

I extend my deepest congratulations to Juan Gonzalez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OPPORTUNITY AND RESULTS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the so-called "Scholarship for Opportunity and Results Act" H.R. 471. Private school vouchers are not an effective way to improve student achievement.

I do not support private school voucher programs. Not only do these programs sometimes blur the line between church and state, but there is also little evidence that this type of reform actually helps students. In fact, I am very concerned that vouchers do nothing more than drain money out of our public school system, especially from the schools that need the most financial assistance from the federal government.

In 2004, I opposed the creation District of Columbia's private school voucher program and I have repeatedly voted against proposals to use federal funds to support voucher programs. H.R. 471 seeks to bring back to life a failed voucher program that Congress has already voted to end.

The bill before us today would spend another \$100 million on a program that the evidence tells us does not work. Four separate U.S. Department of Education reports found that that the DC voucher program had no statistically significant effect on reading or math achievement. So why are we spending more today when the evidence is clear? We must not put ideology ahead of evidence. We must make decisions after weighing the evidence. If you do that, then you will oppose new funding for private school vouchers.

Further, this bill does nothing to help American students in the other 50 states. Parents, teachers, students, and school officials across New Jersey want to know what we are doing to address their needs. Why are we only talking about students in the District of Columbia?

I will continue to voice my opposition to this and other voucher programs that divert needed resources from our public schools and urge rejection of this measure.

IN SUPPORT OF THE COLORADO HUMANITIES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Colorado Humanities. The Colorado Humanities and State Humanities councils offer programs in every congressional district in this country. These programs strengthen individuals, families and communities. Councils support K-12 education, family

reading programs, local heritage initiatives, veterans programs, public discussion forums, online state encyclopedias, book festivals, documentaries, lectures, library and museum exhibits, professional development and more. Without these programs many schools and small museums would go without essential educational programs.

The funding for these programs is possible through the National Endowment for the Humanities. Some have suggested the termination of the National Endowment for the Humanities. All of the participating councils stretch federal dollars by diligent fiscal management, strategic collaborations and leveraging of resources at the local level. Some of the programs including the online state encyclopedias can help generate revenue by providing an important resource for state tourism. Without federal funding councils could potentially lose the matching and in kind donations they use to double the federal funding they receive. The lack of federal support affects the future donation by private companies and donors. In 2010, the state councils used their funding to leverage \$5.15 for every federal dollar awarded in grants, worked with 9,600 partner organizations and conducted programs in 5,700 communities nationwide.

The Colorado Humanities is an innovative leader, community resource and important partner for humanities programs. The Colorado Humanities is the only statewide organization exclusively dedicated to support humanities education for adults and children. They developed 57 unique programs and awarded 1504 grants in its 36-year history to support humanities education for adults and children. There are three annual community Chautauqua festivals, the Young Chautauqua history curriculum for K-12 students and the distribution of Colorado history documentaries to school and public libraries statewide. The Colorado humanities also provide schools with student writing competitions, the Colorado Book Awards, traveling exhibitions and numerous institutes for teachers.

The termination of NEA funding would impact numerous schools and museums in Colorado and the 7th Congressional District would lose multiple educational programs. Our nation's schools and museums already face budgetary cuts on the state level. Colorado Humanities demands little funding, practices diligent fiscal management and is staffed almost entirely by volunteers. The cuts proposed would eliminate an important program for all Colorado residents.

HONORING THE MARIN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the sesquicentennial of the newspaper now known as the Marin Independent Journal. The publication's predecessor was first published on March 23, 1861, as a weekly chronicle of life in our unique corner of California. Marin County has changed a great deal in the 150 years since, but the enterprising and independent spirit of our people remains, and we are privileged that the IJ has been with us to capture it.

The IJ traces its roots back to our first local newspaper, the Marin County Journal, which in 1861 served a population of only a few thousand residents. It was a time when bears and mountain lions were still hunted in Marin hills, when the recipients of Mexican land grants still ran their own properties, and when the United States was just beginning its Civil War. The local paper covered it all with a particular taste for local news, culture, and opinion. In our sparse and isolated county, the newspaper was the voice for a community. In 1948, the Marin County Journal merged with the San Rafael Independent to form the Marin County Independent Journal, the county's premier daily ever since.

The story of the IJ is in many ways the story of Marin itself. The newspaper was there to report on Marin's iconic landmarks as they were first being built, from the celebrated Point Reyes and Point Bonita Lighthouses in the 1870s to Sausalito's Casa Madrona in the 1880s, the Golden Gate Bridge in the 1930s, and Frank Lloyd Wright's Civic Center building in the 1960s. The newspaper was there to capture local reactions to the crises our county has weathered, from the great earthquake of 1906 to the Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989, from the Mt. Tamalpais fires of 1913 and 1929 to the New Year's floods of 2005.

The IJ also reminds us of how little has changed over the decades. A community defined by its independent farmers and ranchers in the 19th century has been largely urbanized, but its soul still resides in the small-scale, environmentally conscious family farming that Marin County champions today. A community that was once literally cut off from the rest of the world has become one that is now passionately engaged, but with a perspective that remains fiercely independent.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Marin Independent Journal. It is an advocate for our county, a forum for our people, and a reflection of everything that has made Marin the place we treasure.

JOSSIE FERRIS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jossie Ferris for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jossie Ferris is an 8th grader at Arvada K-8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jossie Ferris is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jossie Ferris for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.