

stakeholder involvement and furthers the openness and transparency for which all Federal Government programs should strive.

I strongly encourage the passage of this bill.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume and rise in support of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation before us represents the efforts of several constituent organizations working with the administration and the Congress to reach consensus.

Among the organizations who worked to produce this proposal were the Natural Resources Defense Council, Crop Life America and the Consumer Specialty Products Association. I appreciate their hard work and their willingness to set aside past differences to develop a fair and balanced funding mechanism for the EPA pesticide registration program that satisfies the needs of government, industry and the environment.

As Chairman CARDOZA pointed out, this legislation renews the successful program established in 2004 to fund the pesticide registration program administered by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The original legislation had many successes including providing stable funding for the EPA, predictable timelines for industry, new products for consumers, and the necessary funding for the EPA to complete the tolerance reassessment process mandated by the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996. While the 2004 legislation doesn't expire until next year, the realities of Federal budgetary pressure and the resulting uncertainty regarding the adequacy of appropriations make immediate action on this reauthorization legislation critical.

S. 1983 reauthorizes the existing pesticide registration program with several enhancements aimed toward clarifying what is covered and which activities the fees can be used to support, while protecting funding for certain environmental grant programs.

Again, I want to commend the groups whose efforts were instrumental in producing this legislation. I also want to commend Chairman PETERSON and Subcommittee Chairman CARDOZA and urge all Members to join us in supporting this legislation.

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

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further Members who seek time on my side. I just wish to also thank my colleague from Virginia for his cooperation on working together with us to extend this program.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve my time.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1983, the Pesticide Registration Improvement Renewal Act, and encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

In 2003, with the collaboration of agriculture, pesticide manufacturers and public interest organizations, Congress established a new fee schedule and registration process timeline for the Environmental Protection Agency. This Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA) was designed to improve pesticide registration and review, and PRIA has been extremely successful for all parties involved.

As the Ranking Member of the Agriculture Subcommittee on Horticulture and Organic Agriculture, which has jurisdiction over pesticide issues, I am pleased the stakeholders have again worked with Congress and the EPA. This bill today continues and builds upon the successful pesticide registration process over the next five years.

Before PRIA, applicants for pesticide registration had no certainty on how long the review process at EPA would take or how much they would need to pay in fees. The EPA was under pressure from the public interest community to reassess tolerances for pesticides already registered as required under the Food Quality Protection Act. As a result, consumers who depend on effective and safe pesticide products were not always able to take advantage of new products. Delays impacted farmers' ability to access improved plant protection and pest products.

PRIA worked because it set a firm fee schedule for pesticide registration applicants, giving the EPA resources needed to do reviews. In return, the EPA was held to specific timelines in its reviews and approvals. PRIA also enabled the EPA to complete tolerance reassessments for products approved in the past through product maintenance fees from manufacturers.

By continuing the fees and increasing registration funding, S. 1983 provides the EPA with the resources needed to maintain this successful system. Additionally, the bill continues the periodic review of registered products, requiring the EPA to reassess each product every 15 years.

The pesticide registration and review process must be based on sound science. Success also requires confidence in the regulatory system. This reauthorization and enhancement of PRIA helps ensure that the EPA is using the best science to review applicants. Timelines for reviews bring more transparency to the process, and this transparency gives confidence to pesticide users such as agriculture, manufacturers and the public interest community.

I urge my colleagues to support continuation of this successful regulatory process that has brought effective and safe products to market not only for agriculture but for all consumers.

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

Mr. CARDOZA. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1983.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1600

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIRES). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 25, 1957, DESEGREGATION OF LITTLE ROCK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL BY THE LITTLE ROCK NINE

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 668) recognizing the 50th anniversary of the September 25, 1957, desegregation of Little Rock Central High School by the Little Rock Nine.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 668

Whereas on May 17, 1954, the United States Supreme Court announced in *Brown v. Board of Education* (347 U.S. 483) that, "in the field of education, the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place";

Whereas the *Brown* decision recognized as a matter of law that the segregation of public schools deprived students of the equal protection of the laws under the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas in 1957, three years after the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, the promise of access and equality within the realm of education remained unfilled in Little Rock, Arkansas, and throughout the Nation;

Whereas on September 4, 1957, nine African American students who would later be deemed the Little Rock Nine, Minnijean Brown, Elizabeth Eckford, Ernest Green, Thelma Mothershed, Melba Pattillo, Gloria Ray, Terrence Roberts, Jefferson Thomas, and Carlotta Walls, were denied admittance to Little Rock Central High by the Arkansas National Guard at the order of the Arkansas Governor;

