

It would allow married couples a choice in filing their income taxes, either jointly or as individuals—which ever way lets them keep more of their own money.

Our bill already has the bipartisan cosponsorship of 238 Members of the House and a similar bill in the Senate also enjoys widespread support.

It isn't enough for President Clinton to suggest tax breaks for child care. The President's child care proposal would help a working couple afford, on average, three weeks of day care. Elimination of the marriage tax penalty would give the same couple the choice of paying for three months of child care—or addressing other family priorities. After all, parents know better than Washington what their family needs.

We fondly remember the 1996 State of the Union address when the President declared emphatically that, quote “the era of big government is over.”

We must stick to our guns, and stay the course.

There never was an American appetite for big government.

But there certainly is for reforming the existing way government does business.

And what better way to show the American people that our government will continue along the path to reform and prosperity than by eliminating the marriage tax penalty.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are on the verge of running a surplus. It's basic math.

It means Americans are already paying more than is needed for government to do the job we expect of it.

What better way to give back than to begin with mom and dad and the American family—the backbone of our society.

We ask that President Clinton join with Congress and make elimination of the marriage tax penalty—a bipartisan priority.

Of all the challenges married couples face in providing home and hearth to America's children, the U.S. tax code should not be one of them.

Lets eliminate The Marriage Tax Penalty and do it now!

THE AIDS ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT

(Mr. COBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, with the availability of powerful new drug therapies, many with HIV infection now have hope. The cost of that hope is anywhere from \$10,000 to \$40,000 a year. I believe it is unconscionable to deny drugs to this group of people who are living with HIV, and I commend this body for the money that we have raised and allocated for this purpose.

However, I have been shocked to learn that many AIDS organizations pay their executives excessive salaries at the expense of those living with HIV. Medically necessary care is being severely curtailed while these executives line their pockets with Federal dollars.

I would advise the Members of this body and the public in general to look at www.accountabilityproject.com. to

look at how this money is spent. I welcome AIDS patients to discuss this with this body.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD the following article from the April 26 San Francisco Examiner about the accountability project.

[From the San Francisco Examiner, April 26, 1998]

TRACKING THE FUNDS FOR AIDS

(By Erin McCormick)

Michael Petrelis wants to know what happened to the \$1.5 billion the United States spent on AIDS last year.

The 39-year-old AIDS patient, and a growing number of activists like him, have been willing to bang on locked boardroom doors, rifle through file cabinets and generally raise hell to make sure money raised for AIDS goes to fight the deadly disease and not to overhead expenses and high salaries for charity executives.

Now they are taking their crusade public with an Internet Web site that will allow donors and people with AIDS to follow the money that goes to the dozens of charity relief efforts around the country.

“There's a new phenomenon of people with AIDS living longer, which means we're asking more questions about services,” Sid Petrelis, who said since he started prodding organizations for financial information he has been banned from receiving full services at three Bay Area AIDS charities.

“We're now questioning where the money goes from the AIDS Walk, the AIDS Ride and the AIDS Dance-athon because we would like to have services like hot meals and housing,” he said.

The Accountability Project Web site (www.accountabilityproject.com), which reveals IRS tax filings and other financial information about major U.S. AIDS charities and other nonprofits, makes it possible for internet surfers to get instant information about how they spend their money.

The project, an offshoot of the in-your-face AIDS activist group, ACT UP Golden Gate, is also pushing for laws to require open board meetings, democratic management and greater financial scrutiny for the nation's rapidly growing nonprofit sector.

“Nonprofits are a trillion-dollar industry in the U.S.,” said project member Jeff Getty, who has lobbied to get City Hall to pass laws requiring more public accountability from nonprofits that get city funds. “Our country is creating a [p.8] huge sector that's sometimes replacing government and is spending government money, but has no elected officials and no taxpayer accountability.”

TAX RETURNS IN PUBLIC EYE

So far, the Accountability Project Web site has published the tax returns of 28 nonprofits from around the nation, ranging from the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and New York's Gay Men's Health Crisis to Walden House, a substance abuse recovery program that devotes only a portion of its resources to people with AIDS.

