, specifically State emergency plans and resources, and knowledge of National Guard resources. USNORTHCOM and its subordinate headquarters need to be reformed to include substantially increased National Guard general officer command presence and participation by other senior National Guard personnel in all levels of their operations.

Mr. Speaker, the front line in the global war against terrorism is right here at home. Cold War structures and distinctions separating projected active duty forces and stateside reserve components no longer meet the strategic im-

peratives of this century. This proposal updates those structures to reflect the integral role of the National Guard in the modern battle plan and ensures the Guard will have the clout and resources necessary to meet that vital mission.

NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES, INC.,
Washington, DC, April 25, 2006.

Hon. THOMAS M. DAVIS III,
Chairman, Committee on Government Reform,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN DAVIS: The National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) applauds your introduction of a House version of the National Defense Enhancement and National Guard Empowerment Act of 2006.

This legislation is a powerful first step in providing the appropriate presence for the leadership of the National Guard in the decision making processes of the Department of Defense. The security of American citizens was forever altered on September 11, 2001. Since that date, the National Guard has grown in stature and importance as a full partner in ensuring their well-being.

It is completely logical that the policies and procedures that heretofore have guided the effective use of the National Guard should be considered for revision in light of the sweeping changes to the missions and employment of our armed forces. NGAUS looks forward to working with you and with members of the United States Senate in passage of similarly innovative legislation.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of the National Guard.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN M. KOPER,
Brigadier General (ret), President.

ADJUTANTS GENERAL ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, April 26, 2006.

Hon. THOMAS M. DAVIS III,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN DAVIS: The Adjutants General Association of the United States heralds the introduction of the National Defense Enhancement and National Guard Empowerment Act of 2006. This legislation which you have created along with members of the U.S. Senate bravely seeks to ensure the National Guard will have a strong voice in matters of national security, homeland defense, and homeland security.

Events associated with Hurricane Katrina, BRAC, and QDR highlighted important instances where National Guard leadership was not consulted on key matters of national interest and citizen safety. As the National Guard faces major issues in re-equipping and transformation, a strong voice in defense circles is more vital than ever.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of appreciative Adjutants General.

Sincerely,

ROGER P. LEMPKE,
Major General, Adjutant General.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am again re-introducing legislation that is intended to help solve the shortage of available, afford-

able child care facilities. In my congressional district in New York City, more than half of all women with pre-school children are in the workforce and the need for child care is enormous. This is not a local problem but one that is national in nature.

The Children's Development Commission Act or Kiddie Mac, will address this problem by authorizing HUD to issue guarantees to lenders who are willing to lend money to build or rehabilitate child care facilities. It also creates the Children's Development Commission which will certify the loans and create federal child care standards. Kiddie Mac will also give micro-loans to facilities which need to make the necessary changes to come up to licensing standards, as well as provide them with lower cost fire and liability insurance. Through some of the premiums paid by the lenders, a non-profit foundation will be formed which would focus on research on child care and development, as well as create educational materials to guide potential providers through the certification process.

I have introduced this legislation in several past Congresses but the need for it has only grown more acute. I urge my colleagues to consider the proposal and join me in enacting it this year.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL AT BEIRUT

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Centennial Anniversary of the American Community School at Beirut.

The American Community School was founded in 1905 as the Faculty School by a group of American missionary families living in Lebanon. The school was supported by the American University of Beirut, the American Presbyterian Mission and Aramco. It was the first American K-12 school in Lebanon and is an independent, non-profit, co-educational school chartered in the state of New York. Today, the school's enrollment exceeds 1,000 and the school is an ambassador of American education to the Middle East.

The American Community School's student population has changed over the years and is now composed of a diverse community made up of students from American, Lebanese and international families. The school offers numerous activities to supplement the education of its students. Alumni of the school have gone on to do great things, with many of them excelling in careers serving the United States government and Lebanese-American relations.

I would like to commend the American Community School's leadership for their innovative vision in implementing and carrying out the school's mission of providing quality American-style education. The school's teachers should be recognized for their consistent dedication and for inspiring their students to pursue a well-rounded, life-long education. Finally, past and present students of the school should be applauded for their success in such an independent, challenging environment.

The school is appreciative of the support of the United States Congress. America's direct