Whereas on September 23, 1957, the Little Rock Nine, armed with a Federal court order, again tried to attend Little Rock Central High and implement the law of the land, but protests and violence forced the group of students to leave the school;

Whereas on September 25, 1957, this Nation would realize a historic day when the Little Rock Nine, escorted by Federal troops at the order of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, successfully integrated Little Rock Central High;

Whereas throughout their tenure at Little Rock Central High, the Little Rock Nine, with conviction and dignity, championed school integration despite death threats, verbal and physical assaults, school closings, and other adversities;

Whereas the Little Rock Nine are symbolic of the victorious dismantling of school segregation, as well as the full and equal participation in American society that all citizens are entitled to, and continue to advance such principles through the Little Rock Nine Foundation;

Whereas the significance of the Little Rock Nine and their actions have been acknowledged with numerous awards and recognitions, including the 2007 Little Rock Central High School Desegregation 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin, the Congressional Gold Medal in 1999, the inclusion of Little Rock Central High School in the National Park System in 1998, and the designation of Little Rock Central High School as a National Historic Landmark in 1982;

Whereas on the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School by the Little Rock Nine, the Nation will celebrate this great civil rights achievement through forums and town halls, commemorations, and significantly, the dedication of a permanent Little Rock Central High School Museum and Visitor Center; and

Whereas in 2007, as the Little Rock Nine and the entire Nation celebrates 50 years of integration, we must acknowledge recent setbacks to the guarantee of opportunity and inclusion within our educational system, in both K-12 and higher education: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) acknowledges and commemorates the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School by the Little Rock Nine;

(2) encourages all Americans, upon this 50th anniversary, to recognize the historic contributions of the Little Rock Nine, who not only secured integration for Little Rock Central High School, but hundreds of thousands of schools across the country; and

(3) commits itself, in the wake of recent challenges, to continuing the legacy of Brown v. Board of Education and the Little Rock Nine by protecting and advancing equal educational opportunity for all.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, I am pleased to join the entire Arkansas congressional delegation, Representatives VIC SNYDER, MARION BERRY, MIKE ROSS, JOHN BOOZMAN, all in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the integration of the Little Rock Central High School by the Little Rock Nine. I would like also to recognize the distinguished members of the House Judiciary Committee, Ranking Member LAMAR SMITH and former chairman, JIM SENSENBRENNER, who have joined me in the introduction of this resolution.

Fifty years ago, on September 25, 1957, the Little Rock Nine, as they were called, successfully challenged the status quo of "separate but equal." Three years earlier, we all recall the

momentous Supreme Court decision of 1954 that ruled the 14th amendment's guarantee of equal protection prohibited segregation in the public schools. This landmark Brown v. Board of Education decision struck down the notorious State-sanctioned Jim Crow in the realm of education once and for all.

Unfortunately, this critical determination would not easily be accepted. It would take nine young strong and determined African American students to begin actually implementing the new laws of the land. These nine students, Minnijean Brown, Elizabeth Eckford, Ernest Green, Thelma Mothershed, Melba Pattillo, Gloria Ray, Terrence Roberts, Jefferson Thomas, and Carlotta Walls, implemented the promise of Brown v. The Board. In the footsteps of Rosa Parks, these students, too, started a movement to dismantle years of segregation and inequalities in our public school systems.

On the shoulders of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., these brave young nine boys and girls faced a hatred and a violence that is embarrassing to recall, and they faced it with nonviolent resistance. They were peaceful. Dr. King himself said "to meet physical force with soul force." And that is what they did. Dr. King asked the students to think of the big picture as they moved forward, for they were going to be the frame for that picture.

So on September 25, 1957, the students who came to be known as the Little Rock Nine integrated Little Rock Central High School, and history was forever changed. Escorted by 1,000 members of the 101st Airborne Division of the United States Army, the Little Rock Nine claimed the fair and equal education that they were entitled to.

It took close to a month to secure this access and opportunity, but these young men and women persevered in their mission of school integration. Defying Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus, segregationists and other protestors, the Little Rock Nine were victorious in ending segregated education.

The Little Rock Nine's first attempt to attend Central High School was on September 4, 1957; but the Arkansas Governor called in the National Guard of his State to keep them out. On September 23, the Little Rock Nine, armed with a Federal court order, again tried to attend Central High School, but protests and violence forced the group of students out of the school. It was not until Federal protection was provided that the students would be able to safely attend school on September 25. This Federal protection would remain until the end of the school year, enabling African American senior Ernest Green to graduate. But, sadly, this year of progress would be tainted by the Arkansas Governor's decision to close all of the high schools the following year.

