

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