

will ensure that IDEA is results-driven, not process-driven. The legislation will improve the academic achievement of special education students and empower parents, while also doing away with an overly prescriptive and burdensome process for teachers. It will enable teachers to save valuable classroom instruction time for exactly that—classroom instruction. I encourage my colleagues to call my office to cosponsor the "IDEA Paperwork Reduction Act of 2003".

INTRODUCTION OF THE IDEA PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT OF 2003

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to join my colleague Representative RICK KELLER in introducing the IDEA Paperwork Reduction Act of 2003. This legislation will go a long way in providing relief from the IDEA paperwork burden, and in reducing time spent by teachers on non-instruction activities, as required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Last year, the House Education and the Workforce Committee conducted an aggressive series of hearings exploring major issues that would likely be addressed in the Committee's reauthorization of IDEA. Numerous witnesses at these hearings testified to the need for the Department of Education to identify and simplify burdensome regulations under IDEA and for Congress to adopt statutory changes that would provide relief to the nation's special education and general education teachers who labor with great dedication to educate children with special needs.

In our hearings, the Committee heard from school principals and administrators voicing frustrations about their schools' efforts to provide services to students as required by their IEPs when unnecessary paperwork requirements compete with the available instructional time. Teachers find themselves between a rock and a hard place, if you will, with unyielding demands made on their time. When something gives, the impact is either on the teacher or the student, two of our most valuable resources.

In fact, studies from the Department of Education show that we are facing a significant shortage of special education teachers, and many special educators leaving the field cite the burden of unnecessary paperwork as one of the primary reasons for their departure. This crushing burden of paperwork serves as a major disincentive for teachers to enter the field of special education, and as a result, too many of our children with special needs do not have a qualified teacher in the classroom.

Representative KELLER's proposed amendments to IDEA are an excellent start to the Education and the Workforce's effort to identify and simplify burdensome statutory provisions in IDEA. They are innovative and provide much-needed flexibility to the nation's special education system.

This legislation directs the Secretary of Education to submit a report to Congress detailing regulatory proposals he may find advisable for reducing both the IDEA paperwork burden on

teachers and administrators and the amount of non-classroom time spent by teachers and administrators in order to comply with the requirements of IDEA. It also directs the Secretary to identify, develop, and disseminate model forms for individualized education programs (IEPS), procedural safeguard notices, and prior written notice report requirements that incorporate all relevant Federal statutory and regulatory requirements under IDEA.

In addition, the legislation provides that local educational agencies may offer to parents the opportunity to develop a 3-year IEP (in lieu of an annual IEP) for each child with a disability, with IEP goals coinciding with natural transition points for the child. This would mean IEPs would be redeveloped close in time to the transition of a child with a disability from preschool to elementary grades, from elementary grades to middle or junior high school grades, from middle or junior high schools grades to high school grades, and from high school to post-secondary activities, but in no case longer than 3 years. In the "in-between" years, the law would provide for a streamlined annual IEP review focusing on the child's current levels of performance and progress toward meeting the measurable annual goals in the IEP, but a comprehensive review and revision of the IEP document would not be done every year.

Most importantly, this is a voluntary option for parents. Many parents will choose to use this flexibility, and some may not. But I agree with Representative KELLER that it is important to provide this flexibility and this choice to parents so that they can determine the best way to interact with their child's school.

Representative KELLER's bill would also allow the Secretary to grant waivers of paperwork requirements under IDEA to 10 States based on proposals submitted by States for addressing reduction of paperwork and non-classroom time spent fulfilling statutory and regulatory requirements. This will promote innovation and provide much-needed flexibility as States grapple with better implementing IDEA, and the Federal, State, and local regulations under it.

I am pleased to join my colleagues in introducing this bill, and I look forward to working with them to address these important ideas.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM DWYER

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the many accomplishments of William Dwyer, who was recognized Friday, January 24, at Ireland's 32nd annual dinner dance held at the Hi-Hat Club in Bayonne, New Jersey.

A life-long Bayonne resident, William Dwyer has spent his career dedicated to the medical community. He has worked at Passaic General Hospital and Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, and was a past president of the New Jersey Healthcare Human Resources Administrators. For almost 11 years, Mr. Dwyer has been the vice president of Human Resources, Risk Management, and Corporate Compliance, at Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside, New Jersey, the largest pedi-

atric rehabilitation hospital in the United States.

