

herself, that I wish to bring before this body of Congress. She is a remarkable woman, who has achieved extraordinary things in her career and for her community. It is my privilege to extend to Jody Voss my congratulations on twenty years of faithful service and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING JEWELL FRANCES
WELLS GOLDEN ON HER 90TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a happy birthday to one of Northwest Florida's true matriarchs, Jewell Frances Wells Golden, who turned 90 years old on April 16, 2002.

The daughter of one of the Northwest Florida's pioneering families and a true Panhandle native, Mrs. Golden has used her years to inspire and help shape our community in numerous ways. As a wife of 66 years to the late Albert Golden, their many business ventures can be felt all along the Gulf Coast. From humble beginnings, the two embarked upon undertakings that included a number of banks, oil companies, and a local newspaper. Along with these endeavors, side-by-side, Mr. and Mrs. Golden founded the Church of the Living God in 1977, where she is still a devoted member.

Mrs. Golden's influence reaches well beyond her business enterprises. Her impact earned her the 1970 "Personality of the South" and 1974 "Florida Mother of the Year" awards in recognition of her service to her community and state. Mrs. Golden was a delegate with the Florida Department of Agriculture with a mission to promote goodwill with other nations. She also served as director of Santa Rosa County's United Way from 1964-1965.

Mrs. Golden is adored by a family of 3 children, 11 living grandchildren, 20 living great (grandchildren, and a thankful community. Through her example, we have all learned that hard work, dedication, and strong values will lead to success and happiness.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to wish this special woman the happiest of birthdays and many more to come. I offer my sincere thanks for all she has done for Northwest Florida.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I was regrettably absent the week of April 8, 2002, and on April 16 and 17, 2002. Consequently, I missed the following recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall Nos. 80, 81, 82, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 92, 93, 94, 95, 97, and 98, and "no" on rollcall Nos. 83, 90, 91, and 96.

CHILD CUSTODY PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the American family, and to express my support to the Child Custody Protection Act.

As elected officials, we have been entrusted with the great responsibility of protecting not only the rights of the individual, but also upholding and reinforcing the authority of the States in which they live. Before us is a bill that not only strengthens existing state laws, but also protects a very vulnerable group in today's society—pregnant teens.

A 1998 poll shows that 78 percent of Americans strongly disagreed with the transporting of a minor across state lines to obtain an abortion without her parents' knowledge. Our constituents have spoken, and it is our explicit responsibility to protect the rights of parents in the 43 States that have parental involvement statutes.

One specific example is the Hope Clinic in Granite City, IL, which brazenly cites Illinois' lack of required parental consent through radio ads in St. Louis, essentially supporting the circumvention of Missouri State laws. We must prevent clinics from luring in teenagers from States where parental consent is required.

If our genuine goal as Representatives is to improve the safety and well-being of the American public, then we must pass the Child Custody Protection Act.

FAIR CARE FOR KIDS ACT

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, each day an estimated 13 million children, including 6 million infants and toddlers, spend some part of their day being cared for someone other than their parents. Research shows that quality early care and education leads to increased cognitive abilities, positive classroom learning behavior, increased likelihood of long-term school success, and greater likelihood of long-term economic and social self-sufficiency. Childcare centers and family childcare homes need to provide care that promotes healthy development. Parents need to be able to go to work and have the piece of mind that their children are in safe, nurturing environments.

Childcare is costly. Many families cannot afford childcare. For families with young children and a monthly income under \$1,200, the cost of childcare typically consumes 25 percent of their income.

On an average monthly basis, more than 1.8 million children, nationwide benefit from federal financial assistance for childcare through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and USDA Child and Adult Care Food program. There are more children receiving federal childcare help through these programs than through Head

Start. But, generally, the quality of care is much lower.

Reimbursement rates, which determine the maximum the State will reimburse a childcare provider for the care of a child who receives a federal subsidy, are too low to ensure that quality care is accessible to all families. Currently, in New Mexico day care providers are being reimbursed at lower rates than the current market rate, including licensed centers that provide infant care. As a result, many of the best childcare setting or even average ones, limit or do not accept children who are on assistance.

Low payment rates directly affect the kind of care children get and whether families can find quality childcare in their communities. In many instances, low payment rates force child care providers to cut corners in ways that lower the quality of care for children, including reducing number of staff, and eliminating staff training opportunities.

If day care providers are not reimbursed at or near the current market rate, then the lowest income children are forced to go to the most marginal settings. And in some states, parents or grandparents are prohibited from making up the difference between the subsidy and the fee for higher quality care.

Children in low quality childcare are more likely to have delayed reading and language skills. Parents need access to affordable, quality care for their children. Increased payment rates lead to higher quality child care as child care providers are able to attract and retain qualified staff, provide salary increases and professional training, and maintain a safe and healthy environment.

That is why I am introducing the Fair Care for Kids Act. My bill would require that current market rates are paid to day care providers who receive federal funding. Market surveys, which identify market rates, must be current and that is why they must be updated annually.

This bill is a step in the right direction for helping our working parents. This bill is a step in the right direction to providing quality day care to our children.

TRIBUTE TO THE CROATIAN SONS
LODGE NUMBER 170

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate the Croatian Sons Lodge Number 170 of the Croatian Fraternal Union, on the festive occasion of its 95th Anniversary and Golden Member banquet, on Sunday, April 28, 2002.

This year, the Croatian Fraternal Union will hold this gala event at the Croatian Center in Merrillville, Indiana. Traditionally, the anniversary celebration entails a formal recognition of the Union's Golden Members, those who have achieved fifty years of membership. This year's honorees who have attained fifty years of membership include: William A. Bursich, Sally Cullen, Lynn Edward Evans, Steve Jack Grdina, Anastasia Kresich, Eugene Krukowski, Michael F. Luketic, Charles Peretin, Stefania Peretin, Dorothea Petrovich, Stephen Ratkay, Dennis Rivich, Frances Staesnick, Peter T. Sut, and Mary Ann Thews.