And while, on the whole, the documents show a vast array of lifesaving work being done on behalf of AIDS patients, Petrelis says, they also raise questions about some charities' priorities.

For instance, the reports show that 21 executives who worked at 10 of the charities, had pay packages exceeding \$100,000.

The highest salary and benefits package went to Walden House Executive Director Alfonso Acamporo, who made \$186,000 in 1996. Jerome Radwin, a director of the American Foundation for AIDS Research in New York, received the second highest, \$181,000, followed by Pat Christen of the San Francisco

AIDS Foundation, whose total compensation was \$162,000.

The tax information also shows some executives getting large pay increases at a time when, Petrelis says government funding for AIDS is increasingly scarce.

In the case of the Washington, D.C., meal program, Food and Friends, tax returns show that Executive Director Craig Schneiderman got a 62 percent raise in 1996, from \$63,000 to \$102,000.

JUDGING THE COMPENSATION

Dan Langen of the National Charities Information Bureau, which monitors tax-exempt organizations, said the issue of how much they should pay their executives is often controversial.

On one hand, he said, if a multimillion-dollar charity hires a manager who doesn't know how to handle money, it may see revenues—and services—disappear fast. But “there should be a difference between for-profit compensation and nonprofit. These people might be able to make a lot of money on Wall Street, but when they choose to work for a charity, they have chosen a different lifestyle.”

The National Charities Bureau says nonprofits should spend at least half of their budgets on the charity mission, not on fund raising or administrative costs. It's a goal exceeded by all groups on the Web site.

That doesn't satisfy Petrelis.

He questions spending by Visual Aid, a small charity that helps artists suffering from devastating diseases by providing art supplies and organizing exhibitions. Petrelis noted that the group reported spending only 21 percent of its \$159,000 budget on grants for artists' supplies, while much of the rest went to salaries and overhead.

Visual Aid Executive Director Jim Fisher said without its two staff members, the organization would be unable to put on exhibits, solicit donations of supplies or do any fund raising.

“We're about motivating people with illnesses to start working again,” he said. “The Michael Petrelises of the world like to yell at us tiny people, who are just trying to build a base.”

Petrelis said his pet peeve is the campaign for a \$3.7 million Memorial AIDS Grove in Gold Gate Park, which solicited donors to pay \$10,000 to sponsor a boulder and \$15,000 for a park bench.

Petrelis said he doesn't understand how, at a time when people are still dying of AIDS, groups can be raising \$10,000 for a boulder.

But project director Tom Weyand said the grove serves a vital purpose for those who have lost loved ones to AIDS and is not meant to compete with programs helping those fighting the disease. “It's about memories,” he said.

While no nonprofit groups protest having their IRS reports on the Accountability Project Web site, some recoil at the group's efforts to get them to make public all financial records and board meetings.

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation said it's happy to have its tax filings posted but opposes measures that would require additional paperwork.

Petrelis said the cooperative treatment program run by the AIDS Foundation, the San Francisco AIDS Health Project and the Shanti Project barred him from group therapy sessions and group events after he got another piece of information and put it on the Web site; a transcript of an AIDS Foundation focus group in which patients were interviewed about the quality of services.

Petrelis said the foundation charged he had stolen the transcripts and banished him from group sessions as punishment for compromising the confidentiality of survey participants.

The AIDS Foundation and the Shanti Project said confidentiality rules barred them from commenting on Petrelis' status as a client.

But, while Petrelis and other Accountability advocates are criticized for being confrontational, the movement to require more scrutiny of nonprofits has caught fire.

"The bigger nonprofits get, the more chance they get out of touch with their constituencies," said Supervisor Tom Ammiano, who plans to introduce legislation Monday requiring more openness from nonprofits getting city money.

"We need to make sure the accountability is there so we aren't kept in the dark about what these organizations are doing to earn their keep," Ammiano said.

TOP-EARNING CHARITY EXECUTIVES

These executives earned the highest compensation packages of the 28 AIDS charities and other nonprofits that have so far provided IRS information to Project Accountability.

AIDS Healthcare Foundation-Los Angeles, \$30 million annual budget: Michael Weinstein, President, \$126,548.