William Dwyer, an active member of the community, is currently the president of the Kiwanis Club of Mountainside, New Jersey, and head of the St. Andrew's Cub Scouts. He is a member of the following organizations: the Board of Directors of the Healthcare Employees Federal Credit Union; the Executive Committee of St. Peter's Prep parents organization; and the parent teacher organization of School 14. He is a past President of the St. Andrew's Parish Council, and past Vice President of the Bayonne Rangers; a New Jersey-based youth ice hockey organization. In addition, he has volunteered at the Bayonne Little League CYO and City Basketball Leagues.

William and his brother, Jim, founded the Irish singing group, The Bantry Boys, and recently celebrated their 20th anniversary of performing together. The band enjoys playing their Irish folk music for all, especially for the students of Bayonne elementary schools and the children at the Children's Specialized Hospital.

Bill attended Marist High School, and received his B.A. from St. Peter's College, and M.A. in Education from Seton Hall University.

William Dwyer, the youngest of four children born to Mary and John Dwyer, is married to the former Mary Reilly, and they have two children, Bill and Megan.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring William Dwyer for his selfless dedication to Bayonne's residents and for brightening our days with music.

WILSON GREEN APPOINTED TO THE NATIONAL MUSEUM SERVICE BOARD

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor a friend and advocate of the museum arts. Wilson Greene of Petersburg, Virginia, will be sworn in tonight to serve as a member of the National Museum Service Board. Mr. Greene will serve as one of fifteen members of this advisory board of the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences. As a member of the National Museum Service Board, Mr. Greene will work to ensure high quality museum programs and services to the public.

Mr. Greene has been the executive director of the Pamplin Historical Park in Petersburg, Virginia since 1992. Previously, Mr. Greene served as President and CEO of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War sites, for which he serves on the National Advisory Board. Mr. Greene has also worked for the National Park Service, serving at several significant historical sites.

Wilson Greene's devotion to academia is apparent as well. Mr. Greene has been a faculty member at several institutions of higher learning including: Mary Washington College, Germanna Community College, and St. Bernard Community College. Mr. Green is also the author of more than twenty-five publications dealing with Civil War and Southern History.

Based on his years of public service with the National Park service, commitment to education, and overall enthusiasm for the study of

history, I am confident Wilson Greene will serve as a valuable member to the National Museum Service Board.

The Commonwealth of Virginia deeply appreciates Mr. Greene's service and his passionate interest in helping Virginians and all Americans to better understand the very important story of our nation's past.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Wilson Greene, for his recent appointment to serve as a member of the National Museum Service Board.

INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, it was 50 years ago, on January 26, 1953, that the World Customs Organization, formally known as the Customs Co-operation Council, held its first meeting in Brussels, Belgium. In recognition of this occasion, the Council observed January 26 as International Customs Day. This occasion also serves to recognize the role that customs services around the world play in facilitating trade while protecting national borders from importations posing security threats.

I am particularly proud of the U.S. Customs Service for its great contributions to the Nation over the past 214 years of its existence. U.S. Customs was once the sole revenue producer for the young United States. Although that role has diminished over the years Customs collected a record \$23.8 billion in revenue in fiscal year 2001. Today, Customs is still a major source of revenue for the Federal Government, returning about \$8 to the taxpayer for every dollar appropriated by Congress.

For nearly 125 years, Customs funded virtually the entire government and paid for the Nation's early growth and infrastructure. The territories of Louisiana, Oregon, Florida and Alaska were purchased; the National Road from Cumberland, Maryland, to Wheeling, West Virginia, was constructed; and the Transcontinental Railroad stretched from sea-to-sea. Customs collections built the Nation's lighthouses, the U.S. military and naval academies, and the City of Washington, and the list goes on. In 1835, Customs revenues alone had reduced the national debt to zero.

Customs was the parent or forerunner to many other agencies. In the early days, Customs officers administered military pensions (Department of Veterans Affairs), collected import and export statistics (Bureau of Census), and supervised revenue cutters (U.S. Coast Guard). Customs also collected hospital dues to help sick and disabled seaman (Public Health Service) and established standard weights and measures (National Bureau of Standards).

During the first stages of the response to the terrorist attack on September 11th in New York and Washington, D.C., U.S. Customs quickly assumed a leading role. With terrorism causing concern worldwide, the international Customs community has a vital role to play. Every administration is playing an active part in efforts to protect the international supply chain from terrorist acts, while at the same time offering improved trade facilitation.

