

Mr. McCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk of the severe damage that the recent freezing weather in the Central Valley and Central Coast has had on our crops.

Mr. Speaker, Congress must do what we can to help the hardworking farmers and workers who were hit this past week with freezing weather and are predicted to have lost almost all their crops which feed our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, California's fresh citrus industry is valued at over \$1 billion and provides 95 percent of the country's fresh citrus. Kern County alone, which I represent, produced over \$350 million worth of citrus in 2005. While we do not know the full extent of the damage yet, over 75 percent of our citrus crops may have been lost.

Also in my district is San Luis Obispo, where over \$7 million worth of avocados were grown last year, this freeze could have ruined the next year's crops as well.

My heart goes out to all my constituents who have spent sleepless nights trying to save their crops. I applaud Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, who has already declared a state of emergency in Kern and San Luis Obispo and eight other counties. My California colleagues and I have already sent a letter to the Agriculture Secretary.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this Congress to speed all Federal disaster assistance they can to California farmers and workers.

100 HOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, it is interesting to hear the Republicans belittling the 100 hours, say, well, we really didn't do much. It is low hanging fruit. Well, if that is so, why in the last 12 years did the Republicans not raise the Federal minimum wage? In fact, they didn't even allow a vote on raising the Federal minimum wage in the last decade, and they would belittle that because they don't care about working people in this country.

They said a year ago, their leaders in face of the Abramoff scandal which enveloped the Republican Party, that they would have ethics reform on the floor and passed before the end of February. Well, February came and went. We got it done in January, a year later, after we took control. They couldn't even clean up their own mess. And they belittle what we are doing.

A year ago, they jammed through legislation to raise the cost of student financial aid to pay for tax cuts for wealthy investors, to extend those tax breaks from 2008 to 2010. Yesterday, we passed legislation to cut the costs of interest and student financial aid in half. We took on big banks, and we will take on the wealthy investors. There is a big difference in this Congress, and the Republicans are whining.

THE HOLD ON TO YOUR WALLET CONGRESS

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, this is the "Hold on to Your Wallet Congress" because they have spent 100 hours getting into the taxpayers' wallet, and as we have heard them say, they have just gotten started.

We have had no regular order, no rules. They have made it easier to raise taxes by passing a semblance of PAYGO that makes spending permanent and tax relief temporary.

They don't want recorded votes because they don't want their constituents to know what they are voting on. They have passed a 9/11 bill that our private industry tells us is going to be billions of dollars in cost to the taxpayer. We have a minimum wage bill that is going to cost billions of dollars to small businesses and also brought about the Tunagate scandal.

Yes, you know, we are seeing it on every front, an energy bill that is going to raise taxes, not make gas more affordable, student loan legislation that doesn't do one single thing to help students get into college and stay in college.

Yes, hold on to your wallet, Mr. Speaker. They are coming for it.

RECOGNIZING PETTY OFFICER DUSTIN KIRBY

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share one of the many stories of bravery from our Armed Forces stationed in Iraq. I want to tell you about Navy Petty Officer Dustin Kirby, a native of Hiram, Georgia, a skilled Navy corpsman attached to the 2nd Marine Division in Iraq.

Petty Officer Kirby was injured by sniper fire outside of Fallujah on Christmas Day. I had the honor of visiting him and his family at Bethesda Naval Hospital earlier this week, and I was deeply moved by his courage and dedication to the defense of our Nation.

From my visit, it was clear Petty Officer Kirby had touched many lives. In fact, while we visited he got a phone call from his fellow troops overseas.

His wife, Lauren, his parents, Jack and Gail, his brother and sister, all shared with me their praise of his bravery and resolve.

Mr. Speaker, it is because of soldiers like Petty Officer Dustin Kirby that I know we will achieve victory in Iraq. The dedication and determination of our Armed Forces is what protects our Nation every day and what will ultimately help deliver security and freedom in the Middle East.

I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Petty Officer Kirby for his service.

