

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERALLY IMPACTED SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. J.D. HAYWORTH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 1999

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Federally Impacted School Improvement Act with my good friend from North Dakota, Congressman Earl Pomeroy. This bipartisan legislation seeks to address the urgent school construction needs on federal lands, an issue I have championed since I was first elected to Congress.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the federal government has jurisdiction over schools in three cases—Indian reservations and military installations, which are funded through the Impact Aid program, and the federal enclave of the District of Columbia. Unfortunately, the federal government has failed to live up to its obligations to federally impacted schools, especially in Indian country.

Nearly one in four of my constituents are Native American and approximately 50 percent of the land mass in my district is tribal land. On several occasions, I have had the opportunity to visit my Native American constituents. Virtually everywhere I go, I find one common problem on the reservations: the schools are antiquated, overcrowded, and in dire need of repair or reconstruction.

The Federally Impacted School Improvement Act begins to address this desperate situation by authorizing \$50 million to be spent on repair, renovation, and construction in our federally impacted school districts. As you may know, Impact Aid school construction is currently funded through Section 8007. This program received a paltry \$7 million in fiscal year 1999, which could have built the equivalent of one school. There is certainly a need for more than one new school in my district alone. In fact, I testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education in 1998 about the importance of school construction funding for federally impacted schools and included documentation of nearly \$180 million in needed school construction funding in just five of my 23 federally impacted school districts. This problem is not isolated to my district. Almost every federally impacted school district faces similar problems.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation represents a start in improving the schools on military and Indian lands. But this is only a beginning. We need to show our commitment to our military and Native Americans, who have long been neglected by the federal government. We must live up to our obligations to educate children on federal land. I urge my colleagues to support the Federal Impacted School Improvement Act.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF BOB AND LOUISE VOELZKE ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR FIFTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 1999

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special couple from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, May 15, 1999, in the presence of many of their family members, neighbors, and friends, Bob and Louise Voelzke celebrate a milestone day in their lives. On May 15, at the Ballville Community Hall in Fremont, Ohio, Bob and Louise celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, the celebration of the sanctity of marriage is one our most cherished and time-honored traditions. Throughout the ages, husbands and wives have reaffirmed their trust, faith, and, most importantly, love for each other on their wedding anniversaries. On this most treasured day, we, as their friends, neighbors, coworkers, and family members, have the opportunity to recognize them for their commitment, their sharing, and their love for each other.

The day on which two people are united in marriage is much more than simply a ceremony, with wedding vows and the exchanging of rings. It is the true union of two individuals who then become one, inseparable entity. It is the common bond and an unwavering dedication to each other than will help the marriage through good times and bad.

Mr. Speaker, for the past fifty years, Bob and Louise Voelzke have shown how love, compassion, and conviction are the cornerstones of their long and lasting marriage. Their strong commitment to each other is an example for each of us to follow.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, for myself and the members of the 106th Congress, I would ask my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Bob and Louise Voelzke on the occasion of their fiftieth wedding anniversary. May the love and happiness they have found stay with them far into the future. Again, best wishes and congratulations on fifty wonderful years together.

REGARDING ROLLCALL VOTES ON H.R. 1664

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 1999

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, we were elected to the "people's House," without question the most deliberative body in the world. As such, when legislation comes to the floor of this House, Members should have every opportunity to amend and perfect it before we pass it on to the Senate. It is our duty. It is our obligation.

Last Thursday, the Republican Leadership in the House presented H.R. 1664, the Kosovo and Southwest Asia Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act of 1999. The measure provided \$12.9 billion for emergency spending to support the ongoing military oper-

ations in Kosovo. The request was \$6.9 billion above the President's request which by all accounts was more than adequate to fund our mission overseas. H.R. 1664 was presented to this body under a restrictive rule that limited the Minority's opportunities to perfect the bill. For this reason I opposed the rule.

While the rule was passed, it did allow some Democratic amendments. One of those amendments was the Obey amendment which restored \$1.5 billion to the budget surplus that the Committee bill removed to fund the construction of military projects overseas. The Obey amendment made increases in military pay and effectively dealt with the issue of retirement by not making it subject to future legislation. The Obey measure also provided funds for disaster assistance for the victims of Hurricane Mitch.

The Obey amendment was defeated along with other amendments that sought to restore funds to the budget surplus. Even though the Obey amendment failed, I voted for H.R. 1664 during final passage. When our troops, our sons and daughters, are engaged in military conflict overseas, we must lay aside our partisan differences and give them the financial and moral support they need. While the Majority failed to do this and used H.R. 1664 to fund pork projects abroad, I felt compelled to rise above Party and vote for my country by casting my vote in support of H.R. 1664. I voted for our troops—our sons and daughters who willingly lay their lives on the line for our national security and for freedom.

ENSURE ACCOUNTABILITY WITH THE FEDERAL SHARE OF THE TOBACCO SETTLEMENT

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 1999

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my extreme disappointment with the inclusion of a particular legislative provision within the conference report for the FY 1999 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill.

This legislative rider, attached to the appropriations legislation in the other body and approved by the conference committee, prohibits the federal government from recovering any of the federal share of the master settlement reached between the states and the tobacco industry. When the states brought their individual cases against the tobacco industry, they did so to recover certain health care costs, including Medicaid costs. Since the federal government pays a portion of these costs, I believe the federal government has a right to determine which activities it should fund with its share of the settlement. While I believe the federal government should return the federal share to the states, it should only be done if the federal share is spent on tobacco control and other programs which seek to improve the public health.

This rider does nothing to ensure that any money from the settlement is spent on important anti-smoking programs and public health programs. This is wrong. In my view, returning the federal share to the states without proper accountability abdicates our duty to ensure this federal money is invested and spent wisely. Throughout the country, governors, state