

THE ETHICS PROCESS

HON. PORTER J. GOSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I offer these comments in response to those submitted by my dear friend, the ranking member of the Rules Committee, Mr. MOAKLEY, late last week. Mr. MOAKLEY was continuing the dialog about our ethics process and I wish to respond directly to his comments.

I am delighted to know that members of the minority are now engaging in a productive discussion about the need to review—and consider changes to—our current ethics process. As I have said for some time, it is my view—shared by many of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle—that the process is broken and needs comprehensive reform.

Of course the existence and authority of the Ethics Committee is provided for under rule X, which is the unique province of our Rules Committee. I agree that matters relating to this committee and its functions are best addressed without partisanship and with the best interests of this institution in mind. All of my efforts to date in attempting to bring about constructive change in the current process have been made in a spirit of bipartisan cooperation.

The Rules Committee included a commitment to review the ethics process, as prescribed by House rule X, in our oversight plan for the 104th Congress. I refer interested observers to the Government Reform and Oversight Committee's report from March 1995 which incorporated the oversight plans of all committees as required by rule X(2)(d). Specifically, the Subcommittee on Legislative and Budget Process' intentions with respect to the ethics process can be found on page 169 of that report, which states that "the subcommittee intends to review the mandate of the [standards] committee as established in rule X, clause 4 as amended by the Ethics Reform Act of 1989 and the manner in which its members are chosen and required to serve." That particular oversight recommendation was made as part of our committee's overall oversight agenda, and adopted by voice vote of our committee with no complaint by the minority on February 14, 1995.

Since that time I have made several efforts to proceed with what I have always believed would be a bipartisan review of the current process, followed by a bipartisan discussion of options for reform for the next Congress. I had many conversations with our subcommittee's ranking minority member, MARTIN FROST during which he expressed continued reluctance to proceed on this subject. In fact, we conducted a lengthy written correspondence as well, and in deference to him and to the apparent wishes of the Democrat leadership, I postponed our formal review several times. I did, however, proceed in my capacity as a Member of this House in late January of this year and put forward House Resolution 346, embodying my own ideas about ways in which the process should be revised.

At that time, Chairman SOLOMON released a statement that said: "We are honoring the request of the ranking minority member on the Goss subcommittee, Mr. FROST, by not proceeding with hearings at this time. But I think

we have an obligation to begin to gather reactions and suggestions from Members and persons outside the Congress on these proposals so that we are prepared to proceed with formal hearings later this year."

It has always been clear to me that ethics process reform should be a bipartisan effort and should be based on input from all points of view. I don't think there is any disagreement on that point. In fact, during our committee's unprecedented hearings to take input from Members and outside witnesses about ideas for building upon the changes that were made to our rules in this Congress as we prepare for the 105th Congress, it became clear that many Members already have developed ideas about improving the ethics process.

The purpose of all of my efforts on this subject is to move the review process forward in a productive manner so that we do not find ourselves in the position where Members want change yet we are locked into the current process for another whole Congress. It is my view that there is advantage to having Members involved in that effort who have had frontline experience with our current process.

I look forward to working with all my colleagues on a bipartisan basis in addressing this issue.

 HONORING THE HUNTINGTON
BREAST CANCER ACTION COALITION

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary work of the Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition. This coalition has been instrumental in escalating our awareness about the high rate of breast cancer throughout the Huntington community.

The Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition conducts town meetings, provides breast exam workshops and distributes educational literature. Moreover, this important organization works with the Suffolk County Department of Health Services to provide yearly mammograms at St. Hughes of Lincoln Church in Huntington Station. The success of this independent, grassroots organization has been studied around the world. In fact, the Huntington organization has inspired the creation of the Tokyo Breast Cancer Action Coalition.

The coalition was created on October 12, 1992, by a group of women led by Karen Miller, who cared deeply about the high rate of breast cancer in their community and had been affected personally by this most serious condition. These women educated their families, friends, and neighbors about various prevention and early detection measures. By 1993, the organization had opened administrative offices. Today, the Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition has 1,500 active volunteers, each of whom is committed to putting an end to this serious condition. The organization has sent a woman's breast health survey to 68,000 households throughout Huntington. So far, they have compiled 26,000 responses in their computer data base. The coalition eventually wants to use these findings to help determine the cause of the high rate of breast cancer in Huntington. At a dinner on October

1, the coalition will honor the following members who truly demonstrate the selflessness and compassion of an entire organization.

Michael Miller, who is the husband of the founder of the coalition, has been an outstanding leader in our fight against breast cancer. His wife's struggle with breast cancer has led him to nearly a decade of outspoken advocacy. Mr. Miller has owned and operated the A-OK Appliance Co. for 33 years. He is also an active trustee of his synagogue. Michael Miller has lived happily on Long Island with his wife and three children since the 1960's.

Denise Kleinman, another Coalition activist, has been working toward the creation of a Breast Cancer Awareness Clinic. Her lifetime of work truly represents how one individual can make such an extraordinary difference. This former New York City teacher has been involved in both her local PTA and in her synagogue. She is also a volunteer for Island Harvest which collects excess food and distributes it to the needy on Long Island. Denise Kleinman currently resides in Dix Hills with her husband and three children.

Carol Caruso has been one of the most active members of the Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition. Both she and her husband have donated substantial resources from their family business in order to support this worthwhile cause. Her actions demonstrate how a local business can work alongside a volunteer organization in order to further the common interest of an entire community. Carol Caruso has also been an active volunteer in the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation. She currently lives in Oyster Bay where she enjoys the company of her six grandchildren.