CONGRATULATING ELIZABETH ELZA

(Mrs. CAPITO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend congratulations to Elizabeth Elza of Elkins, West Virginia, who was recently awarded the Most Outstanding Junior Trooper Award in the 11th annual West Virginia State Junior Trooper Academy. Elizabeth's hard work, dedication and outstanding performance contributed to her recognition as the top junior trooper.

At the Junior Trooper Academy, junior troopers are trained in law enforcement activities to expose them to the criminal justice and law enforcement career fields during an intensive 5-day period. Candidates are between 14 and 17 years old and must be recommended by a State legislator, school superintendent or uniformed member of the State police.

Elizabeth is truly a leader in her community and among her peers. We need more women in leadership positions, and I am pleased to say that Elizabeth is well on her way to being a role model for future young women in West Virginia. Elizabeth is not only a leader in her community, but an accomplished athlete as a member of, get this, the Elkins High School wrestling team.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to highlight Elizabeth's accomplishments. Congrats on being the most outstanding junior trooper.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Ross). Pursuant to section 201(a)(2) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 601), and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair announces the Speaker and President pro tempore of the Senate jointly appointed Dr. Peter R. Orszag as Director of the Congressional Budget Office, effective January 18, 2007, for the term expiring January 3, 2011.

HOUSE PAGE BOARD REVISION ACT OF 2007

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of January 18, 2007, I call up the bill (H.R. 475) to revise the composition of the House of Representatives Page Board to equalize the number of members representing the majority and minority parties and to include a member representing the parents of pages and a member representing former pages, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 475

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 the "House Page Board Revision Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. REVISION OF COMPOSITION OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PAGE BOARD.

(a) EXPANSION OF MEMBERSHIP.—Section 2(a) of House Resolution 611, Ninety-seventh Congress, agreed to November 30, 1982, as enacted into permanent law by section 127 of Public Law 97-377 (2 U.S.C. 88b-3(a)), is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "one Member" and inserting "two Members";

(2) by striking "and" at the end of paragraph (1);

(3) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (4); and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraphs:

"(2) one individual who, at any time during the 5-year period which ends on the date of the individual's appointment, is or was a parent of a page participating in the program;

"(3) one individual who is a former page of the House who is not a Member of the House or an individual described in paragraph (2); and"

(b) SPECIAL RULES FOR MEMBERS REPRESENTING PARENTS AND FORMER PAGES.—Section 2 of such House Resolution (2 U.S.C. 88b-3) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsection:

"(b) In the case of the members of the Page Board who are described in paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (a), the following shall apply:

"(1) Each such member shall be appointed jointly by the Speaker and minority leader of the House of Representatives.

"(2) Each such member shall serve for a term of one year and may be reappointed for additional terms if the member continues to meet the requirements for appointment.

"(3) A vacancy in the position held by any such member shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. An individual appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve for the remainder of the original term and may be reappointed in accordance with paragraph (2).

"(4) Each such member may be paid travel or transportation expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, for attending meetings of the Page Board while away from the member's home or place of business. There are authorized to be appropriated from the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives such sums as may be necessary for payments under this paragraph."

SEC. 3. REQUIRING REGULAR MEETINGS.

Section 1 of House Resolution 611, Ninety-seventh Congress, agreed to November 30, 1982, as enacted into permanent law by section 127 of Public Law 97-377 (2 U.S.C. 88b-2), is amended—

(1) by striking "Until otherwise" and inserting "(a) Until otherwise"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(b) The Page Board shall meet regularly, in accordance with a schedule established jointly by the Speaker and minority leader of the House of Representatives."

SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this Act shall apply with respect to the portion of the One Hundred Tenth Congress which begins after the date of the enactment of this Act and each succeeding Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Thursday, January 18, 2007, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, as chairwoman of the Committee on House Administration, I am delighted to call up this important bill to reform the governance of the House Page Program.

