

Whereas, Susan has positively impacted countless young people throughout her long career as an outstanding teacher, mentor, and role model. She has instilled the values of hard work, dedication, and love of agriculture to all who have surrounded her. Her gift is her ability to reach students from all walks of life and motivate them to do their best.

Resolved, That I Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Susan Young.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, on September 18, 2015 I was unavoidably detained during a series of Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "NAY" on Roll Call number 504 the Motion to recommit H.R. 3134 with instructions. I would have voted "YEA" on Roll Call number 505 Passage of H.R. 3134 the Defund Planned Parenthood Act, and Roll Call number 506 Passage of H.R. 3504 Passage of the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protect Act.

OUTSTANDING TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Leah Bolton for being awarded the Brazoria County Business Hall of Fame's Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award.

Leah Bolton, a Career and Technology teacher at Manvel High School, earned this recognition thanks to her efforts to further engage students in career preparation and technology courses. In her classes, she incorporates volunteers from the local Junior Achievement organization to help teach her students about working in the business sector and the community. Her students were even selected by Junior Achievement to teach financial literacy lessons to younger students at local elementary schools. Ms. Bolton gives her students great hands-on experience that prepares them to conquer the world. Thank you to Ms. Bolton for her leadership, dedication, and inspiration. Manvel High School is lucky to have you.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Leah Bolton for being named Outstanding Teacher of the Year.

TRIBUTE TO THE PATTERSON FAMILY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Marissa

and Roy Patterson of Des Moines, Iowa for the birth of their new baby girl, Analisea Sophia.

In June of 2014 Marissa and Roy married and on June 18, 2015 they welcomed a healthy, beautiful baby girl into this world. The road ahead will not be easy, but it will be filled with more joy and happiness than they can possibly imagine.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Marissa and Roy for their commitment to each other and for the birth of their new baby daughter. It is an honor to represent families like them in the United States Congress. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them for this momentous occasion and wish their family nothing but continued health and happiness.

NATIONAL FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA BAND

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ricky Lerma on his selection to play with the National Future Farmers of America (FFA) Band.

Ricky Lerma, a senior at Needville High School, is one of only 13 students in Texas to be selected to join the Band. FFA is a national organization that advances and supports agricultural education. Next month, Ricky and his fellow band members will travel to Louisville, Kentucky to perform at the 2015 National FFA Convention & Expo. We are all proud of Ricky's accomplishment and look forward to hearing him perform.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to Ricky on this fantastic achievement and best of luck in Louisville.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNIVERSAL PREKINDERGARTEN AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ACT OF 2015

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill similar to a bill I have introduced in four previous Congresses, the Universal Prekindergarten and Early Childhood Education Act of 2015 (Universal Pre-K), to begin the process of providing universal prekindergarten education in public and public charter schools in states that have or plan to phase in or are phasing in prekindergarten education for three- and four-year-old children. The Obama administration and the District of Columbia have made considerable strides since I first introduced this bill, but today's bill is still needed to fill a hole in the "No Child Left Behind Act," which addresses elementary and secondary education but ignores the prekindergarten years, the most critical years for children's brain development. My bill also seeks a breakthrough in public education by providing the initial funding for states to en-

courage local school districts to add prekindergarten for children at three or four years of age, as kindergarten programs were for five-year-olds, which are now routinely available in public schools. The bill would eliminate some of the major shortcomings of unevenly available "day care" and, importantly, would take advantage of the safe facilities required in public schools. Unless early education becomes a necessary part of a child's education, it almost surely will continue to be unavailable to the majority of families with children.

My bill provides federal funds to states, which must be matched by at least 20 percent of state funds, to establish or expand universal, voluntary prekindergarten in public and public charter schools for three- and four-year-olds, regardless of income. The classes, which would be full-day and run throughout the entire school year, must be taught by teachers who possess equivalent or similar qualifications to those in other grades in the school. The funds would supplement, not supplant, other federal funds for early childhood education. The unique money-saving aspect of my bill is that it uses the existing public school infrastructure and trained teachers to make early childhood education available to all, and save billions of dollars in its implementation.

The success of Head Start and other prekindergarten programs, combined with new scientific evidence concerning the importance of brain development in early childhood, virtually mandate the expansion of early childhood education to all children today. However, early learning programs have been available only to the affluent, who can afford them, and to low-income families in programs such as Head Start, which would be unaffected by my bill. My bill provides a practical way to gradually move to universal, public preschool education for the majority of families. The goal of the bill is to afford the benefits of early childhood education to the great majority of the American working poor, lower-middle-class and middle-class families, most of whom have been left out of this essential education for their children.

We cannot afford to continue to allow the most fertile years for childhood development to pass, only to later wonder why Johnny can't read. The bill responds both to the great needs of parents who seek early childhood education, as well as to today's brain science, which shows that a child's brain development begins much earlier than had been previously understood.

Considering the staggering cost of day care, the inaccessibility of early childhood education, and the opportunity that early education offers to improve a child's chances of success, schooling for three- and four-year-olds is overdue. The absence of viable options for working families demands our immediate attention.

My bill reflects what jurisdictions throughout the nation increasingly are trying to accomplish. The District of Columbia, for example, has achieved an extensive integration of early childhood education as part of a larger effort to improve the D.C. public schools. A recent report highlighted the economic benefits of early childhood education, emphasizing its role in expanding job opportunities and in decreasing the amount of money spent on programs to address teen pregnancy, crime, and the like.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support the legislation.