

the Supreme Court acted appropriately. My concerns therefore center around the wisdom of that original statute.

I came to this issue because numerous constituents of mine, including doctors, teachers and parents came to me with allegations of "coaching"—which is the term applied when parent encourages a child to misbehave or perform poorly in class in order to receive SSI benefits. As a result of these concerns I asked the GAO to investigate these allegations as well as the overall soundness of the program.

It is exactly the soundness of the program that has prompted me to become interested in this issue. Individuals that qualify for SSI receive a minimum cash payment of \$434—higher in some States. In the case of children there are no requirements that the money be spent to improve the quality of life for the child. It's a strict cash payment—no strings attached, and to an extent, no questions asked.

But I have questions. I question the good that this program can deliver through cash payments. I wonder whether medical and

therapeutic services might be a more appropriate and beneficial means of addressing the needs of a disabled child. And I doubt the ability of the IFA—which is at least largely subjective—to best determine who is truly needy.

Mr. Speaker over the next 2 nights I will continue this dialogue and explain in detail the problems that I have discovered over the past few months that I have been involved in this program. I look forward to the coming debate and yield back the balance of my time.