

my support for this legislation because of its many other benefits. The legislation also incorporates a component of legislation I introduced in the last Congress to increase the amount of additional optional life insurance for dependents from the present level.

Although it does not mirror my proposal exactly, my proposal would have only included dependents with severe disabilities. This approach makes sense in that it will include a larger risk pool and reduce the costs. I thank the chairman for introducing this measure.

Finally, the bill provides Federal employees with the opportunity to continue the full extent of their life insurance coverage after they reach age 65. Under current law, when Federal employees reach age 65, they cease making premium payments, and the face value of the employees life insurance is reduced by 2 percent each month for 50 months. Giving Federal retirees the opportunity to purchase life insurance benefits is a great accomplishment. I simply encourage my colleagues to support this bill, H.R. 2675.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank my colleague, the gentlewoman from Maryland, when she talked about insomnia. I am sure, hopefully, we will be able to wake some people up with all this good news we are imparting here tonight.

But with that, Mr. Speaker, I just want to again reiterate this is another piece of legislation that would not have been possible without the bipartisan efforts on the part of our subcommittee.

This is a very important piece of legislation because it once again sheds light on the fact that we care about our Federal employees who make it possible for us to do our jobs the way we do them and certainly to support our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, first I just want to take a moment to thank again the ranking member, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) and other members of our subcommittee.

Tonight we brought before the House two pieces of legislation, the Veterans Employment Opportunity Act, which provides veterans preference, which is something our veterans have sought for decades since really World War II. It is an important piece of legislation. The staff and Members, in a bipartisan fashion, showed today what we can do working together.

Today has been a difficult day for the Congress and for the American people. It does show, in fact, what we can all do for the benefit of those who served us.

Finally, on this bill, this bill is important because we have over 4 million Federal employees and retirees.

□ 2340

This bill saves money for the taxpayer. This program has not been bid or really examined in some number of decades, and we can provide better benefits at lower cost to those who are actively serving us in Federal employment now.

So I ask my colleagues to support this legislation, and I urge all Members to support this bill tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLUNT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill H.R. 2675.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendments were concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 302) recognizing the importance of children and families in the United States and expressing support for the goals of National KidsDay and National Family Month.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 302

Whereas there is an epidemic of children in crisis in the United States caused by the increased stresses on children from contemporary society, which can even include instances of child abuse and neglect;

Whereas newspaper headlines, news reports, and various studies provide evidence that children are more frequently committing acts of violence, taking illegal drugs, and committing suicide, indicating that the future of the children of the United States, and therefore the future of the Nation, is at risk;

Whereas all families in the United States, regardless of their economic status, ethnic or cultural heritage, or geographic location, are experiencing the pressures caused by contemporary society while trying to raise and nurture their children;

Whereas it is imperative that the people of the United States act boldly to secure the future of the Nation by halting and healing the pain of children in crisis;

Whereas KidsPeace is the oldest, most successful, and most comprehensive not-for-profit organization dedicated solely to helping children attain the confidence and develop the courage necessary to confront and overcome crises;

Whereas KidsPeace has more than 1,500 caregivers helping more than 2,000 children each day in 25 locations across the United States;

Whereas KidsPeace established National KidsDay and National Family Month to recognize and focus attention on relationships between parents and children;

Whereas National KidsDay is celebrated on the third Saturday of September, during the period when children are returning to school, when children are subject to a very high level of stress, and when there is a critical need for children to feel honored, valued, supported, and loved;

Whereas National Family Month is celebrated during the five-week period between Mother's Day in May and Father's Day in June, which is a critical adjustment period for families to prepare for children to return to the home at the end of the school year and can provide a wonderful opportunity for families to prepare to use their time together during the summer to grow and strengthen as a family unit; and

Whereas these celebrations can provide opportunities for parents, grandparents, and caregivers to recognize the importance of being involved in the physical and emotional lives of their children: Now, therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) recognizes the importance of children and families to the future of the United States;

(2) expresses support for the goals of National KidsDay and National Family Month, as established by KidsPeace; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to participate in local and national activities and celebrations recognizing National KidsDay and National Family Month.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 302.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 302, which recognizes the importance of children and families in the United States, and I express my support for Kidsday and National Family Month. I particularly want to commend the sponsor of the bill, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCHALE) and the chairman and ranking member for bringing this bill to the floor.

