

for taking on this important and necessary reform.

Hillel has continued to promote AIDS Awareness and interfaith understanding, and has been at the forefront of educating campuses about Israel, an ally of the United States. Such wide reaching tenets of social reform are to be commended, applauded and recognized. H. Res. 493 achieves all three.

In further promulgation of tolerance and respect, Hillel has helped to provide students with the tools to combat anti-Semitism on campus; and Hillel continues to contribute enormously to civil society by providing service-learning opportunities for thousands of students in the United States and abroad.

I stand here today, as a supporter of Hillel's mission of service and education to Jewish college students and beyond, and as a partner with college campus communities, and I congratulate the students, lay leaders, and professionals who are part of the Hillel movement on reaching its milestone 85th birthday.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 493.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING CONTRIBUTIONS OF FATHERS

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 428) recognizing the immeasurable contributions of fathers in the healthy development of children, supporting responsible fatherhood, and encouraging greater involvement of fathers in the lives of their children, especially on Father's Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 428

Whereas fathers factor significantly in the lives of children;

Whereas fathers play an important role in teaching their children life lessons and preparing them to succeed in school and in life;

Whereas children with involved fathers are more likely to do well in school, have a better sense of well-being, and have fewer behavioral problems;

Whereas supportive fathers promote the positive physical, social, emotional, moral, and mental development of children;

Whereas promoting responsible fatherhood can help increase the chances that children will grow up with two caring parents;

Whereas, when fathers are actively involved in the upbringing of children, the children demonstrate greater self-control and a greater ability to take initiative;

Whereas responsible fatherhood can help reduce child poverty;

Whereas responsible fatherhood strengthens families and communities; and

Whereas Father's Day is the third Sunday in June: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the millions of fathers who serve as a wonderful, caring parent for their children;

(2) calls on fathers across the United States to use Father's Day to reconnect and rededicate themselves to their children's lives, to spend Father's Day with their children, and to express their love and support for their children;

(3) urges men to understand the level of responsibility fathering a child requires, especially in the encouragement of the mental, moral, social, academic, emotional, physical, and spiritual development of children; and

(4) encourages active involvement of fathers in the rearing and development of their children, including the devotion of time, energy, and resources.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 428 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 428, which recognizes the immeasurable contributions fathers make in the healthy development of children. On June 21, our Nation will celebrate Father's Day. Many times fathers know just what to say at the most delicate times in our lives. They encourage their children to do their best and show them their dreams are possible. Fortunately, involved fathers can help prepare children to succeed in school, enhance children's emotional development, and reduce childhood poverty. By playing a significant role in the lives of children, active fathers provide additional support for children to succeed.

Fathers create great memories with their children. By going to ball games, ballet recitals, school events, and other similar activities, fathers can generate lasting memories for their kids. Fathers, as role models and mentors, help youth reach their potential.

Unfortunately, many children grow up without fathers. Actually, 25 million children, one out of three, grow up in homes in which their biological fathers do not live. These children are significantly more likely to live in poverty, drop out of school, and engage in risky behavior.

It's imperative that our Nation support parents in their efforts to raise their children. Parenting is an essential part of a child's development, and both mothers and fathers should be best equipped to raise their children.

Today, home visiting programs are great ways to inform parents about the resources they have available. These programs work closely with parents to help fathers and mothers support their children's development.

H. Res. 428 commends the millions of fathers who serve as a wonderful, caring parent for their children. As Father's Day approaches on June 21, this legislation asks fathers to take time out to reconnect with their children. Father's Day can be used to express love and support for their children.

I also want to note that my wife, Andrea, and my daughter, Patricia, are here in the House gallery today. My son, Jesse, will be here soon as well. Celebrating Father's Day with the three of them here in Washington will make the holiday especially meaningful for me this year, and I am grateful to have this time to spend with my children.

Let us celebrate Father's Day and recognize our Nation's great fathers who, every day, are making important contributions in the lives of their children.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I express my support of House Resolution 428, wish fathers across this country a very happy Father's Day, and acknowledge the importance of fathers in the United States.

I want to thank Representative MCINTYRE for bringing this resolution forward.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 428, which recognizes the immeasurable contributions of fathers in the healthy development of children, supporting reasonable and responsible fatherhood, and encouraging greater involvement of fathers in the lives of their children, especially on Father's Day.

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Here is a quote: "One father is more than a hundred schoolmasters."

George Herbert, the English clergyman and poet, made this statement hundreds of years ago, but it still rings true today. The presence of a father is one of the most important factors in a child's life. In fact, research has consistently shown that the presence of two committed, involved parents directly contributes to better academic performance, reduced substance abuse, less crime and delinquency, fewer emotional and other behavioral problems, less risk of abuse or neglect, and a lower risk of teen suicide.

