

Prior to the incident, LaSalle Parish Attorney Reed Walter was quoted as telling students who protested the displays of nooses at their school that they should stop complaining about “innocent pranks” and that he could “end their lives with the stroke of a pen.” It appears he has attempted to do just this in the case of these 6 students.

The inflated charges against the Jena 6 could lead to years in prison and a lifetime of trying to rebuild their lives after they are finally released.

Let me be clear, I do not condone the actions of the Jena 6 in any way; I believe that they should be punished. However, the punishment should fit the actual crime. It is clear that these 6 students were treated differently from their Caucasian counterparts. I can only conclude that the harsher sentences for the Jena 6 appear to be based on the color of their skin and that is why they have become a symbol of the gross racial inequality that exists in our criminal justice system.

The Jena 6 have brought to light an issue that is of grave concern, people should not be charged with crimes based on the color of their skin, rather, they should be charged based on action and action alone.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I ask that this Congress not turn a blind eye to the Jena 6. Rather, this Congress should take immediate action to ensure that justice is being equally applied to all Americans and correct the racial disparities that haunt our courtrooms and prisons.

THE IMPORTANCE OF REAUTHORIZING THE STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to urge the timely reauthorization of the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act.

Unless the President signs the bipartisan, bicameral conference report that will be sent to him before the end of this fiscal year, the State Children's Health Insurance Program will fail to be funded in a timely manner.

As a result, several states will experience immediate budget shortages and may be unable to cover the health care expenses of thousands of uninsured children.

Texas has the highest rate of uninsured children in the Nation. Twenty-five percent of Texas kids have no health insurance.

The Federal Government and executive branch are in a position to help by refunding SCHIP so that states can enroll uninsured children into the program. These are children of the working poor.

Madam Speaker, I represent an urban area, and many of my constituents live in poverty. They face tough decisions regarding shift work, child- and dependent care options, transportation challenges, and even how to afford healthy meals for their families. Many are the working poor.

My constituents depend on SCHIP funds for a continuity of health care for their children to which they would not otherwise have access. I am gravely concerned about how they will be

affected, should federal funds suddenly dry up.

For some, it could be a matter of life or death. For my constituents, I urge Congress and the President to work together to protect this valuable program. The Congressional Black Caucus is dedicated to this issue, and I thank the Chair for bringing attention to the health of our Nation's children.

EULOGY FOR SADIE MAE GROVE

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, Rev. Bishop, it is a privilege to be invited to honor and celebrate the life of Sadie Mae Grove at her homegoing today from Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church, Toledo, Ohio, September 21, 2007. Thank you all for allowing me to participate. In this church, we can all feel the love she shared with us as we comfort one another at this time of great bereavement.

Once in a while, human beings gain a glimpse of heaven in the people we meet. Sadie Grove was such a person.

She was loving, joyful, strong, kind, generous. And she was wise. To her beloved daughter Louise, lifelong friend Ada Mae McQueen, chosen brothers Freddie and Booker, precious granddaughters Natasha and Cassandra, great-grandchildren Tyrin and Deiondre, blessed family, friends and colleagues—our community extends its deepest sympathy. Grief is such a heavy load. Believe me, as I know from personal experience, Sadie's strength will help carry you now. Rev. Bishop, Sadie drew enormous strength in knowing you would help carry her home today. She is grateful that we are all here at this moment.

In life, some persons are of such strength and texture, the power of their personhood sets a standard of character, not just for their family, but for the broader community. Sadie was a woman of character. Our community has been shaped and imbued with her nature—smiling, caring, building, nurturing others, all of us—a woman of deep faith, abiding hope, and selfless charity. In some faiths, a smile is regarded as a charity. Surely, angels of all persuasions welcome Sadie today as we recall her welcoming smile, extending from ear to ear. She gave us her warm, encouraging hugs, and her gusto, guts, and grace.

Sadie did not lead an easy life. Yet she took joy and gave joy in her journey. She was a woman from the working class of people who had to make her own way. Can you imagine the back-breaking discipline it took for a woman to work for 30 years in the old Jeep paint shop, not the new one . . . on her feet, day in and day out, many times working overtime, working with mainly men when she began. She had to be one of the few women with that experience. Then, due to her skills and personality, she moved to the UAW job training facility at the Jeep unit of the United Auto Workers Local 12. It was there I first met her with now Lucas County Commissioner Pete Gerken. Imagine all the lives she touched, helping people transition from auto manufacturing to other fields as the bad economy that has plagued us yielded more termi-

nations and layoffs. She assisted her co-workers, day after day. How hard it must have been to draw the strength to touch each life, one after the other, to give people hope. She helped lead them to a new road forward. That is what Sadie did.

Sadie effectively connected to the world beyond her family—she was a full citizen. She embraced local, state, and national politics. I can't remember a time when Sadie wasn't there—at NAACP, the Fraternal Order of Police, The Perry Burroughs Democratic Club, the United Auto Workers, the Elks, and as a steward of her cherished church, Mt. Pilgrim. She was a member of the Senior Usher Board #1. I thought number one meant she was the most senior, for we in Congress respect seniority, but in any case she was #1 to all of us. She was a pillar of this church. Where would our community be without this church community? Imagine Toledo without this church. There would be a huge vacuum here. She helped fill that space. I can still see her scurrying to greet me whenever I visited this church. For how many other visitors did she do that? She always waited for me in that back hall. It was there she first shared with me her dream for the housing development for this church and she lived to know it was completed. The treasurer of your church just told me that the \$1.7 million addition the church accomplished was to have been paid in 15 years. Sadie headed the stewardship committee, and the loan was paid off in 5 years and 7 months. Yes, you and we, could depend on Sadie.

Sadie made us strong just by being with us. How blessed we all have been to have known her and shared her life. May her family, friends, and our entire community be grateful for her life and, in her memory, may you be given Godspeed in the days and years ahead.

A poem by Nancy Wood entitled “Earth Prayers” brings us comfort as we honor the life of Sadie Grove:

A long time I have lived with you
And now we must be going
Separately to be together.
Perhaps I shall be the wind
To blur your smooth waters
So that you do not see your face too much.
Perhaps I shall be the star
To guide your uncertain wings so that you
have direction in the night.
Perhaps I shall be the fire
To separate your thoughts
So that you do not give up.
Perhaps I shall be the rain
To open up the earth
So that your seed may fall.
Perhaps I shall be the stream
To play a song on the rock
So that you are not alone.
Perhaps I shall be a new mountain
So that you always have a home.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, September 19, 2007, I had a meeting at the White House and was unable to make it to the Capitol for one vote. I would have voted “yea” in favor of “The Food and