

rule XXIII oath executed by them when they come to the committee office to review that material. If a Member has not yet signed the rule XXIII oath, but wishes to review the documentation provided by the DCI, the committee staff can administer the oath and see to it that the executed form is sent to the Clerk's office.

Additionally, the committee's rules require that before Members are given access to any classified material in the committee's possession, that Members must execute a nondisclosure agreement indicating that they have been granted access to particularly described classified material; they are familiar with both the rules of the House and the committee rules with respect to the classified nature of information contained in the documents they are given for review; and they understand fully the limitations placed on them with respect to disclosure of that information.

The committee requires that this nondisclosure agreement be signed by any Member seeking to review the documents each time the Member seeks to gain access to the documents.

Those are the conditions with which the committee agreed to make this material available to any Member. If there are any questions, please call the committee and we will be glad to elaborate.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY CHAIRMAN OF PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE REGARDING AVAILABILITY OF CLASSIFIED ANNEX AND SCHEDULE OF AUTHORIZATIONS

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to announce to all Members of the House that the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence ordered the bill, H.R. 2417, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004, reported favorably to the House with an amendment. The committee's report will be filed later today, Tuesday, June 17, under the unanimous consent just agreed to.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to announce that the Classified Schedule of Authorizations and the Classified Annex that accompanies H.R. 2417 will be available for review by Members at the offices of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence in Room H-405 of the Capitol beginning any time after the bill is filed. The committee office will open during regular business hours for the convenience of any Member who wishes to review this material prior to its consideration by the House. I anticipate that H.R. 2417 will be considered on the floor of the House next week.

I would recommend that Members wishing to review the Classified Annex contact the committee's Director of Security to arrange a time and date for that viewing. This will assure the availability of committee staff to assist Members who desire that assist-

ance during their review of these classified materials.

I urge Members to take some time to review these classified documents before the bill is brought to the floor, in order to better understand the recommendations of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Much of this material cannot be discussed on the floor.

The Classified Annex to the committee's report contains the committee's recommendations on the intelligence budget for fiscal year 2004 and related classified information that cannot be disclosed publicly.

□ 1500

It is important that Members keep in mind the requirements of rule XXIII, clause 13 of the House. That rule only permits access to classified information by those Members of the House who have signed the oath set out in clause 13 of House rule XXIII.

I would advise Members wishing to review the classified annex and its classified schedule of authorizations that they must bring with them a copy of the rule XXIII oath signed by them when they come to the committee office to review that material.

If a Member has not yet signed that oath, but wishes to review the classified annex and schedule of authorizations, the committee staff can administer the oath as a service for that Member and see to it that the executed form is sent to the Clerk's office. We would be happy to do that. Additionally, the committee's rules require that Members execute a nondisclosure agreement indicating that they have been granted access to the classified annex and classified schedule of authorizations, and that they are familiar with both the rules of the House and the committee with respect to the classified nature of information contained in the classified annex and the limitations on the disclosure of that information.

I am sorry for all the bureaucratism, but we take very seriously our responsibility to keep this matter properly provided for and safeguarded.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 342, KEEPING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SAFE ACT OF 2003

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 276, I call up the conference report on the Senate bill (S. 342) to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to make improvements to and reauthorize programs under that Act, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLAKE). Pursuant to rule XXII, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of June 12, 2003 at page H5307.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA).

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that we are here today to discuss the conference agreement to S. 342, the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003, which reauthorizes and improves the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, CAPTA; the adoption opportunities program; the Abandoned Infants Act; and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act.

We began this process of reauthorizing CAPTA and FVPSA in the last Congress. The conference report before us today shows our ongoing bipartisan effort and our commitment to ensuring that programs aimed at the prevention of child abuse and neglect and family violence continue.

The conference report before us continues to emphasize the prevention of child abuse and neglect before it occurs. It promotes partnerships between child protective services and private and community-based organizations, including education and health systems, to ensure that services and linkages are more effectively provided. It retains important language from the House bill to appropriately address a growing concern over parents being falsely accused of child abuse and neglect and the aggressiveness of social workers in their child abuse investigations.