The Little Rock Nine would remain champions of education and school integration despite the fierce opposition.

After the schools reopened in 1959, three more of the Little Rock Nine would go on to graduate from Central High. All of them would become productive, contributive members of our society. From social work to education to government, the Little Rock Nine were and remain represented in all professional sectors. They have also continued their commitment to education with the founding of the Little Rock Nine Foundation, which is dedicated to providing educational opportunities to students of color.

On the 50th anniversary of the integration of Central High by the Little Rock Nine, I am pleased to recognize that great progress has been made in education. But I must also acknowledge recent setbacks to the guarantee of opportunity and inclusion within our educational system. A recent Supreme Court decision now severely limits our school districts in their efforts to achieve racial balance and diversity in primary and secondary education.

But in acknowledging recent setbacks, I would be remiss to not comment on the Jena Six. Just as the Little Rock Nine stood up to the inequities of their time, we must lift up the Jena Six in response to the inequities of their time.

The Little Rock Nine did not mean to make national or world history; they were just standing up for what they believed was right.

In considering this resolution, I ask that all of our Members move forward with this same kind of determination and understanding of what our democracy is all about. On this 50th anniversary, let us all pledge to continue the legacy of the Little Rock Nine and Brown v. The Board by protecting and advancing equal educational opportunity for all.

I omit the great work that was done by President Dwight Eisenhower and others that helped move this situation forward some 50 years ago. And I note also that Arkansas was not a hot bed of segregation. It was considered, frankly, a moderate Southern State. But things transpired so that it became that one activity in which these nine boys and girls have gone into American history. They have been celebrated, and they have been talked about. I have been hearing about them all week long as we prepare for this celebration. And I am so proud to bring this resolution on the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School before this body.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 668, commemorating the Little Rock Nine, the African American students who enrolled in Little Rock Central High School in 1957 and were initially prevented from entering that segregated school. I want to commend Chairman CONYERS for

bringing this legislation forward and our ranking member, Congressman SMITH, for his support of it as well.

President Dwight Eisenhower, following the landmark Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, sent Federal troops to enforce integration and protect the Little Rock Nine. On September 24, 1957, the President ordered the Army to Little Rock, and the nine students entered the school the next day. Thereafter, each of the students was given an individual escort inside Central High School to prevent them from harassment by other students.

It was surely a sad day when the Federal Government had to use the most powerful military in the world to integrate one high school in Little Rock, Arkansas. But it was also a proud day as well, as it demonstrated how our Constitution and each branch of government had, since the Civil War, finally had been honed and fitted to fulfill the promise of racial equality in America.

Chairman CONYERS has already listed the Little Rock Nine, but the efforts of which they themselves and their families must be most proud are deserving of mentioning them again: Ernest Green, Elizabeth Eckford, Jefferson Thomas, Terrence Roberts, Carlotta Walls LaNier, Minniejean Brown, Gloria Ray Karlmark, Thelma Mothershed, and Melba Pattillo Beals. With each step they took through the schoolhouse doors, they paved a path forward for countless other African Americans. And when the school bell rang that day, it marked not only the start of the school day; it rang for liberty and equality as well.

The Little Rock Nine were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal on November 9, 1999. This resolution renews our commemoration of their courageous actions of the 50th anniversary of their historic first steps into history. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased now to recognize the distinguished gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. ROSS), who has been serving in the Congress for a period of years and we have enjoyed a very good working relationship with him. I yield him such time as he may consume.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 668, a resolution honoring and recognizing the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School by the Little Rock Nine. First, I would like to thank Chairman CONYERS for his support and leadership in moving this resolution from the Judiciary Committee to the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this resolution, which honors the anniversary of the nine students who gained national attention 50 years ago when Little Rock Central High School was integrated.

Little Rock Central High School found itself in the spotlight of the entire Nation on September 25, 1957, when nine students escorted by the 101st Airborne Division of the U.S. Army walked up the front steps and integrated the school.

The names of these nine individuals are barely recognizable alone, but collectively as the Little Rock Nine they gained national attention for their strength and unified determination to make our public schools a place where everyone can learn regardless of race.

□ 1615

This resolution honors their courage by commemorating the 50th anniversary of desegregation of Little Rock Central High School and encourages all Americans to recognize the historic contributions of the Little Rock Nine, who not only secured integration for Little Rock Central High School, but for hundreds of thousands of schools across our country.