I trust that all Members recall the circumstances that led to this bill coming up during the first days of this new Congress, so that there is little need to deal with them here. Suffice it to say that the events of last September have been abundantly clear that the House Page Board can no longer be constituted as it was during the last Congress with two Members of the majority but only one from the minority. Such a ratio potentially raises the specter of partisanship and political considerations where they have no place.

Mr. Speaker, the House Page Board has the statutory responsibility to govern and oversee the Page Program. The Board must not only be free of partisanship, it must function so all of its members have access to the information necessary to discharge their responsibilities and do what is right for the pages. These delightful pages, whose parents send them here, trusting that they will be safe, become the responsibility of this House.

□ 1030

If structural changes are needed to ensure that members of the page board can properly oversee the programs, free of extraneous concerns, then we must make such changes.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Michigan has written an excellent bill that changes the page board's form and function. First, it enlarges the page board to include a second Member of the House appointed by the minority leader, thus equalizing the number of Members between the two parties. I must say the Speaker of this House is using her nonpartisan efforts to try to bring equity to this board. This alone could strengthen the board dramatically by making the minority full partners on the board.

But the bill goes further. It adds two outside members of the board, one to represent parents of current or recent pages, and another one who represents a former page to represent the pages themselves. These two outside board members must be appointed jointly by the Speaker and the minority leader for a 1-year term, but can be eligible for reappointment if they continue to meet the requisite qualifications. These additional representatives for pages and parents will infuse the board's deliberations with perspectives that only they can bring.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that the page board gives the program the attention it deserves, the bill requires regular board meetings on a schedule established jointly by the Speaker and the minority leader. This bill, which would be permanent and effective immediately, authorizes reimbursement of the outside board members for the expenses of attending meetings. I am confident that Members agree that the benefits of a parent and a former page representation will be worth the modest cost.

I commend the gentleman from Michigan and the gentlewoman from West Virginia for introducing this excellent bill, and I commend the Speaker for scheduling this the first days of this landmark 110th Congress.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 475. I will not go into any detailed explanation of it because the Chair of the committee has already given that.

But before I begin my remarks on the legislation before us, I want to express my gratitude to all the dedicated young people who come to serve the House as pages. We are blessed to have such a talented group of young people who are willing to leave home and come here to work for us and for the people of this Nation.

I still recall the first page that I appointed during my first term in the Congress. She was a wonderful young woman, and she served here well. She then went on to college, then to medical school, and is now in residency and has established an outstanding record. Both here in the Congress as a wonderful page and academically, she has done very well. I am certain she will be a wonderful doctor as well. This is typical of the types of people that we have in this Congress as pages.

This legislation is certainly no reflection on any problems that they have created, but rather a reflection on problems that Members have created. We believe that pages who serve here should feel nothing but pride for the important role they play in the daily operations of this House and in the legislation that we present. The legislation before us is meant to improve the way that we as adults conduct our oversight of the page program.

Sadly, the sordid revelations of last fall were not the first time the House had demonstrated a failure to protect the young people who come here to serve in the program.

In July 1982, following allegations of sexual misconduct involving Members of both parties and their involvement with pages, the Democratic Speaker and the Republican leader of the House appointed a Speaker's commission on pages to study the page program, its usefulness, and to determine what changes needed to be made to better protect America's youth during their

service to the House of Representatives.

Many of the commission's recommendations were adopted by the House, including the creation of a leadership-appointed page board responsible for overseeing the page program. That was certainly a step forward, and today's legislation restructures the board that was created then. It has not been the fault of the pages that we had the incident this past year. It is not even the fault of the page board; but, in fact, rather, it was the fault of not engaging the full page board to deal with the problem that made the problem even worse.

This legislation before us will improve the board, make it more effective, and enable it to better carry out its important responsibilities. The pages who work here provide tremendous service to Members, staff, and the operations of the House of Representatives. They gain an invaluable experience, a superb education and improved insight into the workings of their own government.

We owe it to them to ensure that we are doing everything possible and to ensure that they are able to have a positive, healthy, and beneficial experience. We must ensure that we are taking good care of and protecting the young people who have been entrusted to us.

