

Presently, Head Start programs reach over one million children and their families each year. Head Start serves urban, suburban, and rural communities throughout the United States as well as in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and other U.S. territories. In each Head Start site, the overarching goal remains the same—to support the positive growth and development of children from birth to age 5 through services that promote early learning, healthy choices, and family well-being. Head Start programs help America succeed by helping our most vulnerable citizens succeed in school and in life.

In my own Congressional District and hometown of Chicago, countless families have benefited greatly from Head Start and Early Head Start. I am grateful that Head Start serves almost 29,000 children and their families in Illinois. Over the past year, Head Start and its dedicated staff have helped over 17,000 children in my state keep up-to-date on health screenings, over 10,000 children receive preventative dental care, and over 20,000 families receive support services. In fact, Head Start employees in Illinois performed over 260,000 home visits over the past year. I personally know how valuable these home visits are; early in my career, I was responsible for training Head Start and other early childhood educators on how best to conduct home visits in inner-city Chicago.

There are dozens of amazing Head Start and Early Head Start sites in Chicago. The following community-based organizations are examples of those grantees that provide top-notch services in our local communities: Ada S. McKinley Community Services; Carole Robertson Center for Learning; Chicago Commons Association; the City of Chicago; Easter Seals Metropolitan Chicago, Inc.; Henry Booth House; and Start Early.

Famed singer and songwriter Marvin Gaye once stated that “our children are the future, teach them well and let them lead the way.” Head Start is doing just that by making a valued investment in our children and therefore our future. I applaud President Biden for signing the Executive Order on Childcare on April 18, 2023, that will marshal additional federal funds and support for Head Start caregivers and childcare, in general.

I hope my colleagues will join me today in recognizing and celebrating 58 years of Head Start. Going forward, I commit to continuing to work to find additional ways, resources, and means to support this vital, early childhood education and school readiness program that serves millions of hard-working American families and our youngest citizens.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed a vote. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 224.

CONGRATULATING THE MANHEIM TOWNSHIP BOWLING TEAM ON THEIR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Manheim Township Bowling Team for capturing the state championship this year. This is the first time in the school district's history that their bowling team has earned the title of state champions.

Despite finishing third in Section One of the Lancaster-Lebanon League, the team took advantage of the opportunity and continued to defy the odds to be successful.

Head Coach Steve Schulz in an interview: “Our good performance in the regular season blossomed into undisputed excellence in the postseason. Each bowler persevered through disappointing shots or tenacious single pin leaves to throw the best shots to strike again.”

Congratulations to each of the students for their successful season. I wish them all continued success in all their future endeavors. Their efforts have certainly made our community proud. The perseverance they exhibited this season is remarkable.

Congratulations again to the Manheim Township Blue Streaks Bowling Team on capturing the state championship.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMARTER APPROACHES TO NUCLEAR EXPENDITURES (SANE) ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Smarter Approaches to Nuclear Expenditures (SANE) Act.

The United States will spend \$494 billion on our nuclear arsenal through Fiscal Year 2028, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Even the Pentagon acknowledges that this level of spending—more than XXXX—is not necessary to secure the United States. The Defense Department's 2013 Report on Nuclear Employment Strategy of the United States declared we can ensure the security of the U.S. and our allies and maintain a strong and credible strategic deterrent, while pursuing up to a one-third reduction in deployed nuclear weapons from the level established in the New START Treaty. Other experts, including a commission chaired by former Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General James Cartwright, said the U.S. could go even lower without jeopardizing security.

The SANE Act aims to inject fiscal responsibility and strategic reality into the United States' nuclear weapons planning by reducing the purchase of replacement nuclear submarines, cutting the existing ICBM fleet, cancelling the development of new ICBMs, removing the nuclear mission from the F-35, eliminating the life extension program for the tactical B61 gravity bomb and cancelling the development of a new air-launched cruise missile, and terminating construction of new facili-

ties for nuclear weapons processing and storage.

By strategically sizing our nuclear weapons programs, the SANE Act will save at least \$73 billion over 5 years and stay within the New START Treaty warhead levels.

America must reconcile the facts: our Defense budget is already squeezed, a nuclear deterrent is irrelevant to current international security challenges, yet a nuclear deterrent is still a national security imperative. The SANE Act would secure our nuclear deterrent without undercutting critical investments in readiness and other essential programs.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE JUSTICE FOR SHIREEN ACT

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to reintroduce the Justice for Shireen Act today. I thank my House and Senate Colleagues that joined me to call for a report to Congress from the FBI and State Department, in consultation with the Attorney General, Secretary of Defense and Director of National Intelligence, on the death of American-Palestinian Journalist, Shireen Abu Akleh. I send my deep condolences to the Abu Akleh family for this terrible .killing and stand with them to demand justice and accountability.

Shireen Abu Akleh, an American-Palestinian Journalist, was killed, one year ago, on May 11, 2022. She was killed wearing a clearly marked press vest on assignment, reporting on a military raid which took place in the occupied city of Jenin. One year ago, I led a letter, signed by 58 Members of Congress, to the FBI and State Department calling for an independent and open investigation led by her home country, the United States, and 24 Senators have echoed this request. It is imperative that Congress be given the information it needs to conduct the necessary oversight. We must ensure no taxpayer dollars contribute to human rights violations or anyone's death—most especially an American abroad.

As an American, Ms. Abu Akleh was entitled to the full protections afforded to U.S. citizens living abroad. As Members of Congress, we need to uphold the values that our Nation was founded on, including human rights, equality for all, and freedom of speech. As Members of Congress, we have a duty to protect Americans reporting abroad. An Israeli investigation has concluded, finding that it was indeed an Israeli soldier that shot Ms. Abu Akleh in her line of duty. It is the responsibility of the U.S. to learn all the unanswered questions leading up to, during and after the fatal shot that killed Ms. Abu Akleh. Additionally, this bill requires an identification of any United States defense materials or services that were implicated in the death of Ms. Abu Akleh. No U.S. weapons and military services by the U.S. should be used to kill Americans on foreign soil. American taxpayers should not be paying for any violation of human rights abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in calling for justice and accountability for Shireen Abu Akleh.