It retains language to increase public education opportunities that strengthen the public's understanding of the child protection system while teaching the appropriate manner for reporting suspected incidents of child maltreatment. It also retains language to foster cooperation between parents and child protective service workers by requiring caseworkers to inform parents of the allegations made against them, and improves the training opportunities for child protective services personnel regarding the extent and limits of their legal authority in order to protect the legal rights of parents and legal guardians. These are important additions to our Nation's child abuse laws that should not be overlooked.

This conference report retains the House language requiring States to implement policies and procedures to address the needs of infants born and identified as being affected by illegal substance abuse or withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure, including the requirement that health care providers involved in the delivery or care of these infants notify child protective services of the occurrence of such condition and develop a plan of safe care for such infants.

In addition, this conference report maintains language expanding adoption opportunities and services for infants and young children who are disabled or born with life-threatening conditions, requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study on the annual number of infants and young children abandoned each year, and extends the authorization for the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all the conferees, both the House and the Senate, for their hard work and efforts in finalizing this conference report. I especially want to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER) for his continued support throughout this process and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD) for his diligence in ensuring that infants born addicted to drugs receive necessary services. I appreciate the assistance of the ranking member of the full committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER); and the ranking member of the subcommittee, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA), in ensuring that we have reached this point here today. I, of course, also want to thank the chairman of the Senate HELP Committee, Senator GREGG; the ranking member, Senator KENNEDY; and Senator DODD for their efforts in finalizing this bill.

Most importantly, I also want to thank the staff. This conference report would not be before us today if it were not for the diligence and dedication of the staff who have spent many hours working through the differences in the two bills to ensure that we reached this final agreement.

Mr. Speaker, again, I am very pleased with this conference report. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this bicameral, bipartisan effort to improve the prevention and treatment of child abuse and family violence.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise today in support of Senate bill 342, the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act.

First of all, I want to commend Chairman BOEHNER and Ranking Member MILLER for their movement of this legislation to the floor. Obviously I am pleased with my participation as a member of the conference committee. I also commend the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA), the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD), and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) for their participation. Also I would like to thank the House committee Democratic staff, Ruth Friedman, Ricardo Martinez, and Maggie McDow and the Republican committee staff, Pam Davidson, Krisann Pearce, Kate Houston, Rebecca Hunt, and Judy Boyer for all of their hard work and collaboration with the Senate staff in shaping this legislation

to better serve some of our neediest and most helpless citizens.

In the year 2000, about 879,000 children were victims of abuse and neglect in this country. Of this number, approximately 1,200 children died of abuse or neglect, and 44 percent of those children were under the age of 1. It is indeed a disturbing thought that an adult would want to hurt an innocent, helpless child. Yet it occurs and it occurs daily in this country. The United States Congress has in the recent past taken to the floor to bring awareness to the problem and the need to deal with child abuse in this country. This resolution allows us to not only acknowledge this tragic problem but also to provide some assistance to the children and the families that are victims of abuse.

I am very proud of the many good provisions of this legislation. One is the increase of funds from \$33 million to \$80 million for community-based groups that run programs to strengthen and support families in efforts to reduce the level of child abuse that exists and that exists among families. There are also other new funds and emphasis to better meet the needs of abused children, such as providing funds to meet the needs of children who witness domestic violence and have policies in place to address the needs of infants who are born and identified as having been physically affected by prenatal exposure to illegal drugs or to HIV or who are HIV-infected.

However, this bill would only be doing half its job if we did not also look at individuals who assist the victims of abuse. There will be grants made available to improve child protection services, particularly cross-training to enable child protection service workers to better recognize the signs of domestic violence and substance abuse in addition to child abuse. It also calls on States to provide better training and to strengthen efforts toward child abuse prevention programs.

