

[Mr. SKAGGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. GOSS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to work with my colleagues to try to make those adjustments to our budget which are reasonable and fair to all citizens.

In my own county and across Pennsylvania and for that matter the United States, we need to make those kinds of adjustments to our energy budget which, in fact, would give assistance to the weatherization assistance program.

I salute the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. SKAGGS] for his assistance in making an initial change of \$3.5 million additional for this program. I would have preferred having the program that was supported by many Members on both sides of the aisle, working with the gentleman from Vermont [Mr. SANDERS] and others for the figure of \$50 million, and correspondingly we would have made a reduction in the Energy Information Administration. Frankly I think the need for the assistance, whether they be poor or elderly, to have the weatherization programs to help them get through the winters that can be so severe in many parts of the country, that this tradeoff of technical assistance to companies frankly that could in fact through user fees take that particular information and receive it rather than taking funds away from weatherization.

I thank those Members of the body, both Republican and Democrat, who have worked with us on this weatherization program. The intent of our amendment tonight would be to protect a program which is important to many families across the United States. The weatherization program is a cost-conscious energy conservation program which makes renovations to low-income homes to increase energy efficiency and make health and safety improvements.

These improvements make a significant difference in the home heating

bills of thousands of families every year. For instance, Mr. Speaker, in the cold climate region, a 1989 study found that the first year net saving for natural gas consumption represented a 25-percent reduction in gas used for space heating and an 18-percent reduction in total gas usage. This program can be the difference in whether or not an elderly couple maintains their independence and are able to stay in their own home.

I would like to stress that the amendment we were offering which was scored by CBO as being budget neutral and, in fact, reduced outlays by \$15 million, the offset would come out of the Energy Information Administration. We believe that the EIA data which is valuable and currently provided free of charge could best be provided on a fee-for-service basis.

When I am given the choice between documents and statistics for helping people who are cold or trapped in unhealthy, dilapidated homes, I think most colleagues on both sides of the aisle in both Chambers, the House and the Senate, would agree that this is an intelligent use of funds as opposed to giving statistics and not the taking care of services.

I thank those Members on both sides of the aisle who have helped me on this. I yield to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. STEARNS], who has been very active in this movement.

Mr. STEARNS. I thank my colleague. I also am sorry that you were not able to offer the amendment because I think it is an important amendment. People in rural counties like Lake County in Florida which is part of my congressional district often use this assistance to make the necessary improvements that keep homes livable while reducing the portion of their budget which they must also spend on utilities. Without such assistance, the homes can become too expensive to maintain and often become uninhabitable. I want to congratulate my colleagues. I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will realize this is an important amendment and that we can have an opportunity to debate on it and vote on it up or down in the near future.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman from Florida [Mr. STEARNS] for his support on this program. It has been very helpful. I thank the gentleman from New York [Ms. MOLINARI] who has been very helpful and many others who have given their assistance and their support. I frankly say the group involved in my community, the CADCOM, the community action group, has been working day and night to help those who are in need. Weatherization is a major program that CADCOM has been involved with. Keith Sampson, their executive director, knows full well that the needs keep growing. While the Federal Government cannot answer all those needs, the weatherization program adminis-

tered by the States is one that is financially secure and one where the funds are checked to make sure that those who need the assistance get the assistance and we reduce the amount of bureaucracy involved but expand the services to those who are in need has been an excellent program under CADCOM's assistance in Montgomery County and all the poverty agencies in Pennsylvania administered through each county.

I thank the Speaker for this time to speak out for weatherization and to make the changes that we figure are intelligent with energy assistance to make sure we do less on bureaucracy and more on direct services for the people. I thank my colleagues for their thoughtful attention and support.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. OWENS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. OWENS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR ARTS AND HUMANITIES CAPTURES SPIRIT OF AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, it has been said to many of us that if you are not able to remember the past, sometimes you may be doomed to repeat some of the negatives that occur. That does not mean that history is all negative. But it means that it gives us a sense of direction and future. It helps us understand where we should be going.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk about the value of the National Endowment for Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts. Because for many when we begin to talk about budget cutting and assuring that we are fiscally responsible in this Congress on behalf of the American people, I think we must also ask the question and answer it about focus, about where we would like to go in the 21st century.

Allow me to tell a simple story about a man named John Biggers, a gentleman who has created a mosaic of art and history over 50 years of his life. Coming from North Carolina and now a resident of Texas, this gentleman has painted the mosaics of life. He has painted the canvases of life and he has been able to share with young people and old people and middle-aged people a continuing history of America. His art has been touted internationally and nationally. He has traveled to Africa and he has brought back the dreams and aspirations of those who live there and he has shared them with those of us who live here in America.

More importantly, he has opened the eyes of children, inner city children