Kidsday and National Family Month were established by KidsPeace, a special organization dedicated to helping children in crisis. KidsPeace believes that every child is unique, and that children are helped the most by their mothers and fathers, the people who are closest to them.

We all have a responsibility to protect and support America's children. Mr. Speaker, 1 out of every 4 Americans is a child. Children are our hope for the future, our chance for renewal. They carry on our values and our ideals.

Childhood should be a time of learning and of play, and a time to be sheltered from the wickedness of the outside world. However, children and youth today are coping with increasingly serious problems that are robbing them of their innocence, security and physical safety. Violence in the schools

as well as on the streets, the availability of drugs, greater numbers of working parents, and soaring divorce rates are taking a toll on kids far sooner than in past generations.

Today, many children spend long hours after school and on weekends unsupervised. They need and often admit wanting some guidance in facing the many challenges of their lives.

One in 5 children entering school this year is living in poverty. Half a million of those children were born to teenage mothers. Analysis of U.S. census data indicates that if the single parent family trend continues, half of all children born in the United States last year will live with a single parent by the time they are 18 years old.

As Americans, we enjoy the highest standard of living in the world. Our economy is one of the most dynamic and diverse in history. We have achieved a level of technological advancement and individual opportunity that is unequaled around the globe. Without a doubt, America is on top of the world.

But the future of America's greatness depends upon how we care for and support our children in the present. Setting aside a time to focus on children and families is important to America's future. National Kidsday is celebrated on the third Saturday of September, and National Family Month is celebrated during the 5-week period between Mother's and Father's day. I encourage all Americans to participate in local activities during the celebration of these 2 commemoratives, and I encourage my colleagues to support wholeheartedly this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as ranking member of the Subcommittee on Civil Service I would like to commend the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCHALE) for the development of this bipartisan resolution.

House concurrent resolution 302 will help to address challenges children a generation ago did not have to face: Drugs, violence, separation from parents, failing schools, peer group demands, and much, much more.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCHALE) for a further explanation of this bipartisan resolution.

Mr. MCHALE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening in strong support of H. Con. Res. 302, and I begin by thanking the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA), my former chair of the Committee on Science on which I had the privilege to serve, and most especially the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) for both the opportunity to speak this evening and their willingness to bring this legislation to the floor.

I will be leaving in just a few days to return to what matters most to me: my

wife and my children. It is with great pride that I have served in this body and with some sadness that I near my final days as a Member of Congress. About a year ago, Mr. Speaker, my 7-year-old approached me as I was leaving for Washington on a Monday morning, and with recognition, not really complaint, he said, "Dad, you have been gone my whole life," and at that point I realized that at least for this Member of Congress, it was time to go home.

Today's society, as noted by the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) places increasing demands on children and families and has unfortunately left many children in crisis and feeling that they have nowhere to turn for help. News of children becoming involved in violence, crime, drugs and so on indicates that we as a Nation must pay greater attention to the needs of children and families.

For this reason, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution which recognizes the importance of children and families in the United States. I introduced this resolution with the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROEMER), the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE), the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FORD), and numerous other Members who have been such strong advocates for children. I would also like to extend my special thanks to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) who is on the floor as I speak, as well as the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), chairman of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, and the ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) who helped to bring this resolution to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, H. Con. Res. 302 which has 44 bipartisan cosponsors, also expresses support for the goals of National Kids Day and National Family Month. These events were launched by KidsPeace, the National Center for Kids Overcoming Crisis, the largest, most comprehensive private nonprofit organization in the Nation dedicated to serving the critical needs of children and teens.

Headquartered in my district, KidsPeace has become a model of community involvement and improvement. KidsPeace programs include residential treatment centers, the National Hospital for kids in Crisis, foster care in 6 States, community and diagnostic programs, a 24-hour help line, and an accredited school system for grades 1 through 12, and a referral network of thousands of health care providers across the country.

For more than 115 years, KidsPeace has been helping kids develop the confidence and skills to overcome developmental and situational crises in their lives. KidsPeace serves more than 2,000 children every day with 32 programs in 25 locations across the United States.

Mr. Speaker, let me deviate from my prepared text for just a moment.

