

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member rises today to express his strong support for H.R. 4055, the IDEA Full Funding Act of 2000, of which he is a cosponsor.

Within his home state of Nebraska, the number of children enrolled in special education programs has risen 3,700 students from 1995–1999, a nine percent increase. To continue supporting these increasing numbers, we must fulfill the commitment by Congress made in 1975, prior to my service in the U.S. House to fund IDEA at 40 percent. This is a classic and very damaging unfunded mandate.

Currently the Federal Government is funding an average of 12.6 percent of the per-pupil expenditure for children with disabilities. The other 27.4 percent of our unfilled promise is a burden that state and local governments are having to include in their budgets. This Member has said for many years now that the one significant way that Congress can help decrease property taxes for my Nebraska constituents is to keep the promise to provide 40 percent of the costs of special education.

Nebraska is currently facing teacher shortages and has among the lowest teacher salaries in the country and yet continues to produce top-ranked students. By meeting this commitment and fully funding IDEA, Nebraska could use its state and local dollars to meet the needs of attracting and maintaining quality teachers or direct dollars to programs the local school districts deem to be priorities, such as school modernization, curriculum improvement or more advanced technology.

Mr. Speaker, this Member encourages his colleagues to meet our commitments and phase-up that 40 percent by the year 2010. Support the IDEA Full Funding Act of 2000.

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania and my colleagues from the Education and Workforce Committee for their leadership on this issue.

The IDEA program was developed as a partnership, uniting local and federal education funds for students with disabilities. Under this program, the federal government committed to funding up to 40 percent of the average cost of educating disabled students.

Sadly, over the lifetime of this bill, the government has never contributed more than about 12 percent of the average. The time has come for Congress to pay its fair share in this long unfunded mandate.

Despite the federal government's two-decade old commitment to educating disabled students, Congress has never once funded its full share, leaving local and state educators to scramble for funds to pay for special education programs.

The result has been an unnecessary and unfair competition, pitting the funding needs of disabled students against the needs of students in traditional programs. In turn this has spurred excessive litigation resulting in exorbitant costs for local educators. By failing to meet its original commitment, the federal government has put local educators in a financial catch-22. The bill we support will aid in ending this crisis, and enact much needed reforms in the IDEA program.

H.R. 4055, the Individuals with Disabilities Full Funding Act will guarantee that the federal government keeps its commitment to support local education programs for students with disabilities, and authorize the federal government to fund the full 40 percent of the cost of local programs for students with disabilities.

The IDEA Full Funding Act will authorize approximately \$7 billion in FY 2001 and expand this allocation by \$2 billion per year over the next decade. It is a necessary measure and will help the federal government maintain its commitment to provide a quality education to disabled students.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the long-overdue proposal, and thank the gentleman for his leadership on this vital issue.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that today the House of Representatives is rising above partisan politics to address a matter of utmost importance. Be it urban, rural, small or large, every school district in our country is suffering because the federal government had not made good on its 1975 commitment to fund 40 percent of education costs for special needs students.

I commend Chairman GOODLING for bringing this bill to the floor, and for his commitment to fully fund IDEA by 2010. Fulfilling our commitment to our special needs students is absolutely the right thing to do.

I would like, however, to challenge this House today. I'll take this bill and raise you one. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 4090, a bill introduced by Representative VITTER of Louisiana. This bill would fulfill our commitment to our schools and our children in two years. I know this is an ambitious goal, but I think 25 years of unfulfilled promises is long enough. So does Representative VITTER. I am one of a group of cosponsors from both sides of the aisle who think our government should step up to the plate and make good on its promise.

I urge my colleagues to pass this bill today. And tomorrow we should come to this floor and pass H.R. 4090, the IDEA Keeping our Commitment Act. It's the right thing to do and it's about time.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, my goal in Congress has been the promotion of livable communities. A community that is safe, healthy and economically secure must view educating our children as a priority. The well-being of our families depends upon the health of our schools.

In the 94th Congress, we mandated—appropriately—that there would be special education access for children with severe learning disabilities. Along with that mandate came a promise that the federal government would pay 40 percent of the cost. This too was appropriate, for these children are the most difficult and expensive to educate. Unfortunately, the federal government has not met this important commitment. Funding has fallen as low as 9 percent, and currently, we fund only 12.6 percent of the average per pupil expenditure to assist children with disabilities. As a result, the financial burden has fallen on local districts.

I am proud to support H.R. 4055, the IDEA Full Funding Act, which addresses the critical issue of assistance for the children whose needs are the greatest. This bill authorizes increases of \$2 billion a year to meet the federal commitment of 40 percent by the year 2010. I have cosponsored similar legislation because programs such as IDEA offer the chance to improve the lives of more disabled people than ever before.

Livable communities are for all of us, not just a select few. The federal government should lead by example in offering the best

possible education to our nation's disabled children.

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4055, the IDEA Full Funding Act. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this important legislation.

It is high time the federal government kept its statutory commitment to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA).

In 1975, the Federal Government mandated that all states provide Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to all children with disabilities by 1978. This law established a federal commitment to provide funding aid at 40 percent of the average pupil expenditures to assist with the excess costs of educating students with disabilities.

Unfortunately, annual appropriations for IDEA have not even come close to the 40 percent level! Before Republicans took control of the Congress in 1995, the federal government was only paying 7 percent of the average per pupil expenditure. We are now paying 12.6 percent of the cost, but this still is not enough.