Tomorrow marks the 50th anniversary of this historic event, and I'm also proud to be taking part in the celebration of this civil rights achievement through the dedication of a permanent Little Rock Central High School Museum and Visitors Center. I'll be joined tomorrow by many of my colleagues, including the Arkansas congressional delegation, Congressmen JOHN BOOZMAN, MARION BERRY and VIC SNYDER.

The Little Rock Nine have been acknowledged with numerous awards and recognitions, including the 2007 Little Rock Central High School desegregation 50th anniversary commemorative coin, one of only two such coins that are done annually. And I want to thank my good friend from Arkansas, Congressman VIC SNYDER for leading the effort in securing this as one of the two coins for this year. They've also been recognized for the Congressional Gold Medal. That was back in 1999. This resolution adds one more recognition to this important group of individuals.

As we memorialize their legacies of bravery so that future generations of Americans will forever know their struggle, we can never forget the sacrifices endured by these nine individuals for the sake of progress on behalf of millions. The Little Rock Nine are symbolic of the victorious dismantling of school segregation, and as such, I am proud to cosponsor this resolution honoring their contributions, and I urge my fellow colleagues to vote in favor of it today.

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

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased now to recognize the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. DANNY DAVIS, who, himself, grew up in Arkansas. He was a distinguished alderman in Chicago before becoming a Member of Congress. He has worked with the Judiciary Committee with particular interest on re-entry programs, and he also happens to represent my counsel, Kanya

Bennett, who comes to the floor with me today. I yield the gentleman as much time as he may consume.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman CONYERS for, not only his leadership on this issue, but so many issues involving civil rights down through the years and for bringing this legislation to the floor.

On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court announced its decision in *Brown vs. Board of Education*, holding that the segregation in public schools was illegal. Three years later, nine black students entered Little Rock Central High: Carlotta Walls, Jefferson Thomas, Elizabeth Eckford, Thelma Mothershed, Melba Pattillo, Terrance Roberts, Gloria Ray, Minniejean Brown and Ernest Green. I feel a certain amount of kinship to these nine students because, at that very same time, I was a freshman in college, just 50 miles away at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. And so over the years, I had an opportunity to interact with several of them.

Of course, the most well known is Ernest Green, who became an assistant secretary in the U.S. Department of Labor and is now the managing director of Lehman Brothers investment firm.

Minniejean Brown, I spent a weekend with, down at Southern Illinois University, where she graduated just a few years ago when we were both there for some activity.

I did student teaching with Melba Pattillo's mother, Mrs. Pattillo, who was a teacher in North Little Rock, Arkansas when I did student teaching.

And so it's been a great move. It's hard to imagine that 50 years ago I was there, but I guess I was, JOHN. It's been a long time, but much has happened since then.

I simply want to congratulate Governor Beebe, the Mayor of Little Rock, all of the elected officials in Little Rock, for the tremendous display of commemoration and celebration that has taken place over these 3 days as they commemorate the tremendous movement. And I agree with Chairman CONYERS in suggesting that not only has Little Rock, but the country has come a long way since 1957. We've made tremendous progress, even though there is much further to go.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. If the gentleman is prepared to close, I will yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself just a minute to close to observe that Arkansas, I have always connected with the former Governor of that State, the former President of this country, Bill Clinton. And I understand he's going to be there tomorrow to cut the ribbon, and I only wish that all of us who will be supporting and voting for this resolution could be there with him.

I think Arkansas has come a long way. They've made a lot of progress, and we're all working to make this a

color-free society, where the content of one's character is far more important and significant than the color of one's skin.

I urge support for Resolution 668 and yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, as we commemorate the 50th anniversary of school desegregation in Arkansas and celebrate nine brave young people and the families that supported them, it is a day of bittersweet reflection because the dreams they sought to fulfill for generations of African Americans remain still not fully realized.

Today, as in 1957, we believe that education will help African Americans to get better jobs and to gain influence in American society. But, 50 years later, the struggle is not over. While in 1957, African American students struggled to get into high schools, today they struggle to stay in school. In describing the current state of education for African Americans, an author stated "burdened with a history that includes the denial of education, separate and unequal education, and religion to unsafe, substandard inner-city schools, the quest for quality education remains an elusive dream for the African American community." The current drop out rate among African American males is estimated at 40 percent, 72 percent are jobless, and the likelihood of being incarcerated is 60 percent. Fifty years later, the playing field is not leveled.

