

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE 91ST BIRTHDAY OF RONALD REAGAN

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2002

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 91st birthday of our fortieth President of the United States, Ronald Reagan.

Born in Tampico, Illinois, Ronald Reagan, a 1932 graduate of Eureka College, appeared in a total of 53 movies, his best roles being in *Brother Rat* (1938), *Dark Victory* (1939), and *Kings Row* (1941), and served as President of the Screen Actor's Guild.

During World War II, he made training films for the Air Force and served as a spokesman for the General Electric Company from 1952 to 1962, hosting and occasionally acting on the television series, *General Electric Theater*. From 1962 to 1965 he served as the host of the television series *Death Valley Days*.

Shifting from his Democratic Party affiliation, Reagan moved into Republican politics and emerged during the 1964 presidential election as a Goldwater Conservative. In 1966, he was elected governor of California, serving two terms from 1967 to 1975, successfully carrying out a generally conservative agenda. Although he failed in bids for the Republican presidential nomination in 1968 and 1976, in 1980, Reagan easily beat Jimmy Carter in the election with promises of reducing taxes and government regulation while building up the military. Four years later, he defeated Walter Mondale by a landslide, confirming the success of his first term in office.

In 1981, Reagan was shot and wounded in an assassination attempt by a mentally disturbed man, John Hinckley Jr. While in office from 1981 to 1989, Reagan fulfilled his political and economic promises, including the signing of a Social Security reform bill that aimed at a long-term strengthening of the system. In foreign affairs, he was dedicated to freedom and democracy and adamantly opposed to the U.S.S.R. and communism everywhere. His commitment to a bringing an end to the "evil empire" significantly contributed to the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

In recent years, the publication of new material—including the love letters written by the President to his wife, and the radio addresses which he delivered from 1977 until 1980—have led to a long overdue reassessment of our 40th President by historians and by the general public. Ronald Reagan's vision and leadership helped bring about a better nation and a better world, and it is long overdue that he received appropriate credit for his contributions.

Americans across the nation have long held President Reagan in high regard, and he became known for his skill at inspiring his audience. He was eloquent and effectively expressed his philosophies to all people. He united our nation after what many considered

the most turbulent time in history, and in times of tragedy, such as the Challenger explosion, his words of sympathy and consolation eased the grief of our nation.

President Reagan's skills as "the great communicator" may have obscured the fact that he was a genuine visionary. When President Reagan took office, America and the Soviet Union held the world under a sword of Damocles, with the threat of nuclear war never far from our minds. President Reagan fully grasped the most valuable of all lessons of history—the lesson that negotiations are futile if we do not go to the bargaining table from a position of strength.

Though President Reagan faced challenges at home from many who disagreed with this belief, he never wavered. The fruit of his efforts, the 1988 Arms Control Treaty, heralded our final victory in the Cold War, and ushered in the era of "Pax Americana."

Today, President Reagan faces the most serious fight of his life as he battles against Alzheimer's disease. May his family receive some solace and strength from the knowledge that his friends and admirers, including those of us in this chamber, always keep in our thoughts and prayers, the "Gipper".

His birthday today is a reminder to all of us of just how precious life is, and an appropriate time to commemorate the genuine contributions of this great American hero.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to associate my name with these legislative initiatives which honor one of the great Americans of the 20th century, our 40th President, Ronald Reagan.

IN SUPPORT OF S-CHIP COVERAGE FOR UNBORN CHILDREN

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Bush Administration and Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson for the recently proposed rule to expand the State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP) to cover health care for low-income pregnant women and their unborn children. The Department's action is consistent with the intent of the S-CHIP program, which is to ensure low-income children who do not qualify for Medicaid receive health care coverage.

Research demonstrates the direct correlation between the health of children and the quality of prenatal care during their mother's pregnancy. Therefore, it is vital to the health of young children for us to care for them before they are born in order to give them a healthy start in life.

Many states have already obtained waivers from the Department of Health and Human Services to include pregnant mothers in S-CHIP health coverage. My own state of Colorado is currently debating this issue in the

General Assembly, and it appears a bill to expand coverage may pass and be signed into law shortly. I applaud Governor Bill Owens' leadership on this legislation.

Under current S-CHIP regulations, Colorado would have to seek a waiver from HHS to cover prenatal health care. The newly proposed S-CHIP rule would eliminate any delays Colorado and other states might encounter in their efforts to obtain a waiver by simply granting all states the ability to cover prenatal care under S-CHIP. I urge Secretary Thompson to act quickly to enact the new rule.

In Colorado, approximately 3,400 pregnant mothers and their unborn children would qualify for S-CHIP under the new proposed rule. These uninsured mothers are within the 134–185 percent range of the federal poverty level, thus making them ineligible for Medicaid. Without health insurance, it is highly likely these women would never receive adequate prenatal care, thus placing their baby at risk for potential health problems and complications at birth.

Including both the mothers and their babies, the new S-CHIP rule would essentially be providing health care for 6,800 individuals in Colorado alone. Once the babies are born, they are immediately eligible for continued health coverage under S-CHIP. It only makes sense to extend appropriate health care to the baby while still in the womb. There should be no differentiation between the child prior to birth and just after birth as some liberal pro-abortion groups are notorious for doing.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to briefly address some of the incredulous arguments being made against the new S-CHIP rule by just those people who classify a "fetus" as somehow less of a person from a newborn baby. I find it hypocritical for anyone to oppose extending health coverage to the unborn child on the grounds it should only be extended to pregnant women. It is absolutely ridiculous to separate the life of the unborn baby from the life of the mother in regard to expanding health care coverage. The baby is wholly dependent on the mother. Thus, taking into consideration the S-CHIP focus on health care for children, it is completely within the scope of the S-CHIP program to extend coverage to the unborn child, and by doing so, the mother, as well.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me this time to discuss the newly proposed S-CHIP rule and the great effects it will have on women and babies across this country. Many states, including Colorado, are already seeking to extend S-CHIP coverage to unborn babies, so I urge Secretary Thompson to enact this broad and bipartisan rule quickly. There is no good reason to oppose it.

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