Today, the United States Customs Service will have new challenges to face as it moves

from the traditional home that it has known within the Department of the Treasury to the newly created Department of Homeland Security. It will be important for Customs to continue to offer the world class level of trade service and facilitation that U.S. business has come to rely on while insuring that security needs are addressed. It will also be important to maintain the revenue collection linkage with the Treasury Department that has historically been so significant.

The U.S. Customs Service represents the United States at the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC). The number of Members increased over the years, and the Council subsequently adopted the working name "World Customs Organization" in order to better reflect the fact that the Organization was an intergovernmental body that genuinely made the transition to worldwide status. The WCO now speaks for 161 Customs administrations drawn from every continent and representing every stage of economic development. The United States has been a member since November 5, 1970.

At present, WCO Members are responsible for ensuring that more than 98 percent of international trade is conducted in compliance with national legislation and international agreements. The WCO renders technical assistance in areas such as customs tariffs, valuation, nomenclature, and law enforcement. Its objective is to obtain, in the interest of international trade, the best possible degree of uniformity among the customs systems of member nations. America benefits when both exporters and importers operate in an atmosphere of simple unambiguous customs operations around the world.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the U.S. Customs Service for its fine work both nationally and internationally, and I look forward to the completion of work within the World Customs Organization to further harmonizing and simplifying the customs rules that affect international commerce.

UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND SOCCER RESOLUTION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I am submitting to the House a resolution congratulating the University of Portland Women's soccer team on their winning the 2003 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Championship. This title marks the first national championship in any sport for the University of Portland.

The championship game between Portland and reigning 2001 champion Santa Clara was hard fought, going down to a rare double-overtime. The victory by the Pilots brought their season record to 20–4–1 to tie the school record for wins in a season. The team's performance garnered other records as well; Christine Sinclair set an NCAA tournament record with 21 points on 10 goals and one assist, shattering Mia Hamm's 1993 record of 16; Goalkeeper Lauren Arase set a record for goals-against average, allowing just one goal in 6 games.

I want to commend the coaches at the University of Portland for their hard work and

dedication to helping these young women grow and ultimately bring national recognition to their school and our state. Head Coach Clive Charles, Assistant Coaches Bill Irwin, Garrett Smith, Nyla Stuckey, Trevor Warren and Wynne McIntosh all deserve recognition for the work that they have done developing an outstanding collegiate sports program.

Coach Charles has built an impressive record over the 14 years that he has coached women's soccer at the University of Portland. Collectively, his men's and women's teams have won 12 conference championships, losing only 31 league games, and earned 16 NCAA playoff berths, including seven Final Four appearances, in a combined 27 seasons. Twenty-five Pilots have earned All-America status during Charles' tenure. Early in the 1998 season, Charles won his 300th career college game. The Portland men and women won on the same day, making him just the 11th coach in NCAA soccer history to amass 300 wins.

I am honored to represent many of these individuals in Congress and proud to have the University in my district. This resolution is a fitting tribute to the accomplishments of the coaches, players, and the University of Portland.

TRIBUTE TO MELINDA OHLER

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to pay tribute to Melinda "Mindy" Ohler, a brave woman and true trailblazer of the San Francisco Fire Department. Mindy's passing, which occurred while responding to a fire alarm at San Francisco International Airport, unfortunately marked the first death of a female San Francisco firefighter in the line of duty.

When Mindy joined the San Francisco Fire Department in 1989, she was one of the first women to become a firefighter in the department's history. In the 13 years since her enlistment, the number of women firefighters in San Francisco has risen to an impressive 235 (12 percent of the force). This increase is in no small part due to Mindy, whose hard work and total dedication to her duties changed the minds of many who had originally opposed the idea of women firefighters. Her inspirational power was ably summed up by one of her colleagues at her memorial service who said, "Frankly, I was against women joining the department, but her willingness to do the job showed me women had a place here."

John Hanley, President of Fire Fighters Local 798, expressed praise for Mindy and characterized her performance as a firefighter as bold and versatile; she was able to handle the challenges she faced with courage, he said, whether it was a small fire or five-alarm conflagration. In addition, Mindy's lighter side—she was a noted prankster—was credited with lifting spirits around the firehouse.

A tireless worker who once held down six jobs at one time, Mindy, 46, was still working two other jobs in addition to her primary one as a firefighter at the time of her death.

In the spirit of solidarity with Mindy, over 3,000 people from around the country—including many fellow firefighters and law-enforcement officers—came to St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco to pay tribute to Mindy.