KidsPeace's ability to serve our Nation and my community in particular has not always been a resource available to us. I had the privilege of serving in our State legislature before I came to the Congress, and I remember very clearly about a decade ago when I received a phone call from a family absolutely desperate because they had a teenager in crisis. That child had nowhere to turn. There was no medical facility in our region of the State able to provide the care that that child and that that family needed at that very desperate time. KidsPeace addresses that need today with professional medical care under circumstances where it did not previously exist.

KidsPeace has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to assisting children and families across the country. National Kids Day and National Family Month were developed by KidsPeace as events to focus on parent-child and family relationships and provide positive encouragement for children to face successfully life's challenges. As a parent who has participated in National Kids Day activities in my district, I strongly support the establishment of these events as recognition of the importance of children and families.

Margaret Mead once said, "We must have a place where children can have a whole group of adults they can trust."

□ 2350

These words very poignantly describe the work of KidsPeace in helping children overcome the challenges and crises in their lives. Helping children feel safe, trusted, loved, and empowered is the heart of the KidsPeace mission.

It is my hope that this resolution will call attention to the needs of children and families in the United States and throughout National KidsDay and National Family Month and thereby help families affirm their love and support for their children. I urge my colleagues to vote for this bipartisan resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to conclude simply by saying that this Member of Congress realized that I could continue serving in this body or I could be a decent husband and father. And under the unique circumstances of my family, I realized that I could not do both. I made the decision to return home with enormous feelings of gratitude and respect for this institution.

This is probably the last time I will speak at a microphone in the House of Representatives, and I could not find a better topic than to address the needs, the love, the support that we as a Nation and we as an individual need to bring to the families of our country. I am pleased to close my career in this House on that note.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I wish the 7-year-old child of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCHALE) could have heard him this evening. And, indeed, I hope

the gentleman will save the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that will have ensconced the speech that he just gave, because it was from the bottom of his heart.

Mr. Speaker, I would use this opportunity to express my warm feelings and respect for the gentleman from Pennsylvania and for the dedication that he has given to this body, knowing him from his service on the Committee on Science with me and as an individual and as a colleague, and knowing the courage that he has shown and the commitment that he made to our country.

So, we wish the gentleman well and thank him very much for what he has done. I think this is a nice commemoration to PAUL MCHALE.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES).

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to commend the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCHALE), my good friend and colleague, for introducing this resolution. Our children are our future. They are tomorrow's leaders. My colleagues who are parents like myself know that when a child is upset or frustrated or feeling low, it is painful.

There are outside pressures that can affect our children's everyday life: academic stresses, struggles to feel accepted, and teen violence just to name a few. These are the issues that put our children at a crossroads and these are the issues that KidsPeace helps our children and Nation's families solve.

KidsPeace is a nonprofit organization that offers educational awareness programs and tools dedicated to help our families anticipate, intervene in, and overcome the crises that affect America's children. For our Nation's most rural communities, like those in eastern North Carolina which I have the privilege to serve, these are valuable programs that can provide our children with relief from the problems they face growing up.

Too many of our rural schools have limited resources which make it difficult to maintain the number of school counselors that are needed to help our children build the confidence to overcome their problems. Because of this, as KidsPeace continues to grow, it is vital that it continues to reach out to America's rural communities and communities throughout the Nation.

Even with a strong faith in God and the support of family and friends, our children sometimes need extra encouragement. This is what KidsPeace is working to do, to build confidence in our Nation's children through sharing and learning.

The organization has established a KidsDay in September for communities and families to honor our children during the stressful time of returning to school. KidsPeace also dedicates time each summer to National Family

Month, a time for parents and children to build and strengthen the family bond.

Mr. Speaker, our children are our future, and that reminds me somewhere along the way I have heard that if one wants to touch the past, they touch a rock. If they want to touch the present, they touch a flower. If they want to touch the future, they touch a child.

So, in closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say to my colleague who is leaving us, PAUL, you have made a tremendous impact on America because of the type of man that you are. A man of character, a man of integrity. You will long be remembered and appreciated for your contribution to this Nation.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for his splendid commentary on the importance of recognizing families and children and programs in the system.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FOX).