The legislation that is before us will help us meet our important obligations. I believe that adding an additional member and making it truly bipartisan with no party dominating will be a truly positive change.

I believe that adding a former page to the board will be a positive change. In the past at times we have had Members serving on the board who were serving as pages. They performed that function. But by specifically naming a former page to the board, we can ensure that their input is heard.

Furthermore, having a parent of a former page or, perhaps, even a current page serve on the board will be an asset to us as we consider the operation of the page program, their education and all the regulations pertaining to them.

I hope this legislation will help us meet our important obligation in this regard, and I ask all the Members of Congress to support this excellent piece of legislation.

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

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to yield 3 minutes to one of the authors of this important bill, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

Mr. KILDEE. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 475, the House Page Board Revision Act of 2007. Since 1985, I have had the honor of serving on the House page board, either as the chairman or as the Democratic representative.

Whenever we met as a board, our efforts were to arrive at decisions by

consensus. H.R. 475 strengthens that spirit of cooperation by providing two basic reforms of the House page board.

First, we expand the membership of the page board. The current membership includes two Members of the majority party and one Member of the minority party, as well as the Clerk of the House and the House Sergeant at Arms. This bill would expand the page board members by adding three new members to the board.

We add a second Member of the minority party to make it an even two Democratic Members and two Republican Members. In a major change, we also add two outside members to the board, one a parent of a current or recent page and the other, a former House page. The Speaker and the minority leader will jointly appoint the page parent and the former page. These additions to the House page board provide for partisan balance and for diversity of views from people who have direct interest in the success of the page program.

The second reform in H.R. 475 is the requirement that the House page board meet on a regular basis. The Speaker and minority leader will jointly establish the frequency of such meetings.

Mr. Speaker, we look forward to operating the page program in an effective manner. We will work together to review and constantly improve the operations of the House page program. It is our goal to assure that the pages will gain every possible benefit from this program while ensuring the well-being of the young people who serve this House as pages.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 475.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to recognize a current member of the page board, the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO).

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by commending my colleague on the page board, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), for his service to the program, long service to the program, and for the bipartisan manner in which he has handled the legislation before him today.

I would also like to thank the Chair and ranking member of the House Administration Committee, and I would like to join my fellow, the ranking member and all of us, really, to say thank you to all the pages who are in the room today, all the pages who are currently serving, and all those pages who have done wonderful service in the past.

I am proud to be the original cosponsor of the House Page Board Revision Act and rise to urge my colleagues to support it. I believe my colleagues will support it.

The House page program has existed for well over a century and provides teenagers with an incredible opportunity to learn about the legislative process, gain leadership and teamwork skills that can be applied to whatever profession they decide to enter. House

pages provide a valuable service to the House of Representatives as well. The page program is truly an asset, both to this body and to the Nation.

I guarantee, if you ask any page in this room, present or former, about their experience, there is one word that they always use to describe it when I ask, and that is "fantastic." That is why Members of this House were shocked to learn that a former Congressman's inappropriate interaction with House pages came to light last fall.

As a mother, it was very upsetting to find out that children sent to Washington could possibly be preyed upon. As a Member of this House and a member of the page board, I was disappointed that the information regarding those e-mails was not shared with the full page board.

But since it is impossible to go back and fix, it is important that the House move forward to make the changes to prevent such an incident or other incidents that could endanger the safety of young people. Certainly, we all know that one of the most important rules of this House is for Members, of course, to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects credibility of the House.

But it is imperative that we learn lessons from last year's situation and take the steps necessary to better protect House pages and to ensure that any potential problem is investigated fully.

Mr. Speaker, many of the items in this bill are suggestions that I made to the page board in October, and I will include this letter into the RECORD listing my reasons for supporting this.

This legislation balances the partisan make-up of the page board by incorporating two pages from each party. I believe this provision is important, not just symbolically but it is also important because it demonstrates that nothing within the page board is ever construed as partisan.

