

Mr. Chairman, I do not think there is a Member of this House that is a better or more sincere advocate for the homeless or for people who have housing needs and who also suffer with AIDS than my good friend from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS), and I have enormous respect for him and what he is trying to accomplish here.

□ 1345

There is no doubt, there is no doubt that there is significant unmet demand for housing opportunities for people who are living with AIDS, and the need for supportive services, the need for those type of life-sustaining supportive services, I think, for most of the folks who are involved in the housing community without question.

I would say to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) that my concern is only with the magnitude of the request in this amendment. What I try to do and what I advocate for and what I think the House generally does is to provide guidance in an authorization vehicle for appropriators, but reasonable guidance, so that we will have the credibility to actually get to where we want to go.

In this case, the authorization that is in the underlying bill is an increase over existing dollars for HOPWA, meets the President's budget request, and while there is a good case which has been made by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) and others for increase, I am concerned about the size of the increase, and the fact that we need to live within our means.

I am wondering if I can enter into a colloquy with the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) on this because, again, while I have the utmost respect not only for the gentleman, but what the gentleman is doing here, I also am trying to keep in mind the fact that we have to offer an authorization bill that is sustainable, not just this year or next year, but over the years that follow through the appropriations process.

I know the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) has been a great fiscal conservative, and the gentleman is also an advocate for this program and for other housing programs.

I am wondering if there is some way that we can reach a reasonable understanding that would meet our dual goals, if we can try and compromise on this, which I do not think is a dirty word; I think it is an honorable word.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman will yield, I would love to respond by first saying the gentleman from New York (Chairman LAZIO) is very gracious in his words about me. This is an amendment truly offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA); and they have been working on these issues for a number of years. I know the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), in particular, as well as the

gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA), are aware of the gentleman's concern that the appropriators may not provide the funds necessary to meet the authorization.

Mr. Chairman, I would suggest that if my colleague thought that if we were to reduce this amendment somewhat that the gentleman could be supportive, the gentleman's support and obviously the support of the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) ultimately, while he cannot commit to that now, would obviously be essential.

I am prepared without objection from my colleagues in this amendment to offer a unanimous consent request.

MODIFICATION TO AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED
BY MR. SHAYS

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that our amendment be modified in the form that I have placed at the desk.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will report the modification.

The Clerk read as follows:

Modification to Amendment No. 8 offered by Mr. SHAYS:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert "\$275,000,000".

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, reserving the right to object, let me say that we have worked with the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) and the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA); and they both have been very active on this and very accommodating, and we on this side agree with the modification. We have no objection.

Mr. Chairman, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Chairman, reserving the right to object, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS), and I appreciate the fact that he has made this unanimous consent request which I support, and I think it is a very responsible and reasonable suggestion that meets our dual imperatives of helping those most in need, but also doing it in a fiscally responsible way.

I would support the amendment with the unanimous consent request.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LAZIO. Further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Connecticut.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Chairman, I would feel out of place if I did not mention my predecessor, Stuart B. McKinney, died of AIDS-related pneumonia, and his wife, Lucy, has carried on his work as chairman of the Stuart B. McKinney Foundation dedicated to helping people living with AIDS.

In his memory, I feel very motivated to offer this amendment and appreciate my colleague for accepting the modified version of the amendment and,

particularly, appreciate my colleagues, the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) and the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA), for their participation.

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

The CHAIRMAN. The amendment is modified.

The Committee will rise informally.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MORELLA) assumed the chair.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

REQUEST TO INCLUDE EXTRANEOUS MATERIAL IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON H.R. 1776, AMERICAN HOMEOWNERSHIP AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2000

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, could I ask unanimous consent to include subsequent to my remarks on the general debate extraneous material?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee rose only informally, and the Chair will not entertain that request at this time.

The Committee will resume its sitting.

AMERICAN HOMEOWNERSHIP AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2000

The Committee resumed its sitting.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, I strongly support the Shays/Nadler/Crowley/Morella amendment to increase authorized HOPWA funding to \$292 million for FY2001. This increase will allow the HOPWA program to meet current needs and bring additional newly eligible communities into this effective program.

The need for housing assistance among those living with HIV/AIDS is greater now than ever. As new treatments allow infected individuals to live longer, new HIV infections are continuing at a steady rate. This means that the overall number of people living with HIV/AIDS has grown to its highest level ever. The new treatments that are extending so many lives involve a complicated regimen of medications, requiring certain medications to be taken at certain times, certain medications to be taken after eating, and still others on an empty stomach. This makes adherence very difficult, and nearly impossible with stable housing.

More than 200,000 people with HIV/AIDS are currently in need of housing assistance, and 60% of those living with this disease will need housing assistance at some point during their illness. HIV prevalence within the homeless population is estimated to be ten times greater than infection rates in the general population. In addition, homeless individuals are