As our economy worsens and the number of unemployed, especially long-term unemployment, rises, we need to recall the correlation between the state of the economy and violence. With high unemployment and a weak economy, more adults will become frustrated and depressed, both of which often lead to child abuse. You mix together an unemployed individual who feels depressed, frustrated and stressed, who becomes overwhelmed, and it is unfortunate that more of them will take out their rage or their emotion on whoever is closest or whatever is closest to them. At times, sadly, this may be released on a spouse or a child.

Just as the bill would be incomplete if it did not acknowledge improvements for child protection systems, we would be incomplete in our focus on improving the status of at-risk children if we did not acknowledge the state of the economy and the need of a tax credit for our neediest families. One may not see the correlation, but it

is there. If we are going to stand here today and send the message that we sincerely care about the well-being of the less fortunate victims in our Nation, we cannot then in the next breath send the message to the once-abused mother or father that they are not worth the child tax credit, or to the children who witness domestic violence or violent crimes around their home on a regular and ongoing basis that they are not worth a concrete, comprehensive program like Head Start.

Mr. Speaker, as I have said, I am proud of this bill, Keeping Families and Children Safe Act; but I also do not believe that we are doing a complete job, that we are doing enough to help the neediest and the most helpless, and sometimes youngest, victims in our Nation to be safe and secure.

And so I commend the gentleman from Michigan; I commend all of those who have worked and helped shape this legislation. I support this legislation.

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

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BURNS), a member of the subcommittee.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the conference report on S. 342, the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003. As a member of the conference committee, I am proud that it reauthorizes several programs that are critical to families in our country.

The bill focuses resources on preventing child abuse, improving opportunities for adoption of foster children, and protecting families from violence. It does so by providing necessary funds to identify and address issues of child abuse and neglect and working to stop family violence before it occurs. These issues know no party or boundary.

This bipartisan legislation recognizes that we must address the problems in a comprehensive way. It shows that we can bring public and private resources to bear in this fight by promoting partnerships between child protective services and community-based organizations. The conference report also gives priority to the training, recruitment, and retention of those who provide services for the victims of violence and abuse. We must not lose the benefits of the experience of these individuals.

Our families and children form the basis of our society and the future of our country. By providing a national clearinghouse of effective child abuse prevention programs and training resources for law enforcement and social service personnel, we can help State and local programs operate more effectively. This bill demonstrates our national commitment to the welfare of those most vulnerable of our citizens. We have an opportunity to help break the cycle of domestic violence and abuse and give a better future to children who would have had no future at all. I would urge all of my colleagues to vote for the conference report and pass this legislation today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 6 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), who is indeed an advocate for children, not only an advocate for children but who is indeed an advocate for whatever is good and wholesome for the United States of America.

□ 1515

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the very distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for yielding me this time.

I have very much appreciated his leadership on the issues dealing with children in America. We have spent some time in Texas listening to many of our social worker, skilled social workers from around the Nation giving us instructions on the importance of providing social services to the needs of our children.

To the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), the full committee chairman; and to the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER); and to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA) for his leadership on this issue, I too rise in support of S. 342, Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003, and will share a number of comments on the importance of this legislation that deals with enhancing the resources and the instructions and guidelines for protecting the Nation's children against abuse and neglect.

It is not my purpose to fault one State over another. Certainly all of us come from jurisdictions that can stand improvement, and this legislation will help us do so. But in the last few weeks and months, we note the tragedies that occurred in the State of New Jersey and Florida, in particular in Florida the missing little girl still yet to be found who was taken away from her grandmother by someone who alleged to be within the children's protective services, and similar stories in the State of New Jersey shows that our system is broken and needs to be fixed. Frankly, this legislation ensures that hopefully that we can focus on that broken aspect.

There is currently a \$2.5 billion spending gap between what this country spends on child abuse and prevention and what is needed, and as a Nation we cannot rest. We cannot sit idly by with the knowledge that millions of children are not being properly cared for. Child abuse and neglect victims may experience one or more kinds of maltreatment including neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, psychological or other maltreatment. Neglect is the most common form of child maltreatment; and in recent years, close to 63 percent of child abuse victims suffer neglect including medical neglect.

