

H.R. 5 is like a blast from the past and fails our students and their families in a myriad of ways. Among some of the most egregious provisions in this proposed iteration of ESEA, H.R. 5 includes the concept of portability for title I funds.

Sold and messaged as a promotion of choice, portability instead adversely affects students who are in schools and districts with the highest concentration of poverty and need. In short, portability is a ruse, one that takes resources from, rather than gives to our most underserved and needy children.

Additionally, as the ranking member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, and a longtime advocate of STEM—science, technology, mathematics, and engineering—education, I was alarmed by the utter and complete exclusion of any reference to STEM education within this base text.

We should be retooling our education system to fit the needs of our ever-evolving globalized economy, not running back to the factory-style education that doesn't provide our children with the skills they need to compete.

Education is the ladder to opportunity and central to keeping alive the American Dream. We must fight to ensure that every single child, regardless of their background, is given the opportunity to reach their God-given potential.

No matter what race—Black, White, Hispanic, Asian, or Native American—rich, poor, immigrant or not, we must remain steadfast in our dedication to equality and the equity of opportunity.

I strongly urge my colleagues to take this bill back to the drawing board and make sure that education in America is reflective of our principles as a nation. I urge my colleagues to make sure that we protect the American Dream and keep America the land of equal opportunity.

If you work hard and play by the rules, everyone deserves a fair shot and a fair shake at a fulfilling life. The ZIP Code you grow up in should not determine the life you live.

NATIONAL DAIRY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, although we have recently entered into July, I rise today in recognition of National Dairy Month, which has taken place every June since 1937.

As I travel across Pennsylvania and throughout the Pennsylvania Fifth Congressional District, I am always inspired by our farmers and our farm families. They work hard. They work 7 days a week. Their work is arduous, and the challenges of running a farm are never ending.

Mr. Speaker, farming isn't just a business to these hardworking folks; it

is the fabric of rural America. The Commonwealth's history is rooted in agriculture, and the dairy industry continues to be the largest sector of this industry.

Most, about 99 percent of our dairy farms in Pennsylvania, are family-owned and operated, and our average herd size is about 72 head.

The Commonwealth's robust dairy industry produces 10 billion pounds of milk annually, and that number continues to surge. In fact, Pennsylvania ranks fifth in the Nation when it comes to dairy production.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of National Dairy Month, in support of our dairy farmers and farm families, and to also say thank you to all of these folks for providing us with food and fiber.

CONGRESS MUST REAUTHORIZE THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, today we find ourselves on the House floor yet again debating H.R. 5. After several months of delay, the majority party has yet to realize that this bill is not in the best interest of America's children.

We all agree that Congress must reauthorize a strong Elementary and Secondary Education Act. H.R. 5 does not meet the test.

Any reauthorization must ensure that education is properly funded at the State and Federal level for all of America's children; that all students have access to a well-rounded education, which includes subjects like physical education, music, and the arts; and that students are annually assessed, which allows for parents and teachers to measure students' progress.

H.R. 5 does none of these things. Instead, it fails our students, our teachers, and our families. The bill drastically reduces education funding, eliminates and weakens protections for disabled students, fails to provide a well-rounded education for all students, and generally makes it more difficult to educate those for whom the act was designed to protect.

The bill turns title I funding into a block grant. The program would disproportionately harm disadvantaged and low-income students. Schools across the country, including some in my own congressional district, rely on these funds to help ensure children are given a fair chance to meet State academic standards.

H.R. 5 also allows title I dollars to become portable, which would divert much-needed funds from the highest need poverty schools and districts.

H.R. 5 removes requirements that States ensure students graduate from high school college and career ready. The bill focuses primarily on math and reading assessments, without providing

any programmatic support for literacy, for STEM, and for other subjects that provide a well-rounded curriculum. It eliminates wraparound support services, which are very important to needy students. It eliminates after-school, family engagement, physical, dental, and mental health programs.

This year, we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The bill, essentially a civil rights law, reaffirmed that every child has the right to an equal opportunity for a quality education.

However, H.R. 5 undermines the law's original intent, turning back the clock on equity and accountability in American public education and ignores the needs of America's most vulnerable students. H.R. 5 is a step backward in our country's education system. This legislation fails our students and their families.

America deserves better.

REAUTHORIZE THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this week the House will be considering the appropriations bill for the Department of the Interior for the upcoming fiscal year.

I rise today to express my support for a robust and continued funding for and the permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Over this past Independence Day weekend, I was particularly reminded of how so many of us enjoy the natural wonders of our hometowns and communities, from picnics at playgrounds, baseball games on municipal recreational fields, honoring our heritage and celebrating our independence with fireworks, music and parades at local historic sites and parks.

That is part of why the Land and Water Conservation Fund is so important. It helps our communities protect critical lands by providing State and local governments with necessary funding and flexibility to develop and improve lands for public access and recreational enjoyment. It is part of highlighting the heritage and character in my district in southeastern Pennsylvania.

My home State of Pennsylvania has received approximately \$295 million in the past five decades from the Land and Conservation Water Fund. It has protected places with national significance, such as Gettysburg National Military Park, Valley Forge National Historical Park, and John Heinz Wildlife Refuge.

In addition, in my congressional district, we can thank the Land and Water Conservation Fund for helping fund the building of the Birdsboro Waters Forest Legacy project, protecting critical woodlands at the East

Coventry Wineberry Estates, expanding Shaw's Bridge in East Bradford Township, and enhancing Pottstown Borough Memorial Park with a new dog park, pavilions, restrooms, ball fields, and walking trails.

