

led her school to improve its Academic Performance Index by 129 points, far exceeding the growth targets set by the state department.

Principal Bonaccorsi came to Durham Elementary School with experience as a classroom teacher, literacy coach, and district administrator. With a supportive staff and team of dedicated teachers, she has led an impressive improvement path for her students, a third of whom are from low-income families. James Morris, Fremont's superintendent of schools, praised Principal Teresa Bonaccorsi for leading the quick turnaround. "When Teresa became principal, she got the staff on board, and they have done an incredible job," he said. "You feel the pride in that school when you go there for what they've accomplished."

It is essential to note that Principal Bonaccorsi would not have been able to reach this achievement without the support of the teachers, staff, parents, and the students themselves. It is evident that Principal Bonaccorsi has had a vast array of support, and everyone associated with the school should feel a sense of pride for working together to achieve success.

And I too could not be more proud of Durham Elementary's accomplishments. When the school was included on the Program Improvement list, parents had the option to move their children to another school, but they gave Mrs. Bonaccorsi a chance to turn the school around and I am happy they did. I have been a longtime advocate for equity and improvement in our public school system; I am honored to have such dedicated individuals in my district who exemplify those same goals. Principal Bonaccorsi is undeniably such an individual and I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating her and her school on this prestigious award.

IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL
ADOPTION MONTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of National Adoption Month because family is a fundamental American value.

Family makes us who we are. Family provides us support and it provides us with a strong sense of belonging.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, there are thousands of children across the United States who are alone and do not know family. According to the most recent Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) report which provides government statistics for FY 2011, there are 104,000 children and youth currently in foster care who are waiting for permanent families.

Mr. Speaker, raising awareness about adoption has been the focus of politicians for many decades. In 1976, Governor Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts announced an Adoption Week to promote awareness of the need for adoptive families for children in foster care. In 1984, President Reagan proclaimed the first National Adoption Week. Seventeen years ago, in 1995, President Bill Clinton expanded the awareness week to the entire month of November.

During National Adoption Month, we are granted the opportunity to continue our efforts to promote and raise awareness about adoption.

Today, we are making every effort to use the Internet and social media in adoption recruitment.

Mr. Speaker, this month, we place particular attention on the youth and children looking for families and on the families looking to adopt. Our goal for the month of November is to put special emphasis on uniting youth and adoptive parents as happy, permanent families.

I am a proud supporter of the Affordable Care Act which improved adoption credit. The Affordable Care Act raised the maximum adoption credit to \$13,360 per child, up from \$13,170 in 2010 and \$12,150 in 2009. The adoption tax credit was refundable for tax year 2011, meaning that eligible taxpayers receive it even if they owe no tax for that year. In general, the credit is based on the reasonable and necessary expenses related to a legal adoption, including adoption fees, court costs, attorney's fees and travel expenses.

I am also a proud member of the adoption caucus.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of National Adoption Month. I also urge you to join me in supporting the Affordable Care Act and in becoming a member of the adoption caucus.

IN MEMORY OF DR. WILLIAM
O'NEILL OF LONG BEACH, CALI-
FORNIA

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of Dr. William "Bill" O'Neill, a legendary educator and husband of Beverly O'Neill, one of the most popular and effective mayors in Long Beach history. Dr. O'Neill spent his entire life contributing to the vibrancy and intellectual wealth of the Long Beach community. He passed away peacefully on October 24, 2012 at the age of 81, surrounded by his loved ones.

Dr. O'Neill was born and raised in Long Beach, California, where he attended Long Beach Poly High School and met his wife of sixty years. They later attended Long Beach City College and California State University, Long Beach. Together, they had a daughter, Teresa, and became proud grandparents to her son, Nolan.

Besides being a proud family man, Dr. O'Neill was also a brilliant and leading figure in California's higher education system. He taught at the University of Southern California for 32 years and served as president of the National American Education Studies Organization. He authored over 75 scholarly articles and published 8 books focusing on the philosophy of education.

As a city councilwoman, I had the distinct pleasure of serving Long Beach alongside Dr. O'Neill's wife, Mayor Beverly O'Neill. It was an honor to get to know Dr. O'Neill and his beautiful family, and I have always been personally moved by his commitment to his loved ones and his pride in their many accomplishments. I hope that the memories of his love will provide comfort during this difficult time.

Mr. Speaker, with the passing of Dr. O'Neill, our community has lost a great man. I extend my deepest condolences to his family and friends, and I ask my colleagues to join me in a moment of silence to honor his memory.