

and meet with the people whom I represent. Each weekend I have to inform them that we have not taken any action on campaign finance reform. Mr. Speaker, the people of my district are tired of hearing that another week has gone without campaign finance reform.

Over the past 6 weeks in Congress we have found the time to tackle some very difficult matters. Yet that action has done nothing to restore the public's faith in this institution. The reason for this lack of faith is our failure to clean our own house. The public is demanding that we eliminate the influence of big money in the political system before they will trust us to serve the interests of the people. Failure to even consider a bill on campaign finance reform is only feeding that cynicism.

Instead of banning soft money Congress gave huge tax breaks to tobacco companies. Instead of requiring special interests to disclose what they spend on campaign advertising Congress continues to allow those special interest groups to run unregulated political ads more than a year before an election. Instead of instituting more stringent campaign reporting requirements Congress conducts repetitive, partisan inquiries into past campaign abuses.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to restore the public's faith in our democratic system. It is time to show the voters that we have the ability to clean our own house. It is time we pass meaningful campaign finance reform.

#### FAMILY PLANNING FUNDING

### HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 6, 1997*

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, the Foreign Operations conference report soon will be considered by the House. As we consider that legislation, I want to call my colleague's attention to this editorial on family planning funding which appeared recently in the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

EDITORIAL: FAMILY PLANNING—SAVING THE WORLD'S CHILDREN, AND MOTHERS

Before they settle into office, perhaps new members of Congress should be required to visit a developing country. They'd see what it's like to scratch a livelihood out of the dirt, to strain to feed more mouths than the available food can fill. They'd see how overpopulation spawns a cycle of poverty, disease, illiteracy and environmental devastation. And these world travelers would likely return to the Capitol knowing something that many of today's lawmakers can't seem to grasp: If Americans want to save lives and improve health overseas, funding family planning is the surest bet.

There's really no disputing this; no credible group even tries. The World Bank—hardly a bastion of bleeding hearts—says investing in contraception is a remarkably cost-effective way to improve child and maternal health. Yet U.S. lawmakers have been mysteriously reluctant to take note of this wisdom. In recent years they've devoted only a pittance of foreign-aid funds to family planning, and then have bent over backwards to keep from spending it.

This year's backbend comes courtesy of the House of Representatives, which has pasted a "global gag rule" and other debilitating amendments to its version of the foreign operations appropriations bill. The bill

is being considered along with its cleaner Senate companion in a conference committee that convened Thursday.

The House's gag rule is a variation on an old theme, born of the hope that holding family planning programs hostage can somehow stop abortion. Though federal law has barred the use of U.S. funds for foreign abortions for two decades, the House plan goes one grand step further. It would bar family-planning groups overseas from receiving U.S. funds if—using their own, non-U.S. money—the groups provide abortions, openly support abortion or even speak to their governments about making abortion safer. The House bill would also cut off \$25 million to the U.N.'s Population Fund unless the agency pulls out of China, where forced abortions have been reported.

Whatever its intent, it's hard to imagine that this scheme will actually do much to curb abortion. Its chief effect will likely be to weaken the network of family-planning agencies on which millions of the globe's most destitute contraceptive-seekers depend. And since contraception is the best anti-abortion program around, making it hard to get is sure to spur fresh demand for abortion. Even now, unwanted pregnancies result in about 50 million abortions every year—many performed in dangerous, often deadly, conditions. What sensible soul would want to add to that number?

#### TRIBUTE TO DONALD J. BABB

### HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 6, 1997*

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Donald J. Babb as this year's recipient of the American Hospital Association's Shirley Ann Monroe Leadership Development Award. Mr. Babb serves as chief executive officer of Citizens Memorial Hospital [CMH] and executive director of Citizens Memorial Health Care Foundation in Bolivar, MO. The Monroe Award is given annually to a chief executive officer of a small or rural hospital.

Don has been with CMH since it first opened its doors in the fall of 1982. In fact, Don was hired before construction even began, and was the hospital's first employee. He was hand-picked by the hospital's original board of directors to come to Bolivar to help build CMH from the ground up. And, build it from the ground up he did.

