

"It's finally over."

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 2, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2127) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Chairman, this bill is an outrage, and it deserves to be repudiated and rejected by every member of this body.

This bill is unfair to the people who depend most on our government; our children and the elderly. This bill is shortsighted. It does not provide for investment in students and workers—the very people who will grow our economy.

This bill cuts \$6.3 billion from programs that average working families depend on.

Why? The unvarnished truth is that my Republican colleagues feel the need to finance a tax break that goes largely for wealthy Americans. Don't buy the argument that this is just for deficit reduction.

Every Democrat in this House is prepared and committed to bring our budget into balance, and provide a solvent, secure future for our children.

Yet, one-half of the cuts in this bill are stolen directly from the single best investment we can make in our future: Education.

Overall spending on education has been slashed by nearly \$4 billion. Few children have been spared. Some of the most significant and effective programs for kids—including title 1, School-to-Work, and safe and Drug-free Schools—are subject to potentially crippling cuts.

It's an exhaustive list, and frankly, to reduce this bill to a series of programmatic cuts, masks the underlying meanness of this bill. In its breadth and scope, this bill is simply a monster of inequity. If you're the principal wage earner in a hard-working family, or you've found yourself among the growing ranks of the working poor, and you desire to provide a brighter future for our children, this bill is a declaration of war.

In fact this bill declares war on opportunity. This bill puts politics ahead of principle. This bill values pay-offs ahead of the needs of people.

This much is certain. The Republicans don't discriminate. That is, if you're not on the receiving end of the Republican tax bail-out—if you're elderly, poor, young, unemployed, or just struggling to get by—you suffer in equal measure.

Seniors fare no better than our children. This bill sends a strong message to our senior citizens that their past efforts are no longer acknowledged, and that their current contributions are no longer appreciated.

This bill guts the Older Americans Act, including Green Thumb. It targets other programs which provide preventive health support, pension and Medicare counseling, and home meals to a growing senior population.

This bill undercuts the health and safety of American workers. It undermines the enforcement of hour and wage laws. It makes it more difficult for people who have lost their jobs to find new jobs by slashing job training. Some of the most vulnerable members of our society are subject to the most extreme—the most harmful—and the most mean-spirited provisions in this bill. If this bill is passed, victims of rape and incest will no longer be guaranteed the right to an abortion.

I urge my colleagues to stand up for working families and reject this bill. Don't allow the Gingrich Republicans to sell us down the river so they can reward their wealthy friends.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
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ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 2, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2127) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express my extreme distress—even disgust—at the way H.R. 2127 provides for the programs of the Department of Health and Human Services. I was privileged to serve on the Labor—HHS—Education Subcommittee in the last Congress, and I was proud of our work under Chairmen Natcher and Smith and ranking Republican PORTER. But this bill is a disgrace, and I am glad I had no hand in writing it.

The bottom line is that this bill does not include enough money to meet the Federal obligation to protect and improve the health and well-being of all of us in the United States, but particularly of the most vulnerable among us. The victims of these cruel HHS spending cuts are many, and include the elderly, children, women, and working people. The few bright spots are not enough to save the bill.

There were modest increases in funding for community and migrant health centers and the maternal and child health block grant, but these came entirely at the expense of title X family planning, which was terminated, and the increases disappeared last night when family planning was restored.

This bill slashes, by more than 50 percent, the Healthy Start Program, which is today successfully reducing infant mortality in the South Bronx and other places.

There is a very small increase in the Ryan White CARE Act, but only for title I. The other titles are flat funded, although the HIV/AIDS epidemic continues to grow. My congressional district in the South Bronx is particularly hard hit by HIV/AIDS, and Ryan White funds from

all titles are crucial to meeting the needs of the growing numbers of affected women, children, and adolescents.

There is a modest increase for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. But, while increases in key prevention programs such as sexually transmitted diseases, breast and cervical cancer, chronic and environmental diseases, and infectious diseases are welcome, equally critical prevention programs for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, lead poisoning, and injury are flat funded. And the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health is cut by 25 percent and its training program is eliminated.

The bill quite appropriately increases funding for the National Institutes of Health, where scientists seek new understanding of biological processes and disease mechanisms that will permit us to challenge and defeat threats to our health, improving quality of life and saving lives. But the bill eliminates the separate appropriation for AIDS research, putting execution of the annual plan for NIH AIDS-related research, which Congress mandated, at risk.

The bill cuts nearly \$400 million from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration and totally eliminates the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention at the same time the Republicans' welfare reform proposals will vastly increase the need to prevent and treat mental illness and substance abuse.

The bill slashes the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, a key player in learning—and disseminating its findings on—how to provide health care that is both high-quality and cost-effective.

There is a modest increase in the Job Opportunities and Basic Schools [JOBS] Program, which helps welfare recipients become self-sufficient.

The bill kills the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program [LIHEAP], which is simply immoral. Poor, mostly elderly people have died of the cold last winter and in the nationwide heat wave this summer. Killing LIHEAP assures that more of them will die.

The child care and development block grant is flat funded and obligation of its funds is delayed until the end of fiscal year 1996, at the same time the Republicans' welfare reform will be forcing more mothers of young children into the workplace.

This bill cuts Head Start. Cuts Head Start, Mr. Chairman. Maybe not by much, but Head Start is one of the most popular and successful early childhood programs we have, and, until this year, it has been permitted to expand toward the goal of meeting the needs of all eligible children. Many are still unserved, and more will be dropped from the program with this cut.

