

in 1965 to make it more likely that disadvantaged children would successfully arrive at one of the most important of our starting lines: the beginning of school.

Head Start over the years has served hundreds of thousands of our most at-risk children. The program has grown and changed. It has been subjected to debates and studies touting its successes and decrying its deficiencies. But Head Start has stood the test of time because it is so very important.

We have made great progress in what we know about the early growth and development of young children since Head Start began in 1965. At that time very few professionals had studied early childhood education. Even fewer had designed programs specifically for children in poverty with their many challenges.

The origins of Head Start come from an understanding that success for these children was not only about education. The program was designed to be certain these children were healthy, got their immunizations, were fed hot meals, and—of crucial importance—that their parents were deeply involved in the program.

From the beginning comprehensive services and parent and community involvement were essential parts of good Head Start programs. And that is still true today. In the early days, teacher training and curriculum were seen as less important. But we now know a great deal more about brain development and how children learn from birth.

Today young children are expected to learn more and be able to do more in order to succeed in school. Public schools offer kindergarten in response to these changes. And 40 States now offer early childhood programs.

As we reauthorize the Head Start program, it is important to recognize its importance and commit to making it stronger. But we must also recognize that the program is not fulfilling its promise. Head Start is not meeting its purpose of serving our children who are most at risk when dollars are being squandered by those people who have been charged with providing this service. Current practices do not meet my personal standard for managing and running a program.

This bill attempts to address this issue by holding up successful local programs so that others may follow their example and by clarifying lines of accountability so that any corrupt practices may be rooted out. The bill would create a way for States to help strengthen and coordinate Head Start, but would continue to send Federal funds directly to nearly 1,700 grantees that provide services in over 29,000 Head Start centers that serve just over 900,000 disadvantaged children.

First, the bill authorizes the Secretary of HHS to create a nationwide network of 200 Centers of Excellence in Early Childhood built around exemplary Head Start programs. These Cen-

ters of Excellence would be nominated by governors. Each Center of Excellence would receive a Federal bonus grant of at least \$200,000 in each of 5 years, in addition to its base funding.

The Centers of Excellence bonus grants will be used for centers:

No. 1, to work in their community to model the best of what Head Start can do for at-risk children and families, including getting those children ready for school and ready for academic success;

No. 2, to coordinate all early childhood services in their community;

No. 3, to offer training and support to all professionals working with at-risk children;

No. 4, to track these families and ensure seamless continuity of services from prenatal to age 8;

No. 5, to become models of excellence by all performance measures and be willing to be held accountable for good outcomes for our most disadvantaged children; and

No. 6, to have the flexibility to serve additional Head Start or Early Head Start children or provide more full-day services to better meet the needs of working parents.

While Head Start centers are uneven in performance, they have generally excelled in two areas critical to success in caring for and educating children—developing community support and encouraging parental involvement. Alex Haley, the author of *Roots*, lived by these six words, “Find the good and praise it.” For me that was an invaluable lesson. That’s what I hope these centers will do.

In addition to providing for the establishment of Centers of Excellence to highlight and encourage better practices among local Head Start programs, the bill establishes three new methods for ensuring accountability in the management and running of the programs.

First, it provides that grantees shall re-compete for grants every 5 years. This ensures that, after 5 years, their program is still meeting its standards. I recognize that consistency is very important for the Head Start programs, especially for the children served by these grants. Many Head Start grantees are doing a very good job administering their grants, and I hope this reapplication process will highlight their success. To help streamline the process for successful programs, grantees that have not been found deficient nor to have had an area of noncompliance left unresolved for more than 120 days will receive a priority designation during the re-competition process.

Second, the bill for the first time defines what makes a local program “deficient.” This will provide clarity for Head Start grantees so that they know the precise standards to which they will be held. Under the bill, a program may be deemed deficient if it is found to threaten the health, safety, or civil rights of children or staff, deny parents the exercise of their full roles and re-

sponsibilities, misuse funds, lose its legal status or financial viability, or violates other standards specified in the bill.

