

This resolution is a sign of support by the Congress for the Administration's efforts to encourage a dialogue between the Dalai Lama and Chinese leaders and a signal to Beijing that a positive response from President Jiang to the Administration's proposal would be welcomed by the Congress. It is appropriate that the Congress which has been in the forefront of support for the Tibetan people should go on the record in support of the Administration's summit agenda in regard to Tibet. Positive action by the Chinese would go far to demonstrate to the Congress that a policy of engagement with China is productive and important.

Finally, I would like to draw the House's attention to the continuing detention of Gendun Choekyi Nyima. Three years ago this month, the Dalai Lama announced the recognition of this young boy, then only six, as the Panchen Lama of Tibet. Within days, this child disappeared from his home. It was not until a year later that the Chinese Ambassador to Geneva admitted to a meeting of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child that Gendun Choekyi Nyima was under the "protection" of the Chinese government. Repeated requests from governments and private humanitarian organizations to meet with the boy have been denied. No one knows where he is nor the conditions under which he lives. It is unconscionable that in today's world a young child, now nine years old, has apparently become a pawn in Beijing's political efforts to control Tibet.

I urge my colleagues to join me in introducing this resolution which calls for the release of Gendun Choekyi Nyima, the 11th Panchen Lama of Tibet, and for a dialogue between the Dalai Lama and Chinese authorities.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
BROOKS SCHOOL

**HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 1998*

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Brooks School in Medford, Massachusetts in the celebration of its 100th Anniversary. During its century-long presence in the Medford community, The Brooks School has set innovative standards in excellence and diversity in public education through its programs of intellectual, physical, and social development of children.

On May 30, 1998, The Brooks School will be holding a public celebration to honor its rich history of instruction and service to the young people of Medford. The undying commitment of The Brooks School to excellence in diverse public education should serve as an inspiration to us all.

I congratulate the students, alumni, and faculty of The Brooks School for perpetuating effective education in the Medford community, and I wish them continued success in the future.

TRIBUTE TO OUR VETERANS

**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 1998*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the many Veterans who live in north Alabama, and of the many men and women who are currently serving in the armed forces.

I am honored to be a guest Saturday of The Gadsden-Etowah Patriots Association, who are currently raising funds for a new outdoor museum. This museum will be a valuable addition, a way of celebrating the American way of life and the blessings of being part of a community. It is also a means of teaching young people that the freedom we enjoy has come at a price.

I commend the President of the association, Andy Chaffin, and the members whose teamwork is making this memorial a reality.

Memorial Day brings to mind the opportunity to lay flowers at monuments and at graves. It is also, however, an opportunity to thank veterans who are still with us, such as General Clarence Rhea, Congressional Medal of Honor winner Olan Mize, and State of Alabama Veterans Association Representative Rick Vaughn.

Although the date and location of the first Memorial Day is disputed, I am just grateful each year for the opportunity to pause and reflect on the gift of freedom bestowed upon us by our veterans.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HUMAN  
SERVICES AMENDMENTS OF 1998

**HON. MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 1998*

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, on May 14, I introduced the Human Services Amendments of 1998. This legislation will reauthorize and strengthen the Head Start, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) and Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) programs. When Congress last reauthorized these programs in 1994 it was the product of true bipartisan negotiations. I strongly believe that this bill is one which can capture the same bipartisan spirit.

The last reauthorization cycle produced major successful structural changes in these programs, eliminating the current need for an expansive rewrite of each statute. Presently these programs are working well and do not need significant modification. Instead of implementing wholesale change, this legislation builds upon the positive changes made in 1994 allowing the good work presently being done to continue.

Title I of the bill amends the Head Start Program. This legislation will refine Head Start's focus in two major areas—improving the transition of children from Head Start programs to school by strengthening the coordination between Head Start programs and schools and increasing the financial resources available and access to Early Head Start programs. The bill would increase the setaside for Early Head Start to 10%, with the stipulation that funds not be taken from current Head Start programs. The legislation would also allow expan-

sion grants to be used by existing Head Start grantees to expand service to the Early Head Start population. Significant research has shown the importance of brain development in young children and an increased focus on intervening in a young child's life during the most sensitive of years is vitally important.

In improving the transition of children from Head Start programs to school, the bill would also require Head Start programs to coordinate services with the educational services of the local education agency projected to serve the children enrolled in their programs. The legislation would also require that the Secretary, in considering the expansion of Head Start programs, to consider the extent to which Head Start programs will coordinate services with local education agencies. Both of these provisions will ensure that the educational experiences and cognitive development gained by children in Head Start programs are not lost when they progress through school.