H. Res. 668, not only recognizes the 50th anniversary of that momentous occasion on September 25, 1957, but it also calls for all to commit to continuing the legacy of Brown v. Board of Education and the Little Rock Nine by protecting and advancing equal educational opportunity for all. This would be a great way to honor and continue to pay tribute to heroic actions of the Little Rock Nine. Little Rock Nine opened the door for education but we must continue to close the gap in providing quality education for all.

I urge all of my colleagues to join us in honoring the people who made history on that day, and to also join them and us in working toward the day when there will truly be equal opportunity in education in every part of our Nation.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, on September 25th, our State—and our Nation—will recognize nine brave men and women who, when they were teenagers, came forward to claim their Constitutional right to an equal education despite protests, threats of violence and even the Arkansas National Guard.

I strongly support this legislation which honors not only a red-letter date in our State's history, but a seminal event in the movement to unite our country as truly one people, indivisible.

Fifty years ago, Minnijean Brown, Elizabeth Eckford, Ernest Green, Thelma Mothershed, Melba Pattillo, Gloria Ray, Terrence Roberts, Jefferson Thomas, and Carlotta Walls, climbed the steps of Central High School. Few other moments in our history can compare to the ascent made by the Little Rock Nine. It was an ascent to a new plateau in the relations of Americans to their fellow citizens and a new plateau on the path to the American we now know.

On September 25, 1957, when the Nine made it to the top of those Central High School steps, they stood in a place where, up till that point, others said they could not go.

Then, they did what was, in fact, the most important thing that day: They went inside to learn.

While Central High School will always be the event at the forefront of our memories when it comes to the history of desegregation, it is my hope that, as we remember the Nine, we can also remember the other schools in our State which preceded them, including Fayetteville, Hoxie, and the community of Charleston—who first broke down the barrier in Arkansas on August 23, 1954.

I would also like to remember the names of Joe Ferguson, Jessie Ferguson, Mary Ferguson, Barbara Williams, Robert Williams, Etholia Williams, Time Freeman, Betty Freeman, Myrdle Freeman, Leroy Jones, Raymond Webb, Duty Webb, and Henry Web, who joined their fellow residents of Charleston to bring about peaceful change.

As we spend this day reflecting on our past, we should remember all the brave children, families, and educators across the state who—by their courage—set in motion a chain of events which created the Arkansas of the present and will resonate in the Arkansas of the future.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 668.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CONYERS. 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 motion will be postponed.

DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN ACT OF 2007

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1199) to extend the grant program for drug-endangered children.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1199

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Drug Endangered Children Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. DRUG-ENDANGERED CHILDREN GRANT PROGRAM EXTENDED.

Section 755(c) of the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 3797cc-2(c)) is amended by striking "fiscal years 2006 and 2007" and inserting "fiscal years 2008 and 2009".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Mem-

bers have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 1199 was introduced on February 27 of this year by the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA). Currently, the legislation enjoys the support of 15 additional bipartisan cosponsors.

The measure, on its face, is quite simple and straightforward. It simply extends funding for the Drug Endangered Children Grant Program through fiscal year 2009. The current authorization for the program is set to expire this year.

The Drug Endangered program was first authorized as title VII of the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005, which authorizes up to \$20 million a year for grants to address this problem.

One of the most troubling aspects of drug use is its impact on children. According to the Drug Enforcement Agency, over 15,000 children were found at methamphetamine labs from 2000 to 2004. The problem, however, is not limited to meth abuse. A Health and Human Services study found that over 1.6 million children live in homes where a variety of illicit drugs are used. These drug-infested conditions stretch child welfare agencies beyond their capacities because of the increased violence and neglect.

On February 6, the Crime Subcommittee held a hearing on H.R. 545, the Native American Methamphetamine Enforcement and Treatment Act of 2007, which has been reported by both the Crime Subcommittee and the full Judiciary Committee. A central provision of that bill extends eligibility for drug-endangered children grants to Native American tribes. However, unless the Congress passes H.R. 1199, the authorization for the drug-endangered children grants will expire this year, negating our recent efforts to help Native American children.

With this said, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this much-needed legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1199, the Drug Endangered Children Act of 2007, and commend my colleague from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) for his leadership on this issue.

This legislation extends the existing authorization for grants to State and local governments and Indian tribes to protect and help drug-endangered children. It is a sad consequence of our Nation's drug problem that drug traffickers have such a devastating impact on innocent children who live and play