

any form endangers the stability of the Middle East and undermines the efforts to create a conflict-free environment. There is an urgent need to promote moderate voices in the Islamic world as an effective way of fighting extremism.

Educational reform, with an emphasis on tolerance and respect for religious differences, can enhance the possibilities of harmony in this troubled region. Our children need to learn the concepts of peace and tolerance, not war and hatred.

The resolution recognizes the opportunity presented by the ascension of King Abdullah to the throne in Saudi Arabia to call for education reform in his country.

It also establishes that progress on such reform is a priority for the United States and a factor to be considered when determining the level of our diplomatic engagements with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

It also urges the President to direct the Secretary of State to use the means at her disposal to assist the Saudis in such education reform.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution. I congratulate my colleague from Florida.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of our time.

□ 1500

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, first, I want to commend my good friend and distinguished colleague from Florida (Mr. DAVIS), a former member of the International Relations Committee, for introducing this most important measure relating to the curriculum in Saudi Arabia. We all appreciate his leadership on this important matter.

Mr. Speaker, as all of us as parents know, we have an enormous obligation not only to ensure that our children receive an education which will enable them to function in this century, but that their education include an important quotient of understanding other religions and other cultures, and an education that resists the temptation to demonize those that we do not understand.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Saudi Arabia has singularly failed to accomplish this important task. The extremist Wahhabi religious education which is present in Saudi schools encourages and promotes extremism, viciously anti-American, anti-Western, and anti-Semitic attitudes. It fosters hatred and intolerance.

It is no surprise, Mr. Speaker, that 15 of the 19 hijackers on September 11 were Saudi nationals. The vile hatred filling the minds of so many young Saudis in schools makes them prime targets for terrorists and other extremist groups. I urge all my colleagues to support this important resolution.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the ranking member, Congressman LANTOS, for his support on this legislation that has been pending for about 3 years, and the chair of the committee, Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, my colleague from Florida, and also the cosponsor of this legislation, Mr. KING of New York, the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee.

As has been described, this resolution is actually very simple. It is constructive pressure on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to reform the content of their school system to rid that content of anti-Semitic, anti-Western extremist material that is forced upon the education curriculum in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by radical extremists in the Wahhabi sect in Saudi Arabia.

This legislation is the product of two trips I have taken to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Like many Americans, like many Members of Congress, I searched for the answers after September 11 to make sure that what happened on that day would never happen again. My personal search, my search as a Member of Congress, took me to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia just a few months after September 11.

I visited, as did other Members of Congress, with the Minister of Education of Saudi Arabia and with the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, now the King of Saudi Arabia. The King of Saudi Arabia understands this problem. For far too long, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has allowed radical elements within the country to control the school system. As was mentioned by Mr. LANTOS, it is not a coincidence that 15 of the 19 hijackers on September 11, 2001, came from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

What this legislation specifically says is that the Congress is directing the President of the United States to provide a report to the Congress and to the American people as to the status of efforts by Saudi Arabia to reform their school system, and we are in fact pressuring and calling upon and encouraging the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to do exactly that.

We need to have a relationship with this country that allows us to be open and honest in expressing our concerns. These are not just issues within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. These are not just threats of terrorism to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Middle East. These are, in fact, as we sadly know from our history, threats to the United States as well.

There has been a report card issued by the 9/11 Commission in the last few weeks about the efforts of this country to learn from September 11. I am sad to report that one of the areas that received a D was the failure of this Congress and this administration to openly discuss changes and to make changes in our policy towards the Kingdom of

Saudi Arabia. It is my hope today that this resolution represents an overdue step in that direction as Democrats and Republicans coming together, I believe unanimously, to say to the administration that it is time to speak out on this issue and to do so constructively.

Mr. Speaker, on this Sunday in my hometown of Tampa, in my State, it is a game day for many communities. I believe what the United States Government needs in the war on terrorism is the same thing that the Tampa Bay Bucks need right now in my hometown, which is a strong defense and a smarter offense. A smarter offense is identifying the root causes of terrorism and aggressively addressing them.

This is, in fact, one of the root causes of terrorism. It is the creation of extremism and extremists in the schools of Saudi Arabia in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. And this bill represents an attempt to work with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to put an end to that root cause of terrorism as well as others.

I want to urge my colleagues to join Congressman PETER KING and me, Congressman LANTOS, and Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN in strongly and unanimously supporting this resolution.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my friend for his thoughtful and powerful statement.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 275.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 797) to amend the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-determination Act of 1996 and other Acts to improve housing programs for Indians.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendments:

Page 3, line 14, strike out "and"

Page 3, strike out line 24 and all that follows through page 4, line 4 and insert the following: *of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.); and*

(E) federally recognized Indian tribes exercising powers of self-government are governed by the Indian Civil Rights Act (25 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.); and

Page 4, strike out line 19 and all that follows through page 5, line 10 and insert the following:

“SEC. 544. INDIAN TRIBES.

“Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) and title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.) shall not apply to actions by federally recognized Indian tribes (including instrumentalities of such Indian tribes) under this Act.”.

Page 6, after line 2, insert:

SEC. 6. YOUTHBUILD ELIGIBILITY.

Section 460 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12899h-1) is amended by striking “for fiscal year 1998 and fiscal years thereafter” and inserting “for fiscal years 1998 through 2005”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this legislation.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity today to speak on a bill I introduced earlier this year and that passed the House in April, the Native American Housing Enhancement Act. Subsequent changes to this bill by the other body were merely stylistic in nature, and they do not change the substance of this important legislation.

While visiting with my Navajo and Apache constituents, I have learned that there is a need for a focus on long-term housing planning. This legislation will give tribes needed flexibility in spending grant money to enable vital housing projects to be completed more quickly. This bill makes three changes to help Native American communities in rural Arizona and across the Nation better address their housing needs.

The first section of this bill clarifies that tribes are allowed unrestricted access to new Native American housing funds from HUD even if tribes retain program income from previous years.

Currently, a tribe's grant money may be restricted if the tribe is receiving program income in excess of their operating costs. This clarification is critical to ensuring that we are not creating a disincentive for tribes to create income or plan for their future developments.

This bill also brings USDA housing programs into alignment with HUD programs in allowing for Indian preference, which allows tribes to abide by the Indian Civil Rights Act.

Currently, tribal governments may not exercise Indian preference for USDA programs because it would be considered a civil rights violation by giving preference based on racial designation. Indian preference is something tribal governments value greatly in addressing the needs of their citizens. This is not a race issue. Indian preference recognizes the political designations of tribes as sovereign entities that have entered into a government-to-government relationship with the United States. This legislation will help to ensure greater tribal use of USDA rural development grants and programs.

Additionally, because another program that tribes used for their youth programs existed when the Native American Housing Assistance Act was enacted, accessibility to Youth Build funds was taken away. The Youth Build program assists communities by building new housing for needy families.

Not only are tribes now prohibited from applying for Youth Build funds, but other organizations serving Native youth are prohibited as well; yet the statistics are overwhelming:

The suicide rate for Native youth is three times the national average. Alcohol-related deaths among Native American ages 15 to 24 are 17 times higher than the national average. Native youth ages 12 to 20 are 58 percent more likely to become crime victims than any other race in this category.

As of February, 2001, the latest statistics available, 74 percent of youth in custody in the Federal Bureau of Prisons systems were Native American youth, an increase of 50 percent since 1994.

Native American youth represent only 1 percent of the American population and yet constitute as much as 3 percent of the prison population.

These grim statistics speak to the importance of programs that teach life skills and give a sense of community to children in Indian Country. It is clear that these children should be able to participate in the Youth Build program that will help build better neighborhoods, more self-esteem, and make a difference for their future. The Native American Housing Enhancement Act will help Native Americans build strong homes, strong communities, and help many to achieve the American Dream of homeownership.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank our subcommittee chairman, Mr. NEY of Ohio, for helping me push this legislation through. Also, without the assistance and partnership of Mr. BARNEY FRANK of Massachusetts and Mr. DENNIS KUCINICH, we could not have gotten this pushed through. It has really been a bipartisan piece of legislation. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I look forward to its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I

may consume, and I agree with what the gentleman from Arizona said. We have made a bipartisan effort on our committee, the Committee on Financial Services, to really address the problem of Indian housing, which has shamefully been, I think, ignored and given inadequate attention by both the executive and the legislative branch, and by both parties. There is more than enough blame to go around.

We also need to say, and I am myself a supporter of casino enterprises by Indians, but not every tribe has one. Not every tribe wants one. And we need to deal with the fact that while some people have this image of those tribes which have casinos doing very well, there continues to be some of the worst poverty in America on the reservations and among the tribes.

This legislation is very important. The gentleman from Arizona and I and others, also earlier this year, had a hearing in which I must say I was dissatisfied with the responses we got. There are questions when you do Indian housing that come out of the land title situation, because of the atypicality by American legal standards of Indian landholding; and we have not had at either the legislative or executive branch or on behalf of either party the attention that the people deserve to their housing needs.

This is a step. It is not the end. I am glad we are doing this. But I think I can serve notice, and I know the gentleman from Arizona agrees with me, that next year those people in the executive branch charged with this can be expected to be held to a much higher standard of performance than they have been held to before. We are determined to correct this situation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1515

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Massachusetts. I am grateful for the partnership. This problem is much, much bigger than party, and he has been a true friend and companion on this issue.

I also want to put the administration on notice that when it comes to this new piece of miracle software that is supposed to be able to fix this title search issue, we are going to follow up here in less than 6 months to find out the results of that implementation and the results of how many clear titles they have been able to procure and to process within a timely fashion.

