

It should be known that this tragedy has not been forgotten thanks to the efforts of some very special people. I would like to recognize my constituent and friend, Rabbi Avi Weiss and his organization AMCHA, the Coalition for Jewish Concerns, who have worked tirelessly to ensure that justice is carried out. Members of his organization will be participating in vigils simultaneously in New York and Buenos Aires today at 8:53 a.m. in remembrance of this tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my prayers for the victims of the Buenos Aires bombing and offer heartfelt condolences to their family members who survived them. At the same time, I call upon my colleagues to urge the Government of Argentina to reinvigorate its efforts at seeing the terrorists brought to justice.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ECONOMIC EQUITY ACT OF 1996

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 1996

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to be an original sponsor of the Economic Equity Act of 1996 [EEA]. Three of my bills are included within this omnibus bill.

The first bill, included in title I of the EEA is the Federal Employees Fairness Act (H.R. 2133), will revise and improve the process for Federal employees to file employment discrimination complaints. Employees would have 180 days in which to file a discrimination complaint, and the Equal Opportunity Commission—rather than the accused agency—would be required to investigate the complaint within strict time limits. The bill also encourages sanctions to be levied against employees found guilty of discriminatory behavior.

The Equal Surety Bond Opportunity Act [ESBOA] is included within title II of the EEA, which addresses issues of economic opportunity. This title will help qualified women and minority-owned businesses to compete in the contracting business by helping them obtain adequate surety bonding.

It will create an environment in which small business firms, particularly those owned and controlled by minorities and women, can successfully obtain adequate surety bonding. This legislation will enable us to ferret out continuing biases in the industry. Whatever these prejudices may be, getting rid of them will open up the industry, creating entrepreneurial and employment opportunities and making the industry more competitive. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and help abolish the artificial impediments to the development and survival of emerging small businesses.

The last bill that I introduced this June and which is included in the EEA is the Work and Family Parental Equity Leave Act will ensure that employees who choose to care for a foster child or adopt a child will benefit from the same leave policy as their coworkers who are birth parents. This bill does not mandate that employers provide leave benefits beyond existing law, but rather that if they choose to provide such benefits they do so for all parents equitably.

IN HONOR OF THE MONK FAMILY REUNION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 1996

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, This July, the Monk family of New Haven hosts a reunion and weekend of events worthy of this exceptional family. They are celebrating their rich family history and the musical, athletic, and civic contributions of family members to the city of New Haven and the rest of the Nation. On Sunday, July 21, 1996 they will be commemorating their family's numerous achievements with a family parade. They will also be celebrating the 33rd Anniversary of the Monk Singers. I am delighted to rise today to salute and celebrate the Monk family.

The Monk family history is truly extraordinary. Family members have carefully documented the many branches of this extended family tree and have been able to identify a history that spans the continents of Africa, Europe, and North America. Pamela Monk Kelley, carrying on the work so important to her father, the late Conley F. Monk Sr., has painstakingly recorded a detailed history. She has included documentation of the links between the Monk and Cole families and outlined the Black, White, and Native American ancestry. This labor of love is a testament to the Monk family's dedication to preserving their history for future generations.

The Monk family has produced some remarkable individuals. Thelonius Monk, Jr. was born in 1917 and became a famous musician in the early 1940's. He pioneered the genre of music known as bebop, a revolutionary form of jazz. Indeed, his innovations have shaped the direction of jazz music for years. Outstanding talent in the Monk family is not limited to music but extends to athletics as well. Art Monk played for the Washington Redskins for 14 years before moving to the New York Jets. He played in four Super Bowls and broke the National Football League record for receiving passes.

Just as important as the Monk family's contributions to music and sports is their deep commitment to the communities in which they live. Conley F. Monk Sr., and his wife Olivia raised their own 9 children and also cared for over 45 foster children. Their children continue to carry on this tradition of caring for the community. Conley F. Monk, Jr. initiated, developed, and saw to the final completion of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Monument on Long Wharf in New Haven, CT.

The Monk family teaches us a lesson about the connections between people, about endless family ties that bring us closer together. They embody the idea that the true meaning of family is knowing we are part of something greater, something larger than ourselves. I am proud to join the people of the city of New Haven in honoring this great family.

STANDING UP FOR OUR NATION'S CHILDREN

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 1996

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to join me in standing up for those who cannot stand up for themselves—our Nation's children.

Much of this Congress has focused upon strengthening the American family. Family Values have been the centerpoint of much of the legislation that we have considered in these 2 years. Welfare reform should be the opportunity for us to truly demonstrate how much we value our children and our families. Today, as leaders, we can ensure that all children grow up with a roof over their heads, food to eat, and medical care should they become sick. Instead, we are faced with a mean-spirited proposal intent on punishing children for being poor.

The GOP bill does not require work and encourage financial independence; instead it singles out children, the poor, the disabled, the elderly, and legal, taxpaying immigrants and punishes them for needing a helping hand. A recent GAO report expects that at least 1 million children to be forced to live in poverty should this bill pass. Yet we will continue to subsidize wealthy corporations, helping them to grow and prosper while our children will be starving and suffering.

In an era when the richer are getting richer I find it unconscionable that we should support such legislation. In the last decade, the richest 1 percent increased their share of the Nation's wealth to 47.2 percent, while the bottom 90 percent saw their share of pie shrink to 22.7 percent.

The Republican Party's panacea for our budget troubles is known as the block grant. The fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, that if you are a small State with a struggling economy, block grants are a death sentence. A block grant does not reward who does the most, it rewards those who do the least. States like Rhode Island will be left to battle for funds to offer the most meager care and services and the casualties will be those in need will be left to fighting over the scraps.

Republican block grants replace and entitlement system with a lottery system. Our rights as American citizens will depend on whether we live in a State with a good economy and a low level of need. There is nothing subtle about what they are really doing when the talk about "block grants" in the same breath as "States' Rights." And our answer should be no different than it has always been, and that is: Justice should not depend on geography.

My State of Rhode Island boasts a myriad of immigrants who work hard every day, struggle to make ends meet and raise their families just like American citizens. And just like our citizens, they stumble upon hard times when a factory closes or the economy slows. By denying these individuals a helping hand in their time of need, simply because they are not American, we are rejecting the very principles this Nation was founded upon—equality, freedom, and opportunity. We are essentially demoting immigrants to second-class citizens by prohibiting them from accepting help from the system to which they contribute to every day.