

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

FEC, in turn, would be required to post these disclosures on the internet within 24 hours. My bill is not comprehensive reform, but it is reform Congress can enact this year. Equally important, the Supreme Court would not strike down my bill's reform because of first amendment issues.

I was heartened to see in January of this year the Federal Elections Commission decided to post reports on the internet. The FEC has posted all 1997 and 1998 reports filed by PACs, political parties, and presidential and House campaigns on its web site. Information dating back to 1993 will soon be available.

This move by the FEC is a giant step in the right direction. Computers and the internet are increasingly part of Americans' daily lives. Computers and the internet make it easier and less expensive for people to track fund-raising donations across the Nation. Until now, people have had to pay for a subscription service or come to the FEC headquarters here in Washington to examine the records. State residents would have to go to a lieutenant governor's office to review the records of Federal candidates from their States.

Now, as the saying goes, "Sunshine is the best disinfectant." This rings true with H.R. 2109. Facilitation of public scrutiny provided in this legislation will do more to ensure ethical fundraising than a half dozen committee investigations. It is a fact of life that scrutiny breeds compliance.

Now, some may think the FEC decision this year makes my legislation unnecessary. But, really, the opposite is true. Currently, the FEC has no mandatory obligation or deadline for posting these reports. Now, while I am confident that FEC officials will post reports as quickly as possible in the final weeks of a nationwide campaign, like the House campaign this year, it may take days or weeks to get reports posted on the web at a time when the largest contributions are being made and the public interest is at its height.

In my view, the goal of any reform proposal would be to make it easier for citizens to know who funds their political campaigns, without trampling on any American's constitutional right to participate in the political process.

I want to thank majority and minority staff of the Committee on House Oversight, who worked with my staff to make technical changes that will bring bipartisan support for this important legislation.

In short, this legislation is progressive reform that can be passed by Congress with bipartisan support, can be signed into law, withstand judicial scrutiny, and it will benefit all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH).

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Utah for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I should note at this juncture in the RECORD that the illness

which afflicts our good friend from Florida, I suppose there are some in this chamber, indeed, perhaps quite a few in this chamber, who do not wish ill upon anyone, but perhaps would like to see that affliction of the voice visited upon this Congressman from Arizona from time to time.

Be that as it may, and mindful, perhaps, of that situation, let me, in all sincerity and seriousness, thank my colleague from Utah for having the foresight to offer this common sense piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague quoted the words that came to us I believe in history from Mr. Justice Brandice, who pointed out that time and again, in the public interest, sunshine is the best disinfectant. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, in much the same way that we invited television into this chamber, so that these remarks are seen throughout the Nation by our fellow citizens, so, too, as we move through new communications capabilities to involve and disperse data upon the internet, we offer the American people another glimpse of sunshine and more than just a ray of hope, because this legislation compels the Federal Election Commission to carry the step of sunshine a step further and to post these contributions on the internet within 24 hours.

My colleague from Utah pointed out, and, indeed, if the truth be told, as many of us are involved in spirited campaigns where we champion differences in philosophies, to have these contributions available for public scrutiny, or at least disclosed by candidates within a 48-hour period down the stretch of a campaign, how much more vital it is, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that that information is available to every American on the internet.

My colleague pointed out that already the FEC has made strides, but this legislation will ensure that we go the extra mile to give voice to the notion of genuine reform by bringing in the sunshine of full disclosure and living up to the spirit of what Mr. Justice Brandice advocated.

So it is in that spirit, again thanking my colleague from Utah, because I believe the Nation owes him a debt of gratitude for seizing upon this common sense piece of legislation, that I urge the House and Members of both parties to join with us in its passage. I would advocate strong support for H.R. 2109.

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I certainly want to thank my colleague from Arizona for those words.

Mr. Speaker, the House today can take a small step toward increasing accountability to those whom we represent. The House spent many hours debating campaign finance legislation this year. It appears that the product passed by the House has little chance of becoming law. That is why I think this legislation is so important. It is a significant yet noncontroversial reform that we owe to our constituents, and I urge my colleagues to support the Campaign Finance Sunshine Act.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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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 pass the bill, H.R. 2109, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3874,
WILLIAM F. GOODLING CHILD
NUTRITION REAUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 1998

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the conference report on the bill (H.R. 3874) to amend the National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to provide children with increased access to food and nutrition assistance, to simplify program operations and improve program management, to extend certain authorities contained in those Acts through fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

(For conference report and statement see proceedings of the House of October 6, 1998 at page H-9680.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. Clay) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING).

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I am not sure who is in charge of scheduling. Obviously it has nothing to do with the order of importance. The President says we do not do anything in education. Here we are at 10 minutes after midnight with three very, very substantive pieces of legislation. I am sure the President is not watching television, so he will not know that we did something again. This is number 15, 16 and 17, as a matter of fact, from this committee that we are doing at this wonderful hour in the morning.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3874 is the reauthorization act of 1998 and it is one of the most important bills we will enact. Its main purpose is to provide our Nation's children and participants in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) with vital nutritional assistance.

Long before I came to the House, I was familiar with the School Lunch Program. As a former educator, I could see firsthand the importance of providing nutritious meals to children in order to ensure that they had the health and energy they needed to do well in school.

I believe the legislation we are considering this morning will go a long