It is important that everyone involved, House Members, staff, employees, pages, dorm supervisors alike feel comfortable approaching the page board with any information about possible threats to the safety of the children in this program. Demonstrating that the board is truly bipartisan should make this easier.

Expanding membership to include a former page and the parent of a current or recent page will improve discussions on policies for the page program and provide that additional perspective, that additional set of eyes and ears for any problems that may arise.

Certainly, regular meetings, I heartily agree, of the page board, will help shed light on any trouble facing our pages, and I am pleased that this provision has been included in the bill.

My hope is that other recommendations that have been put forward, such as a peer counseling program, better communications, will strengthen this program as we move forward into the future.

I commend the leaders of both parties for agreeing to take action to better protect the pages who serve this House; and, again, I thank Mr. KILDEE for offering this bill. This is a good bipartisan piece of legislation, and I ask my colleagues to support it.

October 5, 2006.

Hon. JOHN SHIMKUS,
Hon. DALE KILDEE,
Mr. Bill Livingood, Sergeant-at-Arms.

DEAR PAGE BOARD MEMBER: This week has been difficult for all Members of Congress, as well as for the institution in which we serve. Make no mistake, the revelation of Mark Foley's despicable actions have been difficult on the young people in our Page Program as well. I am confident that I speak for the entire Page Board in expressing outrage and hoping that anyone involved in this tragic sequence of events be severely punished.

Today, Speaker Hastert called for the Page Program to be reviewed and strengthened. As the Speaker correctly stated, times have changed since this great program was created, and I believe it is incumbent upon us to ensure we address these changes as they pertain to the Page Program.

As a fellow member of the Page Board, I write to you today for two reasons: (1) To offer my full support for the continuation of the Page Program, and (2) Offer my suggestions on how we can begin to update and strengthen this program to ensure it continues to offer a safe learning experience for our nation's young people.

As we move forward, I ask that we consider using the following items as a starting point for reform to the Page Program:

(1) Increase the number of Members of Congress on the Page Board and, like the Committee on Standards & Official Conduct, establish equal representation from both parties on the Page Board. I know we all agree that the issue of safety for the young people in the Page Program is not a partisan one.

(2) Developing a peer counseling program within the Page Program. Modeled after peer programs that have been successful in our educational system, this would provide pages with an additional outlet to express any problems or concerns that may be easier than reporting to an adult.

(3) The implementation of monthly meetings with the Page Board, pages, as well as a representative from the U.S. Capitol Police. We should create a system in which all members of the Page Board have more information on any potential problem facing the pages, including receiving reports from the Capitol Police on any possible problems with crime activity on Capitol Hill or in the page dorm neighborhood.

(4) Establish training and guidelines on educating Members of Congress and pages on the job description and responsibilities of those in the Page Program as well as proper relationships with pages, Members of Congress, or any employee of the House of the Representatives.

I look forward to working with you to achieve our shared goal of improving this great program, and more importantly, ensuring we have put in place the best procedures to protect the safety and welfare of the young people in the Page Program.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, now I would like to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT), a former page.

Mr. HOLT. I thank the Chair for her time and for presenting this legislation. I also commend the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS),

the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), and the others who have been involved in this.

Mr. Speaker, it is important because of the tradition and because of the future. I know some people have said why does Congress even maintain the page program. We could privatize it. We could have messengers. Why does Congress even maintain a dormitory?

□ 1045

Because we contribute to the growth and the education of future leaders.

I speak as a former page, many decades past now, but I must count that as one of the formative experiences of my life. The pages learn the discipline of employment, they learn teamwork, but they also take to heart the democratic process, the representative government. They literally walk in the footsteps of some of the great figures of history. But we have a responsibility as Members of Congress not just for their education and growth, but also for their safety.

This legislation is important. I am pleased that the legislation mandates that the Page Board be composed of equal numbers of Republicans and Democrats, that it include a former page and a page parent, and mandates regular meetings of the board, so that the board is constantly aware and makes us in this body constantly aware of our responsibility for the welfare and the growth and the safety and the education of the pages.

The country is better off because of these pages, many of whom have gone on to important leadership positions and contributed in so many ways, in their hometowns, in their home States, and, in many cases, in the Federal Government.

As a former page and as a parent, I was offended and shocked at the breach of trust that occurred in the past year. But I am pleased that we are acting today to address systemic shortcomings and to prevent any such occurrence in the future, and, more to the point, working to make this a truly positive experience for all pages, all these young men and women, future leaders, and important employees and public servants even now.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to just make a few closing comments.

Mr. Speaker, I am just delighted with this piece of legislation. I congratulate Mr. KILDEE, my esteemed colleague from the State of Michigan, and also Mrs. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, who spoke earlier. It is a good piece of legislation. It is, unfortunately, needed. But it should have been in place before. It might have helped to prevent some of the events we had this past year.

So I strongly support this legislation. I urge all of our colleagues to vote for it. May we all have a better Page Board and a better Page Program and continue one of the most outstanding programs that a young person in this Nation can participate in.

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

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the ranking member on the Committee on House Administration for his stewardship and his leadership in the Page Program. I would like to thank all of those who were responsible for this great legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this House must pass this bill. The Page Program is a treasured institution that offers youngsters from across this country the opportunity to serve and to learn firsthand about the Congress, while helping us to conduct the Nation's business.

As I said this morning to the pages when I was coming in, this is your bill. Of all the bills you have heard throughout the years you have been here, this one is yours, and we are happy to introduce this bill today.

Recent unfortunate events have shown that the governance of the Page Program needs reform. The House minority must be brought into the process as full partners with equal representation, eliminating any hint of partisanship. This is why I applaud the Speaker of this House. She wants to make sure, as much as we can, to have nonpartisanship in conducting the business of the People's House.

This board will benefit from new representation of parents and former pages themselves, and that is an added incentive, Mr. Speaker, because when you have parents and when you have former pages, they can have input that will benefit these pages who are here with us.

These and other reforms proposed by the gentleman from Michigan and the gentlewoman from West Virginia, who have served diligently on the Page Board, will greatly improve the program. I think also the increase in meetings will be an additive as well, Mr. Speaker.

So I am proud for all of those who have been part and parcel of this legislation, as well as I am proud of our new Speaker, who has made these reforms part of the agenda for the first days of the new Congress.

I urge all Members now to support this legislation and to protect these young folks who come from all areas of this country, coming here to do a part and to serve us as we do the people's business.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 475, the House Page Board Revision Act of 2007. I thank my colleagues, Mr. KILDEE, the gentleman from Michigan, and Mrs. CAPITO, the gentlewoman from West Virginia, for their good work in crafting this bipartisan legislation, which will do much to ensure the safety of the pages that serve the United States Congress.

In view of recent events, parents everywhere are right to be concerned for the safety of their children—after all, if children are not safe in the Capitol, the seat of the National Government, can they be safe anywhere? It is

important that we pass this legislation today to reassure the public that the Capitol is safe for children, including pages.

The scandal that erupted on September 29, 2007, involving former Representative Mark Foley's predatory conduct toward House pages, and coverup by the senior House Republican leadership, has led some to call for the termination of the Page Program. In my view, that would have been a terrible mistake and a terrible commentary upon the ability of the House of Representatives to ensure the safety of the children entrusted to its care.

Mr. Speaker, the Page Program needs to be mended not ended. The teenagers who serve as congressional pages are outstanding young men and women, invariably chosen because of their high achievement and outstanding service to their community. Service as a page is often a stepping stone to greater public service and nearly always a window into history. The program's alumni include Representative TOM DAVIS, Representative DAN BOREN, Senator CHRISTOPHER DODD, and Microsoft founder Bill Gates.

Instead of eliminating the page program, we need to get rid of sexual predators in office. An important part of the new Democratic majority's agenda is end the culture of corruption that pervaded the previous Congress and to make the 110th Congress the most ethical Congress in history.