Because of Don's hard work and vision, CMH has grown from a 45,000 square foot facility with 90 employees to a 300,000 square foot facility with over 1,000 employees. But the hospital's phenomenal growth cannot be measured merely in terms of physical size. Under Don's leadership CMH has evolved into a fully-integrated health care delivery system to meet the growing needs of its service area, which has grown from 17,000 to nearly 80,000 people in only 15 years. Today, CMH includes a 74 bed acute care hospital, an intensive care unit, a full-service outpatient clinic, rehabilitation services, a home health agency, 12 physician clinics, an ambulance service, and a residential care facility. The hospital will also add a dialysis clinic this fall.

The health care industry has faced many changes in the past two decades, and Don has confronted those changes head-on. Because of the rising costs of health care Don

formed Missouri Advantage, the first Health Maintenance Organization [HMO] for a small, rural hospital in Missouri, and one of only six in the Nation at that time. In 1996, Don expanded Missouri Advantage to cover three additional rural hospitals in the State.

Don has consistently used his position to look for new and better ways to identify and address the health care needs in his community. In 1995, he formed Community Health Assessment Resource Teams [CHART] in five counties within the CMH service area. Don has used CHART to bring together professionals, lay people, and volunteers to address issues like teen pregnancy, infant mortality, and the acute shortage of health care professionals in rural communities.

In spite of Don's personal success, he has never lost touch with the community he serves or the people he works with. It is not uncommon for Don to take time out to visit personally with the employees of CMH and let them know that he appreciates their efforts. His is a great example. I would like to thank Don once again for having the courage to lead, and to congratulate him on receiving this well-deserved honor.

#### 86TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON TAIWAN

### HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 6, 1997*

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate President Lee Teng-hui and Vice President Lien Chan of the Republic of China on Taiwan as they celebrate the 86th anniversary of the founding of their nation. Their commitment to the sometimes-difficult task of forging a democratic nation is to be lauded.

Also, I would like to extend my best to Representative Jason Hu, who is returning to Taiwan to assume the duties of Foreign Minister. If his tenure here in the United States is any indication of the future, Dr. Hu will be a first-rate foreign minister for the Taiwanese Government. His efforts to forge ties between our countries are commendable and will surely serve him well.

Finally, I ask my colleagues to join me in offering encouragement to the Taiwanese Government in its continued efforts to build a democratic nation.

#### READING EXCELLENCE ACT

### HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 6, 1997*

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, for many years I have led the battle to combat illiteracy in the United States, through the development of the Even Start Family Literacy Program and through the improvement of the Adult Education Act.

What has been missing has been a focus of preventing reading difficulties from developing in the first place. We have several major Federal education programs focused on assisting children who are experiencing difficulties learning to read, such as title 1 of the Elementary and Secondary Act and the Individuals

With Disabilities Education Act. And yet, the 1994 NAEP Reading Report Card points out that 40 percent of children in fourth grade are reading below the basic level. This means they have only partially mastered the prerequisite knowledge and skills which are fundamental for proficient work at their grade level.

President Clinton, and I commend him for his interest in improving reading skills in our Nation's children, has proposed that we address this problem primarily through the use of volunteers to help students experiencing reading difficulties. However, hearings before my Committee on Education and the Workforce have pointed out that an even more fundamental change is necessary if we are to teach children to read. The fact is, we first have to teach teachers how to teach reading based on reliable, replicable research on how children learn to read.

Dr. Reid Lyon, Chief of the Child Development and Behavior Branch at the National Institutes of Health, testified before the committee that fewer than 10 percent of our Nation's teachers have an adequate understanding of how reading develops or how to provide reading instruction to struggling readers.

Rather than focusing on volunteers, we need to focus our attention on those individuals who have the primary responsibility for teaching our children to read.

Today I am introducing a bill which I believe will go a long way toward addressing the illiteracy problems in our country. This legislation, the Reading Excellence Act, provides grants to States to provide funding to title 1 schools in school improvement to teach teachers how to teach reading and to provide for a range of other activities to help prevent the development of reading difficulties among children in elementary school.

Among other activities, the bill requires schools to provide transition programs for children who are not ready to move from kindergarten to first grade, family literacy activities for parents who have low levels of literacy to help them become their child's first and most important teacher, and additional assistance before and after school, on weekends, during non-instructional periods during the school day and during the summer to children experiencing reading difficulties.

The bill also requires States to fund tutorial assistance grants. These grants would go to title 1 schools in enterprise and empowerment zones and would be used to provide grants to parents to seek additional reading assistance for their children from a list of providers developed by the local educational agency.

