

In many instances, one can find that very difficult to believe. Such is the case with one of the darkest of clouds that casts an ugly shadow over our society—child abuse.

I want to call the attention of my colleagues to one such silver lining—Ginnie Littell and her child advocacy center located in Newton, Sussex County, NJ. Tomorrow afternoon marks the official opening of the Nation's newest child advocacy center—Ginnie's House.

Child abuse is an ugly reality in America today. There are estimates that a child is physically, psychologically, emotionally, or sexually abused every 15 seconds. As much as we wish we could build a protective wall around our community's children, we cannot. The ugly shadow of child abuse touches every community, including Sussex County.

Realizing that, the community has responded. Ginnie's House, Sussex County's own child advocacy center, was created by the entire community—elected officials, community leaders, captains of business, and industry.

When our society must intervene in the life of a child due to child abuse, it must do so to protect the child from further harm, provide counseling for the child and the child's family, to protect other children from the same offender and to ensure that the offender is held accountable for his or her actions.

The sheer complexity of these tasks requires the attention of many different agencies and professionals—law enforcement, medical and mental health, legal services, and crisis intervention, to name just a few. Each of these agencies and advocates has different roles in the investigation and intervention process. The challenge is to coordinate and maximize the efforts and resources of the various community agencies and professionals. In this way, the child's trauma is minimized.

Through the vision of Ginnie Littell and the support of the Sussex County Board of Freeholders and, indeed, the entire community, this coordination has a focal point.

Ginnie's House, located strategically at 1 High Street in Newton, will provide a sanctuary where the multidisciplinary investigation and intervention process that local officials have adopted can be conducted. In short, instead of the victims seeking out the agencies and the professionals, the agencies and the professionals come to the victims.

Ginnie's House is designed to create a sensitive environment for the victims of abuse and their families; to encourage their cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of cases and to provide continuing support through what could be an extended criminal justice process.

Many hands have built Ginnie's House. The board of freeholders dedicated an entire county-owned building along with significant exterior and interior renovations. The State of New Jersey has provided seed money to purchase furnishings, materials, and supplies. Private citizens have provided pro bono legal, architectural, landscaping, and other services. This encouraging public-private partnership will continue in the future with fundraising efforts designed to make Ginnie's House self-sustaining.

Ginnie Littell and the citizens of Sussex County can teach the rest of America an important lesson: child abuse is real. If we ignore it, the children will only continue to suffer. If we turn our backs, our community will only

suffer. If we walk away, our society will only suffer.

The citizens of Sussex County, NJ, are not walking away. In fact, they are giving the youngest victims of abuse in our society a safe place to walk—a sanctuary where they be protected, consoled and healed.

Let me close with a few words about the namesake of Ginnie's House. Virginia Newman Littell is one of our community's most dynamic leaders. She's a woman of action who is constantly striving to serve her community in new and more constructive and humane ways.

I recall the words of the author Robert Fulgham. In his best-selling work *Everything I Needed To Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, he wrote, "Peace is not something you wish for, it's something you do; something you are and something you give away."

To me, Mr. Fulgham had Ginnie Littell in mind. Among myriad other tasks, she has dedicated the last few years to brining a measure of that peace to northwest New Jersey's most vulnerable.

For the children, Sussex County, NJ, will be an even more peaceful place beginning tomorrow afternoon. Mr. Speaker, we welcome the silver lining called Ginnie's House.

FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA HOSTS A FEBRUARY 1998 MIAMI CONFERENCE ON AFRICA

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, on February 25 through March 1, 1998, the Institute for Democracy in Africa at St. Thomas University will be hosting a very timely conference whose theme will be Africa: the next frontier.

Africa faces challenges today and the Foundation for Democracy in Africa [FDA], a non-profit group based in Miami, FL and Washington, DC—is determined to educate the next generation on Africa and the tenets of democracy and free market economics.

The founders of the FDA believe that, finally free from the hindrances of being used as a cold war battleground, Africa is at a watershed period as it prepares to tackle the tasks of economic and democratic infrastructure development. The FDA also states that Africa faces the challenges of building peace and economic prosperity so that democracy can flourish. The new generation of Africans stand as a beacon of hope for Africa's future prosperity. They must be encouraged and embrace tribal values as tenets for national unity and be steeped in democratic governance and western economic systems.

The Institute for Democracy in Africa provides education, training, and research opportunities for African students. The FDA will bring students from Africa for instruction in democratic governance and entrepreneurship. The institute's grounding in Western economic and democratic systems and its adaption to African challenges will serve well the future leaders of Africa.

The FDA conference will bring together leaders of business, government, and non-governmental organizations from the United States and Africa to discuss the challenges in

developing the necessary infrastructure. Since 1989, Africa has witnessed remarkable improvement in the area of economic development, sustainable growth, and good governance.

Africa is striving to further integrate herself into the global economy and provide a bright future for its people. The rising generation of Africans can lead this African renaissance.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 830, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION MODERNIZATION ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. RICK LAZIO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be part of this effort to reform the Food and Drug Administration and to reauthorize the Prescription Drug User Fee Act [PDUFA]. The legislation we consider today is good for seniors, good for children, good for the critically ill, and good for America. This bill will save American lives. I would like to highlight one of the many examples of the need for reform, as well as one particular section of this legislation.

In the beginning of the year the FDA claimed that it was approving drugs faster than ever. The FDA's claims, however, are contradicted by the harsh reality that many drugs not available to Americans today have been available in Europe and abroad for years.

For example, the drug Ancrod prevents and treats blood clots and is used to treat strokes. Ancrod has been the subject of extensive testing in the United States since the late 1980's, even though it has been broadly available to the public in the United Kingdom for the last 23 years.

The General Accounting Office testified in 1979 that Ancrod should be made available to the public as soon as possible. Eighteen years later, Ancrod is still not available to the American public. Nearly 500,000 Americans suffer strokes each year, but are denied the benefits of Ancrod by the FDA. I know first hand of the devastation that strokes can cause. My father had two strokes, one in 1978 and another in 1985.

Separately, this legislation includes a provision which will make important health information widely available to the American public.

This provision, based on a bill I introduced, will provide a one-stop information service for individuals with serious or life-threatening diseases. The program will create one data bank of research information by integrating and coordinating existing data banks across America.

The data bank will include a registry of clinical trials, both federally and privately funded, of experimental treatments for serious or life-threatening diseases and conditions. The registry will contain a description of the purpose of each experimental drug protocol. All this information will be available by calling a 1-800 number, and through other means such as the Internet.

This bill is an important piece of legislation for the American people. I urge my colleagues to support its passage.