Of the millions of children who reported abuse and neglect, 24 percent suffered physical abuse, 12 percent suffered sexual abuse, 6 percent suffered emotional maltreatment, and 3 percent suffered from medical neglect. Sadly, almost 40 percent of the children are

under the age of six. Unfortunately, in my home State of Texas, 47,400 children were confirmed victims of abuse or neglect. There are over 6 million children in Texas. This legislation will hopefully focus with resources, instruction, and of course aiding and insisting on better services in our States to make sure that we confront this problem head on.

Just a few years ago I joined with the children's protective services in Harris County to tackle the problem of abandoned children, to engage in a billboard campaign along with other outreach campaigns to insist that there are other ways to avoid abandoning a baby and leaving a child unattended and to be able to work with the children's protective services and foster parent care to ensure that our children are never abandoned along a roadside or in a garbage dump. We are still working on that problem, Mr. Speaker; and we have a long way to go.

I would say that the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is absolutely correct. While we are protecting our children against abuse, whether it is sexual abuse and neglect, whether it is by way of medical treatment or nutrition, we also need to look at programs that are headed our way to this floor; and certainly this morning in a hearing sponsored by the Congressional Black Caucus it is very clear that the Head Start program is not broken and should not be fixed. Absolutely, legislation that is making its way to this floor should not include a block grant provision that takes moneys away from this vital Head Start program, 38 years old, that provides nurturing and caring attitudes toward our children, a nurturing and supportive atmosphere for our parents, immunization and nutrition, giving some of these children two meals a day that they would have never have gotten. This effort to block grant this program even if it is only in eight States, Mr. Speaker, is misdirected and loses the point of what Head Start has done for 38 years. Clearly, we can work to improve our program; but we should not abolish it, and we have people in Congress today, Head Start professionals and parents, who are advocating do not abolish Head Start; and I hope that our colleagues will listen to them.

I would say also, Mr. Speaker, that we have another job yet undone, and that is to provide a tax credit for low-income children. Yes, this legislation is extremely important. But today, June 17, 2003, America's low-income children still do not have a tax credit. What we can do, Mr. Speaker, is immediately pass the Senate bill and send it to the President's desk and send the Senate bill to our low-income families. In my State of Texas, 2.129 million children are missing the impact of a low-income tax credit because we have stalled this legislation in the House. In addition, 12 million to 19 million children could be helped by the Senate bill along with the children of our military

families, some of whom have their loved ones on the front lines of Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, this body should be a problem-solver. As the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) has said, we have a lot of work that we have accomplished, but much work to be done. Let us not abolish Head Start with this misdirected legislation headed to the floor. Let us pass this legislation enthusiastically to protect our children, but yet let us not leave 19 million children out in the cold without an effective child tax credit for low-income families. Let us pass that legislation as we pass S. 342, and let us work to secure and protect Head Start funding to the Head Start programs and not abolish it by block granting those funds to the State.

I thank the distinguished gentleman for yielding me this time, and I ask my colleagues to enthusiastically support S. 342.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this rule and the underlying Conference Report on S. 342, the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003. I join my colleagues and reiterate how important it is to protect our children from abuse and neglect.

Many states are dependent on Federal money to meet the increasing demand for child abuse prevention programs. This legislation is important because it is the only Federal legislation that directly addresses the prevention of child abuse. Currently, there is a \$2.5 billion spending gap between what this country spends on child abuse prevention and what is needed. As a nation we cannot rest, we can not sit idly by with the knowledge that millions of children are not being properly cared for.