The page program is a good thing; the kids that are in it are good kids. Right now, security for pages in Washington includes curfews, a buddy system when they leave their dormitory, 24-hour security at the residence hall, sign-outs when the pages leave, parental notification for many extracurricular activities, and a pre-program orientation laying out acceptable and unacceptable behavior for pages.

Mr. Speaker, as the Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I am proud to support this legislation today. I support H.R. 475 because it will ensure more oversight of the Page Program in Congress, thus reducing substantially the risk of exposing pages to harmful persons or conduct. We must show America that we are striving to keep America's children safe, starting here on Capitol Hill.

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROSS). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to the order of the House of Thursday, January 18, 2007, the bill is considered read and the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 416, nays 0, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 42]

YEAS—416

Abercrombie	DeFazio	Jones (NC)
Ackerman	DeGette	Jones (OH)
Aderholt	Delahunt	Jordan
Akin	DeLauro	Kagen
Alexander	Dent	Kanjorski
Allen	Diaz-Balart, L.	Kaptur
Altmire	Diaz-Balart, M.	Keller
Andrews	Dicks	Kennedy
Arcuri	Dingell	Kildee
Baca	Doggett	Kilpatrick
Bachmann	Donnelly	Kind
Bachus	Doolittle	King (IA)
Baird	Doyle	King (NY)
Baker	Drake	Kingston
Baldwin	Dreier	Kirk
Barrett (SC)	Duncan	Klein (FL)
Barrow	Edwards	Kline (MN)
Bartlett (MD)	Ehlers	Knollenberg
Barton (TX)	Ellison	Kucinich
Bean	Ellsworth	Kuhl (NY)
Becerra	Emanuel	LaHood
Berkley	Emerson	Lamborn
Berman	Engel	Lampson
Berry	English (PA)	Langevin
Biggert	Eshoo	Lantos
Bilbray	Etheridge	Larsen (WA)
Bilirakis	Everett	Larson (CT)
Bishop (GA)	Fallin	Latham
Bishop (NY)	Farr	LaTourette
Bishop (UT)	Feeney	Lee
Blackburn	Ferguson	Levin
Blumenauer	Filner	Lewis (GA)
Blunt	Flake	Lewis (KY)
Boehner	Forbes	Linder
Bonner	Fortenberry	Lipinski
Bono	Fossella	LoBiondo
Boozman	Foxx	Loeb
Boren	Frank (MA)	Lofgren, Zoe
Boswell	Franks (AZ)	Lowey
Boucher	Frelinghuysen	Lungren, Daniel
Boustany	Garrett (NJ)	E. Lynch
Boyd (FL)	Gerlach	Mack
Boyd (KS)	Giffords	Mahoney (FL)
Brady (PA)	Gilchrest	Maloney (NY)
Brady (TX)	Gillibrand	Manzullo
Braley (IA)	Gillmor	Markey
Brown (SC)	Gingrey	Marshall
Brown, Corrine	Gohmert	Matheson
Brown-Waite,	Gonzalez	Matsui
Ginny	Goode	McCarthy (CA)
Buchanan	Goodlatte	McCarthy (NY)
Burgess	Gordon	McCaul (TX)
Butterfield	Granger	McCotter
Campbell (CA)	Graves	McCrery
Cannon	Green, Al	McDermott
Cantor	Green, Gene	McGovern
Capito	Grijalva	Gutierrez
Capps	Gutierrez	McHenry
Capuano	Hall (NY)	McHugh
Cardoza	Hall (TX)	McIntyre
Carnahan	Hare	McKeon
Carney	Harman	McMorris
Carson	Hastert	Rodgers
Carter	Hastings (FL)	McNerney
Castle	Hastings (WA)	McNulty
Castor	Hayes	Meehan
Chabot	Heller	Meek (FL)
Chandler	Hensarling	Meeks (NY)
Clarke	Herger	Melancon
Clay	Hereth	Mica
Cleaver	Higgins	Michaud
Clyburn	Hill	Millender-
Coble	Hinchev	McDonald
Cohen	Hinojosa	Miller (FL)
Cole (OK)	Hirono	Miller (MI)
Conaway	Hodes	Miller (NC)
Conyers	Hoekstra	Miller, Gary
Costa	Holden	Miller, George
Costello	Holt	Mitchell
Courtney	Honda	Mollohan
Cramer	Hooley	Moore (KS)
Crenshaw	Hoyer	Moore (WI)
Crowley	Hulshof	Moran (KS)
Cubin	Hunter	Moran (VA)
Cuellar	Inglis (SC)	Murphy (CT)
Culberson	Inslee	Murphy, Patrick
Cummings	Israel	Murphy, Tim
Davis (AL)	Issa	Murtha
Davis (CA)	Jackson (IL)	Musgrave
Davis (IL)	Jackson-Lee	Myrick
Davis (KY)	(TX)	Nadler
Davis, David	Jefferson	Neal (MA)
Davis, Jo Ann	Jindal	Neugebauer
Davis, Lincoln	Johnson (GA)	Nunes
Davis, Tom	Johnson (IL)	Oberstar
Deal (GA)	Johnson, E. B.	Obey

