

Additionally, I want to congratulate the students at the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District for their 84 percent pass rate on their advanced placement, or AP, exams, one of the highest averages in the Nation. They were included in the prestigious Advanced Placement District Honor Roll. Less than 3 percent of school districts across the country have received this honor.

As a longtime education advocate, it is with immense pride that I stand here able to recognize these schools and their students for their achievements. All of these schools and students are shining examples of academic excellence in the 39th Congressional District, worthy of their national distinction.

I ask my colleagues to join me in offering my sincerest congratulations.

EXPANSION OF 529 EDUCATION PLANS

(Mr. HAGEDORN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HAGEDORN. Madam Speaker, for our economy to continue growing, workers need technical skills, the right training, and education funding.

Workforce development is a bipartisan goal, strongly supported by both employers and employees. Small businesses, manufacturers, trade unions, and industry groups are concerned about the shortage of skilled trade workers.

Sadly, many seeking technical training are precluded from using qualified 529 education savings plans, and many apprenticeships are not eligible for 529 plans as well.

To solve this problem, I am proud to have introduced H.R. 4469, the American Workforce Employment Act, and I would like to offer special thanks to my colleagues, Representatives JEFF VAN DREW from New Jersey, RON ESTES from Kansas, and PAUL MITCHELL from Michigan, for coauthoring this legislation.

Our bipartisan bill expands the application of 529 savings plans to include expenses leading to postsecondary credentials, certain apprenticeships, and the purchase of tools and equipment, which is very important.

These programs have been identified as critical by trade unions and manufacturers. Empowering men and women to utilize their own pretax dollars will increase the number of highly trained individuals pursuing high-wage vocations and filling workforce gaps in agriculture, manufacturing, and skilled labor sectors.

I ask my colleagues to support our bipartisan legislation so that Americans can receive education and technical training to pursue their dreams and expand our economy.

□ 1145

THE SHORTAGE OF SKILLED WORKERS

(Mr. VAN DREW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I am here today to bring attention to the American Workforce Empowerment Act which I worked on with my friend from Minnesota, Congressman JIM HAGEDORN.

This is a bipartisan solution—and I hope everybody heard the word bipartisan—to address the growing shortage of skilled workers to fill job openings in the technical and skilled trades.

Small businesses are in need of machinists, welders, truck drivers, and an array of other qualified trades and labor-intensive professions. We should do everything we can to incentivize technical skills training and apprenticeships for those who like to work with their hands and see the product of their hard work.

The bipartisan American Workforce Empowerment Act expands these programs eligible for payment by 529 savings plans, and by making registered apprenticeships eligible, we can more easily and readily close the wide gap of good-paying positions that have gone unfilled in our robust economy.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 4469. We need to expand our workforce, and this is a great way to do it.

RECOGNIZING BEDFORD COUNTY SHERIFF MIKE BROWN AND DR. JANET BROWN

(Mr. CLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bedford County Sheriff Mike Brown and his wife, Liberty University professor, Dr. Janet Brown, for their tireless efforts to combat human trafficking and human sexual slavery throughout the world.

The Browns founded the Safe Surfin' Foundation in 1998 with the mission to educate youth and teens about the dangers of the internet and social media. In May the Browns were invited to present a program they developed called Cyber Safety While Accessing Technology, or Cyber S.W.A.T., to the Global Sustainability Network at the Vatican.

Cyber S.W.A.T. utilizes the social cognitive theory, a means of education, where students learn by observing and imitating the behavior of their peers. This program was first launched at Jefferson Forest High School in Lynchburg, Virginia, where students received training and designed presentations for their classmates about online threats. The response was outstanding, and since then the program has been implemented in eight other high schools across the country.

Cyber S.W.A.T. has the potential not only to save lives in the United States, but around the world.

I want to thank the Browns for their efforts to protect the next generation by teaching them proper internet safety, and I look forward to watching the continued success of the Cyber S.W.A.T. program.

NATIONAL CHOCOLATE MILK DAY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize September 27 as National Chocolate Milk Day. Chocolate milk is adored by millions of Americans nationwide, and it is a favorite among children. Seventy percent of the milk children consume is flavored, with chocolate being the most popular.

Why?

Because chocolate milk is low in fat, high in nutrients, and packed with flavor.

Milk consumption has been declining, however, and when the National School Lunch Program removed the most popular and the most nutritious options from the schools to serve only fat-free milk, the numbers continued to drop. This was partially reversed by the USDA when the decision was made to, once again, allow 1 percent flavored milk back in school lunches.

To build on this momentum, I introduced the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act earlier this year to once again allow whole milk—both flavored and unflavored—to be offered within the program because children can greatly benefit from the essential nutrients whole milk provides.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to celebrate National Chocolate Milk Day accordingly.

FRUITLESS INVESTIGATIONS INVOLVING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

(Mr. MEUSER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, I rise to reflect on what could have been accomplished in the past 9 months on this House floor.

The list is staggering: border security and illegal immigration reform; lower drug costs and lower premiums and deductibles for families; correcting surprise billing; making the middle class tax cut permanent; passing a robust infrastructure transportation bill; promoting free, fair, and reciprocal trade globally; and passing the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement and other America-first, but not-America-alone, trade agreements, which will grow our domestic industry and agricultural exports.

Democrat leadership has, however, wasted the last 9 months focused on