

indicated their willingness to be bound by it. The ATOMAL Agreement with respect to the New Parties meets the requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended. While the ATOMAL Agreement continues in force with respect to the United States and the other current parties to it, it will not become effective as an agreement for cooperation authorizing the exchange of atomic information with respect to the New Parties until completion of procedures prescribed by sections 123 and 144 b. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

For more than 40 years, the ATOMAL Agreement has served as the framework within which NATO and the other NATO members that have become parties to this agreement have received the information that is necessary to an understanding and knowledge of and participation in the political and strategic consensus upon which the collective military capacity of the Alliance depends. This agreement permits only the transfer of atomic information, not weapons, nuclear material, or equipment. Participation in the ATOMAL Agreement will give Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia the same standing within the Alliance with regard to nuclear matters as that of the other current parties to the ATOMAL Agreement. This is important for the cohesiveness of the Alliance and will enhance its effectiveness.

I have considered the views and recommendations of the Department of Defense and other interested agencies in reviewing the ATOMAL Agreement and have determined that its performance, including the proposed cooperation and the proposed communication of Restricted Data thereunder, with respect to the New Parties will promote, and will not constitute an unreasonable risk to, the common defense and security. Accordingly, I have approved the ATOMAL Agreement with respect to the New Parties and authorized the Department of Defense to cooperate with the New Parties in the context of NATO upon satisfaction of the requirements of section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

The 60-day continuous session period provided for in section 123 begins upon receipt of this submission.

GEORGE W. BUSH,
THE WHITE HOUSE, January 9, 2009.

□ 1415

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH 2009

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 41) supporting the goals and ideals of National Mentoring Month 2009.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 41

Whereas mentoring is a longstanding concept in which a dependable, caring adult provides guidance, support, and encouragement to facilitate a young person's social, emotional, and cognitive development;

Whereas research on mentoring shows that formal, high quality mentoring focused on developing the competence and character of the mentee, promotes positive outcomes such as improved academic achievement, self-esteem, social skills, and career development;

Whereas research on mentoring also indicates strong evidence of the success in reducing substance use and abuse, academic failure, and delinquency;

Whereas mentoring, in addition to preparing young people for school, work, and life, is also extremely rewarding for those serving as mentors;

Whereas more than 4,200 mentoring programs in communities of all sizes across the United States focus on building strong, effective relationships between mentors and mentees;

Whereas 3,000,000 young Americans are currently in solid mentoring relationships due to the remarkable vigor, creativity, and resourcefulness of the thousands of mentoring programs in communities throughout the Nation;

Whereas in spite of the progress made to increase mentoring, our Nation has a serious "mentoring gap" with nearly 15,000,000 young people currently in need of mentors;

Whereas public-private mentoring partnerships bring State and local leaders together to support mentoring programs by preventing duplication of efforts, offering training in industry best practices, and helping them make the most of limited resources to benefit the Nation's youth;

Whereas the designation of January 2009 as National Mentoring Month will help call attention to the critical role mentors play in helping young people realize their potential;

Whereas the month-long celebration of mentoring will encourage more individuals and organizations, including schools, businesses, nonprofit organizations, faith institutions, and foundations, to become engaged in mentoring across our Nation;

Whereas National Mentoring Month will, most significantly, build awareness of mentoring and encourage more people to become mentors and help close the Nation's mentoring gap; and

Whereas the President issued a proclamation declaring January 2009 to be National Mentoring Month and calling on the people of the United States to recognize the importance of mentoring: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of a National Mentoring Month;

(2) recognizes with gratitude the contributions of millions of caring adults and students who are already volunteering as mentors and encourages more individuals to volunteer as mentors; and

(3) encourages the people of our Nation to promote the awareness of, and to volunteer involvement with, youth mentoring.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 41 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 41, which recognizes January as National Mentoring Month.

Today, we acknowledge and thank the millions of caring adults and students who are volunteering as mentors. I commend their generous efforts. National Mentoring Month also serves as a great opportunity to recruit additional mentor volunteers.

I would also like to recognize the tremendous leadership of the resolution's author, Congresswoman SUSAN DAVIS from California, on the issue of mentoring. She is a true champion and advocate for mentoring on the Education and Labor Committee. She reminds us that everyone can benefit from a mentoring relationship: young, old, students, teachers, and, yes, even Members of Congress and other public servants. Mentors can help us realize our full potential.

Mentors directly improve the lives of those who need a little extra guidance. Research consistently proves that mentors bolster academic achievement, self-esteem, social skills, and career development. In addition to these positive outcomes, mentoring reduces delinquency, substance abuse, and academic failure. Mentoring transcends the lives of our children. The importance of mentoring teaches young people that a better life is attainable through education.

Today, there are about 4,200 mentoring programs in communities all across this country. Some of these programs run out of national boys and girls clubs, YMCAs, Big Brother and Big Sister organizations, and hundreds of other nonprofit organizations. In my own congressional district, the VAMOS program and our local boys and girls clubs are exemplary programs which have provided thousands of youths with mentors. I am proud to celebrate their work during National Mentoring Month.

The mentoring programs throughout this Nation make a great difference in improving the lives of our youth. Through their efforts, 3 million young people report having quality mentor