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to express my support for H. Con. Res. 302, which is a piece of legislation which deals with the importance of children and families in the United States and expresses our support for the goals of the National KidsDay and National Family Month.

This legislation was sponsored by, of course, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCHALE) our good friend. The gentleman is a great U.S. Congressman who is retiring from this body, and I join with the others tonight in saluting him as a great patriot.

Mr. Speaker, I knew the gentleman when I served together with him in the Pennsylvania State House of Representatives. He left that service to go on active duty for the Desert Storm conflict, where he served as an outstanding Marine officer. He has been serving with that particular military organization for at least two decades.

PAUL MCHALE has always been a principled leader, an advocate for children and families in Pennsylvania as well as in this U.S. Congress, and a member and strong leader of the Children's Legislative Caucus, and a pioneer in public-private partnerships such as KidsDay and other legislation dealing with children, for which this legislation is enunciated.

But the gentleman has always been a bipartisan statesman, a role model who has shown that courage and honesty count. I hope that we will soon see, years after his children grow up, and as they do I hope they will allow us to have the gentleman return to public service where he could become Secretary of Defense or to another elected official position.

Certainly, we need him in this country. His family may need him, but the country needs him as well. We certainly acknowledge his service today as being exemplary. We are proud to

know him as our colleague and proud to have him as our friend. We know that his family is proud of what he has done as well.

God bless him. Godspeed.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend KidsPeace for its work over the past century helping children overcome all sorts of crises. National KidsDay and National Family Month, both established by KidsPeace, compel all Americans to focus on parent, child, and family relationships. These celebrations encourage parents and grandparents and caregivers to be involved in the lives of their children.

I believe we should all spend time every day nurturing and encouraging the children that we encounter in our lives. This Member of Congress can certainly appreciate the work of KidsPeace. Every child, which is not always the case, has four fundamental needs that must be fulfilled to lead a peaceful and healthy life: Safety to feel safe and protected; trust to be confident, hopeful and assured; love to be valued and unconditionally accepted; and power to be a child and pursue a purpose, skill, or challenge.

This resolution recognizes KidsPeace, an organization that works hard to meet those needs. Through its good work, KidsPeace helps restore the health and happiness of children who are suffering through crises and traumas.

The demand for organizations such as KidsPeace is apparent. From 1991 to 1992, the organization saw a 150 percent increase in the number of kids coming to it for help. That is when KidsPeace stepped forward on a national level with public initiatives to help prevent and overcome crises that can strike any child.

This extra push to alert Americans to the needs of our children could not come at a better time. Between 1990 and 1996, the number of children rose by more than 5 million to 69.4 million. The United States Census Bureau projects that the number of children will continue to rise over the next several decades reaching 77.6 million by the year 2000.

This resolution is worthy of our support and I urge the Members of this body to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 0000

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I think it is appropriate for Congress to recognize the importance of children and families. My husband and I have been very fortunate to have been able to raise nine children, six who were the children of my late sister, and we now have 15 grandchildren. And so I can value and appreciate children and the need for families. KidsPeace really performs that kind of function.

It is an honor to be managing this particular resolution, which I think is

so very important. The institution of the family is, indeed, the bedrock of our society and of civilization, and without strong families, the outlook for children is bleak.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for just one brief statement.

On the stationery for KidsPeace there is a quote by George McDonald, and I think that it pretty much summarizes the life of our colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCHALE), and the things that he talked about just a moment ago, and certainly I salute him. But the quote is very simple. It says: "A man must learn to love his children not because they are his but because they are simply children."

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 302, recognizing the importance of children and families in the United States and expressing support for the goals of National KidsDay and National Family Month. I want to thank Reps. PAUL MCHALE, FRANK WOLF, HAROLD FORD, NANCY JOHNSON and DEBORAH PRYCE, who joined me in introducing this resolution last July, as well as Rep. WALTER JONES and the many other Members who helped bring it to the floor today.

We live in an increasingly stressful society these days. Perhaps no one feels this stress more acutely than our nation's children. The pressures of crime, drugs, violence and broken homes are robbing many children of the joys of childhood. There is a growing concern that too many kids are in crisis, and that no one is speaking out for them or trying to help.