The Reading Excellence Act also calls for the board dissemination of information on reliable, replicable research on reading to Federal education programs with a strong reading component so all teachers have the knowledge they need to teach children how to read.

Finally, this bill makes important changes to the Even Start Family Literacy Act and the College Work Study Act to allow them to work with children and families to improve the reading ability of our Nation's children.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill which will go a long way toward insuring that the children in our Nation will learn to read as soon as possible once they enter school. It is my sincere hope that this bill can receive bipartisan support and I have been working closely with the Clinton administration and Democrats who

serve on my committee to achieve that goal. While we are not there yet, it is my desire to continue to work with them to develop a bill that both Republicans and Democrats can support and that will truly help all children to read no later than the third grade.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1997

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 6, 1997*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to announce an important initiative for rural America. Recently, rural areas have been faced with rising health care costs, and providing medical services has become a financial burden on local government. As a result, rescue and EMS squads have had to forgo needed improvements, construction, and equipment. When a loved one requires emergency services, ambulances must roll, equipment must work, and facilities must be in place. These organizations often make the difference between life and death in an emergency. We cannot risk one life because of a lack of sufficient funds for these organizations.

Today, I am introducing legislation that will seek to correct this problem. The Emergency Medical Services Enhancement [EMS] Act will allow emergency organizations to issue tax-exempt bonds to raise funds for the purchase of equipment and for the construction and improvement of facilities. Tax-exempt bonds are used to build schools, bridges, and other public facilities. Volunteer fire departments have issued these bonds to purchase equipment and facilities. It is only right that we give similar consideration to those volunteer organizations that provide life saving emergency services to our citizens.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will have an immediate impact on volunteer emergency organizations in rural areas across this country. In Harnett County, NC, my home county, the town of Dunn is building a new EMS facility as a result of damage to the previous station from Hurricane Fran last year. The Dunn EMS would have saved half a million dollars if it could have issued tax-exempt bonds. In Franklin County, the Franklinton EMS has been colocated with the fire department since its headquarters were destroyed by Fran last year. This bill will help them rebuild and provide the quality services the people of Franklin County deserve. This bill will save lives in rural counties throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, this bill builds on the work of my friend and a former Member of this body, Martin Lancaster. He laid the foundation for this effort by introducing this bill when he was in the House a few years ago. I am pleased to have the opportunity to introduce this bill that will fulfill a critical need in our rural communities.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHILD SUPPORT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1997

**HON. GREG GANSKE**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 7, 1997*

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Child Support Enhancement Act of 1997 which will help ensure that deadbeat parents take personal responsibility for their children.

It takes two people to bring a child into the world and it takes two people to raise a child in this world. Unfortunately, in too many cases, one parent believes that their responsibility ends when the baby is born.

Statistics estimate that by 1994, there were approximately 11.4 million families with minor children in this country that were single-parent households. While single-parent families made up roughly 13 percent of American families in 1970, this number escalated to 31 percent of all families in 1994.

This harsh reality means that the success of our Nation's child support enforcement efforts is important to an even greater number of children growing up in this country in single-parent homes.

As I have mentioned before, while we can't legislate and force parents to read to their children, attend Little League baseball games or show up at birthday parties, we can help make sure there is food in children's mouths and clothes on their backs by encouraging financial responsibility. This financial responsibility must include both parents. Child support is not merely a legal duty; it is a moral duty.

This is why I strongly supported the initiatives contained in the welfare bill that passed into law during the 104th Congress. The new law improves child support collection procedures, enhances enforcement of child support orders across State lines, and helps insure that deadbeat parents take personal responsibility for their children.

As Members of Congress we must oversee the implementation of the new law to ensure it is achieving its intended purpose. In the meantime, we must continue efforts to strengthen our child support enforcement efforts.

The importance of these initiatives can clearly be seen when one considers that in fiscal year 1995, the child support enforcement program collected child support payments for less than 20 percent of its caseload.

That is why I am introducing the Child Support Enforcement Act of 1997. This bill authorizes the seizure or interception of judgments or settlements to private individuals in suits brought against the Federal Government. The legislation applies to settlements or judgments in both administrative actions and claims in a court of law.

Currently, State child support enforcement officials and others working on behalf of custodial parents can seize or intercept moneys in suits against private individuals and State governments, but only in very narrow circumstances can they do this when Uncle Sam is involved.

If a deadbeat parent is going to receive money from the Federal Government, this legislation will help to ensure that the children get their share.