

her contact with American Embassies throughout the world, State Department representatives in the Washington, DC area, and key admission officials from other service academies.

Perhaps Mrs. Nottingham's greatest legacy is not what she has personally done, but what she has done to educate, empower and guide hundreds of staffers who will continue to bring her dedication, zeal and compassion to the academy admissions process. Norma has personally aided hundreds of young men and women, but the staffers she has inspired and taught have touched the lives of thousands more. There can be no doubt that her work will continue for generations because she took the time to do more than her job—she took the time to teach all she knew to hundreds, if not thousands, of other willing men and women dedicated to helping the thousands who yearly seek admission to a U.S. Service Academy.

Not only have lives breathed easier because of Norma Nottingham's direct involvement, but for many, many years to come, her legacy will continue through us to inspire bright, honest, and hardworking young men and women to seek a career in service to our great Nation. Truly, this is to have succeeded.

EVERY WOMAN COUNTS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues that October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and to recognize California's Breast Cancer Early Detection Program Partnerships for making available to all California women timely clinical screening, mammography, and treatment for newly detected breast cancers.

This remarkable accomplishment has been made possible by the cooperation of health care providers through the federally funded Breast Cervical Cancer Control Program [BCCCP]. Through the BCCCP, volunteers join with public and private providers in making available clinical examinations, mammography, education and outreach efforts, epidemiology, and the provision and funding of treatment for women in need of these services.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women, and far too often the lack of preventative care and examinations serve as a death sentence to low-income women and women of color. Sadly, many women lack the necessary resources to obtain screening services.

In the 3 years, since its inception through March 1997, the San Diego/Imperial County Breast Cancer Early Detection Program Partnership has funded screening services for greater than 5,000 women and has diagnosed many cases of breast cancer among women who may not have received breast cancer screening services without the partnership. Through March 1997, the partnership has funded outreach and educational efforts to an additional 14,500 women. Ongoing education and outreach projects are expected to reach thousands more in 1997 and 1998.

Generous grants from the California endowment and donated services from local hos-

pitals and providers regularly ensure that all women diagnosed with breast cancer who do not qualify for other private or public funds receive state-of-the-art treatment. Many cancer survivors join with other volunteers to provide a helping hand to newly diagnosed women.

I want to also salute Ms. Rebecca Charles, a resident in my 50th Congressional District, who serves as the co-chair of the Volunteer and Recruitment Committee of the Board of Governors of the Scripps Green Clinic for the Early Detection Breast Cancer Awareness Program.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in support of these exemplary efforts to reach each and every woman with needed services before it is too late. Every Woman Counts!

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL MIDWIFERY WEEK

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to salute the important work of certified nurse-midwives. The week of October 5 through October 11 is National Midwifery Week honoring the professionals who dedicate their lives to this noble calling.

As a nurse and a mother, I recognize the need for safe and satisfying health care for women and newborns. Investing in the health care of women and children is essential to the future of our country and should be of paramount importance to our society. The lack of primary health care providers for women has fueled the rise in the U.S. infant mortality and low-birthweight rates. Certified nurse-midwives, in caring for women and their babies, have made outstanding contributions in reducing infant mortality and low-birthweight rates by making accessible quality care to women. Certified nurse-midwives take a personalized approach to women's health, offering a full scope of care including maternity, well-woman gynecological, and family planning care. Their efforts to bring quality care to an often underserved population are to be commended.

The American College of Nurse-Midwives has declared the theme of this year's National Midwifery Week to be "Listen to Women." I encourage my fellow legislators and all citizens to take this opportunity to learn more about nurse-midwifery and the important work they perform.

CHILD ABUSE

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, October 1, 1997, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

CHILD ABUSE

One of the most difficult questions government at all levels faces is how to protect children from abuse. Everyone agrees that the government has an obligation to intervene when children's health and safety are

endangered by their parents. But not everyone agrees on when or how to intervene. Each case of suspected child abuse requires a balance between the government's responsibility to protect children and the right of parents to exercise broad discretion over how their children are raised and disciplined.

LEVELS OF ABUSE:

Reports of suspected child abuse and neglect have escalated by nearly 50% in the last decade. Some of this increase is attributed to greater awareness of child abuse, but studies also suggest that many cases of child maltreatment are still unreported.

Most Americans cherish their children, but there is woeful evidence that many do not. Around the country, there are thousands of children who scream for help. In 1996, 3.1 million reports of suspected child maltreatment—either abuse or neglect—were received by state child protection agencies. About one-third were substantiated, meaning that nearly one million children were victims of verified abuse or neglect. Over half of all substantiated cases of maltreatment involve neglect, while the remainder involve physical, sexual, or emotional abuse. About 1,000 children died as a result of maltreatment; most of them were younger than age 5, and over 40% were less than one year old. In Indiana, just over 22,000 children were victims of substantiated abuse or neglect in 1995, and 29 children died as a result.

RESPONSE:

State governments are primarily responsible for efforts to prevent child abuse, investigate reports of child abuse, place children in foster care, and punish their abusers. States establish their own definitions of child abuse and neglect and guidelines for determining when children should be removed from home.

The federal government plays an important role by providing funding for these efforts—over \$5 billion in 1997—and by imposing certain requirements on states. By far the majority of federal funding is devoted to foster care. Substantial funding also goes toward efforts to prevent child abuse, to provide counseling and other supportive services to families where abuse or neglect has occurred, and to facilitate the adoption of children who cannot be returned to their parents' care.

ISSUES:

Congress and state legislatures are likely to examine a number of issues:

Resources: The enormous increase in reports of abuse and neglect has placed strain on state child protective service agencies. Many critics charge that caseloads are far too large, meaning that caseworkers are not able to conduct thorough investigations or to adequately monitor families where abuse has been substantiated. These critics point to studies which indicate that the families of about 40% of children who die from abuse or neglect had previously been reported to child protective services. In addition, concerns have been raised that better training is needed for caseworkers and others who are required by law to report abuse on how to accurately spot abuse and neglect.

Family preservation: In order to receive federal funds, states must pledge to make "reasonable efforts" to prevent or eliminate the need to place a child in foster care, and to reunite children in foster care with their families. This requirement is based on the belief that many abusive or neglectful parents can become fit if they get appropriate assistance. That could include treatment for substance abuse (which is implicated in between 50-80% of child abuse and neglect cases), parenting classes, economic aid, or other types of assistance.