

There has been a lot of discussion about out-of-school time in recent months, with scientific studies proving what we have always intuitively known about the importance of quality care for young children, and for children in out-of-school time. There is a real threat to many American kids across the nation. Roughly five million children are not supervised after-school. This leaves them at risk of accidents and ripe for undesirable behaviors ranging from smoking and drinking to sexual activity and violent crime. In fact, juvenile crime goes up 300% after 3 p.m. and over half of all juvenile crime occurs between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

This is particularly disturbing given the benefits that can be derived from productive and educationally rewarding activities in after-school hours. After-school programs can be exceptionally beneficial by giving children the chance to interact with their peers and adults in a positive way, to gain or improve new skills, to master educational material, to develop strong bodies, and to foster creativity. In addition, studies have shown that students who attend productive after-school programs make significant academic gains, enjoy school more, feel more safe, and are less likely to participate in delinquent behaviors year found.

I believe we need to focus on improving the quality of children's out-of-school time through after-school programs. Studies indicate that 90% of parents want their children in an after-school program, yet less than 30% of schools have one. Amazingly, schools are locked 50% of the time parents are working. Many policy makers are coming to this realization and some have proposed billions of dollars of new spending on after-school programs. I am not convinced that such a large infusion of money is necessary, but I am convinced that up-to-date information on after-school programs is essential. There really is not good information available. The last major study of after-school programs was completed in 1993 by the National Institute of Out-Of-School-Time.

The ACE Act will help meet this need with a three prong approach. First, it requires the General Accounting Office to conduct a state-by-state study on after-school programs that will help us understand what programs currently exist and where the gaps are in providing educationally enriching and personally rewarding programs for children. Second, the ACE Act establishes a national clearinghouse of model after-school programs available on the Internet. Finally, it provides \$10 million for states to use for activities that improve the quality and availability of after-school programs.

As I have witnessed in Delaware, some communities have collaborated to produce high quality after-school programs. For instance, the extended use of school facilities in Delaware has allowed several organizations, such as the Boys and Girls Clubs and the YMCA to successfully integrate after-school programs into schools. The ACE Act encourages continued collaborations so that communities can play a more active role in providing assistance in after-school activities in a number of ways.

In all of my discussions with constituents and after-school program specialist, the most troubling issue I have run across is the fact that both after-school program providers and after-school program participants need better access to information. We do not fully under-

stand what programs are available and we should.

I hope you will join me and colleagues from both sides of the aisle to support and co-sponsor the After-School Children's Education Act.

VIRGINIA STATE POLICE MARSHALL FORCES TO ENHANCE HIGHWAY SAFETY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, February 21, 1999, under the leadership of the Superintendent of State Police, Colonel M. Wayne Huggins, a task force of 110 Virginia state troopers, supervisors and aviation units conducted an eight-hour enforcement initiative along the full 325-mile length of Interstate 81 in Virginia to control speeders and improve highway safety for all the people who use this heavily trafficked roadway.

The program was coordinated and implemented by Lt. Colonel W.G. Massengale and Major J.B. Scott with assistance of Captain J.R. Quinley (Culpeper), Captain H.G. Gregory (Appomattox), Captain C.R. Compton (Salem) and Captain W.K. Paul (Wytheville).

As a result of the dedicated performance of the Virginia State Police under their most able leadership, a huge stride toward traffic safety on Interstate 81 was made on February 21. This crackdown resulted in 1,730 tickets being issued to violators. Speed is a major cause of traffic accidents and the resultant deaths and injuries. These troopers and their commanders saved lives on the highway that Sunday and sent the message that Virginia is serious about protecting its people.

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY BURIAL ELIGIBILITY ACT

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, I strongly support H.R. 70, a bill to codify burial eligibility requirements for Arlington National Cemetery. This bill would also put an end to the abuses my subcommittee found with politically connected burial waivers for individuals who have been getting into Arlington and taking the places earned by America's war heroes.

Full Committee Chairman BOB STUMP moved a similar bill last year and it was not acted upon by the Senate. I commend our Chairman for his persistence and for his devotion to our Nation's veterans in moving H.R. 70 as one of his top priorities for the 106th Congress.

Veterans' service organization and military associations have overwhelmingly supported this legislation and especially its prohibition against waivers. They better than anyone know that politics should play no part in who rests in the hallowed ground of Arlington.

Mr. Speaker, apparently I differ with one of my colleagues on whether abuses occurred

with Arlington burial waivers. At the January 28, 1999, Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on Arlington burial waivers, which I chaired, I stated that, "in my opinion, in some cases there undoubtedly has been favoritism, overwhelming pressure, political influence, string pulling, and arm twisting, as well as public relations consideration, even if no one will openly admit it." My view has not changed, and I believe these things were abuses. Call them what you may, they occurred and they should be stopped.

And, let there be no mistake about the matter of Larry Lawrence: he bought his way into Arlington with campaign contributions. His campaign contributions bought him an ambassadorship. His bought ambassadorship and his proven, not alleged, lies got him into Arlington. Even on his record, he was so miserably unqualified to be an ambassador that the Foreign Service Association took the unusual step of opposing his nomination. Money got him in, not his service to his country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to hold the line against waivers, just as our brave men and women in uniform have held the line in battle against the enemies of freedom.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS NEED TO BE AMONG OUR HIGHEST PRIORITIES

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of water quality, smart growth and protecting our environment—and, therefore, in support of the Democratic budget resolution.

Clean and safe drinking water must be among our highest national priorities. We need to ensure that we protect farmland, slow suburban sprawl and protect open spaces. Further, the Environmental Protection Agency must have the adequate tools and resources to do their job—protecting our environment.

That is why I support the Democratic budget resolution which would have provided \$1.6 billion more for natural resources and environmental programs than the Republican budget. Our bill allows for continued assistance to our communities to upgrade their sewer systems and wastewater treatment facilities. It also provides resources for our communities to protect farmland and preserve or restore green spaces. Our budget also provides grants for "smart growth" planning and park restoration.

For those of us in St. Clair and Macomb Counties who treasure the special place in which we live, the Democratic budget blueprint would allow us to preserve and improve our quality of life. That is among the most important things we can do.

In the months ahead, I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure that our water is safe to drink, our lakes are safe for swimming, and our continued growth is managed responsibly. I am also hopeful that our local and state officials will help us in our effort to help improve sewers and water treatment facilities, and to preserve farmland and open spaces.

Our environment is precious and valuable. We need to take steps today to ensure that it