In addition, the bill improves the access of children with disabilities to quality programs and ensures that Head start programs maximize their enrollment and resources and increase flexibility to deal with the transition of families from welfare to work by allowing the Secretary to permit up to 25% of enrollees in a Head Start program to be from families with incomes above the poverty line.

Title II of the bill amends LIHEAP. This legislation will maintain LIHEAP's focus on serving low-income individuals with the highest proportion of energy expenses. In addition, this bill reinforces that weatherization and energy-related home repair should be directed to low-income households, particularly those households with the lowest incomes and the highest proportion of household income for home energy. With this increased targeted emphasis on the poorest of our poor, the weatherization portion of LIHEAP will truly help those most in need.

Title III of the bill amends CSBG. Similar to the other two programs, a significant rewrite is not necessary, but the legislation does make several changes designed to improve the program. The bill raises the authorization level of the program by over \$100 million to \$650 million in FY 1999 and such sums in FYs 2000–2002. This will ensure that the significant increases in appropriations which this program has received in the last few years can be repeated. Also, the bill would give preference to private, non-profit organizations should an existing entity running a local program authorized under the statute terminate. In addition, this legislation would provide that CSBG carry-over funds are reprogrammed at the local level. For each of the last three years similar language has been attached to the Labor-HHS Appropriations bill requiring this provision. Lastly, the measure would allow local community action agencies to offer services to improve literacy in the community. This would be a new activity for local community action agencies to address the illiteracy—one of the most pressing problems and indicators of poverty in our nation today.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to stress that I believe this legislation is the beginning of another historic bipartisan effort to reauthorize and strengthen these programs. I urge all members of Congress to join me in supporting this legislation and to support the bill which will be the eventual product of our joint bipartisan discussions.

RACIAL INTOLERANCE IN THE  
CZECH REPUBLIC

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 1998*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my profound alarm at the future deterioration of the situation for minorities in the Czech Republic. Since the Velvet Revolution, that country has witnessed violent and sometimes deadly attacks against minorities—a pattern of violence which is not being addressed by the Czech Government.

Let me describe the most recent examples of this unchecked wave of brutality. On May 7, an Algerian in a Prague subway station was stabbed by skinheads; the next day, two Indians were also attacked by skinheads in a subway station in Prague. On the night of May 16–17, a Rom was beaten by skinheads and left on a road, where he was subsequently hit and killed by a truck. And last week, local officials in two different Czech cities—Pilsen and Usti nad Labem—announced plans to build ghettos. In Usti nad Labem, authorities stated outright that they plan to build a 15-foot-high wall around Roma apartment buildings. Pilsen officials described their walled-off area as a place for putting “undesirables,” using terminology reminiscent of that used by the Nazis. Former Czech Minister of Interior Jan Ruml has described these plans as “inadmissible in a democratic society.”

Unfortunately, these were not isolated events. Last November, Sudanese student Hassan Elamin Aldelradi was killed by a skinhead in Prague. In January, a Romani woman was seriously injured in Krnov when her home was fire bombed. In February, another Romani woman, Helena Bihariova was attacked, beaten, forced into the Elbe River and drowned. In early March, two Romani men in Decin were assaulted by a man with a pistol; a Congolese doctor was subsequently beaten in the town of Prostejov. In late March, skinheads in Trutnov attacked a Jewish couple. Each and every one of these has been widely described as a racially motivated attack.

Apparently, skinheads are not convinced they will be held accountable for their acts and the Czech Government has failed to persuade Roma that authorities will do all in their power to protect them. Roma have increasingly shown their unwillingness to simply stand aside while their family members are attacked or murdered, one by one. A number of recent attacks against Roma have been followed by revenge attacks by Roma. The rule of law appears to be degenerating into the rule of the mob. Official statements like that made March 17 by the current Minister of Interior, Cyril Svoboda, exacerbate the charged atmosphere. Mr. Svoboda minimized the significance of racially motivated violence, claimed it is not destabilizing and then blamed non-governmental organizations for distorting the Czech Republic's image through their reporting on this problem.

The most recent revenge attack by Roma occurred in the town of Novy Bor two weeks ago, when two Roma attacked Miroslav Sladek, a member of parliament campaigning for re-election. Sladek is the notorious head of the Czech “Republican Party” who has called for making one's ethnic identity as a Rom a criminal act.

A fair amount of media attention has been given to the fact that the two Roma arrested in that case were immediately pardoned by President Havel. Understandably, President Havel's decision has been controversial. What I think is most interesting is his reasoning: according to the President's spokesperson, the President did not believe that the local police could conduct an impartial investigation into the matter. She noted, in particular, that the police have given an account of events which match that of Mr. Sladek's, but which is contradicted by other eyewitnesses. She also observed that human rights groups have reported a consistent failure of the police in that area to investigate and prosecute successfully racially motivated attacks against Roma.

