

notable, in part, because of the intense media coverage—more intense than ever before. Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, pushed the Consumer Price Index to the front pages when he testified before Congress that errors in that index were costing the Government billions. Last month on the Mall, citizens demonstrated to get the Government to change the way it measures race.

This confluence of social and political currents pushes the Federal statistical agencies to find new ways to measure our social and economic indicators, as well as define new measures. In short, these agencies need to find new ways of doing business. But to do so, they need new tools.

The administration's Statistical Confidentiality bill provides the opportunity for agencies to begin charting new ground. This bill provides the framework for the research and experimentation that will define the statistical system for the new millennium.

The stated purpose of the bill is "to provide uniform safeguards for the confidentiality of information acquired for exclusively statistical purposes, and to improve the efficiency of Federal statistical programs and the quality of Federal statistics by permitting limited sharing of records for statistical purposes under strong safeguards."

In short, this bill allows statistical agencies to share information collected from the public to improve statistical measures. It also provides strong safeguards that the privacy of those individuals will be protected, and that the information, once drawn together, will be used only for statistics.

This bill will enable agencies to redesign surveys to incorporate administrative records from other agencies. It will permit agencies to develop joint surveys and share the resulting information. It will make the development of samples more accurate.

But not all of the advantages of this bill are speculative. Just this year we passed legislation transferring the authorization for the census of agriculture from the Secretary of Commerce to the Secretary of Agriculture. The major difficulty in writing that legislation was crafting language that would allow these two agencies to share information. If the Statistical Confidentiality bill were law, that effort would not have been needed.

The administration has put together a bill that lays the foundation for developing new, less burdensome, and less expensive ways of developing statistical information. This bill, for the first time, begins to take a system-wide view of Federal statistics. I congratulate my colleague Rep. HORN for introducing this bill, and I look forward to working with him to make it law.

A TRIBUTE TO THE MILWAUKEE  
COMMUNITY JOURNAL

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute today to one of the most widely read and respected African-American newspapers in the United States. As the Milwaukee Community Journal celebrates 20 years of hard-hitting, thoughtful, and award-winning

journalism this week, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the rich history of this outstanding news operation.

The Milwaukee Community Journal was founded in 1976 to provide a voice for Milwaukee's rapidly expanding and influential African-American community. From its humble beginnings in an apartment complex on Port Washington Road with a tireless and dedicated staff of six people, the Community Journal has today grown into Wisconsin's largest circulated African-American newspaper. Today, the Community Journal's offices on Martin Luther King Drive have come to represent much more than a news center. Indeed, it is a vital nerve center of our community, where scores of neighborhood revitalization efforts are initiated.

During the past two decades, the Community Journal has highlighted and championed many issues of critical importance to Milwaukee's Central City. From education reform, to economic development, to civil rights, the Community Journal is truly Milwaukee's voice of conscience. Furthermore, the paper plays a critical role in chronicling and preserving Milwaukee's rich legacy of African-American history and progress.

The Community Journal has received dozens of awards and accolades over the last 20 years for its courageous reporting and commentary. Most recently, the paper won a National Newspaper Publishers Association award for publishing an extended magazine devoted to crime fighting in Milwaukee. Last year, the paper was honored with the prestigious A. Phillip Randolph Messenger Award for its ongoing reporting on the educational reform movement in Milwaukee.

Staying true to its name, the Community Journal remains a strong voice of the people of the Central City. Through school partnerships, scholarships, and the sponsorship of educational campaigns, the Community Journal has introduced hundreds of Milwaukee students to the field of journalism. The paper also actively sponsors book give-aways to promote reading among Milwaukee youth, and has been a main proponent of job creation in the Central City.

Mikel Holt, editor of the paper, is one of Milwaukee's most respected editors and social commentators, and is one of the Nation's most tenured African-American journalists. Mr. Holt is widely known to Milwaukee television viewers for his regular work on the WTMJ Television show "Sunday Insight With Charles Sykes". He has also received many awards and citations, including the National Newspaper Publishers Association Best Columnist Award, which he has won twice. Mr. Holt's regular column "Signifyin'" poignantly focuses on the direction of Milwaukee's African-American community, and is one of the most popular and provocative commentaries in the State of Wisconsin.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Mikel Holt and the Milwaukee Community Journal continued success on this special anniversary. May the next 20 years be as productive and fruitful for this outstanding newspaper which has truly worked to make a difference in Milwaukee, the State of Wisconsin, and the entire Nation.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3734,  
PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND  
WORK OPPORTUNITY RECONCILI-  
ATION ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 1996

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act.

In charting the course of welfare reform, we have come a long way since the introduction of welfare reform legislation in the 103d Congress. The Congress passed a bill 16 months ago that would have hurt children, allowed States to abdicate their responsibility without any maintenance of effort requirement, and cut funding for job training, child care, child nutrition, and work programs. I voted against the original House-passed bill because its cuts were too extreme. The bipartisan bill before us today incorporates the improvements of the original conference report, the Governors' recommendations, and the most critical improvements contained in the castle-tanner bill that I helped to draft. For too long families have been discouraged from working by our welfare system. Unlike the original bill, the bill before us today will help welfare recipients and their children build a better future because recipients will be working, equipped with the training, and child care they need to be successful.

I support welfare reform that moves recipients from welfare to work and encourages personal responsibility. This legislation does that, allowing States to try new approaches that meet the needs of their recipients. States are already experimenting with welfare reform. Forty States have waivers given by this administration, and the results are encouraging.

In giving leeway and dollars to States, however, we must protect children. This legislation does that by maintaining the current child welfare and foster care entitlement for children. Previous versions of welfare reform had converted this critical safety net into a block grant, and I strongly encouraged my colleagues to retain the entitlement status of child protective services. This bill also contains kinship care language modeled after legislation that I have introduced. This language insures that State plans for foster care and adoption assistance protect families and use adult relatives as the preferred placement for children separated from their parents when such relatives meet child protection standards.

This legislation also includes the original Women's caucus child support enforcement provisions. We will soon be able to finally crack down on deadbeat parents by enacting penalties with real teeth and establishing Federal registries to help track deadbeats.

This legislation also maintains the link between Medicaid and welfare. The children of any family eligible for AFDC as of July 1, 1996, will remain eligible for Medicaid whether or not their family continues to receive welfare benefits, and States may also continue Medicaid eligibility for parents who are no longer eligible for AFDC. This legislation also provides families with Medicaid coverage for a year after they leave welfare for work.

This legislation does not convert child nutrition programs, the WIC Program, or the food