AIDS Project Los Angeles, \$16 million annual budget: James Earl Loyce Jr., Executive director, \$144,227; William Misenhimer, Chief financial officer, \$114,321; Allen Carrier, Director, \$109,915.

American Foundation for AIDS Research-New York, \$17 million annual budget: Jerome Radwin, Chief operating officer, \$181,443; John Logan, General counsel, \$104,391; Ellen Cooper, MD MPH, Vice president, \$157,597; Sally Morrison, Vice president, \$100,186.

Food and Friends, Washington DC meal program, \$4 million annual budget: Craig Shniderman, Executive director, \$102,125.

Gay Men's Health crisis-New York, \$28 million annual budget: Mark Robinson, Executive director, \$153,565; Addie Gutttag, Deputy director, \$139,337; Michael Isbel, Deputy director, \$139,337.

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund-New York, \$4 million annual budget: Kevin Cathcart, Executive director, \$138,591.

Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services, \$17 million annual budget: Name not provided, Executive director, \$127,803.

San Francisco AIDS Foundation, \$16 million annual budget: Pat Christen, Executive director, \$162,294; Jane Breyer, Development director, \$117,633; Lance Henderson, Finance director, \$110,465; Rene Durazzo, Program director, \$100,362.

Walden House-San Francisco substance abuse program, \$14 million annual budget: Alfonso Acampora, Chief executive officer, \$185,810.

Whitman-Walker Clinic-Washington DC, \$16 million annual budget: James Graham, Executive director, \$141,548; Harold Hawley, Medical director, \$117,860.

Source: summaries of charities' most recent IRS 990 forms posted on the Accountability Project Web site. Some charities' reports cover the fiscal year 1995-96, while others cover calendar year 1996.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. CARSON (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today, on account of of-ficial witness.

Mr. DOYLE (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today after 6:00 p.m., on account of family business.

Mr. RADANOVICH (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and the balance

of the week, on account of the birth of a child.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. EDWARDS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. RUSH, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GREEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BENTSEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CONYERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HINCHEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CLAYTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KANJORSKI, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. McCrery) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. GUTKNECHT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. COBURN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. EDWARDS) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. KIND.

Mr. GEJDENSON.

Mr. ROTHMAN.

Mr. VISCLOSKY.

Mr. HILLIARD.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

Mr. BLUMENAUER.

Mr. KUCINICH.

Mr. TOWNS.

Mr. MARKEY.

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin in two instances.

Mr. MOAKLEY.

Mr. STARK.

Mr. BROWN of California.

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH.

Mr. GREEN.

Mr. PALLONE.

Mr. BORSKI.

Mr. RAHALL.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. MCCREY) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. GILMAN.

Mr. WELLER.

Mr. ARMEY.

Mr. PITTS.

Mr. MCHUGH.

Mr. WALSH.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. EDWARDS) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. YATES.

Mr. WEYGAND in two instances.

Mr. KUCINICH in two instances.

Mrs. TAUSCHER in two instances.

Ms. DUNN.

Mr. VISCLOSKY.

Mr. PACKARD.

Mr. MCDERMOTT.

Mr. FOSSELLA.

Mr. GREEN.

Mr. KIND.

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin.

Mr. SCHUMER on H.R. 6 in the Committee of the Whole today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, May 7, 1998, at 10 a.m.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BLILEY: Committee on Commerce. H.R. 2217. A bill to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of FERC Project Number 9248 in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes (Rept. 105-509). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. BLILEY: Committee on Commerce. H.R. 2841. A bill to extend the time required for the construction of a hydroelectric project (Rept. 105-510). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. GOSS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 420. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3694) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1999 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes (Rept. 105-511). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. House Concurrent Resolution 262. Resolution authorizing the 1998 District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run to be run through the Capitol Grounds; with an amendment (Rept. 105-512). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. House Concurrent Resolution 265. Resolution authorizing the use of the East Front of the Capitol Grounds for performances sponsored by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Rept. 105-513). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. House Concurrent Resolution 263. Resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the seventeenth annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service; with an amendment (Rept. 105-514). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 5 of Rule X and clause 4 of Rule XXII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows: