

needs of the diverse and vulnerable populations they serve.

The bill consolidates into a single legislative authority, authorities for community health centers, migrant health centers, health services for the homeless, and health services for residents of public housing. It streamlines the statutory definition of basic and required health services for these centers; replaces detailed application requirements by a general requirement that applicants identify their service populations, describe the scope of services, and show how service needs will be met; and reduces the number of grant applications and awards while maintaining the level of services provided by these centers and establishing an incentive award grant program for grantees with high or greatly improved performance.

This is a good bill, and I commend it to my colleagues.

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

SPEECH OF

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

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. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Skaggs amendment.

This amendment would eliminate the overly broad, confusing, and unconstitutional provisions in the bill about limiting advocacy with private money.

Don't make a mistake. This is not a debate about Federal funds. This is a debate about private groups and private speech.

Federal grants already contain prohibitions on using Federal money for advocacy. This bill goes far beyond that and limits what private groups do with private money.

The provisions are so broad that they would limit advocacy not just by groups that relieve money, but by groups that, within the next 5 years, hope to receive money.

So if you hope to get money for a soup kitchen, you better not talk about feeding the hungry for 5 years.

And if you hope to get money for literacy, you better not talk about whether people should be able to read.

And the provisions are so broad that they would limit a grantee from even buying things or employing a contractor who does political advocacy.

So if you hope to buy soup from the Sisters of Charity, you better check to see if they advocate for the poor.

If you want to contract with a visiting nurses association for a community health center, you have to see their political records for the last 5 years.

And even groups that don't come anywhere close to the prohibitions of this bill will have to keep records and disclose records to prove it.

If a church thinks that someday it might run a homeless shelter, it better start keeping records showing that the priest hasn't testified before a school board too much.

If a synagogue is running a drug treatment program, it will have to show records of how much private money went for the rabbi's salary and whether the rabbi carried a banner in a peace march.

This is ridiculous.

You know and I know that for some in this body, this amendment is about pro-choice agencies getting Federal funds for family planning services and advocating with private funds for abortion rights.

I support the right of these agencies to do anything they wish with their private funds.

But this bill has gone so far that not only are the pro-choice groups opposed to this amendment but so is the Bishop's Conference on Pro-Life Activities. Cardinal Mahony himself has written to the Congress to ask that these provisions be deleted, saying that they will intrude into private activity that is unrelated to public funding.

As Catholic Charities said to the Appropriations Committee: "Churches and charities have a moral responsibility to stand up for the poor and vulnerable, and this plan appears designed to 'muzzle' the voices of these groups."

Many other groups feel this same moral responsibility.

I urge Members to vote for the amendment.

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

SPEECH OF

**HON. LOUIS STOKES**

OF OHIO

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. STOKES. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the political advocacy gag provisions contained in H.R. 2127, and to those that my colleagues may attempt to attach to the bill. In its current form, the bill contains provisions which seriously restrict and threaten the political advocacy rights of the American people. Such provisions are a blatant attack on the most vulnerable in our society, and are designed to silence the voice of those who are committed to speaking out on their behalf.

These provisions would restrict the fundamental rights of the American people by placing limitations on Federal grantees regarding the use of their own hard-earned money when engaging in activities that are protected by the first amendment. Activities include participation in public debate on issues of public concern, communication with elected representatives, and litigation against the Government.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Republicans believe an extensive political advocacy gag law

is just what it takes to force the American people to stomach the pill of bitter pain, hurt, and suffering that will result from the devastating cuts in Healthy Start, Meals for the Elderly, energy assistance, financial aid, Education for the Disadvantaged, employment training, Head Start, Safe and Drug Free Schools, the list goes on and on.

If I were party to inflicting such hardship and pain, I too, would be in search of a hiding place or a cover up. And, I, too, would fear being held accountable by the American people. It will take more than a legislative silencer to quiet the cry of children, the elderly, and families that would result from the devastating cuts contained in H.R. 2127.

Mr. Speaker, I am absolutely opposed to any measure that authorizes such unconscionable attacks on the American people's rights. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote "no" to all measures and provisions that attempt to gag the American people. Vote "no" to H.R. 2127.

RECOGNITION OF THE PEE DEE  
CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN  
METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION  
CHURCH

**HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 4, 1995*

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege today to recognize an important event in my congressional district. On October 1, 1995, the Pee Dee Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in South Carolina will commemorate and celebrate the Bicentennial of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

Nearly 200 years ago, a group of individuals decided to leave the John Street Methodist Church in New York because of discrimination and denial of religious liberties. These individuals organized what was to become the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. Zion was added to the name in 1848 to distinguish this denomination from other African Methodist bodies. The Right Reverend George E. Battle, Jr., Bishop of the Pee Dee conference, has declared a week of celebration of this anniversary for the week of October 1-8, 1995.

I would like to recognize and congratulate the many African Methodist Episcopal Zion Churches of the Pee Dee conference as they celebrate their 200 years and to commend these congregations for the vital work they provide families within their communities. I would also like to extend to them my best wishes for their next century of faithful service.

CUBA'S WORSENING ECONOMY  
AND CASTRO'S BRUTAL OPPRES-  
SION

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 4, 1995*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, please submit for the RECORD the following article brought to my attention by Frank Calzon of Freedom House.