

was good. I could do anything I wanted to, when I wanted to do it. Unfortunately, with that freedom came dangers like gangs. Eventually I joined one and became the delinquent in every parents' nightmare.

My whole life came to a stop when the only person who believed in me, my grandmother, died. After she left me, I had nothing more to live for. I went deeper into the gangs and led the gangster life to the fullest. I left home at the age of 16 and have never gone back. I lived where I could and dropped out of school. My life was going nowhere.

One day, I called my little brother and we were casually talking about what I was doing with my life when I brought up Job Corps. He told me that Job Corps was an okay place where you could get a diploma, learn a trade and meet a lot of different people. He told me it was free and they would even pay me to go there. In my mind, there was no way that could be true. The screener proved me wrong and I was accepted two months later.

My first impression of the small center was that there was too much snow, and it was too cold. I met my dorm staff and began my stay at Weber Basin. The trade I took was welding, and I was finally doing well for once. I could see my life changing. I was offered a job in the recreation center and accepted. Shortly afterward, I became the Rec. President. With all of my friends, I had no problems fitting in.

One of the changes I made was that I didn't have to be mean or rude to people anymore. Most of the people I was around were nice and helpful; I didn't have to get in trouble to be recognized. Then I started noticing that I was doing better in school, and it was actually fun. About my third month in education, I did what I thought I never could: I received my GED! But I'm not going to stop there; I plan to get my diploma and be the first person in my family to attend college.

Throughout my stay of seven months, I have never been in trouble. In return for this, I have been in Gold for four and a half months and have currently obtained the position of Student Body Vice President of Weber Basin Job Corps. This Center has supported me, and I, in return, have supported it. I can only better myself at Weber Basin and maybe someday I will have the chance to work at a Job Corps Center. I know now that whatever I put my mind to do, I can accomplish. My dreams are becoming my realities

AN APPEAL OF CONSCIENCE

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 1995

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, the following advertisement by the Appeal of Conscience Foundation appeared in today's edition of the Washington Post. The foundation is presided over by Rabbi Arthur Schneier who is internationally known for his leadership on behalf of human rights and religious freedom. He has served our Government in many capacities including as a delegate to the United Nations, and his accomplishments have been recognized by several U.S. Presidents. Rabbi Schneier's continuing work to involve religious leaders in the critical issues of our time deserves our strong support.

I am calling the attention of my colleagues to today's appeal and I hope Americans of all religions will take time during their weekly worship to pray for peace in Bosnia, a country

which has suffered a tragic war for nearly 4 years with enormous human suffering. Accordingly, I hereby insert the text of the letter of the Appeal of Conscience:

AN APPEAL OF CONSCIENCE TO THE LEADERS OF BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, CROATIA AND SERBIA TO WORK FOR PEACE, AND TO SEE THIS WORK AS A RESPONSIBILITY BEFORE HISTORY, BEFORE THEIR PEOPLES, AND ULTIMATELY BEFORE GOD

True faith stands for peace. Whatever our differences, this has been our common ground since the Appeal of Conscience Foundation conferences in Bern, Istanbul and Vienna. The declarations we adopted proclaim that "a crime in the name of religion is the greatest crime against religion."

This call elicited worldwide support from statesmen and religious leaders of different faiths. Most recently, we received messages from Presidents Izetbegovic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Milosevic of Serbia and Tudjman of Croatia encouraging our religious commitment to peace and search for reconciliation.

Today, we salute President Clinton for bringing together in Dayton Ohio, the three Presidents in search of a peaceful solution. On this day, we ask all men and women of goodwill to pray that these leaders be granted the wisdom to find the way to peace.

Next Friday, Saturday and Sunday, in churches, synagogues and mosques, let us pray that the people who have suffered the agonies of war will be free to enjoy the peace that is rightfully theirs.

HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL

FRANJO KUHARIC,

Archbishop of Zagreb, President of Catholic Bishops Conference of Croatia.

HIS HOLINESS PATRIARCH

PAVLE,

Patriarch of the Serbian Orthodox Church.

HIS EXCELLENCY DR.

MUSTAFA CERIC,

Rais ul Ulema of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL

VINKO PULJIC,

Archbishop of Sarajevo, President of Catholic Bishops, Conference of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

RABBI ARTHUR SCHNEIER,

President, Appeal of Conscience Foundation.

HIV/AIDS TRAINING PROGRAMS

HON. RONALD D. COLEMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 1995

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed the conference report on the Transportation appropriations bill fails to modify the provision regarding Federal training programs in a manner that could have averted some potential harmful effects of the provision. We may be back here in a year or two being implored by Federal agencies to fix some major obstacles to effective training programs we have created, perhaps inadvertently, with this provision. I would certainly not be surprised to see this provision the subject of litigation as Federal officials attempt to comply with its various components, without running afoul of the first amendment guarantees of freedom of speech and religion.

I must say, however, I am pleased supporters of the provision have made clear they do not intend the provision, flawed as it is, to be interpreted in a manner that would severely reduce the effectiveness of AIDS training pro-

grams. As my colleague from California [Mr. PACKARD], the author of the provision, and my colleague from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON], the chairman of the full Appropriations Committee, have both taken great pains to explain, this provision is not designed to interfere with the ability of the Federal Government to provide life-saving HIV training to their employees, just as hundreds of other American business have done across the country for their employees.

Mr. colleagues have clearly explained that graphic sexual depictions, which may be very objectional to many Federal employees, will not be acceptable in AIDS training programs under this provision. However, as my colleagues have also taken pains to note, the provision is not intended to hinder trainers from developing effective programs designed to prevent the transmission of HIV, by providing the sensitive education necessary to prevent such transmissions.

SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING SOCIAL SECURITY EARNINGS TEST REFORM

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 1995

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of increasing the earnings limit for senior citizens and will work with the Congress to see that legislation to do this comes to the floor of the House before the end of the year. If any Member of Congress were to propose a 33-percent surtax on seniors incomes earning more than \$11,280 a year today, the American people would not stand for it. However, this is the current situation. The earnings test is bad policy and bad economics for the country.

It is ludicrous that seniors in the work force are subject to this impractical and outdated procedure. Our seniors deserve more. It is time for Congress to vote for changes to this archaic practice of reducing Social Security benefits for seniors that continue to work after the age of 65. We are robbing seniors of their right to support themselves and live with dignity. In many instances seniors stay in the work force out of necessity, not choice, and should be allowed to earn more without losing a portion of their earned Social Security benefits. The earnings test harms those individuals who do not have supplemental pension income for their retirement and need to work. Therefore, we are penalizing seniors who are trying to be self sufficient rather than rewarding beneficiaries who continue to work.

The Social Security earnings limit sends a message to the elderly community that we do not respect their ability to contribute in the work force after retirement. It is time to give seniors back their dignity. This Congress has already taken the first step with the passage of the Medicare Preservation Act which strengthens and protects the Medicare system and allows seniors access to the same type of health care services as offered to all Americans. And by years end, with passage of the increased earning limit, seniors will be able to hold up their heads as they continue to work without fear of losing their earned Social Security benefits.