

only children with severe medical disabilities eligible for disability benefits. We provide more SSI medical and nonmedical services to severely disabled children. We require States to conduct continuing disability reviews every 3 years for most children involved in the program, and we set aside \$400 million for additional drug treatment and research to again help those who want help with their problem and who, in effect, should be eligible for SSI at least during the duration of their treatment and rehabilitation program.

We are not cutting SSI for kids. What we are doing, again, is trying to provide more funding for severely disabled children while protecting taxpayers against the growing abuse of the SSI program that has been well documented, again, in evidence presented to the Congress.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. What of the child care block grant program? Is that your next proposal?

Mr. RIGGS. Well, we have touched on that at some considerable length, the job care block grant program, and it is quite likely that we will see an amendment here on the floor. The child care block grant is obviously very important to helping people move from welfare to work. Now we recognize that many single mothers struggle against heroic odds, and if we, in fact, are going to assist them in making that transition, we need to help them with adequate quality child care and health care benefits.

So what we have done in the child care block grant is consolidate eight child care and development programs into a single block grant. We actually enable States to direct more funds to child care services even while providing level funding, and I believe that that funding will be increased through an amendment to be offered by the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Mrs. JOHNSON]. We preserve parental choice provisions in the current child care development block grant. We require States to have and meet their own safety and health laws for day care providers, and again we propose initially level funding of 1.9 billion a year for 5 years, although I believe the gentlewoman's amendment would increase that in the neighborhood of \$750 million more, again recognizing that quality child care is paramount to helping people make that transition from welfare to work.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. I will yield to the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. HAYWORTH. I just want to thank our good friend from California for delineating so many provisions in our Welfare Reform Act that we will talk about tomorrow, and certainly many more provisions remain, and we invite, Mr. Speaker, all the American people to be involved in this debate in this new partnership, and I think it is fair to mention that people at home are saying, "Well, what does this mean for me, for the taxpayers of America, for those who are working to provide

for their families and who are providing through charitable sources, and also through their tax dollars, for the truly needy?"

What we are saying is it is time to change the system. And for those who find themselves entrapped in this system that would lead to a growing cycle of dependency, we are saying take heart. Benefits will remain for the truly needy, but we offer you an opportunity to truly become involved in this system, to understand and enjoy the dignity of work and the fruits of your labor and to really become involved in this grand experiment we know as the last best hope of mankind.

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Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Our current system is so perverse to people, if they have savings, you cannot be on welfare. If you want to own property, you cannot be on welfare. It actually discourages the child's mother to marry the father because she will lose welfare. So what we have tried with these Republican proposals is frankly to give a better system to trim the fat from the budget, but to give the benefits where they belong, to those who really are in need, and not those who abuse the system that was outlined by the gentleman from California [Mr. RIGGS].

Mr. RIGGS. I would like to sum up. Again, as I said earlier today, several hours ago now on this very floor, it is time to get real. We all know the system is broken. We know that today's welfare system destroys families and the work ethic and that it traps people in the cycle of Government dependency and promotes intergenerational dependency on welfare. So what we are even deferring to do now in this historic debate is replace a failed system of despair with reforms based on the dignity of work and strength of families that move solutions closer to home and offer hope for the future.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. With that final statement from the gentleman from California [Mr. RIGGS], I want to thank also the gentleman from Arizona for his leadership [Mr. HAYWORTH], in trying to move this Congress forward in meaningful welfare reform that is compassionate and cares for people and will respect the rights of all individuals in the United States. I want to thank the gentleman for participating in this special hour on behalf of the House of Representatives. I want to thank the Speaker for his leadership and assistance in this regard.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. FIELDS] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

[Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WELDON] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

[Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

[Ms. JACKSON-LEE addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from California [Mr. RIGGS] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

[Mr. RIGGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Vermont [Mr. SANDERS] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

[Mr. SANDERS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. WALKER (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today, on account of illness.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. HOLDEN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. HOLDEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GUTIERREZ, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PETE GEREN of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. POMEROY, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at the request of Mr. LATHAM) to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mrs. SEASTRAND, for 5 minutes, on March 22.

#### EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to: