DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

HON. DAVID M. McINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 2, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2127) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Mr. McINTOSH. Mr. Chairman, the Disabled American Veterans [DAV] has sent a letter to every member of the House expressing their concerns with the language contained in title VI of H.R. 2127, the ''Taxpayer Funded Political Advocacy'' legislation, and its adverse impact upon their ability to provide veterans with the necessary services to present the veteran's claim for benefits to the Department of Veterans Affairs [VA]. It is their concern that this bill would preclude their giving claims assistance to veterans because the DAV benefits from free Government office space and other VA services. They are also concerned that this bill would adversely impact upon their ability to act as veterans' advocate in Congress because they receive this assistance.

It was never the intention of this legislation to interfere, in any manner, with the services provided by veterans' service organizations [VSOs] to veterans either in pursuit of VA benefits or as veterans' advocates. It was not our intention to include the assistance VSOs received from the VA to assist them in providing necessary services to veterans and their families within the definition of ''grant,'' including the reference to the term ''other thing of value.''

The services provided by VSOs under the provision of Title 38, United States Code, to America's veterans lessens the burden on VA to provide the assistance to veterans and are performed in partnership with a grateful nation.

In order to ensure that these services continue unencumbered by the provisions of this bill, it is my intention to have the language of this bill modified in conference to clarify that these provisions do not interfere with the services provided to veterans by veterans' service organizations.

We have talked with the Disabled American Veterans representatives here in Washington and in Indiana about this issue and they have indicated that DAV does not oppose the legislation. I have a letter signed by DAV's National Commander, Thomas McMasters, to that effect and ask that it be made part of the record of this hearing.

I would also like to clarify a concern raised by some members about the scope of the exclusion for loans. Loans made by the Government are expressly excluded from the definition of ''grant'' in title VI. Despite this exclusive, some members of Congress have expressed concern about whether this exclusion covers those who service or administer such loans. In sponsoring this title, I intended this exclusion for loans to include compensation paid to those who provide services related to the making and administering of loans. I hope that this clarifies any confusion, and resolves those concerns.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS,
Washington, DC, August 2, 1995.

Congressman DAVID N. MCINTOSH,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Natural Resources, and Regulatory Affairs, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN MCINTOSH: My staff has informed me of your assurance that attempts will be made either by floor amendment or in conference to clarify the language in the ''Taxpayer Funded Political Advocacy'' legislation so that the DAV and other veterans service organizations would not be considered a ''grantee'' based on the use of Department of Veterans' Affairs facilities and equipment. This action is necessary to ensure that this legislation does not, in any manner, interfere with DAV's ability to provide assistance to veterans in filing and prosecuting claims for benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Based on the assurance that the above corrective action will be forthcoming, I can assure you that DAV will not oppose this modified legislation.

My staff and I look forward to working with you and your staff on this matter and on other matters concerning our nation's service-connected disabled veterans. We look forward to your continued support.

Sincerely,

THOMAS A. MCMASTERS, III,
National Commander.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATION ACT, 1996

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 2, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2127) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the Greenwood amendment to restore funding to the title X Family Planning Program.

My colleagues have been thorough in explaining what the Greenwood amendment entails. I would like to address my remarks to what a vote in favor of the Greenwood amendment is not.

This is not a pro-choice or a pro-life vote. This amendment is not about abortion—despite calls to congressional offices to the contrary. Title X is not a radical program—in fact, the original legislation was sponsored by then Representative George Bush and signed into law by President Nixon in 1970.

Title X is the only Federal program which must provide family planning services. It is a brilliant strategy on the part of the opponents of family planning to transfer title X moneys into the Maternal and Child Health Grant Program and the Consolidated Health Centers Migrant Block Grant Program. I strongly support both of these programs—which are adequately funded in the Labor-HHS bill. Neither of these programs, however, are required to provide family planning services.

I believe a majority of those on both sides of the choice issue want abortion to be rare. The most effective method of doing this is to take steps to prevent unintended pregnancy. The title X Family Planning Program has been enormously successful in doing just that. Family planning clinics serve a high-risk population whose only source of preventative helath care is a clinic. We are talking about women who are caught in the gap—they do not qualify for Medicaid and can't afford private health insurance.

An estimated 1.2 million additional unintended pregnancies would occur each year if there was no federally funded Family Planning Program. According to the Department of Health and Human Services, for every $1 invested in family planning services, this country saves $4.40 in costs that would otherwise be realized in welfare and medical services.

I plead with my colleagues to make an informed vote on this amendment. I urge a yes vote on the Greenwood amendment.

NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION'S 70TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the members of the National Bar Association and outgoing President H.T. Smith, as they convene this week in Baltimore, MD. The theme of the NBA's 70th Annual Convention is ''Economic and Political Empowerment, Justice for Our Time.''

During the first quarter of the 20th century, 12 African-American pioneers with a mutual interest and dedication to justice and the civil rights of all, helped structure the legal struggle of the African-American race in America. The National Bar Association [NBA], formally organized in Des Moines, IA, on August 1, 1925, was conceived by George H. Woodson, S. Joe Brown, Gertrude E. Rush, James B. Morris, Charles P. Howard, Sr., Wendell E. Green, C. Francis Stradford, Jesse N. Baker, William H. Haynes, George C. Adams, Charles H. Calloway, and L. Amasa Knox.

When the NBA was organized in 1925, less than 120 belonged to the association. By 1945, there were nearly 250 members representing 25 percent of the African-American members of the bar. Today, the NBA is the Nation's oldest and largest national association of predominantly African-American lawyers and judges. It has 79 affiliate chapters throughout the Nation and represents a network of over 16,000 lawyers, judges, and law students.

In its 70 year history, the National Bar Association has been at the forefront of the battle for increasing access to legal representation for all citizens. Legions of African-American lawyers affiliated with the NBA ushered in the rule of law through the turbulent 1920's through the 1950's. African-American lawyers such as Judge James A. Cobb, T. Gillis Nutter, and Ashbie Hawkins fought the famous segregation case of Louisville and the Covenant cases of the District of Columbia. In