Finally, the bill makes clear that the Governing Board shall be the body that is charged with running local programs and which will be held accountable for those programs. During our hearing on April 5, we learned from Mayor Wharton of Shelby County, TN, and other witnesses, that the dual governance structure between the governing board and the policy council was inadequate and neither body had decision-making authority. This bill gives governing boards direct authority—and holds them accountable—while ensuring that policy councils, on which parents sit, continue to play an important advisory role in the running of local Head Start programs.

My mother taught me the importance of preschool education. When I was growing up, she ran a kindergarten in a converted garage in our backyard in Maryville, TN. She helped our community appreciate the value of a good preschool program. I have remembered both lessons in working with my colleagues to fashion this proposal to bring out the best in Head Start.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in advancing this critical legislation to ensure the Head Start program meets its full potential.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

LINCOLN FINANCIAL GROUP: CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF EXCELLENCE—1905–2005

• Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today in celebration of the centennial anniversary of Lincoln Financial Group.

In 1905, Lincoln Financial Group began with one product, one company, four employees and a small rented space above a telegraph office in downtown Fort Wayne, Indiana. Amid the stir of controversy that gripped the big, established insurers at the time, Lincoln’s founders envisioned a new insurance enterprise—one based on dependability and honesty. Believing that the name of Abraham Lincoln would powerfully convey this spirit, the founders wrote the 16th President’s only surviving son, Robert Todd Lincoln, to ask for permission to use a portrait of his father on the company stationery. Robert Todd Lincoln agreed, and that is how Lincoln’s legacy began with a name that reflects its character.

Since its founding, Lincoln Financial has consistently leveraged its strong capital foundation to grow. From 1905–1955, Lincoln Life grew to become the ninth largest life insurance company in the United States. Even during the Great Depression, Lincoln acquired three companies. In 1968, Lincoln National Corporation was formed as an Indiana corporation. At the time, it

was one of the first holding companies in the insurance industry.

In the last decades of the 20th century, Lincoln transformed itself from a life insurance company into a nationally recognized financial services enterprise. The corporation adopted the name Lincoln Financial Group as its marketing name in 1998. In addition to Fort Wayne, Lincoln maintains primary offices in Philadelphia, PA; Hartford, CT; Chicago, IL; Portland, ME; and Barnwood, Gloucester, England.

Today, Lincoln is a family of companies working together to provide an array of financial planning, retirement income, life insurance, annuity, mutual fund, and investment management solutions to its clients. As of year-end 2004, Lincoln had consolidated assets of \$116 billion and annual consolidated revenues of \$5.4 billion in 2004.

Lincoln's growth has been spurred by a corporate culture that rewards creativity and believes that success is derived from a diverse and talented workforce. The people of Lincoln have always valued the trust customers place in the company each time they seek financial advice, purchase a Lincoln product or recommend the company to a friend. The company has seven shared values that reflect the principles expressed by its namesake and characterize the quality of its products: integrity; commitment to excellence; responsibility; respect; fairness; diversity; and employee ownership.

Lincoln's sense of responsibility shapes not only its business practices, but also its commitment to the communities where it operates. Since its founding, Lincoln has recognized that investing in these communities is fundamental to its success. The company's spirit of philanthropy led to the establishment of the Lincoln Financial Group Foundation in 1962, which further inspired a rich tradition of giving. Today, Lincoln sets aside 2 percent of its pre-tax earnings for philanthropy. Over the past 30 years, the Lincoln Financial Group Foundation has given over \$70 million in charitable giving in Indiana.

In addition to the company's monetary donations, its employees bring the company's spirit of philanthropy to life every day. Collectively, they donate thousands of hours each year in personal volunteerism and participation in various company-sponsored community activities. To encourage and recognize their efforts, Lincoln provides employees with paid time off to participate in various volunteer projects. The company's Matching Gifts program to colleges and universities also maximizes employee donations. From food drives to donating blood, home-building projects to tutoring, Lincoln employees actively make a difference in the communities they call home.

As it celebrates its centennial, Lincoln's name gives a distinctive character to its legacy.

As the next 100 years begin, there is much to celebrate for the company as

it looks to build a future of opportunity, focused on its shared values.●

HONORING THE CITY OF REDFIELD, SD

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and publicly recognize the 125th anniversary of the founding of the city of Redfield, SD. As the 125th anniversary approaches, Redfield looks back on a proud history and looks forward to a promising future.

