

the homeless. It is I think a very foreign thought for many of us who we have been blessed to grow up in more affluent areas and with families that have been intact and nurturing, to imagine that so many of our neighbors could live out on the streets in some of the coldest days of the year, not just adults but people who are elderly, young children, suffering on the streets and outside. It is not part of an America that I envision for my children or for their neighbors or for Americans in the next generation.

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I think we have before us the makings of a solution to the problems. One of the frustrations that we have in the Federal level, I think, is that we so often see the solutions, we know what they look like. In this case we know that community-based solutions work. We know that flexibility and creativity needs to be rewarded. We know that reciprocity works. We know that the services that help those people who were disabled because of mental illness or physical disability or because of drug addiction or alcoholism, that those do not go away without some support and some help. And we know with help and with support that people can make it to independence and self-sufficiency.

That is the name of the game, Mr. Speaker. It is not just to maintain people, but to help them transform to self-sufficiency; helping them to achieve a quality of life that we would want if somebody on the street were a member of our families; that we care enough to make the effort to support the people, the advocates, the people that manage homeless programs throughout America.

Mr. Speaker, we also know that we can do this in a more cost-effective way. We know that throwing money at the problem alone will not solve it. We know that we need to be value-oriented, that we need to have a sense of success. We need to define success and we need to hold ourselves to that standard. This is important work. This is about saving families and seniors and adults, people that can be saved if we make the effort.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this important legislation, a product born of input from many, many people, people that will not necessarily make the evening news or the front page of the newspapers but nonetheless contribute to their neighborhood in a very important way. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this important bill to help the beginning of the end for the homeless.

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in my home county of Cobb Georgia we have seen first hand the problems associated with the Federal Government controlling the purse strings.

In one case, due to a misunderstanding between the national HUD office and the Regional office Cobb County has been made to suffer.

In a circumstance where Cobb county should have received upwards of six hundred thousand dollars to benefit the homeless. Instead only one project worth eighty one thousand dollars were approved.

In a recent letter to Speaker GINGRICH, the Cobb County Community Development Block Grant Program wrote the following:

We do not understand why HUD chose to ignore the needs of the sizable homeless population in Cobb County, particularly when local organizations have done such a good job of carrying out local planning and coordination in compliance with HUD's stated objectives for the Continuum of Care process. Nor do we feel that HUD has been candid in explaining why the project was not funded.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 217 consolidates the seven existing homeless programs under HUD and requires all Federal departments and agencies to coordinate homeless assistance. Wasteful duplication is eliminated and resources are directed to those that need them the most.

H.R. 217 also provides incentives for communities to confront homeless issues comprehensively. It emphasizes the importance of partnerships among the variety of non-profit developers and service agencies in dealing with the special needs of homeless persons.

Mr. Speaker, by consolidating these programs into block grants we can help give state and local governments the ability to fight the problem of homelessness in a much more efficient manner. In the end, H.R. 217 will ensure a better use of tax payer dollars and better care for the homeless.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of H.R. 217, the Homeless Housing Programs Consolidation and Flexibility Act. The homeless crisis continues to be a serious and growing problem, and this legislation addresses it with common sense and compassion.

Through passage of H.R. 217, Congress is recognizing the simple but unassailable principle that no one should live and die on the streets. This legislation takes a number of steps that Congress can and should take to attack this problem. For starters, we provide for more effective delivery of McKinney Act Homeless Assistance programs—programs which give direct assistance just to the homeless. This bill consolidates the seven existing homeless programs under HUD and requires better federal coordination of all homeless assistance. It also provides incentives for communities to confront the homeless problem at the local level, where the decisions are the best-informed. Non-profit developers and service agencies will be given the tools to work together in dealing with the special needs of homeless persons.

The bill provides for the better value in federal homeless spending while making our most vulnerable population more self-sufficient. Instead of the more expensive and less effective approaches of the past, we are able to focus more attention on a coordinated, long-term vision for the homeless with concrete results. There is simply no reason to fail in providing shelter, whether permanent or temporary, to people who have nowhere else to turn. Our homeless population, often trapped in a cycle of hopelessness beyond its control, deserves an innovative response from Congress. I applaud Chairman LEACH, Chairman LAZIO, Congressman VENTO, and Con-

gressman KENNEDY, as well as a bi-partisan coalition of concerned Members, who have worked hard to move homeless assistance policy into the next century.

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SNOWBARGER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 217, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 217.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

SAM NUNN FEDERAL CENTER

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 613) to designate the Federal building located at 100 Alabama Street NW, in Atlanta, Georgia, as the "Sam Nunn Federal Center," as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 613

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The Federal building located at 61 Forsyth Street SW., in Atlanta, Georgia, shall be known and designated as the "Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. KIM) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. KIM).

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 613, as amended, designates the Federal building located in Atlanta, Georgia, as the "Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center."

Sam Nunn was born September 8, 1938 in Houston County, Georgia. He received his undergraduate degree from Emory University in 1960 and also his law degree in 1962. During this time, he served in active duty in the United