Mr. Speaker, one thing that was apparent this past weekend was just how integral our public lands and outdoor recreation areas are to our heritage, civic identity, and local community.

I believe the Land and Water Conservation Fund is one of our most important conservation programs and an excellent example of a bipartisan commitment to safeguarding natural resources, promoting our cultural heritage, and expanding recreational opportunities not just for a moment in time, but for future generations as well.

I also believe it is a program that allows our local communities to dream big about how to best go about enhancing their communities for their residents.

As an original cosponsor of H.R. 1814, which would permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund, I am looking forward to working with my colleagues in an effort to help communities across this country create lasting legacies of public access to the cultural and recreational opportunities identified by officials in their local communities as being worthy of funding for future projects.

STUDENT SUCCESS ACT FAILS STUDENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express my strong opposition to H.R. 5, the so-called Student Success Act. I am deeply disappointed in the majority for bringing such an economically careless and socially egregious bill to the floor today.

If passed, H.R. 5 would take more than \$7 million from the highest need schools in my home State of Alabama. It is really an abomination that this body would do this to our constituents and do this to our students.

H.R. 5 abandons the Federal Government's historic role in elementary and secondary education. Furthermore, this bill neglects our sacred responsibility to ensure that all children, irrespective of race, class, disability, or socioeconomic class, are given the opportunity to attain a high quality education.

Each of us in this body has the opportunity to send our own children to the finest K-12 institutions in this country, but our privilege isn't universal, and we shouldn't legislate as if it is.

In the Seventh Congressional District of Alabama, that privilege, the ability to send our children to the private schools or public schools of choice, is nearly nonexistent.

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More than 70 percent of the public school students in my district receive

free or reduced lunch, and they live in families that live below the poverty line. And of the 26 school districts that serve my constituents, only two of them have a poverty rate that is less than 56 percent.

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act was first written in recognition of the impact that concentrated poverty has on a school system's ability to adequately support the educational programs needed to serve vulnerable communities.

But H.R. 5 would strip the ESEA of the protections for these students by diverting title I funds. This approach is backwards, and our children deserve better. If I were grading this bill, I would definitely give it an F.

As a proud product of Selma High School, this is deeply personal to me. Today more than 90 percent of the Selma High School students in my district, from my old high school, receive free and reduced lunch. Under H.R. 5, this school would lose nearly 20 percent of its Federal funding.

The greatest opportunity that we can give any child is a quality education. This is why I cannot support this bill, which diverts title I funds from 92 percent of the schools in my district. This would further tilt the playing field against poor kids.

These children belong to all of us. Unfortunately, this bill is proof that somewhere along the line we have abandoned the most sacred American principle, that all children—I mean all children—are our children.

We cannot deny that a rising tide lifts all boats. The economic and social costs of refusing to accept these facts are steep.

When President Johnson signed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in 1964, he stated, "As President of the United States, I believe deeply no law I have signed or will ever sign means more to the future of America than this bill." President Johnson was right then, and he is right now.

To promote our educational progress, we must replace No Child Left Behind with a strong bipartisan bill, one that advances what works and improves upon what does not. Unfortunately, this bill does neither.

I urge this body to oppose this reckless bill, H.R. 5. Our children deserve better. Our constituents deserve better. This Nation deserves better.

KELO V. NEW LONDON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED) for 5 minutes.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to highlight an issue that I believe we must pay closer attention to in this Chamber and in this Congress. You see, on June 23, Mr. Speaker, we marked the tenth anniversary of an important Supreme Court case. That case was *Kelo v. New London*.

Now, the title of the case really means nothing. But I point to Susette

Kelo, who I have here depicted in this picture. She was the plaintiff in that case. And what happened in that case was this, Mr. Speaker, a real tragedy:

She was told by her government that they were going to take her home and give it to another private owner for development. You heard me right, Mr. Speaker. She was told that her home was going to be taken by our government because they were picking the winners and losers because they felt they knew best how to utilize her property and give it to another private owner to develop it the way that private owner wanted to do.

Well, Mr. Speaker, Susette Kelo stood up. She fought this fight. She was told by her friends, she was told by her real estate agents, she was told by her lawyers: Just roll over. The government always wins, and they are going to win this battle.

But she fought it all the way to the Supreme Court. And what happened, however, is that that advice from her friends and from her real estate agent and her lawyers came true. The government won.

But that day we all lost, as American citizens. Because here is what happened after that case. She lost her home. And this is a picture of her property—well, no longer her property—but that property, as it exists today. They demolished her home. They took her property. She lost her piece of the American Dream. And the result of it is a vacant lot that sits in New London.

Mr. Speaker, I highlight this case today because it reminds us of an issue that we must fight for, and that is a fundamental freedom that we all enjoy as American citizens, to own and to use our property.

It is something that is fundamental to our U.S. Constitution. It is something fundamental to us as American citizens. And it is time for us to unite, as Republicans and Democrats, and say enough is enough. We must push back on Big Government. We must stand with individuals.

This land belongs to them, not our government. And that is something that I am afraid that started 10 years ago and continues to this day with actions of Big Government day in and day out, where government regulations, government overreach—local, Federal, State level—act in a way that takes away these fundamental property rights that so many have fought for.

So in Congress I have led the fight. I formed the Private Property Rights Caucus, with Members from Maine to Alabama to California. I have sponsored and authored the Defense of Property Rights Act to say enough is enough. We are going to stand with individuals, and we are going to fight this Big Government overreach.

Mr. Speaker, these hard-fought rights have come at the expense of so many, the blood of those who fought to preserve our freedoms, the blood of our Founding Fathers and the vision they