

States to consult with Indian tribes before enacting policies that have a direct effect on them.

The history of Federal-Tribal relations has shown that consultation with Indian tribes works. The Federal Indian policies that have failed have been those that were developed without tribal input or are contrary to tribal input. On the other hand, the Federal Indian policy that has succeeded is that which allows Indian tribes the most input and control over their own affairs—tribal self-governance and self-determination. Indian tribes know what is best for themselves and for their members.

So it is disappointing that over 30 years after passage of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act that this Administration refuses to engage in timely and meaningful consultation with Indian tribes.

Despite the political and moral obligation, as well as Presidential Executive Order 13175 requiring the administration to consult with Indian tribes, this administration has flagrantly ignored this responsibility. Instead, the administration takes actions that often have serious and negative consequences on Indian country, without any consultation at all. The House Committee on Natural Resources hears from Indian tribes on a continuous basis about the lack of government-to-government consultation between the administration and Indian tribes.

This bill will require the Department of the Interior, the Indian Health Service, and the National Indian Gaming Commission to enter into a true consultation process with Indian tribes and Alaska Natives before new policies or actions are taken, which will directly affect them.

This bill will mandate that Federal Indian policy is formulated only with input from Indian country while respecting Indian tribal self-government, sovereignty, and with honor for treaties signed long ago.

This bill will ensure that the United States will not repeat the mistaken policies of the past where the Great White Father makes decisions and policies in a vacuum.

This bill will make sure that the United States as a government sits at the table with Indian tribal governments when decisions are to be made affecting the lives of our First Americans.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

RECONNECTING HOMELESS YOUTH ACT OF 2008

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today as the lead Republican Sponsor of H.R. 5524, the Reconnecting Homeless Youth Act of 2008. I am pleased to join with my good friend Congressman JOHN YARMUTH to introduce this important bill reauthorizing and strengthening programs for runaway and homeless youth programs set to expire this year.

Madam Speaker, each year, between one and three million children in the United States find themselves on their own and on the street. Throughout our Nation, local shelters, like Naperville Community Outreach and Aunt Martha's in my district, rely on Federal support to keep these kids safe and off the streets.

Congress first enacted the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, RHYA, in 1974 and has regularly reauthorized it to ensure a basic level of support for unaccompanied youth. The Reconnecting Homeless Youth Act does more than reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act. It gives children whose lives have been disrupted an opportunity to overcome homelessness and get on track for a successful future.

This bill gives needed flexibility to shelters receiving Basic Center Program, BCP, funds, which provide children with emergency short-term shelter while attempts are made at family reunification. It strengthens Transitional Living Programs, TLP, that provide older youth with life skills, education and employment services to help them become self-sufficient and independent. The bill also strengthens outreach efforts aimed at educating runaways on the services available and preventing youth from running away in the first place.

While the bill improves key components of runaway and homeless youth programs, I do have some concerns that I look forward to addressing as the bill moves through the Education and Labor Committee. First, I am concerned that raising minimum small state and territory allotments could adversely affect other States and territories if RHYA funding levels remain flat. Secondly, while I support the intent of more accurate research on runaway and homeless youth, I believe we can find a more cost-effective alternative to the research mandated in this bill. Lastly, I am concerned that the grant appeals process created in the bill attempts to fix a problem that simply does not exist and, in doing so, raises costs associated with administering the program.

I very much appreciate the assurances I've been given by the majority and minority on the Education and Labor Committee that we will discuss these and other issues in a bipartisan manner to make a good bill great, and, most importantly, to keep children off the streets.

IN RECOGNITION OF DELIA P. SANCHEZ IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, in recognition of Women's History Month, I rise today to honor Delia P. Sanchez, a champion for children in Florida. Ms. Sanchez is a wonderful example of the power of women to shape future generations and make a difference in their communities.

Ms. Sanchez is a lifelong learner. She obtained her bachelor's degree from Florida State University in social work with minors in education and Spanish in 1945 and went on to get her master's in social work at Columbia University in 1947. Until 1991, nearly 50 years later, she took graduate level courses in areas such as pupil personnel services, education, and rehabilitation.

All the while, Ms. Sanchez was affecting enormous change in lives of hundreds of children in the Tampa Bay area. One of the greatest services that Delia Sanchez provided to the Tampa community was to work with Congressman Sam Gibbons to bring the first Head

Start program to Hillsborough County. She began her career as a child welfare worker for the Florida State Welfare Board. From there Ms. Sanchez went on to work for the School Board of Hillsborough County as a school social worker and a case work consultant, working her way up the ranks to eventually serve as the administrative supervisor for Head Start for 9 years. Then, in the last 3 years of her career, she went into private practice to counsel troubled children.

Throughout her career and in her retirement, Ms. Sanchez has served as a board member or local representative to a number of community organizations. The list is too large to mention them all, but they range from the University of South Florida's Latin Community Advisory Committee, the Citizen's Advisory Council, the Child Abuse Council, the Ybor City Museum Society, to the National Association of Social Workers.

For all of her hard work for the education and welfare of children, countless organizations have recognized her. Ms. Sanchez is the recipient of the U.S. State Department Fellowship Award, the American Red Cross Service Award twice, the Mayor's Brotherhood/Sisterhood Award, the USF Social Work Alumni Society Award for Outstanding Community Service, the Channel 8 WFLA Volunteer of the Year Award, the Commemoration Committee Award for Dedicated Community Service, the Retired Social Worker Outstanding Achievement Award, the St. John Presbyterian Early Childhood Hand Print Award, the Ybor City Museum Society Pizzo Award to preserve Tampa's Latin heritage, the Hillsborough County Martin Luther King, Jr. Award, the Louis De La Parte Mental Health Advisory Council Award, and the National Head Start Association Lifetime Achievement Award.

And, if all of that wasn't enough, she is also a member of Sigma Delta Pi Spanish Honor Society, was named Social Worker of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers by the Tampa Bay Unit and then again by the Florida Chapter, received an honorary Doctorate from the University of South Florida School of Social Work, and in 1993 she was Hispanic Woman of the Year.

Madam Speaker, Delia P. Sanchez is a woman of the highest regard who has dedicated her life to helping others. I am proud to call her my neighbor, and I join many others to applaud her lifetime contribution to the Tampa Bay community.

HONORING ASNETH SYDONNIE COUNCIL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Asneth Sydonnie Council for outstanding and exemplary contribution to children and families in their pursuit of educational opportunities and advancement.

Asneth Council grew up in St. Ann, Jamaica in a home environment nurtured with love and strong family ties. She is the first of four daughters and one son of Mrs. Hillary Livingston, who is herself an educator. Her family's motto is "Education Is the Key to Success." Naturally, Ms. Council epitomizes this motto in