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) estimates that almost \$16 billion would be needed to fully fund Part B of IDEA. The FY2000 appropriations for Part B was \$6 billion, leaving State and local governments with an unfunded mandate of nearly \$10 billion.

Local school districts currently spend on average 20 percent of their budgets on special education services. Much of this goes to pay the unpaid Federal share of the mandate.

Passing H.R. 4055 would be a giant step closer to our goal of fulfilling the promise. If the federal government would keep its commitment, this money could be used to hire and train more high quality teachers, reduce class size, build and renovate classrooms, and invest in technology.

We must improve the education our children receive. A good way to do this is to show a strong federal commitment to education by fully funding IDEA and passing H.R. 4055, the IDEA Full Funding Act.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4055.

The question was taken.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

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GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4055.

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

There was no objection.

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PAMELA B. GWIN HALL

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the

bill (H.R. 1729) to designate the Federal facility located at 1301 Emmet Street in Charlottesville, Virginia, as the "Pamela B. Gwin Hall."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1729

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF PAMELA B. GWIN HALL.

The Federal facility located at 1301 Emmet Street in Charlottesville, Virginia, shall be known and designated as the "Pamela B. Gwin Hall".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Pamela B. Gwin Hall".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1729 designates the Federal facility in Charlottesville, Virginia, as the Federal Executive Institute's campus as the "Pamela B. Gwin Hall."

Dr. Gwin received her Ph.D. from Duke University. She was a member of the American Political Science Association, the Organization of American Historians, the Southern Historical Association, the American Society for Public Administration, and was especially active in the American Society for Training and Development and the Center for the Study of the Presidency.

Pamela Gwin began her career at the Federal Executive Institute in 1983 as a faculty member teaching public policy.

In 1987, she became Assistant Director of Academic Programs and instituted the design and implementation of the Leadership for a Democratic Society program.

Pam gave tirelessly to her students and everyone at the Federal Executive Institute. She survived and still continued working for 2 years after receiving a heart transplant in 1996 and, sadly, passed away in 1998.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to join in doing the same.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to associate myself with the remarks of my good friend the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

This is very fitting that the Virginia Delegation has taken such an effort to honor Dr. Gwin. She played a significant role, as well, in developing the Institute's curriculum, especially emphasizing the Constitution as a central focus of the Institute's core of studies.

But very to the point, Dr. Gwin is an icon, a beloved teacher, mentor, and friend. She inspired and captivated her students with her love of politics and the presidency.

It is absolutely fitting that a facility at the Federal Executive Institute be named in her honor.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, we are now honored to have one of the two independents in the House of Representatives on the floor with us. This independent holds a special place in the heart of the Republican conference, because he has chosen to conference with us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield whatever time he may consume to our good friend, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODE).

Mr. GOODE. Mr. Speaker, I want to say thanks to all on the subcommittee and the committee who worked on reporting the bill, naming the annex at the Federal Executive Institute in Charlottesville on behalf of Pamela B. Gwin. Pamela B. Gwin was not a high profile military person. She is not a movie personality. She is not a famous legislator, but she was a hard-working, dedicated and loyal employee at the Federal Executive Institute for almost two decades.

She was known by every student and graduate at the Federal Executive Institute as Pam. She loved politics and our Federal Government. She served as assistant director from 1983 until she passed away at a young age on December 31, 1998.

Mr. Speaker, I am indeed happy, privileged and honored to say these remarks on behalf of Pamela B. Gwin and to express appreciation to the committees again and to all in the House for naming the facility at the Federal Executive Institute in Charlottesville in her honor.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1729.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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DONALD J. PEASE FEDERAL BUILDING

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1405) to designate the Federal building located at 143 West Liberty Street, Medina, Ohio, as the "Donald J. Pease Federal Building."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1405

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The Federal building located at 143 West Liberty Street, Medina, Ohio, shall be known

and designated as the "Donald J. Pease Federal Building".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Donald J. Pease Federal Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1405 designates the Federal building in Medina, Ohio, as the "Donald J. Pease Federal Building."

Congressman Pease was born in Toledo, Ohio, where he attended public schools. He earned his undergraduate and masters degrees from Ohio University before becoming a Fulbright scholar at Kings College University of Durham, England.

Congressman Pease served in the Oberlin City Council, the Ohio State House of Representatives, and in the Ohio State Senate before being elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1976. He served in the House from 1977 until his retirement in 1993.

Congressman Pease began his congressional career on the Committee on International Relations. He later secured a spot on the Committee on Ways and Means and by the time of the 102nd Congress earned one of the three seats on the Committee on the Budget that is reserved for members of the Committee on Ways and Means.

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This bill is a fitting tribute and this naming a fitting tribute for this fine former Member. I urge passage of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise with great pride in this bill being brought to the floor. Congressman Don Pease worked tirelessly for the citizens of Northern Ohio as a Member of the Committee on Ways and Means. He tackled the tough tax reform and tax policy issues with zeal. He always looked for consensus. He was able to work on both sides of the aisle. He kept a rather low profile, but he was a very effective Member and one of the few who was able to influence former chairman Dan Rostenkowski. I might add, anybody who could do that was certainly an influential Member.

As I said, he was an activist who fought for welfare reform. Don Pease supported sunshine rules for open government, and he was always available to look for common ground on bills that emanated from either side of the