

a central body in each state to be responsible for receiving and investigating allegations of sexual misconduct by school employees; and it creates a nationwide database of school employees sanctioned by the state for sexual misconduct—thus enabling state, local, and private school officials to ensure offenders remain out of the classroom.

Accounts of teacher sexual misconduct have inundated headlines across our country. In 2004, a study required by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 reported that an estimated 4.5 million children are subject to sexual misconduct by a school employee sometime between kindergarten and 12th grade—that's nearly 1 in 10 students that are targets of sexual misconduct during their school career. As far as I'm concerned, that's one too many.

Further, a 2007 seven-month Associated Press investigation found a total of 2,570 educators across the nation were punished for sexual misconduct from 2001–2005, representing about a quarter of all educator misconduct cases in that time period.

More than a dozen states have considered legislation to strengthen laws for screening and reporting of sexual misconduct by educators last year—many of which became law. However, without adopting systematic policies and procedures at the national level all states remain vulnerable when hiring school employees from states with mediocre reporting procedures and lackluster ethical standards. Our classrooms deserve much more than a piecemeal effort that leaves our nation's schools exposed to predators moving from state to state.

Ernie Allen, President and CEO of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children said, "This Act brings long-overdue recognition to the problem of child sexual exploitation in the school system."

It is abundantly clear that the system we have in place has failed our students—repeatedly. Before we read about another teacher assaulting yet another student or another classroom shaken by another breach of trust, now—not later—let us give schools the tools they need to keep repeat sexual offenders from preying on students within the very institutions that should be a safe-haven for our children.

We have a unique opportunity before us to empower educators and parents nationwide and make it crystal clear we will not allow those who would prey on young, vulnerable minds to compromise the integrity of our school system and tarnish an honorable profession. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation, ensuring the safety of our children.

#### PEACE CORPS WEEK

### HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2009*

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate National Peace Corps Week and the 48th anniversary of the Peace Corps.

While much has changed in the world since the Peace Corps was created in 1961, its goals and ideals of promoting goodwill remain. Volunteers continue to provide invaluable services in over 70 countries, serving as educators, technology consultants, environmental specialists, and business advisors.

At a time when extremism is sweeping through much of the globe, more than ever, we need these dedicated individuals.

As the former chairman of the House Subcommittee on Africa, I have had the opportunity to meet with several Peace Corps Volunteers around the continent. The commitment these men and women have shown is extremely impressive and is to be commended.

These Americans, approximately 7,800 of them, are serving their country in often extremely difficult conditions. They live at the same level of the people they serve, and uniquely connect with them. Since its inception, over 195,000 Volunteers have worked in over 139 countries.

In my district, I'm proud to say that I have thirteen Peace Corps Volunteers, stationed around the world. Christina Balch in Lesotho, Joan Bash in Bulgaria, Joseph Flores in Macedonia, Mamie Florin in Gambia, Wendy Jones in Kenya, Olenka Langen in Nicaragua, Justin Lee in the Dominican Republic, Dulce Martinez in China, Lacey Monson in Thailand, Carmen Munoz in Guatemala, Joan Ngo in Paraguay, Stacey Ngo in the Dominican Republic, and Leala Ruangtragool in Honduras, are each to be commended for their service.

Madam Speaker, I have seen the valuable work the Peace Corps is doing in Africa, and throughout the world. It deserves our recognition and support.

#### A TRIBUTE TO ABISHEK JAIN

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Abishek Jain, a student at Falls Church High School in Falls Church, VA and recipient of this year's In Hope Freedom Rings Foundation Scholarship.

AJ has earned a reputation as a mindful and mature leader in his community. He is president of the Falls Church High School Science Club, which he founded in the 10th grade, and through which he founded, planned, and operated the school's first successful school recycling program. Today this program is staffed by 30 volunteers and has 200 collection locations.

He is a devoted scholar. His current overall grade point average is 3.86 and this semester he is enrolled in four Advanced Placement courses. He further contributes to the intellectual life of his school as President of the National Math Honor Society and Treasurer of the National Spanish Honor Society. In furthering his studies as an undergraduate AJ plans to pursue a degree in engineering.

AJ's studies are balanced by his athletic and artistic endeavors. He is a member of the Varsity Tennis and Indoor Track Teams and is a former member of the Varsity Swim and Dive Team and Junior Varsity Golf Team. In addition, he has a genuine passion for the violin, which he has played for the past nine years. In this capacity he is a member and former vice-president of the Chamber Orchestra.

AJ still finds time to volunteer in the community beyond his school. He has spent many hours over the past four years working at the Bailey's Crossroads' Homeless Shelter where

he is a coordinator charged with gathering food and volunteers to feed the area's homeless.

His school counselor notes, "What impresses me most about AJ is how grounded he is. He pushes himself to achieve, yet is also aware of his limitations. Since elementary school he has been involved with a cultural organization, the Chinmaya Mission. It is here where AJ has developed a spiritual sense and wisdom beyond his years."

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending AJ for setting such a strong example in his community.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

### HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2009*

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I secured as part of H.R. 1105, Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009.

Requesting Member: Congressman GEOFF DAVIS

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Justice—Byrne Discretionary Grants

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Buffalo Trace/Gateway Narcotics Task Force

Address of Requesting Entity: 908 Kenton Station Drive, Maysville, KY 41056

Description of Request: Appropriate \$280,000 to continue the operations of the Buffalo Trace/Gateway Narcotics Task Force to collect, analyze and process information through an organized, coordinated investigation, with the assistance of local, State, and federal agencies, to discourage and eliminate the use and sale of illegal narcotics.

The Task Force will benefit law enforcement in the investigation of all types of crimes related to drug trafficking and drug abuse which may include thefts, robberies and homicides. Local law enforcement does not have the funds to strengthen and investigate drug related crimes in some of our communities.

The Task Force will impact the drug abuse and drug related deaths in the ten county area in which it covers, as well as provide the offender's with treatment and recovery. Local governments and law enforcement agencies provide matching funds to support operations of the task force.

Requesting Member: Congressman GEOFF DAVIS

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Justice—Byrne Discretionary Grants

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Oldham County Sheriff's Office

Address of Requesting Entity: 100 W. Jefferson Street, La Grange, KY 40031

Description of Request: Appropriate \$90,000 to acquire upgraded equipment to assist the Sheriff's Department in responding to a variety of law enforcement situations within the community. Needed equipment includes: dual antenna radar units, handheld radar units, Mobile Data Terminals, tazers, four wheel drive police vehicle, GPS positioning units, PD6500 security scanner, and other appropriate equipment