Located in east central South Dakota, Redfield is the county seat for Spink County, the largest wheat-producing county in our State. First settled in 1878 by Frank Meyers and a party of Chicago and Northwestern surveyors, Redfield was originally known as "Stennett Junction;" named after an official with the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. The term "Junction" was added in anticipation of the railroad's popularity. Meyers established the first post office in 1880, thus marking the town's official birth. In February of 1881, however, the town's name was changed to Redfield, after Joseph Barlow Redfield, an auditor with the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad Company who purchased a great deal of the area's land for investors in Chicago.

Although Redfield now serves as the county seat for Spink County, prior to 1886, that was not the case. In fact, Redfield supporters fought a contentious and controversial county seat battle between Old Ashton, Ashton, Frankfort and Redfield. Despite these efforts, old Ashton retained its position as county seat. All that changed, however, in 1886, when Redfield honestly won the majority of the votes in Spink County and was awarded the seat it still proudly claims.

Among the city's many landmarks is the historic Carnegie Library. In 1902, Redfield welcomed a grant from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation that made the library possible. This contribution transformed a simple reading club into a majestic red brick building adorned with a tan sandstone foundation, a domed cupola and beautiful oak columns and woodwork. In the library's early years, it housed the Redfield city offices, in addition to the collections; the City Auditor doubled as librarian. Recently, I had the pleasure of helping the community of Redfield secure \$100,000 to renovate and expand this historic structure, which is the oldest continuous-use Carnegie Library in South Dakota.

The South Dakota Developmental Center, SDDC, is another notable Redfield landmark. Opened in 1902, the SDDC originally housed the staff and the patients in a single building, which is still used for office space today. There are currently 175 disabled individuals receiving services from SDDC today, ranging in age from 13 months to 78 years of age. Their disabilities range from moderate to profound.

Redfield also is home to one of the last surviving drive-in movie theaters.

Erected in 1952, Pheasant City Drive-in Theater still entertains more than 2,800 Redfield residents.

In the twelve and a half decades since its founding, Redfield has proven its ability to thrive and serve farmers and ranchers throughout the region. Redfield's proud residents celebrate its 125th anniversary July 1-3, 2005, and it is with great honor that I share with my colleagues the achievements made by this great community.●

FRIENDS AND FOOD FOR FIFTY YEARS IN ST. ANTHONY, ID

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, there is a small town in Idaho that celebrates a very special anniversary this year. Fifty years ago in 1955, the St. Anthony, ID Chamber of Commerce paid for travelers to have coffee and donuts at any of the local cafes to celebrate the opening day of fishing season. The effort, which encouraged fishermen and women to stop in St. Anthony for supplies, was so successful that this tiny town decided to prepare and serve a full breakfast of pancakes, sausage, hash browns and beverages for hungry travelers every year. By 1966, 10,000 people were served over the course of one day, more than three times the current population of the town. Today, about 5,000 people a year get to enjoy the great food and super hospitality of this small town in southeast Idaho that serves as a gateway to the Snake River and some of the best fishing in the West.

I congratulate the St. Anthony Chamber of Commerce and all of the volunteers who this year and in years past have come together to give people a smile, laughter and a delicious hot breakfast.●

CHILDREN'S HOSPICE INTERNATIONAL

● Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, on May 23 of this year, Children's Hospice International celebrates its 22nd anniversary of helping children with life-threatening illnesses find comfort and care through hospice care programs around the country and the world.

Several members of this distinguished body, including former Senate Majority Leader Robert K. Dole of Kansas and former Senator Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island, were among the organization's early supporters because they recognized the need to provide comprehensive hospice care for children who are suffering from difficult medical conditions.

In 1977, when CHI was founded by Ann Armstrong-Dailey, there were no hospice care programs for children in the United States. In 1983, only four of 1,400 hospice programs in the United States were willing to accept children. Now, close to 450 of 3,000 U.S. hospices include child-specific services. And while that is good news, there is much more to be done.

Of the 10 million children in America who are living with a serious chronic