The bill cuts funding for temporary childcare/crisis nurseries and for abandoned infants assistance. It cuts child welfare training and research and adoption opportunities. It cuts development disabilities programs, Native American programs, and homeless services grants.

The bill savages the violent crime reduction programs enacted just last year.

The bill slashes Older Americans Act programs, including such services as prevention of elder abuse, preventive health, and the vital nutrition programs.

This bill, Mr. Chairman, even cuts basic functions of the Office of the Secretary, such as civil rights—and even the HHS inspector general.

Mr. Chairman, that's just funding. The riders related to HHS programs are astonishingly

wrong-headed. They trample on the health and well-being of our people. The abortion issue is the source of most of the mischief—this bill limits women's right to reproductive freedom, denies biomedical researchers—and sufferers from certain diseases—the hope of finding new treatments or cures using fetal tissue acquired under tight controls, and limits the ability of accrediting bodies to set standards for medical training.

Then there's title VI, a whole new bill that limits political advocacy by Federal grantees. Who is better prepared than providers of health, social, educational, and other services, to advise policymakers on the needs of their clients and the efficacy of various programs they participate in? And how do we justify proposing to violate these groups' first amendment rights to freedom of expression with their own money? The clear purpose of title VI is to silence the advocates for the poor, the sick, the elderly, the green, and other people whose needs or whose views of Federal obligations and Federal programs do not have the authors' support.

On the whole, the title II and the related legislative provisions of this bill are part and parcel with the entire bill—cruel and disastrous. This bill is a mean-spirited joke on anyone who believes that the Federal Government has a moral obligation to protect and improve the health and well-being of our population and to make the investments in our people that help them to be self-sufficient and our economy to be competitive.

The problems with this title illustrate why the entire bill deserves swift defeat and a complete rewrite. I urge my colleagues to reject H.R. 2127.

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ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 2, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2127) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, this Member rises today in opposition to the amendment by the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. KOLBE] that would strike the language in the bill that clarifies the congressional intent regarding the interpretation of the Hyde amendment.

This Member was one of the first Members of Congress to speak against the 1993 Clinton administration directive that required States to fund Medicaid abortions in cases of rape or incest. This directive is an unjustified and incorrect interpretation of the law and of congressional intent. It is certainly not the intent of Congress to mandate States to fund Medicaid abortions in the case of rape or incest, regardless of State law. The 1993 Hyde amendment

to public law was very clearly not a mandate, but an enlargement on the limitation on the use of Federal funds, allowing States to use Medicaid funds to finance abortions in the case of rape or incest and of course to save the life on an indigent mother. The language in the bill we are considering today, would this Member hope once and for all, restates and further clarifies the original congressional intent in statute.

Mr. Chairman, this Member urges his colleagues to oppose the Kolbe amendment.

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SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 2, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2127) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I stand in strong support of Mr. GANSKE's amendment; and reaffirm the traditional policy of the Congress toward accreditation of medical schools and teaching hospitals. I believe that the medical profession, itself, should establish responsible standards for the recognition and approval of graduate medical education programs.

Further, I strongly oppose attempts by this Congress to interfere with the content of medical education and training standards of a private accrediting board. The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education [ACGME] requirement, as currently written, allows individual medical residents—as well as institutions with religious or moral objections—to opt out of abortion training, so government intervention to protect individual conscience is not needed.

To prevent abortion training altogether because of the religious convictions of some, is ridiculous. Surely, this Congress will not be allowed to stand in the way of medical science and return us to an era of superstition and of strict religious control.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
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SPEECH OF

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 2, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2127) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education,

and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the bill.

I also want to thank Chairman PORTER for the cooperation and assistance he has given the Veterans' Affairs Committee on the portion of the bill for the Veterans' Employment and Training Service [VETS] at the Department of Labor.

Despite deep cuts in many other programs, VETS would be maintained very close to historic funding levels.

Mr. Chairman, I especially want to commend Chairman PORTER for being extremely receptive to concerns raised by the Veterans' Affairs Committee regarding funding for the National Veterans Training Institute in this bill.

The \$2.8 million in the bill for fiscal year 1996 will enable the institute to continue providing quality training to both veterans groups and Government employees who help veterans find meaningful employment and job training.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

A PROGRAM THAT WORKS

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, Richard W. Riley, Secretary of the Department of Education and former Governor of my State of South Carolina, recently addressed the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation [CSAVR] as part of their annual meeting here in Washington. CSAVR is a national organization composed of the chief administrative officers of the State vocational rehabilitation agencies with responsibility for the administration of the Rehabilitation Act in the States and territories. They provide eligible individuals with mental or physical disabilities with the services needed for them to be placed in jobs in the competitive labor market.

In light of the recent attempts by the Economic and Educational Opportunities Committee to diminish the work of these dedicated men and women, I urge my colleagues to read Secretary Riley's remarks.

REMARKS OF RICHARD W. RILEY

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. It is a great pleasure to have the opportunity to meet with you today. I want to thank Joe Owens and Elmer Bartels. I would like to recognize Judy Heumann, my Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services who has worked so effectively on these issues and her Deputy, Howard Moses who is here today.

A PROGRAM THAT WORKS

All of you are to be commended for the work you are doing in your states to help make the Vocational Rehabilitation program one of the shining examples of what works in our nation—a truly successful working relationship between states and the federal government—a program that has helped more than nine million individuals with disabilities, from all walks of life, to secure gainful employment.

Each year more than 200,000 people enter or return to the competitive labor market or become self-employed—becoming fully contributing taxpaying members of our national