On May 14, the Czech Chamber of Deputies weighed in on this serious matter and expressed concern about the attack on Sladek. They even called for the Ministry of Interior to investigate the attack further to determine if it was a planned attack. Certainly, violence should not have been used against Sladek. As repugnant and disgusting as Sladek's views might be, he is entitled to them. What I do not understand is why the Czech Chamber of Deputies—which has remained silent when Roma have been attacked and even murdered—has chosen to express its concern in this manner. The bulk of the Czech cabinet has remained conspicuously silent regarding the most recent racially motivated skinhead attacks; certainly, the Prime Minister appears to have said nothing. Instead, Monika Horakova, a Romani representative on the recently created Inter-Ministerial Commission for Romani Affairs, has been dispatched to dissuade Roma from taking matters into their own hands. In the end, however, Ms. Horakova is unlikely to be successful unless she has the full backing of the full cabinet.

Mr. Speaker, the Czech Government should not wait until after the June elections to reach to racially motivated violence. With time, more innocent life could be lost. Every member of the Cabinet should condemn in decisive terms the acts of these repugnant skinheads; the Ministry of Interior, in particular, should unequivocally signal its commitment to ensure that the perpetrators of these acts are caught, prosecuted and convicted. And the discriminatory Czech citizenship law, which continues to telegraph the message that Roma are not wanted in that country, must be amended.

TEENAGE PREGNANCY

**HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 1998*

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, what have we done to childhood? We live in a world where every year, 1 million teen become pregnant, 3 million teen contract STDs, and HIV/AIDS is spreading most rapidly among adolescents.

What will it take to convince teenagers—the “it-will-never-happen-to-me crowd”—that they can become pregnant and infected with STDs, including HIV infection?

What will it take to convince community leaders, religious leaders, local and national leaders, pop culture stars, and parents that education and prevention strategies are critical?

I am proud to join my colleague, EVA CLAYTON, with whom I have organized this special order, and other members of the Women's Caucus to shed light on the problem of teen pregnancy during National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month. Although we have been fighting this problem for a long time and the problem seems insurmountable, I am energized and encouraged by recent trends and the efforts of so many outstanding organizations to combat teen pregnancy.

I am proud to be a member of the Congressional Advisory Panel to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy and so many other groups have moved our Nation's consciousness about teen pregnancy to a higher level, and we are seeing results. The teenage birth rate has declined steadily since 1991 when the rate was 6.2 percent, an overall decline of 12 percent.

Although it is encouraging that the teen birth rate is declining, we must celebrate cautiously. Out-of-wedlock births are increasing, and over 1 million teens become pregnant every year.

Seventy-Five percent of teen births are out of wedlock today. In 1960: 15 percent of teen births were out of wedlock. Today, teen mothers make up the largest group of all first births to unmarried women (48 percent). About 44 percent of all girls become pregnant at least once before age 20—more than one million girls per year—most of whom are unmarried and totally unprepared to take on the responsibilities of parenthood. One-third of these pregnancies end in abortion, and only 2 percent of teens who give birth choose to put their babies up for adoption.

We know the consequences of teen pregnancy. Teen parents are much more likely to be trapped in a cycle of poverty. The opportunities lost to teens who become pregnant are enormous, and costs associated with teenage pregnancy drain limited federal, state, local and family resources.

I want to highlight an important point about teen pregnancy: It is not enough to say we want to solve the problem of teen pregnancy; we must know how to fix it. We cannot solve the problem without sufficient information on what works in teen pregnancy prevention, and what works in different areas of the country. I commend my colleagues Nita Lowey and Mike Castle for their legislation, H.R. 1736, the Teenage Pregnancy Reduction Act of 1997, which will ensure that we have better information and provide for in-depth evaluation of teen pregnancy prevention programs.

Today's message is a call to action. Although we don't have all the answers to solve the problem; it's clear that we simply cannot wait.

As Members of Congress, we must do more. If figuring out what works, we must look at why teenage girls become pregnant.

What is it about our society that makes teenage girls think that to be loved, they must have a child of their own? Surely we can do better. Educational opportunities build self-esteem, as do girls' sports and community activities. Improving our education system, increasing access to girls' sports, building our communities, increasing job opportunities and giving young girls something to look forward to will all reduce teen pregnancy, and those are all areas where our decisions make a difference.

We also have jurisdiction over federal programs that deal with teenage pregnancy: the