Child abuse and neglect victims may experience one or more kinds of maltreatment including neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, psychological or other maltreatment. Neglect is the most common form of child maltreatment and in recent years close to 63 percent of child abuse victims suffered neglect (including medical neglect). Of the millions of children who are reported abused or neglected, 24 percent suffered physical abuse, 12 percent suffered sexual abuse, 6 percent suffered emotional maltreatment and three percent suffered from medical neglect. Sadly, almost 40 percent of the children were under the age of 6.

I am particularly concerned with that 12 percent of cases involving sexual abuse. Child sexual abuse includes actual physical abuse such as touching a child's genital area or molestation, and it also includes sexual assault, self-exposure (flashing), voyeurism, and exposing children to pornography.

Unfortunately, in my home state of Texas 47,400 children are confirmed victims of abuse or neglect. I want to put that number into perspective, Mr. Speaker. There are over six million children in Texas. Over one million Texas children live in poverty. Many of the children and families I am talking about would not have been eligible for the Republican's child tax credit. Studies have shown that poverty is one of the many societal elements that can increase the occurrence of child abuse. I am glad to say that this underlying bill will lead to services for all families, including those whose incomes are low.

It is beyond reprehensible that anyone would treat children in this way. Furthermore,

it would be despicable for this Congress not to do everything possible to help prevent such abuse.

Between 1993 and 1999, the incidence of child abuse and neglect declined on the national level. However, after 1999 the incidence of child abuse rose. We must turn that tide back around. We must not be discouraged by the size of the problem we must seek to work together, in a bipartisan way. Because the matter of protecting our children is not political or partisan it is simply the most important thing that this body can do.

There is more that we can do. In fact, there is more that we must do. The underlying bill is a step in the right direction therefore I support the rule on the Conference Report for S. 342.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. PORTER), vice chairman of the subcommittee.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the conference agreement to S. 342, the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003. Mr. Speaker, this legislation builds upon changes made during the last reauthorization of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, directing its efforts towards the prevention of child abuse and neglect and family violence in collaboration with child protective services. It would ensure that States have the necessary flexibility and resources for identifying and addressing the issues of child maltreatment and family violence before they occur and works to protect and treat abused and neglected children and victims of family violence.

According to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, in 2001 there were an estimated 903,000 victims of abuse or neglect nationally. Almost three-fifths of all victims suffered from neglect, and the most victimized children were in the zero to three age group. In Clark County, Nevada, while there was an increase in the number of child abuse and neglect reports, up in 2001 to 8,316, in 2000 there was a drop to 7,932. There was a decrease in the substantiated child abuse reports as a percentage of the total reports in 2001, having continually declined from 1997. And with the improvements we have established throughout the intense conference negotiations on the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003, I hope to see a further decline in child abuse and family violence across this country.

It is important that children and families can lead safe and healthy lives. Treatment and preventative measures are essential to stopping this abuse. I urge my colleagues to support this conference report.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 4 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I noticed that the chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce has come to the floor, and again I want to reiterate my commendations to him for the outstanding leadership that he has pro-

vided in bringing this legislation before us and to the floor of the House.

I have always been told that the greatness of a society can be determined by how well it looks after its old, how well it looks after its young, and what it does for those who have difficulty in looking out for themselves. And when we think about abused and neglected children, we are thinking about individuals who have difficulty looking out for themselves.

For the last 10 or more years each Christmas Eve, I and a group of my friends visit what we call halfway houses for neglected and abused children; and to see little children in the basements of apartment buildings, in the basements of churches or in many instances just places that the keepers of these facilities have found and to see them there with little hope, with no real encouragement, and not even knowing what the season is about, and to see the glee and the joy that they have just when they are given an apple or an orange or some fruit or a toy that someone else may have just given away, that speaks to what this legislation will mean. If we can prevent families from taking out their frustration on children, if we can find children who have left home, who themselves are confused, if we can bring hope to the hopeless and help to those who are helpless, then that is really what America should be about; and that is one of the things that this legislation helps to do. So once again, I commend all of those who have been instrumental in bringing it to this point.

