

I hope all of us in Congress will remember Wei Jingsheng, buy his book and read it, as we deliberate on the important questions of human freedom that are before us today.

REFORMING THE WIC PROGRAM REQUIRES BIPARTISAN COOPERATION

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

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I heard the gentleman from New Jersey, our colleague, talk about the women's, infants' and children's program, so I wanted to take the floor just to explain for a moment that through the years the WIC Program, as it is known, has received strong bipartisan support from both Republicans and Democrats because of its effectiveness in reducing low weight births and reducing birth defects resulting from nutritional deficiencies during pregnancy.

The administration did request \$76 million for additional enrollments in the WIC Program as part of the supplemental appropriations bill that will be on the floor tomorrow, and that bill actually contains half of the administration's request, \$38 million.

I am going to offer an amendment to restore the other \$38 million, but with a caveat, that being that later this fall in the committee that I chair on children, youth, and families, we are going to be looking at a number of structural and policy issues associated with this program, why it must have \$100 million in carryover funds, why the administration has asked for an additional \$100 million on our contingency funds in their 1998 budget request.

I hope we can get the same sort of bipartisan support and cooperation on the necessary policy reforms to the WIC Program as I suspect we will on my amendment to the supplemental appropriations bill tomorrow.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 5 p.m. today.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1997

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5) to amend the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, to reauthorize and make improvements to that act, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997".

TITLE I—AMENDMENTS TO THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT

SEC. 101. AMENDMENTS TO THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT.

Parts A through D of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) are amended to read as follows:

"PART A—GENERAL PROVISIONS

"SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS; FINDINGS; PURPOSES.

"(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the 'Individuals with Disabilities Education Act'.

"(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

"PART A—GENERAL PROVISIONS

"Sec. 601. Short title; table of contents; findings; purposes.

"Sec. 602. Definitions.

"Sec. 603. Office of Special Education Programs.

"Sec. 604. Abrogation of State sovereign immunity.

"Sec. 605. Acquisition of equipment; construction or alteration of facilities.

"Sec. 606. Employment of individuals with disabilities.

"Sec. 607. Requirements for prescribing regulations.

"PART B—ASSISTANCE FOR EDUCATION OF ALL CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

"Sec. 611. Authorization; allotment; use of funds; authorization of appropriations.

"Sec. 612. State eligibility.

"Sec. 613. Local educational agency eligibility.

"Sec. 614. Evaluations, eligibility determinations, individualized education programs, and educational placements.

"Sec. 615. Procedural safeguards.

"Sec. 616. Withholding and judicial review.

"Sec. 617. Administration.

"Sec. 618. Program information.

"Sec. 619. Preschool grants.

"PART C—INFANTS AND TODDLERS WITH DISABILITIES

"Sec. 631. Findings and policy.

"Sec. 632. Definitions.

"Sec. 633. General authority.

"Sec. 634. Eligibility.

"Sec. 635. Requirements for statewide system.

"Sec. 636. Individualized family service plan.

"Sec. 637. State application and assurances.

"Sec. 638. Uses of funds.

"Sec. 639. Procedural safeguards.

"Sec. 640. Payor of last resort.

"Sec. 641. State Interagency Coordinating Council.

"Sec. 642. Federal administration.

"Sec. 643. Allocation of funds.

"Sec. 644. Federal Interagency Coordinating Council.

"Sec. 645. Authorization of appropriations.

"PART D—NATIONAL ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

"SUBPART 1—STATE PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT GRANTS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

"Sec. 651. Findings and purpose.

"Sec. 652. Eligibility and collaborative process.

"Sec. 653. Applications.

"Sec. 654. Use of funds.

"Sec. 655. Minimum State grant amounts.

"Sec. 656. Authorization of appropriations.

"SUBPART 2—COORDINATED RESEARCH, PERSONNEL PREPARATION, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, SUPPORT, AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

"Sec. 661. Administrative provisions.

"CHAPTER 1—IMPROVING EARLY INTERVENTION, EDUCATIONAL, AND TRANSITIONAL SERVICES AND RESULTS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES THROUGH COORDINATED RESEARCH AND PERSONNEL PREPARATION

"Sec. 671. Findings and purpose.

"Sec. 672. Research and innovation to improve services and results for children with disabilities.

"Sec. 673. Personnel preparation to improve services and results for children with disabilities.

"Sec. 674. Studies and evaluations.

"CHAPTER 2—IMPROVING EARLY INTERVENTION, EDUCATIONAL, AND TRANSITIONAL SERVICES AND RESULTS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES THROUGH COORDINATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, SUPPORT, AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

"Sec. 681. Findings and purposes.

"Sec. 682. Parent training and information centers.

"Sec. 683. Community parent resource centers.

"Sec. 684. Technical assistance for parent training and information centers.

"Sec. 685. Coordinated technical assistance and dissemination.

"Sec. 686. Authorization of appropriations.

"Sec. 687. Technology development, demonstration, and utilization, and media services.

"(c) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

"(1) Disability is a natural part of the human experience and in no way diminishes the right of individuals to participate in or contribute to society. Improving educational results for children with disabilities is an essential element of our national policy of ensuring equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency for individuals with disabilities.

"(2) Before the date of the enactment of the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975 (Public Law 94-142)—

"(A) the special educational needs of children with disabilities were not being fully met;

"(B) more than one-half of the children with disabilities in the United States did not receive appropriate educational services that would enable such children to have full equality of opportunity;

"(C) 1,000,000 of the children with disabilities in the United States were excluded entirely from the public school system and did not go through the educational process with their peers;

"(D) there were many children with disabilities throughout the United States participating in regular school programs whose disabilities prevented such children from