

The family will purchase the home from Habitat at cost and finally be able to have a place to call home.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Habitat for Humanity for its continuing work to help make the American dream of home ownership come true and salute its volunteers and donors for their hard work. This deserving family looks forward to living in a safe and pleasant community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHABAD OF PORT WASHINGTON

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 7, 2011

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Chabad of Port Washington for 20 years of exceptional spiritual leadership and community service. For countless families and individuals in the Port Washington community, the Chabad has been an anchor of welcoming faith—a constant source of spiritual support for anyone who seeks it.

An “unorthodox Orthodox Synagogue,” the Chabad of Port Washington’s membership is a conglomeration of Jews from a wide array of ages, backgrounds, and levels of observance. This diverse membership creates a welcoming atmosphere rich in culture and accessible to every corner of the Jewish community. The Chabad’s unrivaled religious and educational experiences provide a forum for individuals of disparate backgrounds to come together as a single, unified congregation.

The Chabad’s mission focuses on bringing to life traditional Jewish values to promote spiritual growth in a way that is both enjoyable and easy to understand. It is dedicated to promoting wisdom, comprehension, and knowledge of Judaism to both the membership and the broader community. The Chabad provides not only classes focused on a deep and comprehensive understanding of the Torah, but educational opportunities for young Jews experiencing their first exposure to the joys of Hebrew School. This approach to education allows the Chabad to reach out to a broad swath of Jews and create the best opportunities for spiritual growth.

Tonight, the Chabad celebrates its 20 years of good works and pays special tribute to some of the individuals who have made it possible. Adam Katz, the President of the Chabad’s board of directors, will have a new athletic center dedicated in his honor. The celebration also will recognize John Maura, Jr. with the Community Service Award; Chaim (Bryan) Sherman and Dr. Orly Calderon-Sherman with the Community Builders Award; and Alan Schoenfeld with the Chesed Award. Without the contributions of these extraordinary individuals, as well as many others, the exceptional achievements of the Chabad would not be possible.

Mr. Speaker, since 1991, the Chabad of Port Washington has been working tirelessly to educate, enlighten, and support its local community. I am proud to recognize the extraordinary dedication and accomplishments of the Chabad and I ask that my colleagues join me in thanks and gratitude for its two decades of tremendous work supporting the community and promoting Jewish faith.

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT NURSULTAN NAZARBAYEV OF KAZAKHSTAN ON HIS RECENT RE-ELECTION

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 7, 2011

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate His Excellency Nursultan Nazarbayev on his re-election as President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan welcomed more than 1,059 domestic and international observers to monitor the conduct of the electoral process for purposes of making sure that the election was free and fair and open and transparent. These observers included an OSCE Election Observation Mission (EOM), 400 short-term observers from the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) as well as independent observers from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and other international and non-profit organizations. Some 90 foreign media representatives were also temporarily accredited with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan to cover the election.

Although the election was not without criticism, the OSCE stated that “compared to the last presidential election, the media provided more equality in covering candidates in the news programmes,” and suggestions made by ODIHR and the OSCE observer mission regarding ways to further improve the electoral process were well taken by Astana.

On April 4, 2011, the U.S. Embassy in Astana was among the first to congratulate President Nazarbayev on his April 3, 2011 re-election, acknowledging Kazakhstan’s commitment to further liberalize the political environment while urging the government of Kazakhstan to address the shortcomings the OSCE report highlighted. I stand with our U.S. Embassy and commend Kazakhstan for the progress it is making on its march towards democracy, especially given that Kazakhstan only achieved its independence twenty years ago, having lived under Soviet oppression for some one hundred years.

As President Nazarbayev noted in his Op Ed of April 1, 2011 published in the Washington Post, “It took the great democracies of the world centuries to develop” and, as such, Kazakhstan is not going to become a fully developed democracy overnight. But Kazakhstan has proved that its commitment to democracy is irreversible. So is Kazakhstan’s long-standing friendship with the U.S.

Since its independence, Kazakhstan has fully supported U.S.-led efforts against nuclear proliferation and, under the leadership of President Nazarbayev, Kazakhstan continues to provide indispensable aid to U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

I am proud of Kazakhstan’s accomplishments and, once more, I congratulate President Nazarbayev on his re-election as President of Kazakhstan. I have every confidence that he will spare no effort in delivering stability, security and prosperity for and on behalf of the people of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EVERY STUDENT COUNTS ACT

HON. ROBERT C. “BOBBY” SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 7, 2011

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the “Every Student Counts Act,” legislation that will prioritize high school graduation for all of our nation’s students.

In 2001, the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) passed with broad bipartisan support. The purpose of NCLB was to ensure that every student in America would receive a quality education. However, over the past ten years, NCLB has not lived up to its promises. Certain aspects of the law are difficult to implement and are not bringing about the results we thought it would. One of the major shortcomings of NCLB is its failure to hold schools accountable for dropouts. Although we believed we addressed this issue in the original NCLB legislation, this portion of the law has not been implemented as we had hoped. Instead, under current law, the only meaningful accountability standard for high schools is students’ scores on standardized tests, with virtually no concern given to how many students graduate or drop out of school. Unfortunately, this myopic accountability standard has created an incentive for high schools to push out students who are struggling academically, so that their test scores are not counted in the assessments. Furthermore, the current accountability system also has allowed States to report graduation rates inconsistently and in misleading ways. Finally, NCLB does not require the disaggregation of graduation rates by subgroup, leading to incomplete data on how our schools are doing with one subgroup compared to others.

What is clear is the fact that the current high school accountability system is failing both our students and our nation. Each year, approximately 1.23 million secondary school students—one-third of all secondary school students—fail to graduate with their peers. In addition, nearly 2,000 secondary schools—roughly 12 percent of all secondary schools in the United States—produce about half of the nation’s secondary school dropouts. In these schools, the number of seniors is routinely 60 percent or less than the number of freshmen three years earlier. Moreover, almost half of the nation’s African-American students and nearly 40 percent of Latino students attend these so called “dropout factories,” while only 11 percent of White students do.

Unfortunately, these dismal numbers are just the beginning of the story. Research shows that the difference in lifetime earnings between a high school dropout and a high school graduate is about \$260,000. A dropout’s loss in potential earnings can cause serious hardships throughout his or her life. For example, statistics show that high school dropouts are more likely to be on public assistance programs such as welfare than students who complete high school. In addition, high school dropouts that do find employment are much more likely to work at unskilled jobs that offer little opportunity for upward mobility. There is also a strong correlation between high school dropouts and juvenile delinquency and teen pregnancy. Therefore, we cannot sit back and allow this problem to escalate. We must hold