Olver	Rush	Tauscher
Ortiz	Ryan (OH)	Taylor
Pallone	Ryan (WI)	Terry
Pascarella	Salazar	Thompson (CA)
Pastor	Saxton	Thompson (MS)
Paul	Sánchez, Linda	Thornberry
Payne	T.	Tiahrt
Pearce	Sanchez, Loretta	Tiberi
Pence	Sarbanes	Tierney
Perlmutter	Saxton	Towns
Peterson (MN)	Schakowsky	Turner
Peterson (PA)	Schiff	Udall (CO)
Petri	Schmidt	Udall (NM)
Pickering	Schwartz	Upton
Pitts	Scott (GA)	Van Hollen
Platts	Scott (VA)	Velázquez
Poe	Sensenbrenner	Walberg
Pomeroy	Serrano	Walden (OR)
Porter	Sessions	Walsh (NY)
Price (GA)	Sestak	Walz (MN)
Price (NC)	Shadegg	Wamp
Pryce (OH)	Shays	Wasserman
Putnam	Shea-Porter	Schultz
Radanovich	Sherman	Waters
Rahall	Shimkus	Watson
Ramstad	Shuler	Watt
Rangel	Shuster	Waxman
Regula	Sires	Weiner
Rehberg	Skelton	Welch (VT)
Reichert	Slaughter	Weldon (FL)
Renzi	Smith (NE)	Weller
Reyes	Smith (NJ)	Westmoreland
Reynolds	Smith (TX)	Wexler
Rodriguez	Snyder	Whitfield
Rogers (AL)	Solis	Wicker
Rogers (KY)	Souder	Wilson (NM)
Rogers (MI)	Space	Wilson (OH)
Rohrabacher	Spratt	Wilson (SC)
Ros-Lehtinen	Stark	Wolf
Roskam	Stearns	Woolsey
Ross	Stupak	Wu
Rothman	Sullivan	Wynn
Roybal-Allard	Sutton	Yarmuth
Royce	Tancredo	Young (AK)
Ruppersberger	Tanner	Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—18

Burton (IN)	Gallegly	McCollum (MN)
Buyer	Hobson	Napolitano
Calvert	Johnson, Sam	Norwood
Camp (MI)	Lewis (CA)	Simpson
Cooper	Lucas	Smith (WA)
Fattah	Marchant	Visclosky

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Mrs. BIGGERT changed her vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to consider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 42, on passage of H.R. 475, House Page Board Revision Act, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, if I had been present earlier today, Friday, January 19, 2007, I would have voted as follows on today's recorded vote: rollcall No. 42, "yea"—H.R. 475—House Page Board Revision Act of 2007.

Mr. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, January 19, 2007, I was absent due to a family obligation. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 42, agreeing to H.R. 475—to revise the composition of the House of Representatives Page Board to equalize the number of members representing the majority and minority parties and to include a member representing the parents of pages and a member representing former pages.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 42, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."