

class or upper class suburban family where somewhere between prenatal care and child care the parents are already getting their college catalogues out and trying to encourage them to go to college versus many families where they have never had anybody go to college, where they do not really feel there is going to be a chance.

And sometimes in Head Start and elementary school, when we go visit, we see the bright hopes in these kids' eyes and they want to be this and they want to be that, but somewhere around junior high they start to lose these hopes. That is why the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) originally called this program High Hopes, because at eighth grade we now have a program that moves on through the high school years and the bulk of these dollars, half of it, go roughly to scholarships and half of it to help go into the schools to provide financial advice, to provide support, to basically tell these kids that if they keep a 2.0 grade average, and depending upon the State's program in Indiana where they have some other supplemental things, that they will guarantee them to get into a State university with financial aid, that they will be eligible for scholarship aid but will be guaranteed financial aid, that they will be worked through with this financial aid, that they will continue to receive some support.

And I believe that this program was a very critical program that, as we first moved it through committee, it was clear that we were very close in the votes. And with the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) and then Congressman McIntosh and me, it wound up to be a tie vote, and Joe Scarborough, who is now on TV, cast the deciding vote, which caused quite a bit of uproar on our side, but we got it authorized. Then it moved through the appropriations process where we continued to move that, and by that time President Clinton adopted the program and changed the name to GEAR UP and helped push this program.

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In fact, one of my more difficult moments was when we went to the signing ceremony, and then Congressman Lindsey Graham and I went to the ceremony, and our goal was particularly not to be in the picture with President Clinton. As a conservative Republican, it could have been the death of me politically. But we went to the White House, and when I left I made it through without a picture, and when I turned around, there was the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) and he said, somebody wants to talk to you, and the whole press corps was there, and there is President Clinton. He starts talking to me about this program and thanking me for my help, with the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) on this program. The bottom line was, I thought my career was going to be over.

But, secondly, it showed that you can do things in a bipartisan way. What I saw in the President's eyes was a commitment to these kids. What we have seen is the dangers of a lot of these programs, is when the Presidency changes the program gets abandoned.

Mr. Speaker, we have continued and expanded this program, even under a Republican administration, in a bipartisan way. At a time when we are divided on so many different issues, to be able to take an education program that is targeted for low-income kids across this country and continue to fund this is a tremendous credit, first to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) and his committed leadership, to the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman REGULA) in continuing to fund this, and it is a credit to this House that we at least have this program in place, supplemented with TRIO programs and other things, where we can tell young people in America that we can help provide some assistance to them and that, indeed, while you may not get exactly equal chances to everybody else, we are going to give you an opportunity in America, and we are going to give at least some assistance so you too can have some hope in this country.

And if we are going to compete worldwide, as Thomas Friedman in his great book says about the flattening of the earth, we have to have everybody in this country understand that if we are going to compete, we have to succeed. So it is important that we have some programs to supplement the family support system and the lack of some of the educational history in these high-risk families. Because they too have to get up to much higher competitive standards, and we have not been able to do this, and the GEAR UP program is one small step in that direction.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the subcommittee and the full committee and the United States Senate for continuing to fund the GEAR UP program.

LABOR-HHS BILL VIOLATES SENIORS' PRIVACY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCHENRY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, when the House passed the so-called Medicare Modernization Act, the purported prescription drug benefit for seniors in the dark of the night, after holding the vote open for 3 hours by a small margin, a lot of Members did not know fully what was in the bill. We know we were lied to about the cost and that it was withheld from the Congress. There were a lot of other provisions people did not realize were in there.

But there is one that we still have a chance to correct tomorrow with an amendment I am going to offer. Seniors are going to be outraged if my amendment is not accepted.

The bill waives all privacy rights for seniors on Medicare and Medicaid. That is, the Secretary of Health and Human Services is, notwithstanding any other provision of law, able to disclose their personal information to private insurance companies who supposedly will not share it with anybody beyond their company. It is bad enough it is going to a bunch of private insurance companies, but we know, with the interconnectedness of these companies and problems with data retention, that these seniors are likely to have their data widely shared; in addition to which, that means these seniors will be solicited over the phone by mail, aggressively, by private prescription drug plans, insurance companies, obviously trying to sell them something they probably will not really understand.

Now, some people on that side will say, well, how else are we going to market this plan? You do it the way we do the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan. The government compiles all the data, you send it to all the eligible people, and then you, the consumer, have a choice. They look at the ones they are interested in, they have a 1-800 number, a Web site, they contact them. We do not give the personal information about every Federal employee or Member of Congress to private insurance companies to solicit us; why should we do that to every senior in America? They will be outraged.

Mr. Speaker, it is a simple amendment. It just says that this will not go into effect, and then the Secretary of Health and Human Services can work out a much better plan for marketing this program that does not violate the sanctity, the privacy of all, every one of America's seniors. That would be an outrage, and they will notice.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DICK HOYT, THE STRONGEST DAD IN THE WORLD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to pay tribute to a man who is not from my districts or even from my State, but who certainly must be one of the most wonderful men of whom I have ever read. The story of Dick Hoyt of Holland, Massachusetts is one of the most amazing, inspiring stories I have ever read.

Rick Reilly, a columnist for Sports Illustrated, wrote about Mr. Hoyt in a column published in that magazine the week before last. Mr. Reilly described it as a love story that began 43 years ago when Mr. Hoyt's son Rick "was strangled by the umbilical cord during birth, leaving him brain damaged and unable to control his limbs."

The Hoyts were told Rick would be a vegetable for the rest of his life and that they should put him in an institution. They refused.

When Rick was 11, they took him to engineers at Tufts University to ask