

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2015*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5) to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes:

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5 The Student Success Act. I rise in opposition to this bill because education is a civil right. The Elementary and Secondary Schools Act, also known as ESEA, was initially passed in 1965 as part of President Johnson's "War on Poverty." President Johnson understood that without a good education, economic stability was impossible and poverty inevitable.

The goal of the original ESEA was to provide a fair and equitable education to every child in America. Unfortunately, H.R. 5 is neither fair nor equitable. This bill creates the warped concept of Title I Portability, which would shift resources from poor school districts such as the ones in my district of Brooklyn, New York to wealthier communities. Children in poor districts stand to lose upward of \$85 per student, while children in wealthier communities would gain an average of \$290 dollars per student.

It ends the Safe and Drug Free Schools Program, among 70 other programs also slated for elimination. You would think that with the rise in school shootings and rampant school violence, that if we ever needed a Safe and Drug Free School Program it would be now.

It also eliminates Title III, which helped to ensure that English Language Learners attain English proficiency. H.R. 5 not only figuratively, but also literally, silences the voices of our Hispanic students and in doing so relegates them to a life of inequity and poverty.

Under H.R. 5, New York State is projected to receive \$1.52 billion in 2016 and \$6.943 billion over the 2016–2021 period. This is \$46 million less in 2016 and \$606 million less over the 2016–2021 period than under the President Obama's budget. In fact, my district of Brooklyn, New York is in Kings County. Kings County, with a poverty rate of 33.3 percent, will see a \$39.9 million cut in Title I funding under this bill.

Today, we Democrats are shining a light on H.R. 5 so that America can see how ugly, dangerous and divisive this bill really is. And just like during the civil rights movement, we won't back down! We won't give up! We will fight until every child in America—Black, Brown, Asian or White—has a fair, equitable, and quality public school education—because Education is a Civil Right.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF JOE VIOLANTE TO OUR GREAT NATION AND HER WARRIORS

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 9, 2015*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on July 31, our Nation's veterans will lose one of their strongest advocates when Joe Violante retires as the National Legislative Director for the Disabled American Veterans at DAV's National Service and Legislative Headquarters here in Washington, DC.

A New Jersey native, Mr. Violante joined the Marine Corps in 1969. He served with the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines and Battalion Landing Team 2/4 in Southeast Asia where he was injured. After being discharged in 1972 with the rank of sergeant, Mr. Violante received a bachelor's degree in history and political science from the University of New Mexico, and eventually earned his law degree from San Fernando Valley College of Law, in California. Following private practice in California, Mr. Violante began working as a VA Staff Attorney at the Board of Veterans' Appeals in 1985. But Joe felt he could better serve veterans by working for an organization that advocates for veterans.

Leaving the VA, Mr. Violante joined DAV's professional staff as Staff Counsel/Judicial Appeals Representative at the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims in 1990. Following his time at the Board, Mr. Violante was appointed Legislative Counsel for DAV in 1992 and was later promoted to Deputy National Legislative Director in 1996 and Legislative Director in 1997. In addition to his work at DAV, Mr. Violante has served on numerous boards and committees.

Mr. Violante served as a member of the Board of the National Foundation for Women Legislators from 2001 to 2009 and a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Circuit Bar Association from 2001 to 2004. Additionally, Mr. Violante co-hosted "Veterans' Forum," a local cable television program dedicated to veterans' issues from 1991 to 1994; chaired the Veterans Appeals' Committee and Legislative Committee of the Federal Circuit Bar Association from 1992 to 1996 and 1997 to 2001, respectively; was vice-chair of the American Bar Association Coordinating Committee on Veterans Benefits and Services from 1991 to 1994; and at-large member of the Board of Governors of the Veterans' Law Committee of the Federal Bar Association from 1992 to 1993.

Mr. Speaker, it would be a challenge to find someone who has done more as an advocate for veterans than Mr. Joe Violante. So, in the long-standing tradition of the Navy and Marine Corps, I wish Joe and his family fair winds and following seas. Bravo Zulu Marine.

IN HONOR OF MIKE ROOS

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 9, 2015*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the long and distinguished public service career of our friend, Mr. Mike Roos. I had the great honor of working with Mike as colleagues in the California State Assembly along with several other current and former members of this House. I count myself fortunate to call him a good friend. After many years of public service, Mike is retiring from Mike Roos and Company, the public affairs firm that he founded in 1999, and turning to the next chapter of his life.

The firm that Mike shaped specializes in government relations, corporate issues management, media relations, and ballot measure campaigns. Prior to establishing Mike Roos and Company, Mike served as President and CEO of the Los Angeles Alliance for Restructuring Now, a coalition of business and civic leaders from the Los Angeles Area dedicated to implementing systemic reform and restructuring within the Los Angeles Unified School District. His significant efforts in this capacity have undoubtedly changed countless lives of children in the Los Angeles area for the better.

Mike's distinguished Assembly career began in 1977. He earned the love and respect of both his Democratic and Republican colleagues. His own caucus chose him Majority Floor Leader in his second term, a position he held until his 1987 election as Assembly Speaker Pro Tempore. He had the reputation as a genuine legislator—someone who used the power of lawmaking to make the lives of the People of California better. Perhaps his most well known achievement is the Mello Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 and the Roberti-Roos Weapons Control Act of 1989. Mike authored the finest and strictest laws to date protecting the confidentiality of HIV patients, as well as the law creating the Alternative Test Sites Program, which established centers where individuals could receive free, anonymous testing for the AIDS antibody. He consistently fought for a better education for all, authoring legislation prohibiting sex discrimination in California's educational institutions.

Prior to his election to the State Assembly, Mike served as the Executive Director of the Coro Foundation, a leadership training program for future leaders in public service. Thanks to his substantial experience and insight, he continues to be a valuable consultant to civic and educational organizations, speaking on topics ranging from education reform to the legislative process in California politics.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in thanking Mike for his years of service on behalf of the people of California. I know he looks forward to spending more time with his family in this next chapter of his life, including his four daughters Shelby, Melissa,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.