

respect to H.R. 7112, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Record.

I look forward to the bill's consideration on the floor and hope that it will command the broadest possible support.

Sincerely,

CHARLES B. RANGEL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, September 26, 2008.

Hon. CHARLES B. RANGEL,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 7112, the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2008.

I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation and the mutually agreed upon text that is being presented to the House. I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means. I agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not in any way prejudice the Committee on Ways and Means or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation in the future.

I will ensure that our exchange of letters be included in the Congressional Record.

Cordially,

HOWARD L. BERMAN,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, September 26, 2008.

Hon. HOWARD BERMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing concerning H.R. 7112, the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability and Divestment Act of 2008. This bill was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition, to this Committee, among others.

There is an agreement with regard to this bill, and so in order to expedite floor consideration, I agree to forego further consideration by the Committee on Financial Services. I do so with the understanding that this decision will not prejudice this Committee with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation. I request your support for the appointment of conferees from this Committee should this bill be the subject of a House-Senate conference.

Please place this letter in the Congressional Record when this bill is considered by the House. I look forward to the bill's consideration and hope that it will command the broadest possible support.

BARNEY FRANK,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, September 26, 2008.

Hon. BARNEY FRANK,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 7112, the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2008.

I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation and the mutually agreed upon text that is being presented to the House. I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Financial Services. I agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not in any way prejudice the Committee on Financial Services or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation in the future.

I will ensure that our exchange of letters be included in the Congressional Record.

Cordially,

HOWARD L. BERMAN,
Chairman.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation to increase some sanctions against Iran in response to its ongoing nuclear program. One important provision, which I have fought for in my state of Massachusetts, is to grant State governments the authority to divest their funds from companies investing in Iran's petroleum sector.

But ladies and gentlemen, who are we kidding here? We just passed a bill which will break all the nonproliferation rules for India. And somehow we think doing that won't have any impact on our ability to prevent an Iranian bomb?

These policies are interconnected.

By breaking the rules for India, we're making it less likely that the rules will hold against Iran, or anyone else.

Iran is looking at the U.S.-India Nuclear Deal and they are saying, "Where can I sign up? I want that deal!"

In our efforts to prevent Iran from building nuclear weapons, this bill moves us one step forward, but the India Nuclear Deal takes us 20 steps back.

If you want to prevent an Iranian nuclear bomb, you should vote for this bill, and you must vote against the U.S.-India Nuclear Deal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7112.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECONNECTING HOMELESS YOUTH ACT OF 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 2982) to amend the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act to authorize appropriations, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 2982

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 "Reconnecting Homeless Youth Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Section 302 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) as paragraphs (4), (5), and (6), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

"(3) services to such young people should be developed and provided using a positive

youth development approach that ensures a young person a sense of—

"(A) safety and structure;

"(B) belonging and membership;

"(C) self-worth and social contribution;

"(D) independence and control over one's life; and

"(E) closeness in interpersonal relationships."

SEC. 3. BASIC CENTER PROGRAM.

(a) SERVICES PROVIDED.—Section 311 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5711) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)(B), by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

"(i) safe and appropriate shelter provided for not to exceed 21 days; and"; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) by striking "(2) The" and inserting "(2)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the";

(B) by striking "\$100,000" and inserting "\$200,000";

(C) by striking "\$45,000" and inserting "\$70,000"; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

"(B) For fiscal years 2009 and 2010, the amount allotted under paragraph (1) with respect to a State for a fiscal year shall be not less than the amount allotted under paragraph (1) with respect to such State for fiscal year 2008.

"(C) Whenever the Secretary determines that any part of the amount allotted under paragraph (1) to a State for a fiscal year will not be obligated before the end of the fiscal year, the Secretary shall reallocate such part to the remaining States for obligation for the fiscal year."

(b) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 312(b) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5712(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (11), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in paragraph (12), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(13) shall develop an adequate emergency preparedness and management plan."