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

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

I would like to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for the kind words and the tone of discussion and the debate today. It is not a debate. We have worked very positively in a bipartisan way to bring this legislation not only through the House but through a conference committee, and one of the instrumental leaders in making sure that that is a tone that we have on the committee and the tone for this piece of legislation is the chairman of the full committee.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman BOEHNER) and express our appreciation and thanks for having the opportunity to move this bill.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding me this time.

I thank both him and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and many others for their efforts in bringing us here, and I rise today in support of the conference report to S. 342, the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003. This conference report reauthorizes the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act and related programs and acts. The conference report represents, I think, our efforts and commitment to once again ensure that

programs aimed at the prevention of child abuse and neglect are strengthened and continue to serve vulnerable children.

When this process began, we wanted to ensure that the final bill reflected our strong belief that every child in America deserves the security of being part of a safe, permanent, and caring family. And I am pleased to say that the conference report that we have before us does just that. It aims to improve program implementation, making enhancements to current law to ensure that States have the necessary resources and flexibility to properly address the prevention of child abuse and neglect. This conference report retains language to ensure that children are protected from abuse and neglect through best practice prevention and treatment services. And, importantly, it continues to reflect our belief that we can help achieve this goal by maintaining resources for adoption opportunities, identifying and addressing the needs of abandoned infants, and ensuring that resources continue to be available to promote family violence prevention activities. This conference report also retains language to address the problem of child abandonment and abuse with effective solutions that make a real difference in the lives of children.

In addition, this conference report continues to appropriately address issues regarding child protective services across the United States by enhancing training for personnel, requiring more effective partnerships between child protective services and private and community-based organizations, and improving public education on the children protection system. This conference report enjoys a strong bipartisan support and is widely supported throughout the child abuse prevention and family violence prevention communities. I want to thank all the conferees from both the House and the Senate for their efforts in getting us to this point.

I especially want to thank the Select Education Subcommittee chairman (Chairman HOEKSTRA) for his leadership and dedication to the completion of this conference report; the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD); the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA); the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS); and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), my friend and the ranking member of our committee.

□ 1530

I wish to thank Senator GREGG, the Chairman of the Senate Health Committee, Senator KENNEDY, the ranking member, and Senator DODD for their assistance in finalizing and helping us bring this legislation forward today.

I also want to thank the staff for their hard work and their dedication, especially Krisann Pearce, Pam Davidson, Kate Houston, Holli Traud, Alexa Marrero, and Jo-Marie St. Martin of

my committee staff; Ruth Friedman with the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), Ricardo Martinez with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA), Rebecca Hunt with the staff of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA), Judy Borger and Matt Haggerty with the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD), and the counsel from the minority side, Mort Zuckerman, whom I see in the Chamber. They have all worked in an especially close way to help bring us here today.

So I want to urge my colleagues to support the conference report to S. 342, and thank them for all of their hard work.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to note it is a pleasure to see as many children in the Chamber as there are to see this bipartisan legislation being approved. I would reiterate that there is nothing more important that America could do than to demonstrate how important children are and prepare for the future leaders of our Nation to emerge, to have the kind of services that they need, the kind of programs.

We cannot afford to lose a single one. So every time we can go out and bring in a child who may have been lost, may have been neglected or may have been abused we are actually doing the best work that we could do. I would urge support of this legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to just reiterate my support to the comments of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS). It is absolutely true that society will be measured by how we take care of those who are least able to take care of themselves. This bill is a step in the right direction. I hope that we can continue working on these issues and other issues to make sure that we do not leave a single child behind, either at this stage in life through the education process or later on as they enter into higher education.

Those are all the kinds of issues that we will either consider at the subcommittee or the full committee level, and hopefully we can continue to maintain this bipartisan support on these very, very critical issues, recognizing that we each come from different communities with different perspectives, different backgrounds and different needs, and that by bringing those perspectives to the committee, by bringing those perspectives to the House, we will reach the appropriate kind of legislation that will have the most impact and most beneficial impact across America.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I commend the committee leadership in both Chambers for bringing forth this agreement, which rep-

resents a bipartisan, bicameral effort to protect children.

