

are going in our performance in science and math education in our schools. We now rank below any of the other G-7 countries of the industrialized world. We have got to be more aggressive in moving ahead in our efforts to interest and performance with science and math education.

In my subcommittee, we will be holding hearings this week on legislation that will help us do a better job in this area. Science teachers need to be encouraged. But also we need to encourage the parents and the teachers of those students in the first 3 or 4 years of school if we are to be successful. This world is getting more complicated with biotechnology, information technology and other science based technology. Those kids are going to be better served if they have a better math and science education.

I commend these graduating students throughout the Nation for what they have achieved so far but encourage them to study a little more math and science, as they enter college or the job market. It will pay big dividends.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that she will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6 p.m. today.

COMMENDING CLEAR CHANNEL COMMUNICATIONS AND AMERICAN FOOTBALL COACHES ASSO- CIATION FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND EFFORTS FOR PROTECTING CHILDREN

Mr. OSBORNE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 100) commending Clear Channel Communications and the American Football Coaches Association for their dedication and efforts for protecting children by providing a vital means for locating the Nation's missing, kidnapped, and runaway children, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 100

Whereas children are the Nation's greatest asset for the future and are essential for the Nation's strong and vital growth;

Whereas more than 800,000 children disappear each year in the United States, and the problem of missing, kidnapped, and runaway children potentially affects every community in the Nation;

Whereas the United States is committed to the protection of its children;

Whereas the American Football Coaches Association is a leader in the protection of children and has provided 60 million Inkless Child Identification Kits for use by parents;

Whereas these kits allow parents to keep vital information, current photographs, and fingerprints readily available to provide to law enforcement agencies throughout the Nation in the event of an emergency; and

Whereas the American Football Coaches Association displays outstanding dedication to the children in communities throughout the Nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress commends the American Football Coaches Association for its dedication and efforts to protect children and locate the Nation's missing, kidnapped, and runaway children.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OSBORNE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Concurrent Resolution 100.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 100 which recognizes the American Football Coaches Association for its dedication and efforts to protect children by providing inkless child identification kits for use by parents. In the past 4 years, over 4.2 million identification kits have been passed out at college football stadiums. As a member of the American Football Coaches Association and a former football coach, I have participated in this program myself and know that the kits can be useful tools for parents. My former university, the University of Nebraska, has participated in this program since the program's inception in 1997. In the spring of 1999, 60,000 ID kits were distributed to Nebraska's school children in grades kindergarten through the fourth grade.

Statistics about missing children in the United States are staggering. According to the FBI and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, 750,000 children were reported missing last year. Approximately 450,000 of these children ran away, an additional 350,000 were abducted by a family member, and over 4,500 were abducted by a stranger. This works out to be about 2,100 children missing each day. In 1999, the last year with statistics available, almost 3,000 cases of on-line child exploitation were prosecuted.

No place in America is immune from child abductions or exploitation. Earlier this year in a high profile case, a teenager in my district was kidnapped by an escaped fugitive in the parking lot of a shopping mall in Kearney, Nebraska. Fortunately, this kidnapping

ended peacefully with the kidnapper's surrender, but many children are not as lucky.

If the worst happens and a child is abducted or decides to run away, parents need to have tools to help police locate and identify their children. Because less than 2 percent of parents have a copy of their child's fingerprints to use in the case of an emergency, the American Football Coaches Association created the National Child Identification Program with the goal of fingerprinting 20 million children. The program provides a free inkless fingerprint kit for each child. The inkless ID kit allows parents to take and store their child's fingerprints in their own home. The card remains in the parents' possession. But if it is ever needed, this card will give authorities vital information to assist them in their efforts to locate a missing child.

To fund the program, the coaches association has teamed up with local and national businesses and media. In my previous occupation, I signed several hundred football helmets to auction off to raise money for this worthy cause.

I believe we must approach the protection of our Nation's youth from a variety of angles. These kits are a start, and they may open the doors of communication for parents to talk to their children about the rules of safety advocated by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and discuss ways to address family problems. I also am a longtime supporter of youth mentoring projects. I believe mentors can provide youth a positive role model and a line of communication with a caring adult. Quality mentoring programs can prevent youth from ever running away from home in the first place.

I am pleased to support this resolution that commends the work of the American Football Coaches Association for its efforts to locate missing, kidnapped, and runaway children through the distribution of the inkless fingerprinting kits. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution and join the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) and its author, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN), in commending the American Football Coaches Association for its important work to help make our children safer.

The American Football Coaches Association has provided 60 million inkless child identification kits for use by parents. These kits allow parents to keep vital information, current photographs, and fingerprints readily available to provide to law enforcement agencies throughout the Nation in the event of an emergency. The program is expected to reach several million children this year, making it the largest identification drive ever conducted.