Home ownership on the Native American reservations around this country is below 30 percent. It is the smallest amount of anywhere in the country of any minority group. Yet home ownership is the way to be able to break the cycle of poverty.

One of the best leaders that we have had, along with the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), is the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), who helped, with Mr. FRANK, in the historic hearing that we had on the Navajo Nation, the first hearing since the 1800s

where Indian housing has had a chance to even be heard of or had a field hearing.

I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY).

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Arizona for yielding me the time and also my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their hard work to bring this legislation to the floor. It is important, it is bipartisan. We had the hearing in which were present the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI), the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON). It was the first hearing that we could find in the history of the House actually held on the tribal ground.

When we also looked in the subcommittee at the issues for people to be able to get a house, can you imagine if you had to wait 1 or 2 years to get your title? I think the interest rates had probably changed by that time.

I applaud the work that you have done, Congressman RENZI, on that issue. It is so important because of the conditions for native Americans in the housing, and, again, very proud of the work that you have done, Congressman RENZI, and the bipartisan effort by our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to help people who really need the assistance.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, first I would yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) for a unanimous consent request.

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in very, very strong support of this important legislation for the Indian American community.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman mentioning our colleague from Utah (Mr. MATHESON), who has been very active in this, and also the staffs from our committee have worked very well together. I think it is the first time that such attention has been devoted at both the Member and staff level. I am very appreciative of our ability to do that together.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts, and I want to thank him for his advocacy for Native American housing. I rise in strong support of H.R. 797, the Native American Housing Enhancement Act of 2005, sponsored by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI). I want to thank him for the quality of spirit which led him to propose this.

I would like to say that I have had the opportunity to visit with many tribal communities over the last few years. I understand the need for this legislation. I also want to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) for his advocacy on this issue. He and I have

worked together on this housing issue, and I am glad to be here with him.

This bill requires federally recognized, self-governing Indian tribes to comply with the Indian Civil Rights Act, title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, if they received financial assistance from the Agriculture Department for farm housing.

Under current law the Department can provide loans to farm owners to improve housing conditions for themselves or their workers. The Indian Civil Rights Act prohibits tribes from making laws that restrict freedom of religion, freedom of speech or freedom of the press. It also sets out the requirements pertaining to fair due process for people who are arrested.

The measure also exempts tribes currently in compliance with the Indian Civil Rights Act and tribes acting under other federally affordable housing programs in compliance with certain sections relating to fair housing and other civil rights laws which overlap with provisions in the Indian Civil Rights Act.

Finally, the bill provides consistency across tribal housing programs by treating tribes applying for housing programs within the USDA the same as tribes applying for housing programs within HUD. It allows tribes to comply with title II of the Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968 rather than title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 when securing Federal funds for USDA housing programs.

This bill will encourage home ownership and enhance housing opportunities for Native Americans around the country. It gives tribes more flexibility when developing housing improvement projects. Native American housing needs considerable improvement. Approximately 90,000 Indian families are homeless or underhoused. Nearly 33 percent of Native American homes are overcrowded, while 33 percent lack adequate solid waste management systems, and 8 percent lack a safe indoor water supply. This is a good bill that will supply tangible benefits.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Massachusetts mentioned the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON). Without the gentleman from Utah who actually attended the hearing, we could not have gotten this done.

The Navajo Reservation is 18 million acres, larger than the State of West Virginia. It spans the State of Arizona, Utah and New Mexico. I also want to thank the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), everyone pulling together on this.

The new housing land map that just came out shows that that portion of America is the largest poverty-ridden land mass in the State. I know these gentlemen have a history, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and the

gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), of working hard on poverty issues. I thank you so much for stepping up, particularly in this time, when finally it is becoming aware that the remaining poverty in this country, one of the largest land masses of poverty in the Nation, is up there in that Four Corners area.

Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 797.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendments were concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LITTLE ROCK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DESEGREGATION 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 358) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of the Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:
Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Little Rock Central High School Desegregation 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) September 2007, marks the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.

(2) In 1957, Little Rock Central High was the site of the first major national test for the implementation of the historic decision of the United States Supreme Court in *Brown, et al. v. Board of Education of Topeka, et al.*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954).

(3) The courage of the "Little Rock Nine" (Ernest Green, Elizabeth Eckford, Melba Pattillo, Jefferson Thomas, Carlotta Walls, Terrence Roberts, Gloria Ray, Thelma Mothershed, and Minnijean Brown) who stood in the face of violence, was influential to the Civil Rights movement and changed American history by providing an example on which to build greater equality.

(4) The desegregation of Little Rock Central High by the 9 African American students was recognized by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as such a significant event in the struggle for civil rights that in May 1958, he attended the graduation of the first African American from Little Rock Central High School.

(5) A commemorative coin will bring national and international attention to the lasting legacy of this important event.

SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.

(a) DENOMINATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall mint and issue not more than 500,000 \$1 coins each of which shall—