As with the Amber Alert legislation, and the Runaway, Homeless and Missing Children Protection Act that passed the House earlier this year, this legislation shows that we are unified in our desire to protect young people who are in danger. I am proud to be a part of this effort.

I won't repeat all the technical aspects of the bill, but this effort will focus on the prevention and treatment of child abuse by authorizing grants to States to help with the functions of the child protection system. It also provides authority for research and demonstration projects, enhances investigations and prosecutions of maltreatment, and provides grants for local community-based programs.

I am pleased that we were able to include in the final agreement demonstration programs to assist children who witness domestic violence as well as an Internet enhancement of the domestic violence hotline.

There is no more important task before this Congress than to protect the most vulnerable of our Nation's children.

I only hope that our commitment to children will extend beyond rhetoric to the resources needed to fully fund these and other programs for children. Unfortunately, help for poor, disadvantaged children has taken a backseat to tax breaks for the wealthy. We are sending a clear message to our young people, not only will we leave you behind, we will also leave you the bill.

I firmly urge all my colleagues to support the final conference agreement. When the time comes, I also urge you to support the resources necessary to protect, defend, and educate our children.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLAKE). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the conference report.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

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

Mr. HOEKSTRA. 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, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 34 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1645

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. QUINN) at 4 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, and the Chair's prior announcement, the Chair will now put each question on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today in the following order:

Conference report to accompany S. 342, by the yeas and nays;

Motion to suspend the rules and adopt S. Con. Res. 43, by the yeas and nays;

Speaker's approval of the Journal, de novo.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 342, KEEPING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SAFE ACT OF 2003

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of agreeing to the conference report on the Senate bill, S. 342, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 421, nays 3, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 282]

YEAS—421

Abercrombie	Burgess	Deutsch
Ackerman	Burns	Dicks
Aderholt	Burr	Dingell
Akin	Burton (IN)	Doggett
Alexander	Buyer	Dooley (CA)
Allen	Calvert	Doolittle
Andrews	Camp	Doyle
Baca	Cannon	Dreier
Bachus	Cantor	Duncan
Baird	Capito	Dunn
Baker	Capps	Edwards
Baldwin	Capuano	Ehlers
Ballance	Cardin	Emanuel
Ballenger	Cardoza	Emerson
Barrett (SC)	Carson (OK)	Engel
Bartlett (MD)	Carter	English
Barton (TX)	Case	Eshoo
Bass	Castle	Etheridge
Beauprez	Chabot	Evans
Becerra	Chocola	Everett
Bell	Clay	Farr
Bereuter	Clyburn	Fattah
Berkley	Coble	Feeney
Berman	Cole	Ferguson
Berry	Collins	Filner
Biggert	Conyers	Fletcher
Billirakis	Cooper	Foley
Bishop (GA)	Costello	Forbes
Bishop (NY)	Cox	Ford
Bishop (UT)	Cramer	Fossella
Blackburn	Crane	Frank (MA)
Blumenauer	Crenshaw	Franks (AZ)
Blunt	Crowley	Frelinghuysen
Boehlert	Culberson	Frost
Boehner	Cummings	Gallegly
Bonilla	Cunningham	Garrett (NJ)
Bonner	Davis (AL)	Gerlach
Bono	Davis (CA)	Gibbons
Boozman	Davis (FL)	Gilchrest
Boswell	Davis (IL)	Gillmor
Boucher	Davis (TN)	Gingrey
Boyd	Davis, Jo Ann	Gonzalez
Bradley (NH)	Davis, Tom	Goode
Brady (PA)	Deal (GA)	Goodlatte
Brady (TX)	DeFazio	Gordon
Brown (OH)	DeGette	Goss
Brown (SC)	Delahunt	Granger
Brown, Corrine	DeLauro	Graves
Brown-Waite,	DeLay	Green (TX)
Ginny	DeMint	Green (WI)