SEC. 4. TRANSITIONAL LIVING GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 322(a) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5714-2(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking "directly or indirectly" and inserting "by grant, agreement, or contract"; and

(B) by striking "services" the first place it appears and inserting "provide, by grant, agreement, or contract, services";

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking "a continuous period not to exceed 540 days, except that" and all that follows and inserting the following: "a continuous period not to exceed 540 days, or in exceptional circumstances 635 days, except that a youth in a program under this part who has not reached 18 years of age on the last day of the 635-day period may, in exceptional circumstances and if otherwise qualified for the program, remain in the program until the youth's 18th birthday";

(3) in paragraph (14), by striking "and" at the end;

(4) in paragraph (15), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

"(16) to develop an adequate emergency preparedness and management plan."

(b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 322(c) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5714-2(c)) is amended by—

(1) striking "part, the term" and inserting the following: "part—

"(1) the term";

(2) striking the period and inserting "; and"; and

(3) adding at the end thereof the following: “(2) the term ‘exceptional circumstances’ means circumstances in which a youth would benefit to an unusual extent from additional time in the program.”.

SEC. 5. GRANTS FOR RESEARCH EVALUATION, DEMONSTRATION, AND SERVICE PROJECTS.

Section 343 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5714-23) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—
(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “special consideration” and inserting “priority”;

(B) in paragraph (8)—
(i) by striking “to health” and inserting “to quality health”;

(ii) by striking “mental health care” and inserting “behavioral health care”; and
(iii) by striking “and” at the end;

(C) in paragraph (9), by striking the period at the end and inserting “, including access to educational and workforce programs to achieve outcomes such as decreasing secondary school dropout rates, increasing rates of attaining a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, or increasing placement and retention in postsecondary education or advanced workforce training programs; and”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:
“(10) providing programs, including innovative programs, that assist youth in obtaining and maintaining safe and stable housing, and which may include programs with supportive services that continue after the youth complete the remainder of the programs.”; and

(2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) In selecting among applicants for grants under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

“(1) give priority to applicants who have experience working with runaway or homeless youth; and

“(2) ensure that the applicants selected—
“(A) represent diverse geographic regions of the United States; and

“(B) carry out projects that serve diverse populations of runaway or homeless youth.”.

SEC. 6. COORDINATING, TRAINING, RESEARCH, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.

Part D of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5714-21 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 345. PERIODIC ESTIMATE OF INCIDENCE AND PREVALENCE OF YOUTH HOMELESSNESS.

“(a) PERIODIC ESTIMATE.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Reconnecting Homeless Youth Act of 2008, and at 5-year intervals thereafter, the Secretary, in consultation with the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, and make available to the public, a report—

“(1) by using the best quantitative and qualitative social science research methods available, containing an estimate of the incidence and prevalence of runaway and homeless individuals who are not less than 13 years of age but are less than 26 years of age; and

“(2) that includes with such estimate an assessment of the characteristics of such individuals.

“(b) CONTENT.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include—

“(1) the results of conducting a survey of, and direct interviews with, a representative sample of runaway and homeless individuals who are not less than 13 years of age but are less than 26 years of age, to determine past and current—

“(A) socioeconomic characteristics of such individuals; and

“(B) barriers to such individuals obtaining—

“(i) safe, quality, and affordable housing;

“(ii) comprehensive and affordable health insurance and health services; and

“(iii) incomes, public benefits, supportive services, and connections to caring adults; and

“(2) such other information as the Secretary determines, in consultation with States, units of local government, and national nongovernmental organizations concerned with homelessness, may be useful.

“(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—If the Secretary enters into any contract with a non-Federal entity for purposes of carrying out subsection (a), such entity shall be a nongovernmental organization, or an individual, determined by the Secretary to have appropriate expertise in quantitative and qualitative social science research.”.

SEC. 7. SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM.

Section 351(b) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5714-41(b)) is amended by inserting “public and” after “priority to”.

SEC. 8. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.

