

young children on a shoestring budget. As a family child care provider, I represent on one hand all the myths one has ever heard about the job of caring for children—myths like these:

Myth 1: Anyone can do this work because training and skills are irrelevant.

Myth 2: Our income doesn't support a family, so it's OK that we only earn on average \$9,528 a year after expenses, working 50 hours a week.

Myth 3: Our work is so "cute," certainly not serious business, so we don't need vacations, health insurance, retirement plans and other benefits that some workers take for granted.

Myth 4: We are all just "motherly types" doing what we do best.

At the same time these outrageous myths are dished out, we are being asked to be the bedrock of welfare reform by caring for a few extra children so the mothers of America's poorest children can enter the labor force. Plus we are being asked to continue to be the cornerstone of a healthy U.S. economy by providing care for America's currently working families. And, we are asked to do all this on a shoestring, of course!

Well, I am one grossly misunderstood, undervalued, hard-working, skillful, well-educated and angry family child care professional who is saying NO. And there are thousands of others like me. United with our colleagues in child care centers, nursery schools, Head Start programs, and school-age care programs, we wish to send this simple message to policy makers at all levels of government: We need more money to do this job, and you need us to do it right! We need more money not only to meet an ever-increasing need for child care as a result of welfare reform, but also to do it better!

There is not a parent in the world—whether he or she is a U.S. senator, the president of a corporation, a factory line worker, or a welfare mom—who is able to give the best to their job, any job, when they're worried about their kids and the care they are receiving.

We have tried to cope with this child care system where availability and affordability for parents determine what the system looks like . . . and it isn't working for us or for the families we serve. We have created a system that is mediocre at best, a system that exploits its work force by paying meager wages, does not guarantee healthy development for children, and cannot sustain a society in the long run. It is time for us to focus on quality child care as our top criteria for the provision of child care, because in the long run it is the best investment in our future. Young children do not define their own potential in life based on how much or how little their family earns and how much they can pay for child care . . . even though that is exactly what our current public policies do. Welfare reform as it is now is simply about trimming the federal deficit, not about reforming a system and making this country one that dignifies the worth of all people.

And about welfare recipients doing family child care in order to receive their benefits . . . I personally welcome moms on welfare, as I welcome U.S. congressmen seeking a career change, into my profession. I welcome anyone who shares with me the gift of intimately relating to young children and shares with me a knowledge and understanding of their development. The gift I am referring to is the ability to use your eyes, your touch, and your voice to soothe a needy baby, even when you cannot discern the exact need; to give up some of your big person power to a toddler struggling to discover her own; to see past the anger of an impulsive preschooler to discover the frustration, fear, desperation or repentance that is surely there; to accord

the school age children the respect that their insights of life deserve . . . Anyone who has that gift and is provided the opportunity and is willing to be educated in the important aspects of children's growth and tutored in skills that promote their learning, while at the same time able to manage a small business, please do join us. Family child care is a wonderfully challenging place to be. Oh, but be prepared to fight for your self-respect and for your economic survival, because the policy makers of this country demand it of you!

IN HONOR OF YORK COLLEGE
ALUMNI INC.

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing York College Alumni Inc. for the services which it and its participants have provided for York College of Jamaica, Queens in New York City.

York College Alumni Inc. was started in September 1978 by Jeremy D. Smith, Esq., David J. Thompson, and Elizabeth Williams '77 to promote the well-being of York College, its alumni, and the surrounding community. It has fulfilled this role for the past twenty years, and is run today by Camille T. Allen, Esq., '90.

York College Alumni Inc. has served York College and the surrounding community in a myriad of ways. It has established four scholarships for York College students in addition to awards for distinguished members of the graduating class, outstanding alumni, and in recognition of outstanding service to the Queens community. It has published a quarterly newspaper, the York College Alumni News since March 1980 in addition to holding a number of annual fundraisers, seminars, and receptions. York College Alumni Inc. also organizes community literacy programs, Toys-For-Tots drives, financial planning workshops, and voter education and registration drives.

Strong alumni serve as the symbol of a vigorous college by putting their education to use in the community. In this sense, York College is honored to be represented by an organization like York College Alumni Inc.

I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in commending the fine work that York College Alumni Inc. has accomplished and in wishing it a long and productive future.

HONORING DR. JULIUS S. SCOTT,
JR., FOURTEENTH PRESIDENT
OF WILEY COLLEGE

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Julius Scott, Jr. for his inspired leadership as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Wiley College, one of the country's greatest Historically Black Colleges, in my hometown, Marshall, Texas. Dr. Scott's example of time-honored values, scholarship, integrity and professionalism significantly impacted

Wiley College and the community throughout the college's historic 125th anniversary year.

A native Texan, Dr. Scott followed in the footsteps of his father, who was also a minister and college president. Julius Scott has earned degrees from Wiley College (with honors), Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary, Brown University, and Boston University, in addition to the fourteen honorary degrees bestowed upon him.

Dr. Scott's impressive career includes teaching at Wiley College, Boston University, Atlanta University and Spelman College; chaplaincy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Texas Southern University and Brown University; and administration at Spelman College, Paine College, Albany State University and Wiley College. His current directorates include the Carnegie Council on Ethics in International Affairs, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change and the Boards of Trustees of Andrew College, the Atlanta University Center, North Central College and Wofford College. Dr. Scott is also a prominent and influential member of the community of Marshall, serving on the Civic Center Advisory Board and the Board of the Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Scott has shown an unwavering dedication to education and the centrality of the academic program, teaching students the importance of developing "tough minds and tender hearts." Dr. Scott's optimism, enthusiasm and commitment to a vision of a great institution bolstered the credibility and visibility of Wiley College, cultivating many friends and supporters for the institution.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Dr. Julius Scott, Jr. for his extraordinary leadership of Wiley College. His legacy of faith, service and good works will endure at Wiley College for years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
GRANTING A FEDERAL CHARTER
TO THE AMERICAN GI FORUM

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I am introducing legislation, along with my San Antonio colleague Representative Ciro Rodriguez, to grant a federal charter to the American GI Forum (AGIF). The American GI Forum is an institution in Texas and has more than 500 chapters across our great nation. It is the largest national veterans service organization without a federal charter. AGIF members, through their commitment and sacrifice have earned this honorary status for their organization through their military service. It is long past time to grant this honor.

I am fortunate to represent one of the most patriotic congressional districts in America. There are seven military bases in and around my district. There are two veterans cemeteries and three veterans hospitals in my area. It is not surprising that this patriotic area has many chapters of the American GI Forum. The patriotism of the region makes it a natural home for the GI Forum and makes me all the more committed to granting this organization a federal charter.

The American GI Forum celebrates its 50th anniversary this year as our nation's largest