

WELCOME TO BENJAMIN PAUL
BRIGGS

HON. ELIZABETH FURSE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 1995

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to note a very important event that occurred March 28, 1995. Benjamin Paul Briggs was born to Janet and John Furse Briggs in Seattle, WA. Benjamin Paul is my first grandchild.

Every child is the repository of all the world's history and all the world's hopes. Each child deserves the best, in love and respect, and protection. Each child is the reminder that we have a duty to be advocates for children the world over.

I have the highest hopes for Benjamin Paul. I trust that he will care about and protect other humans and animals and the environment. I know, because I know his parents, that he will understand that we are all part of one beautiful, fragile web of creation and that he has a part to play in its protection.

I wish you the very best Benjamin Paul and am very glad that you are here.

HOPWA FUNDING

HON. RICK LAZIO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 1995

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the House of Representatives for decisively moving to control this country's destructive spending patterns and moving toward a balanced budget.

As Members of Congress, we all know the need to control Federal spending. However, we must be careful not to cut those programs that are both cost effective for taxpayers and meaningful and effective for their beneficiaries. Specifically, I am deeply concerned about the rescission of funds for the Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS Program [HOPWA].

It is imperative that we take great care to protect the most vulnerable members of our communities. We did this by maintaining funding levels for both the section 202 housing for the elderly and the section 811 funding for disabled persons programs, and we should do the same for the HOPWA Program. People suffering from AIDS often don't have the financial resources necessary to care for themselves. This population needs the dedicated housing assistance this program provides.

Some may argue that this money is not needed because there is already other Federal housing assistance available. I disagree. The fact is that this rescission will result in no new incremental section 8 vouchers, placing those with AIDS on a waiting list for a voucher, condemning some to the streets. The HOPWA money can provide instant relief in communities where people suffering from AIDS desperately need housing assistance.

We cannot turn our backs. Without this funding, people with AIDS will be forced to depend on high-cost emergency care facilities for housing or live on the streets. Consequently, American taxpayers will end up paying over \$1,000 a day for those afflicted with AIDS who are housed in skilled facilities versus \$40 to

\$100 per day per person under HOPWA. Retaining this funding simply makes financial sense to the taxpayers, as well as demonstrates our concern for those already crippled by this devastating disease.

THE U.S. AND FOREIGN COMMERCIAL SERVICE—A SUCCESS STORY WE SHOULD KNOW

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 1995

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for the continuation of the Department of Commerce's U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service.

In San Diego County, we encourage any effort that stimulates the growth of local businesses. Growing businesses mean more jobs—and that is my main priority for San Diego.

The U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service [US&FCS] has a proven record of assisting small- and medium-size exports. This is a Government program that works.

In the San Diego area, the US&FCS assisted local firms in venturing into 85 new export markets in fiscal year 1994. It also helped 22 firms in making their first export sales.

The US&FCS operation is effective because of its local expertise and local concern. The office in San Diego provides area exporters with an accessible, local resource on trade with overseas markets.

Operating within the International Trade Administration of the Department of Commerce, the US&FCS gets results.

Small- and medium-size exporters are provided a highly cost-effective combination of domestic and overseas services that help them to expand exports. This translates into much needed jobs.

We all want an effective, efficient Government, and we all support efforts to get rid of wasteful bureaucracy. The US&FCS works—let's keep it.

THE REPUBLICAN CONTRACT WITH AMERICA: CITIZENS ARE SPEAKING OUT

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 1995

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, very shortly, we will reach the 100-day mark in the Republican Contract With America. At the time, the Nation will measure the success of a contract launched by the Republican Party last year. The contract pledged to reform Congress, and offered citizens of the nation an "agenda for national renewal."

The American people are able to read between the rhetoric and see the Republican Contract With America for what it is—a prescription for disaster. We need not look any further than the cuts in critical education, job training and job placement, and housing programs, as well as an ill-conceived and mean-spirited welfare reform proposal, to prove this statement true.

Mr. Speaker, every day I receive hundreds of letters from constituents throughout my con-

gressional district. Many of them are the hard-working men and women who are the backbone of this country. Others are individuals in need who are struggling to enter the workforce and share in the American dream.

In their letters, constituents tell me how the same Government programs which are now being slashed and eliminated by the Republican majority, have enabled them to secure educations, obtain job training and job placement assistance, and, most importantly, feed and care for their families. Many make it clear in their letters that they are not looking for handouts, but they want very much to become independent and care for their families.

Just recently, I received a letter from a constituent regarding cuts in funding for education. The constituent, who attends adult education classes at a homeless shelter, noted the importance of the classes. She writes, "Sometimes I barely have bus fare but I come, because getting my G.E.D. is very important to me." The letter also says, "There is an essential need for this educational foundation in order to get good jobs * * * Vote against any budget that cuts education * * * You will be helping so many people."

Mr. Speaker, I am including this letter from my constituent in the RECORD. I do so with the hope that other Members will take a moment to read this document and realize that we must stand firm. I am convinced that I am making the right choice. I will continue to oppose proposals which balance the budget at the expense of the poorest, the most vulnerable, and the most needy of our citizens. I urge my colleagues to read this letter from my constituent.

Congressman LOUIS STOKES,

District 11.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN STOKES, I attend Adult Education classes in a homeless shelter. I think this class is important to me, to obtain my G.E.D. to get a good job, to provide a good life for myself and kids, so we can have a good life. I come from the west side to attend these classes and it's hard. But I come because this class is important to me, getting my G.E.D. and accomplishing my goal of becoming a medical assistant. Without it, my future seems kind of gloomy and empty. This is my second chance to complete my goals. I want to have good things in life and education is a must. Education opens up doors for good, better jobs, houses and clothes and to feel that you can do and gain a sense of pride. I am always telling my kids to stay in school and get the best out of school.

I am the mother of six. I want to get my G.E.D. because I am always telling them to stay in school. The three older children have their diplomas. The three younger children are still in school. How can I teach them right when I don't have mine? Please give me the opportunity to complete my dream and to accomplish my goals. I want to be independent to take care of my family and myself. I am coming from the west side in order to come here. Sometimes I barely have bus fare but I come, because getting my G.E.D. is very important to me.

You should know how important Adult Education Services are to so many of the homeless people in Cleveland, Ohio. We have so many that depend on trying to obtain their G.E.D. There is an essential need for this educational foundation in order to get good jobs. To help kids and get kids to college, and even help with their homework. This is important for the future of our community.