Research conducted by the National Fatherhood Initiative shows that 24 million children do not live with their biological fathers, that nearly 20 million live in single-parent households and that about 40 percent of children in father-absent homes have not seen their fathers at all in the past year; 26 percent of absent fathers live in different States than their children, and

50 percent of children living absent their fathers have never set foot in their fathers' homes.

These figures are sobering and serve to remind us all of the importance of promoting fatherhood in the country. Our communities, churches and families must work to ensure that every child in the United States grows up with the love, involvement and commitment of a responsible father.

Fathers also have a responsibility to set aside quality time with their children in ways that can contribute to the well-being of their sons and daughters. Fathers need to realize that the time they spend with their children is really an investment in them. While each father is a unique person who parents in his own style, there are some characteristics that good fathers have in common.

We all know that fathers play a significant role in shaping the characters of their children. By spending time with their sons and daughters, being stern yet fair disciplinarians and by listening to their experiences, fathers mold and shape children into the men and women the children will become. As advisers and role models, fathers help their children to understand the difference between right and wrong and how the decisions they make today can affect the rest of their lives. By demonstrating true leadership, fathers instill important values and prepare their children for the challenges and opportunities ahead. Their love and devotion inspire the future generation of Americans to achieve their dreams and demonstrate the true spirit of our country.

A father is one of the most important influences in a child's life. I want to commend the millions of fathers who are wonderful, caring parents to their children. I also want to challenge those who are not to reconnect and to rededicate themselves to their children's lives. I urge all fathers to understand the level of responsibility they have emotionally, physically and spiritually. On Father's Day and every day, we honor our fathers and celebrate them.

I am honored to rise today to support this resolution. I ask my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, does the gentlewoman from Washington have any further speakers?

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. No, I do not.

Does the gentleman have anymore speakers?

Mr. SABLAN. No, I do not.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional requests for time. I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to commend the gentlewoman from Washington for such eloquent statements about fathers, which brings

back this close memory of my father, who is 8,000 miles away at this time. I will call him up after this, later on today.

I have no further speakers. I do encourage everyone to please support H. Res. 428.

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 428, a resolution that recognizes the immeasurable contributions of fathers in the healthy development of children, supports responsible fatherhood, and encourages greater involvement of fathers in the lives of their children, especially on Father's Day.

Six days from now, our nation will celebrate the special place that fathers have in our country.

From helping with homework to playing ball to reading a book to offering advice and support and to just listening, each and every day fathers of all ages contribute to the mental, moral, and spiritual development of children, teenagers, and adults.

According to the National Fatherhood Initiative, children with involved, loving fathers are significantly more likely to do well in school, have a healthy self esteem, exhibit empathy and good behavior, and avoid high risk activity such as drug use and criminal activity.

H. Res. 428 recognizes the commitment of fathers, and the wonderful work that both parents do on behalf of their kids, and I encourage my colleagues to join with us as we all recommit ourselves to being the best father we can to children everywhere.

And in conclusion, I would like to publicly thank my father for the great example he has been to me and for the dedication and support he has shown in my every endeavor.

It is because of his support and love that I have been a devoted son to my father who taught me so much, as well as finding great joy in being a committed father of two.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 428.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PHYLICIA'S LAW

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 729) to help keep students safe on school-run, overnight, off-premises field trips, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 729

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 "Phylicia's Law".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Students achieve their full academic potential when they have the ability to learn in a safe and secure environment.

(2) Off-campus school trips comprise an integral part of the educational experience for our Nation's students. Each year millions of students enjoy these trips, which provide them with invaluable learning opportunities outside the classroom.

(3) There exists no Federal law requiring public schools to develop safety plans for off-premises, overnight, school-sponsored trips.

SEC. 3. SCHOOL SAFETY PLAN.

(a) REQUIREMENTS FOR LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—Each local educational agency that receives funds under part A of title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.) shall develop and make publicly available a written school safety policy for off-premises, overnight field trips.

(b) GUIDANCE FROM SECRETARY OF EDUCATION.—Congress encourages the Secretary of Education to provide guidance to local educational agencies described in subsection (a) by taking the steps necessary, such as hosting a conference of interested parties, to assist in developing a model school safety policy that meets the requirements described in such subsection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 729 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands?

There was no objection.

Mr. SABLAN. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 729, which is a bill that helps keeps students safe on school-run, overnight, off-premises field trips.

In April 2007, Phylicia Moore, a high school senior, died while participating in a field trip in Ghana. Her death, ruled an accident by authorities in Ghana, is undergoing further investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The tragedy of Phylicia's death exposed a flaw in the system, and it has served as a reminder of the importance of having procedures in place when students participate in overnight field trips.

The legislation put forward today will go a long way towards keeping students safe. This bill requires school districts to receive money through the Safe and Drug-Free Schools program to develop and make public school safety policy for off-premises, overnight field trips. The bill would further encourage the Secretary of Education to develop model school safety plans and to disseminate those best practices to school districts.

Trips, like the one that Phylicia took to Ghana, are intended to change students' lives for the better. It is important to expose our young people to