That is what this resolution is all about. It is a simple, straightforward, bipartisan appeal on behalf of the children in our nation to pay more attention to their needs, to provide them with a healthy and safe environment, and to give them hope for a secure and prosperous future. The resolution also expresses support for two particular initiatives which are being undertaken on behalf of kids: National KidsDay and National Family Month. Both of these initiatives have been created by KidsPeace, our nation's oldest and largest not-for-profit organization dedicated solely to serving the needs of kids in crisis.

National KidsDay, observed on the third Saturday in September, encourages parents, grandparents and caregivers to spend a day with their children just having fun, and giving them a break from the strains of everyday life. National Family Month is celebrated during the five-week period between Mother's Day and Father's Day. Each week focuses on a specific value that families should provide to their children, including: a safe and secure home; people they can trust; love and value; the power and freedom to grow; and hope for the future.

Mr. Speaker, children are our most precious gift. We cannot afford to let even one child slip through the cracks. KidsPeace and other organizations are doing a wonderful job of reaching out to those children who are most at risk in society, and helping them develop the courage and skills necessary to overcome crisis. But no matter how hard they try, these organizations cannot take the place of loving parents, stable homes, and a healthy environment in which kids can feel safe, loved and positive about their lives and their futures.

This resolution is small in scope but it is large in symbolism. It sends a message to children that we care about them, we understand their problems, we share their dreams, and we want them to enjoy life to the fullest. As Robert Kennedy said: "When one of us prospers, all of us prosper. When one of us fails, so do we all." I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and give all our children a chance to prosper.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support our veterans by calling for the passage of the S.1021, the Veterans Employment Opportunity Act of 1998. Last year, the House did the right thing by passing H.R. 240 introduced by Representative MICA. This legislation is the Senate's long awaited companion bill and, while I wish it had gone further in its protection of veterans from Reductions In Force, nonetheless it also deserves our passage today.

For too long many of our nation's veterans have been neglected by our own government when it comes to obtaining federal employment. Our nation's veterans, who served so selflessly and risked their lives, face unnecessary restrictions that preclude them from federal employment. All they simply desire is the opportunity to continue serving their nation.

As the result of this legislation, veterans can apply for federal jobs on a more competitive basis at a time when their employment within the federal workforce is declining and approaching an historically low level.

This is a bipartisan bill and one that reflects the interests of the people who have served our country so courageously. I am proud that this legislation has the support of the American Legion. I commend Mr. MICA for his work and urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time, and urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time and urge all Members to support this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLUNT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 302.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE SUNSHINE ACT OF 1998

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2109) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require reports filed under such Act to be filed electronically and to require the Federal Election Commission to make such reports available to the public within 24 hours of receipt, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2109

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 "Campaign Finance Sunshine Act of 1998".

SEC. 2. FILING OF REPORTS USING COMPUTERS AND FACSIMILE MACHINES.

Section 302(a) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 434(a)) is amended by striking paragraph (11) and inserting the following:

"(11)(A) The Commission shall promulgate a regulation under which a person required to file a designation, statement, or report under this Act—

"(i) is required to maintain and file a designation, statement, or report for any calendar year in electronic form accessible by computers if the person has, or has reason to expect to have, aggregate contributions or expenditures in excess of a threshold amount determined by the Commission; and

"(ii) may maintain and file a designation, statement, or report in electronic form or an alternative form, including the use of a facsimile machine, if not required to do so under the regulation promulgated under clause (i).

"(B) The Commission shall make a designation, statement, report, or notification that is filed electronically with the Commission accessible to the public on the Internet not later than 24 hours after the designation, statement, report, or notification is received by the Commission.

"(C) In promulgating a regulation under this paragraph, the Commission shall provide methods (other than requiring a signature on the document being filed) for verifying designations, statements, and reports covered by the regulation. Any document verified under any of the methods shall be treated for all purposes (including penalties for perjury) in the same manner as a document verified by signature."

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this Act shall apply with respect to reports for periods beginning on or after January 1, 2000.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) will control 20 minutes, and a Member opposed will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA).

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. COOK) and that he be allowed to manage that time, as I am about to lose my most valuable asset as a Member of Congress, and that is my voice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. COOK).

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, last year I introduced H.R. 2109, the Campaign Finance Reform Sunshine Act. H.R. 2109 requires candidates to file campaign finance disclosure forms electronically with the Federal Elections Commission. The