

11. ABSTINENCE EDUCATION (SUBTITLE A—
SECTION 1109)

Present law

The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) block grants (title V of the SSA, 42 U.S.C. 701) provides grants to States and insular areas to fund a broad range of preventive health and primary care activities to improve the health status of mothers and children, with a special emphasis on those with low income or with limited availability of health services. Sec. 502 includes a set-aside program for projects of national or regional significance. (The FY 1995 appropriation for MCH was \$684 million.) See also: Title XX of the Public Health Service Act establishes the Adolescent Family Life (AFL) program to encourage adolescents to delay sexual activity and to provide services to alleviate the problems surrounding adolescent parenthood. One-third of all funding for AFL program services goes to projects that provide "prevention services." The purpose of the prevention component is to find effective means within the context of the family of reaching adolescents, both male and female, before they become sexually active to maximize the guidance and support of parents and other family members in promoting abstinence from adolescent premarital sexual relations. (The FY 1995 appropriation for AFL was \$6.7 million.)

House bill

No provision.

Senate amendment

Amends the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) block grants (title V of the SSA) to set aside \$75 million to provide abstinence education—defined as an educational or motivational program that has abstaining from sexual activity as its exclusive purpose—and to provide at the option of the State mentoring, counseling and adult supervision to promote abstinence with a focus on those groups most likely to bear children out-of-wedlock. Also increases the authorization level of MCH to \$761 million.

Conference agreement

The conference agreement follows the Senate amendment.

12. PROVISIONS TO ENCOURAGE ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER SYSTEMS (SUBTITLE A—SECTION 1110)

Present law

In 1978, Congress passed the Electronic Fund Transfer Act to provide a basic framework establishing the rights, liabilities, and responsibilities of participants in electronic fund transfer systems and required the Federal Reserve Board to develop implementing regulations, which generally are referred to as Regulation E.

House bill

The House bill exempts from Regulation E requirements any electronic benefit transfer program (distributing needs-tested benefits) established under State or local law or administered by a State or local government.

Senate amendment

See Sec. 320 in Senate amendment, which exempts from Regulation E any food stamp electronic benefit transfers.

Conference agreement

The conference agreement follows the House bill.

13. SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (SUBTITLE
A—SECTION 1111)

Present law

The Social Services Block Grant (Title XX) provides funds to States in order to provide a wide variety of social services, including:

- (1) Child care;

- (2) Family planning;
(3) Protective services for children and adults;
(4) Services for children and adults on foster care; and
(5) Employment services.

States have wide discretion over how they use Social Services Block Grant funds. States set their own eligibility requirements and are allowed to transfer up to 10 percent of their allotment to certain Federal health block grants, and for low-income home energy assistance (LIHEAP).

States can also use their block grant funds for staff training in the field of social services. This includes training at workshops, conferences, seminars, and educational institutions.

Funding for the Social Services Block Grant is capped at \$2.8 billion a year. Funds are allocated among States according to the State's share of its total population. No State matching funds are required to receive Social Services Block Grant money.

House bill

No provision.

Senate amendment

Beginning in FY 1997, the Social Services Block Grant will be reduced by 20 percent.

Conference agreement

The House recedes to the Senate amendment, with the modification that the Social Services Block Grant will be reduced by only 10 percent.

BILL ARCHER,
BILL GOODLING,
PAT ROBERTS,
E. CLAY SHAW, Jr.,
JAMES TALENT,
JIM NUSSLE,
TIM HUTCHINSON,
JIM MCCRERY,
LAMAR SMITH,
NANCY L. JOHNSON,
DAVE CAMP,
GARY A. FRANKS,

As an additional conferee:

BILL EMERSON,

As an additional conferee:

RANDY "DUKE"
CUNNINGHAM,

Managers on the Part of the House.

WILLIAM V. ROTH, Jr.,
BOB DOLE,
JOHN H. CHAFEE,
CHARLES GRASSLEY,
ORRIN HATCH,

From the Committee on Labor and Human Resources:

NANCY LANDON
KASSEBAUM,
JIM JEFFORDS,
DAN COATS,
JUDD GREGG,

From the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:

JESSE HELMS,

Managers on the Part of the Senate.

PROCEEDINGS OF DECEMBER 21,
1995

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. CHAMBLISS].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

December 21, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable SAXBY CHAMBLISS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Our prayers reach out this day for all those whose lives know the anguish of separation from those they love or who experience the emptiness that comes when the meaning and purpose of life is dimmed. O gracious God, as You have given us Your word of assurance and comfort that we ever belong to You and Your grace is sufficient for every need, so minister to all Your people with Your words of promise and peace and hope. This is our earnest prayer. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York [Mr. FRISA] will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FRISA led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment bills and joint resolutions of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 965. An act to designate the Federal building located at 600 Martin Luther King, Jr. Place in Louisville, Kentucky, as the "Romano L. Mazzoli Federal Building";

H.R. 1253. An act to rename the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge as the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge;

H.R. 2481. An act to designate the Federal Triangle Project under construction at 14th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest, in the District of Columbia, as the "Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center";

H.R. 2527. An act to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to improve the electoral process by permitting electronic filing and preservation of Federal Election Commission reports and for other purposes;

H.R. 2547. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 800 Market Street in Knoxville, Tennessee, as the "Howard H. Baker, Jr. United States Courthouse";

H.J. Res. 69. Joint Resolution providing for the reappointment of Homer Alfred Neal as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution;

H.J. Res. 110. Joint Resolution providing for the appointment of Howard H. Baker, Jr. as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution;

H.J. Res. 111. Joint Resolution providing for the appointment of Anne D'Harnoncourt as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution; and

H.J. Res. 112. Joint Resolution providing for the appointment of Louis Gerstner as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed bills and a concurrent resolution of the following titles, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1228. An act to deter investment in the development of Iran's petroleum resources;

S. 1340. An act to establish a Commission on Concentration in the Livestock Industry, and for other purposes;

S. 1429. An act to provide clarification in the reimbursement to States for federally funded employees carrying out Federal programs during the lapse in appropriations between November 14, 1995, through November 19, 1995; and

S. Con. Res. 34. Concurrent Resolution to authorize the printing of "Vice Presidents of the United States, 1789-1993".

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will now entertain fifteen 1-minute per side.

SAVING THE AMERICAN DREAM

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, the headline in the Washington Post this morning is wrong. It says, "House Republicans Derail Budget Talks." We should make it perfectly clear that the person who derailed the budget talks was Vice President AL GORE when he came out to the microphones at the White House the other night after the Speaker and the majority leader in the Senate met with the President, and he poisoned the well by mischaracterizing the agreements that were made at the White House.

We are intent on balancing the budget, and we are intent on doing it now. We can give our children and our grandchildren the greatest Christmas present that anyone could ever leave to the next generation, and that is a balanced budget which means saving the American dream for our children and theirs.

We are going to do it, and we are going to do it now.

LET US FIND CHRISTMAS

(Mrs. CLAYTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, it is easy to be hard. It is hard to be both caring and responsible.

Some of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, not all, but some of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle are determined to demonstrate to all America how hard they can be, my way or no way. Scrooge was hard.

The Christmas season, however, challenges us to care, to consider others, to reach out to our human beings, to embrace them. To share, to be caring can be hard.

The fatal plane crash over the mountains of Colombia and the near fatal plane crash on the runway of New York reminds us how all of our lives are uncontrollable, how the perils of our lives, we do not control that. We have many natural problems. We need not create more.

The stalled budget problem is one we created. We created that. This Congress and the President can bridge that gap between Medicare and Medicaid and the CBO numbers. Those are problems we created. They are easy.

I say to my Republican freshmen and others, be determined not to be hard.

Guess what, even Scrooge found Christmas. Please find Christmas.

MY MOM AND DAD: WHAT AMERICA IS ALL ABOUT

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, at a time when the President and this Congress are engaged in an historic battle over finally balancing this Nation's budget, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the importance of this date, December 21, 1995, to me.

You see, 50 years ago today, December 21, 1945, a young soldier from Massachusetts who had just returned from the war in Europe and a young woman from North Carolina were married. Over that 50 years they raised four children. They now have 9 grandchildren and a 10th on the way. They are both now in their seventies. They are both on Social Security and Medicare, and they both realize, by the way, that we are not cutting Medicare or Social Security, despite what some in this House might allege.

They never had a lot of money, material goods, or that kind of wealth. But they did have something and they still have something that is more important. They have love. They are my mom and dad, and they are an example of what America is all about.

THE BUDGET DEBATE: DO NOT FORGET THE SENIOR CITIZENS

(Mr. REED asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, we continue to resist a Republican budget with deep cuts in Medicare and Medicaid, a Republican budget which has already been repudiated by a broad cross-section of the American public.

And, as we continue to debate the Federal budget, I would like to remind my Republican colleagues that they should not lose sight of the budgets of thousands of senior citizens in their districts.

Today the elderly pay more out-of-pocket than ever before for Medicare coverage and supplemental insurance. In Rhode Island, they pay this with an average income of approximately \$16,000.

Yesterday the New York Times reported that MediGap premiums for over 3 million seniors will increase an average of 30 percent next year. MediGap is the supplemental insurance which is necessary to cover nonhospital medical expenses. In Rhode Island, the average premium increase will be 35 percent.

These higher premiums would come on top of the proposed increases to beneficiaries in the Republicans budget.

The Republican budget will raise annual Medicare premiums by \$264 for an elderly couple in 1996 and nearly double premiums by 2002.

And on top of these significant increases, the Republicans also propose to eliminate the Medicaid entitlement which serves as a critical safety net for thousands of seniors in Rhode Island.

I urge we repudiate these massive cuts in Medicare and Medicaid.

ANOTHER STRATEGY FROM THE WHITE HOUSE

(Mr. FORBES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, anybody who had the opportunity to watch the President's remarks yesterday, they would have seen the unveiling of yet another strategy at the White House. After backing away from the promise the President made 30 days ago to the American people to offer a balanced budget using real numbers, the President's latest strategy now has him labeling House Republican freshmen as being extremists and radical. Imagine that. The President of the United States, the leader of the free world, is now held hostage by the Republican freshman class.

Now, I have heard a lot of tall stories in my life, Mr. Speaker, but this one takes the cake. This latest attempt to tar and feather the Republicans as extremist boogeymen is just more proof Bill Clinton has no ideas and that he is becoming increasingly irrelevant.

You know, it was just about a year ago the liberal media said that Bill Clinton was irrelevant. Considering his opposition, his opposition to an honest 7-year balanced budget, I think we now have an answer.

DO NOT WALK AWAY FROM OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO WORKING FAMILIES

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1