

energy not only keeps economic activity in the United States, but is a vital component of national security.

As I previously stated, the 25 x '25 vision is an inclusive goal that strives to be responsible in its mission. The resolution does not endorse actions that will skew the marketplace. It calls for solutions that are "practical" and "cost effective." The goal is not endorsed to the detriment of existing demands on our renewable resources. House Concurrent Resolution 25 states that in attaining the 25 percent benchmark, the Nation should "continue to produce safe, abundant, and affordable food, feed, and fiber."

The resolution also advocates for an implementation strategy that is "practical" and "cost effective." Congress should heed this advice. It must seek to accomplish the goal of House Concurrent Resolution 25, but it should not adopt policies that are enacted at the expense of one renewable resource over another or at the expense of preexisting domestic energy sources. We must find comprehensive solutions to our energy needs.

In the United States today we are seeing great progress in expanding the scope of renewable energy. One recent development that I believe will help us accomplish the goal of 25 x '25 is the conception of the cellulosic ethanol industry, an ethanol industry that utilizes non-grain based plant products to produce ethanol. In my home State of Kansas, it was recently announced that construction of one of the Nation's first industrial-sized cellulosic ethanol plants will begin in Hugoton, KS. I am proud that this monumental step in the biofuel industry is occurring in Kansas and I hope that this technology can continue to develop over time.

Although development of the cellulosic ethanol industry is a great achievement, we must realize that ethanol is not the only component needed to accomplish the 25 x '25 vision. Often overlooked are the contributions of wind and solar energy. To accomplish the goal of 25 x '25, it will take the contributions of all the Nation's citizens. Wind and solar projects may not only need to be welcomed into our communities but in some instances literally into our backyards. Emerging technologies are making small-scale wind and solar power a reality.

Also, lost in the debate is the need to conserve energy. The 25 x '25 goal is more easily achieved if we control our accelerated quest for more energy. If we can find an economical and technological means of increasing fuel economy in the cars and trucks we manufacture, it will be easier for biofuels like ethanol and biodiesel to capture a greater share of an existing market.

Finally, while I am an arduous supporter of renewable energy, we must not overlook traditional domestically produced energy sources. Congress must not punish existing and still feasible forms of domestic energy in its attempt to grow the renewable market. Although not directly implicated by the 25 x '25 goal, efficient development of renewable energy markets cannot proceed without existing forms of energy. For example, nitrogen fertilizer is a key component producing the corn from which ethanol is made. Most nitrogen fertilizer utilized in the United States is produced using natural gas.

The vision embodied by House Concurrent Resolution 25 is a goal that Congress should support and the American people should work

to achieve. Utilizing renewable resources in a responsible fashion is good for the environment, good for U.S. workers, and helps move the Nation toward energy independence.

INTRODUCTION OF PROVIDING RESOURCES TO IMPROVE DUAL LANGUAGE EDUCATION ACT OF 2007

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 16, 2007*

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, access to high-quality early childhood education programs, including dual language programs, can play a significant role in closing the education gap. So I am proud to rise today to introduce the PRIDE Act, which will establish dual language education programs.

One in every five students who enters schools in the U.S. speaks a language other than English at home. The English language learners (ELL) population represents more than five million students in the K-12 public school system, which constitutes about 10 percent of our total public school population. In Los Angeles County, ELL students are no longer a subgroup of students. Rather, ELL students represent the student population the school district serves. More than 40 percent of students in the Los Angeles Unified School District are ELLs. Of those students, 94 percent speak Spanish as their native language. The vast majority of ELL students are native-born U.S. citizens.

English language learners and low-income children start kindergarten well behind their peers, and this gap continues to widen over time. For example, by kindergarten, only 50 percent of Latino children are able to name and recognize letters of the alphabet compared to 75 percent of Caucasian children. The National Task Force on Early Childhood Education for Hispanics cites that only 23 percent of Latino ELLs who knew little to no English at the start of kindergarten score at high levels of reading comprehension in the 5th grade. By 8th grade, 71 percent of ELL children score below basic in reading and math.

Dual language programs are in extremely high demand across the country. Programs in very affluent communities have long waiting lists of children. These programs help train biliterate and bilingual children. Although schools in low-income communities have instituted dual language programs to improve ELL instruction, these communities have less access to programs that truly follow the dual language model. We must provide our public school system with the tools necessary to ensure the success of all students, especially those in underserved communities and school districts.

That is why I have introduced the Providing Resources to Improve Dual Language Education Act of 2007 (the PRIDE Act). The PRIDE Act would serve children in economically disadvantaged communities and limited-English proficiency students from preschool through 5th grade. The PRIDE Act would recruit, train, and continuously develop staff to implement high-quality, dual language programs. These programs focus on instruction,

second language acquisition, and content knowledge.

We know how important the role of a family is in a child's education. The PRIDE Act would also establish a responsive infrastructure for positive, active, and ongoing relationships with students' families and the community, one that reflects the needs of the community and goals of the program.

The PRIDE Act is endorsed by at least 30 groups, including the National Council of La Raza, the National Education Association, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, the National Black Child Development Institute, and the National Association for Bilingual Education.

Madam Speaker, in order for the U.S. to remain globally competitive, Congress must address the ongoing challenges in our education system. We must promote and build bilingual skills for all our children, including those in impoverished communities. As a diverse nation, this includes ensuring education meets the needs of all students, including ELL children. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the PRIDE Act, because educating our children is a commitment that we must not abandon.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KEITH ELLISON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 16, 2007*

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, on October 15, 2007, I was back in Minneapolis attending a funeral for a constituent and failed to vote on rollcall votes: 961, 962, and 963. Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes, 961-963.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LOYAL CHRISTIAN BENEFIT ASSOCIATION OF SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 16, 2007*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, whereas, the Loyal Christian Benefit Association of Sacred Heart Catholic Church will celebrate the 100th anniversary with great joy; and

Whereas, they protect and care for the church, family and future; and

Whereas, occasions such as these illustrate to us that love mixed with grace and trust will stand the test of time; and

Whereas, it is the fond wish of this body that you will continue to present this work as a beacon for hope to the destitute and maintain your stand as a symbol to this generation that our strength lies in our gracious commitment in unity to each other in the bonds of brotherhood; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the congregation for your unwavering labor and commitment, recognizing that all great achievements come at a cost.