

TMA, ABSTINENCE EDUCATION,
AND QI PROGRAMS EXTENSION
ACT OF 2007SPEECH OF
HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3668, but with a great sense of frustration. H.R. 3668 temporarily extends a number of expiring health programs which low-income individuals depend on. Unfortunately, these effective, important programs are held hostage through their attachment to the Title V Abstinence Education program, a program which is ineffective, which prizes ideology over science, and which harms our children through the provision of medically inaccurate information.

Mr. Speaker, teen pregnancy is a serious issue in this country. In the United States, three in ten girls become pregnant by age 20—nearly double the teen pregnancy rate in Great Britain, four times the rate in France and Germany, and nearly ten times the rate in Japan. The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy estimates that teen pregnancies impose an additional \$9.1 billion in societal costs every year in the United States—and this is after teen pregnancy and birth rates declined by one-third in the past decade.

It should come as no great surprise that the costs of teen pregnancy are so high—pregnant teenagers are substantially less likely than their peers to finish high school, attend college, or go on to pursue professional careers. Pregnant teenagers are less likely to obtain prenatal care, exposing their babies to an increased risk of low birth weight and of being born prematurely. At the age of 2, they have significantly lower cognitive test scores. And because the majority of children from teen pregnancies are born to unmarried women, they are more likely to be poor, drop out of high school, and have poor grades and school attendance records. This is, of course, to say nothing of abortion—which is still a major consequence of teen and unintended pregnancy.

Teen pregnancy is a serious problem, and it demands a serious solution. Of course we should want to delay the onset of sexual activity in our children—what parent of a teenager wouldn't want that? But we cannot let that desire blind us to the very real fact that teenagers, despite our best intentions, will and do have sex, and that our wanting them not to does not absolve us of our obligation to protect them and keep them safe. Pretending that sexual activity among teenagers does not exist will not reduce the number of new sexually transmitted infections, it will not reduce the number of teenage girls who become pregnant, and it will not reduce the number of abortions performed every year.

We have both a practical and a moral obligation to ensure that American teenagers and their families have the resources and the knowledge to make the right decisions about how to prevent teen pregnancies and the spread of sexually transmitted infections. When the House passed the CHAMP Act in August, the bill included a reauthorization of the Title V Abstinence Education program that

would have ensured that when we teach children about the importance of abstaining from sexual activity, we do it in a way that is age-appropriate, medically accurate and science-based, and that we allow States the flexibility they need to respond to conditions in their schools in an appropriate way.

I commend Chairman DINGELL for including these improvements in the CHAMP Act, and I express my sincerest hope and conviction that any long-term reauthorization of Title V that passes this House this year will include similar language. Just this year, reports by the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, Mathematical Policy Research and the Government Accountability Office indicate that many of the programs funded through Title V contain staggering medical inaccuracies, and that students actually understand less about sexually transmitted diseases after having completed the programs than they did when they began. We have spent \$1.25 billion on these programs since Fiscal Year 2001, paying for teachers to tell children that “relying on condoms is like playing Russian Roulette,” and that “AIDS can be transmitted through skin-to-skin contact.” I believe we can and must do better, and I will continue to fight for responsible, science-based programs that will meaningfully protect our children.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF MR. ALVIN BROOKS**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today in recognition of the achievements of Mr. Alvin Brooks, a pioneer for civil and human rights, and a resident of the Fifth District of Missouri which I am honored to represent. This week, Mr. Brooks will be inducted into the Missouri Walk of Fame during a reception as part of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference, an event held to honor the achievements of African-Americans who have made significant contributions to Missouri.

As a former Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri, I am well aware of the contributions Al has made to the landscape of Kansas City. Mr. Alvin Brooks' experience in City government spans over a quarter century. Alvin Brooks is the former Mayor Pro Tem and 6th District At-Large City Councilperson for the City of Kansas City, Missouri. He was first elected in 1999 and re-elected in 2003. After his first election, Brooks was appointed as Mayor Pro Tem by Mayor Kay Barnes. In addition to serving as Mayor Pro Tem, Brooks chaired the Public Safety Committee, the Police Capital Improvements Oversight Committee, the Police Site Selection Committee, and was vice-chair of the Aviation Committee and the Finance and Audit Committee. Brooks lost a bid for Mayor of Kansas City this past spring by a mere 851 votes.

While Kansas City's Mayor Pro Tem, Councilman Brooks served as a member of numerous committees and perhaps most visible through his work as President of the Ad Hoc Group Against Crime, which he founded in 1977. The Ad Hoc Group Against Crime is a broad-based, grass roots community organiza-

tion, which appointed him President/CEO of Ad Hoc in April of 1991. “I get my strength from my spirituality—from being spiritual and believing that one lightens his or her burden by helping people lighten their burden. People enter our space and you are energized by them,” said Mr. Brooks.

Brooks learned his philosophy on the street. As Kansas City police officer from 1954 to 1964, he held the rank of detective and worked with runaways and gang members. Shortly after the civil disorder of 1968, he organized the city's Human Relations Department and served as its first director until 1984. He was the first African-American to serve as a department head for the City of Kansas City, Mo. In 1999, he was first elected to serve as the Sixth District at-Large Councilman in 1999 and re-elected in 2003. Brooks was appointed as Mayor Pro Tem by Mayor Kay Barnes. In addition, to serving as Mayor Pro Tem, Councilman Brooks was a member of the Legislative, Rules, and Ethics Committee and the Aviation Committees. His dedication to Kansas City includes serving as an Assistant City Manager for 7 years.

Presently, Mr. Brooks is a consultant to many business executives in the area of diversity, minority and women matters. He has also been a motivational speaker and lecturer for various governmental agencies, colleges and universities, and the private sector. He has conducted hundreds of seminars and workshops on the subject of cultural/racial diversity, religious tolerance and civil rights. He has taught classes and conducted lectures and workshops on a multitude of subjects, including the criminal justice system, crime and violence prevention, community involvement and police-community relations. He is also a certified mediator, and has lobbied at the local, state and federal levels.

In 1989, Brooks received national attention from President George H.W. Bush in 1989 as he was recognized as one of “America's 1,000 points of light,” and was subsequently appointed to a 3-year term on the President's National Drug Advisory Council. This is but one of the many accolades Al has received over the years. The recipient of four honorary doctorate degrees from colleges and universities in metropolitan Kansas City and surrounding areas, Brooks has also received too numerous other accolades to mention. In all of his activities, he demonstrates his dedication and commitment to the greater good of others.

Al lives in South Kansas City, Missouri with his wife Carol, to whom he has been married for 57 years. Together they have raised six children—one son (deceased), and five daughters. They also have 17 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

Throughout his life, he has put his principles to practice, and the effects of his efforts have brought about a more diverse and concerned citizenry throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area. For these reasons and more, it is indeed an honor and privilege to recognize Mr. Alvin Brooks at the Missouri Walk of Fame reception, hosted by myself and fellow Missourian, U.S. Representative WILLIAM LACY CLAY of St. Louis.

Madam Speaker, please join me in expressing our appreciation to Mr. Alvin Brooks, not just to the Kansas City community, but to the entire country at large. He is a true role model, a person who has been dedicated with