

From my hometown of San Diego, CA, alone more than 120 people organized by the Children's Advocacy Institute at the University of San Diego will be attending this event.

The Stand for Children will address the critical issues facing America's children, including drugs, violence, and poverty.

Ironically, children in America are also under attack by the very institution that should be protecting them from these evils, the U.S. Congress. This 104th Congress is waging a stand against children.

The Republican majority, with the so-called pro-family agenda, has pretended to extend its protective hand toward America's youth, when in reality it has not given our children a fair shake. This majority has voted repeatedly to slash funding for children's programs, including education, student loans, child nutrition, health care for children, child protection services such as foster care, and aid for disabled children.

This agenda threatens not only the education and well-being of our Nation's children, it puts the future of America at risk. If our children do not receive a quality education, proper nutrition, and a nurtured upbringing, then American businesses will not be able to compete in the global economy.

Congressional Democrats have worked with President Clinton to fend off the onslaught of these cuts. This year we successfully restored most of the education cuts proposed by Republicans in their 1996 budget, and the President vetoed many damaging cuts in children's programs contained in the so-called welfare reform and budget reconciliation pills.

I would have hoped that Republicans learned a lesson from their failure to cut children's programs in this year's budget but, sadly, they have not. Their proposal for fiscal year 1997 would cut many of the same programs that were on the chopping block last year. This month 221 House Republicans voted for the 1997 budget resolution which would cut funding for education and training programs by 22 percent over the next 6 years.

Here are the specifics of what the majority whip called the pro-choice or the pro-education or the pro-child Congress:

A 6-year freeze in title I funding for aid to local schools, resulting in a 20 percent cut by the year 2002.

A 6-year freeze for Head Start, resulting in a 20 percent cut by 2002.

Elimination of the Goals 2000 public schools reform which currently helps 5 million students in more than 8,000 schools across the country raise their academic achievement.

Their proposal eliminates all Federal funding for bilingual and immigrant education.

It eliminates new funding for Perkins student loans which provide low-interest financial assistance to thousands of college students, and eliminates the di-

rect loan program which helps 2.5 million students receive college loans more quickly and less expensively than traditional loans.

It eliminates AmeriCorps, the national service program that gives 200,000 young people the chance to serve their communities while earning money for college.

And it cuts 20 percent in funding for our Nation's libraries.

This is what the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DELAY] called the pro-children's Congress. Republican cuts in other programs would also threaten the well-being of our children.

By cutting Medicaid by \$72 billion over 6 years, they jeopardize the Federal guarantee of coverage to thousands of low-income children. And by allowing the wealthy to opt out of the health care system through the use of medical savings accounts, they risk causing a further decline in coverage and services for poor families and children.

The Republican budget would also cut spending for school lunches, foster care, aid to disabled children and youth crime prevention programs.

It is time for Republicans to realize that the American people will not tolerate massive, irresponsible cuts that failed earlier this year. Our children deserve better. We must give our children the assistance and support they need for a successful future.

Mr. Speaker, let us all stand for children.

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FILNER. I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. VENTO. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I want to commend him for his statement. I also want to point out that under the rubric of welfare reform the Republican proposals cut SSI, programs that go to children with various types of disabilities such as cystic fibrosis and multiple sclerosis, actually cutting those benefits by 25 percent. This is all under the rubric of welfare reform.

This welfare reform is a good bumper sticker slogan, but when we peel off that bumper sticker and look at what is behind it, we have got cuts in school lunches, we have got cuts in terms of various types of nutrition programs. We have got cuts in terms of child care. This, mind you, all under the rubric of welfare reform.

Of course under welfare reform we all know the proposals that have been put forth for a teenage parent that has another child. That child would get no support. Some help in terms of a child-friendly Congress, taking it out on the child that is born to a teenage mother.

Mr. FILNER. Let us all, again, stand for children.

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

[Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear

hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

NOMINATING LEONEL MOREJON ALMAGRO FOR NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

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

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow morning approximately 60 members of this House, including the Speaker, will be sending a letter to the Nobel Committee of the Norwegian Parliament, the entity that designates the winners of the Nobel Peace Prize, to nominate Leonel Morejon Almagro, the National Delegate of the Concilio Cubano, the Cuban Council, an umbrella of over 140 pro-democracy groups in Cuba, for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Mr. Morejon Almagro is at this time a political prisoner at the State security prison at Villa Marista in Havana. Mr. Morejon Almagro is a 31-year-old attorney who was dismissed from his position as a lawyer because of his defense of numerous political prisoners in court. In 1986 he founded NaturPaz, Nature Peace, a peaceful environmental group that was prohibited by the Cuban dictatorship. Shortly after its founding, NaturPaz supported a ban on all nuclear weapons testing in the world. In 1991 he was detained by Cuban State Security for organizing a peaceful demonstration in front of the UNESCO office in Havana to protest the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the environmental destruction that it caused.

In 1986 and 1987, Mr. Morejon Almagro, at great personal risk, taught ecology and pacifism to students in school and criticized Cuban involvement in the Angolan and Ethiopian conflicts.

He played a decisive role this year in the formation of Concilio Cubano, as I stated, a coalition of over 140 peaceful pro-democracy organizations in Cuba. And he was elected a National Delegate of Concilio Cubano on February 10, 1996. He was arrested 5 days later, charged with resisting authority, and sentenced to 6 months in prison. He began a hunger strike after his arrest and his mother told independent journalists in Cuba that she feared for his life and believed that he was being subjected to psychiatric torture, including electroshocks. Upon appealing his sentence, Mr. Morejon Almagro was resented to 15 months instead of 6 months imprisonment. He has been declared a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International. The National Vice-Delegates of Concilio Cubano also remain in prison to this day, Lazaro Gonzalez and Mercedes Parada Antunez, the latter in a hospital. The regime stated that she would be subjected to surgery and has not specified what it has meant by that.

Just as Aung San Suu Kyi, the Burmese dissident leader, received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991, and before