Part F of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5714a et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 386 the following:

“SEC. 386A. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Reconnecting Homeless Youth Act of 2008, the Secretary shall issue rules that specify performance standards for public and nonprofit private entities and agencies that receive grants under sections 311, 321, and 351.

“(b) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall consult with representatives of public and nonprofit private entities and agencies that receive grants under this title, including statewide and regional nonprofit organizations (including combinations of such organizations) that receive grants under this title, and national nonprofit organizations concerned with youth homelessness, in developing the performance standards required by subsection (a).

“(c) IMPLEMENTATION OF PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—The Secretary shall integrate the performance standards into the processes of the Department of Health and Human Services for grantmaking, monitoring, and evaluation for programs under sections 311, 321, and 351.”.

SEC. 9. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE STUDY AND REPORT.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study, including making findings and recommendations, relating to the processes for making grants under parts A, B, and E of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5711 et seq., 5714-1 et seq., 5714-41).

(2) SUBJECTS.—In particular, the Comptroller General shall study—

(A) the Secretary’s written responses to and other communications with applicants who do not receive grants under part A, B, or E of such Act, to determine if the information provided in the responses and communications is conveyed clearly;

(B) the content and structure of the grant application documents, and of other associated documents (including grant announcements), to determine if the requirements of the applications and other associated documents are presented and structured in a way that gives an applicant a clear understanding of the information that the applicant must provide in each portion of an ap-

plication to successfully complete it, and a clear understanding of the terminology used throughout the application and other associated documents;

(C) the peer review process for applications for the grants, including the selection of peer reviewers, the oversight of the process by staff of the Department of Health and Human Services, and the extent to which such staff make funding determinations based on the comments and scores of the peer reviewers;

(D) the typical timeframe, and the process and responsibilities of such staff, for responding to applicants for the grants, and the efforts made by such staff to communicate with the applicants when funding decisions or funding for the grants is delayed, such as when funding is delayed due to funding of a program through appropriations made under a continuing resolution; and

(E) the plans for implementation of, and the implementation of, where practicable, the technical assistance and training programs carried out under section 342 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5714-22), and the effect of such programs on the application process for the grants.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate a report containing the findings and recommendations resulting from the study.

SEC. 10. DEFINITIONS.

(a) HOMELESS YOUTH.—Section 387(3) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5732a(3)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “The” and all that follows through “means” and inserting “The term ‘homeless’, used with respect to a youth, means”; and

(2) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) in clause (i)—

(i) by striking “not more than” each place it appears and inserting “less than”; and

(ii) by inserting after “age” the last place it appears the following: “, or is less than a higher maximum age if the State where the center is located has an applicable State or local law (including a regulation) that permits such higher maximum age in compliance with licensure requirements for child- and youth-serving facilities”; and

(B) in clause (ii), by striking “age;” and inserting the following: “age and either—

“(I) less than 22 years of age; or

“(II) not less than 22 years of age, as of the expiration of the maximum period of stay permitted under section 322(a)(2) if such individual commences such stay before reaching 22 years of age;”.

(b) RUNAWAY YOUTH.—Section 387 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5732a) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (5), (6), (7), and (8), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) RUNAWAY YOUTH.—The term ‘runaway’, used with respect to a youth, means an individual who is less than 18 years of age and who absents himself or herself from home or a place of legal residence without the permission of a parent or legal guardian.”.

SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 388(a) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5751(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “is authorized” and inserting “are authorized”;

(B) by striking “part E” \$105,000,000 for fiscal year 2004” and inserting “section 345 and part E” \$140,000,000 for fiscal year 2009”; and

(C) by striking “2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008” and inserting “2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013”;

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking “In” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In”;

(B) by inserting “(other than section 345)” before the period; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) PERIODIC ESTIMATE.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 345 such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013.”; and

(3) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by striking “is authorized” and inserting “are authorized”;

(B) by striking “such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008” and inserting “\$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2009 and such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013”.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Education and Labor be discharged from further consideration of H. Res. 870, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 870

Whereas the Baltimore campus of the University of Maryland was founded in 1807;

Whereas the School of Medicine was established in 1807, which makes it the first public and the fifth oldest medical school in the United States and the first to institute a residency training program in 1823;

Whereas the School of Medicine is the founding school at the University of Maryland and is an integral part of the 11-campus University System of Maryland;

Whereas at the University of Maryland in Baltimore, the School of Medicine serves as the foundation for a large academic health center that combines medical education, biomedical research, patient care, and community service;

Whereas the University of Maryland School of Medicine is dedicated to providing excellence in biomedical education, basic and clinical research, quality patient care, and service to improve the health of the citizens of Maryland and beyond;

Whereas the School of Medicine is committed to the education and training of M.D., Ph.D., graduate, physical therapy, rehabilitation science, and medical research technology students;

Whereas the University of Maryland School of Medicine has played a crucial role in helping to meet Maryland's health care needs and continues to recruit and develop faculty to serve as exemplary role models for students;

Whereas in 1823, the medical school became the first teaching hospital in the Nation with the construction of the Baltimore Infirmary; and

Whereas the University of Maryland School of Medicine has a legacy that has established a tradition of academic excellence, outstanding patient care, and ground-breaking research: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the 200th Anniversary of the University of Maryland School of Medicine;

(2) recognizes the achievements of the University of Maryland, Baltimore, and the School of Medicine in training local, State, and world leaders; and

(3) recognizes the achievements of the University of Maryland School of Medicine for outstanding work in the community.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL STEP UP FOR KIDS DAY

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Education and Labor be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 1430) expressing support for the goals of the National Step Up For Kids Day by promoting national awareness of the needs of the children, youth, and families of the United States, celebrating children, and expressing the need to make their future and well-being a national priority, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1430

Whereas there are approximately 73 million children in the United States;

Whereas nine million children are without health insurance and do not receive timely or comprehensive medical attention;

Whereas three million children are reported abused or neglected each year, thousands of whom are killed or severely injured;

Whereas more than 13 million children and youth live below the poverty level;

Whereas millions of children and youth are unsupervised at the end of the school day and would benefit from participation in quality after school programs;

Whereas millions of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers lack access to affordable, high-quality early care, and education;

Whereas safe, nurturing, and stimulating experiences in the first years of life promote school-readiness, future academic success, and other positive social outcomes; and

Whereas the future success, health, prosperity, and security of our Nation depend on an educated, healthy, and secure citizenry, all of which is founded in childhood: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes that wise investments in children will lead to a better-educated citizenry and a more competitive workforce in the United States;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of the National Step Up For Kids Day;

(3) recognizes that every child matters; and

(4) encourages the citizens of the United States to make children, youth, and families a priority throughout the year.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ESTABLISHING NATIONAL HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Education and Labor be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 135) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week should be established, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 135

Whereas there are 103 historically Black colleges and universities in the United States;

Whereas historically Black colleges and universities provide the quality education essential to full participation in a complex, highly technological society;

Whereas historically Black colleges and universities have a rich heritage and have played a prominent role in the history of the United States;

Whereas historically Black colleges and universities have allowed many underprivileged students to attain their full potential through higher education; and

Whereas the achievements and goals of historically Black colleges and universities are deserving of national recognition: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the achievements and goals of historically Black colleges and universities in the United States;

(2) supports the designation of an appropriate week as “National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week”; and

(3) requests the President to issue a proclamation designating such a week, and calling on the people of the United States and interested groups to observe such week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for historically Black colleges and universities.

The resolution was agreed to.

AMENDMENT TO THE PREAMBLE OFFERED BY MR. ANDREWS

Mr. ANDREWS. I have an amendment to the preamble at the desk.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment to the preamble offered by ANDREWS:

In the preamble, in the first whereas clause, strike “103” and insert “105”.

The amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.