The Huntington Breast Cancer Coalition truly represents the ideas of compassion, community and determination. Their selfless actions will help others overcome their struggles with breast cancer. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these extraordinary individuals and the outstanding work they have done for their community. The organization's dynamic leaders and dedicated volunteers should serve as a model for us all.

 WE CAN NO LONGER WAIT FOR
MENTAL HEALTH PARITY

HON. PETER A. DEFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, Americans are tired of being discriminated against by their insurance company. Mental health parity language included in the VA-HUD appropriation bill was recently endorsed by an overwhelming majority in the House. Nearly five million men, women and children suffer from a severe mental illness. Yet, only 2 percent of the mentally ill receive insurance coverage. Unfortunately, greed seems to be the driving force behind efforts to deprive so many of our friends, relatives and neighbors of this basic care.

We cannot wait any longer to subject mental health benefits to the same annual and lifetime caps as those for physical health. Currently, private insurers place lifetime limits of \$1 million for cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and tuberculosis but lifetime limits on mental illness is typically set at \$50,000 or less. This

disparity is a straightforward solution that will provide financial relief.

A study conducted by Coopers & Lybrand indicates that mental parity legislation would save over \$16 million in Medicaid costs annually. People who exhaust their current health care benefits are forced to fall back on the Federal health care system. This is certainly not my idea of responsible fiscal management of our public health care. America's insurance companies can well afford to equalize caps for both mental and medical conditions. We have waited long enough for this comprehensive, financially prudent approach to health care reform. By providing parity for mental health benefits, we are helping millions of Americans move closer toward meaningful recovery. I urge all of my colleagues to listen to the voices of concerned citizens and guarantee mental health parity for all those in need of long-term treatment.

RECOGNIZING OLYMPIC ACHIEVEMENT AND WOMEN'S ATHLETICS

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to recognize the outstanding accomplishment of a gifted athlete and special constituent of mine. Her name is Diane Madl. She is a talented field hockey player and coach. Diane is also an Olympian. At the Atlanta games, she helped the U.S. women's field hockey team to a very respectable fifth place finish. All of Maine is rightfully proud of Diane's selection for the U.S. team and of her performance at the centennial games.

Perhaps more importantly, however, Maine people are grateful for her work at the University of Maine in Orono. As an assistant field hockey coach, Diane serves as a teacher and mentor to many female athletes. Along with head coach Terry Kix, Diane is helping to build a strong athletic program; one that is instilling valuable lessons in each woman associated with it.

Diane's commitment to excellence in the Olympics and at the University of Maine, as well as her dedication to female athletes and belief in all the good that athletes can do is deserving of our recognition, and a heartfelt thank you.

CONGRESS MUST PRIORITIZE STUDENT FINANCIAL AID AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that as the budget process for fiscal year 1997 comes to a close, whether through an omnibus appropriations bill or by normal appropriations bills, this Congress may not sufficiently prioritize student financial aid and education programs. As we all search to balance the budget, let us not forget the heavy burden that our educational institutions have for preparing today's youth to lead America in the next century.

I understand that cuts will inevitably be made, and many of the President's funding requests will not be met as we wind our way through these budget debates. However, to those Members who feel it is necessary to balance the budget by eliminating Goals 2000, Perkins loans, and Healthy Start while also slashing funding for Pell grants, teacher training programs, and Safe and Drug-Free Schools, I must ask that you reexamine your values.

For example, consider the words that Tomika Harris of Fayette, MI wrote as she applied for a summer scholarship for needy students at the University of Southern Mississippi. In response to the question, "What impact will the loss of financial aid have on your educational goals and what does financial aid mean to you?", Ms. Harris gave us an insight into how important financial aid and a higher education are to today's youth:

The loss of financial aid will have a dramatic impact on not only me, but also my peers. In my community, there is mostly lower middle class and poverty stricken people. However, most of the kids want to continue their education, but because we have low employment rates, we depend on financial aid terribly to attend a higher education institution. If Congress takes financial aid away, that will be more students on the streets probably selling drugs instead of learning in a classroom. To me, financial aid is not money to go to college, but an opportunity for success.

Perkins loans, Pell grants, Goals 2000, Healthy Start and many of these other programs serve as primary vehicles to lift by State out of the poverty that has consumed generations of bright, young minds. Even now, I can hear the voices of the mothers and fathers I see each weekend in Mississippi telling me that they know their child will have a chance to end the cycle of broken dreams if he or she can only get a Head Start. Now, just as years of hard work by teachers and public officials have helped Mississippi and this Nation to finally begin throwing off the heavy shrouds of poverty, do not send us back into an abyss of shattered lives and undereducated minds.

Each of us has a duty as elected official to heed these voices. Listen to them, they are the children of today hoping for tomorrow.

TRIBUTE TO THE TOWN OF NEW BEDFORD

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the town of New Bedford on the occasion of its 200th anniversary celebration.

New Bedford, located in northern Lawrence County, was settled in 1796 by James, Thomas, and Andrew Black. The Black family established a 400-acre tract which today encompasses the entire town of New Bedford. The town itself was named for Dr. Samuel Bedford, whose Bedford claim included portions of land in Mercer and Lawrence Counties.

The original town, designed by Daniel Inbody, was laid out in 1818, and consisted of 89 lots. In 1827, a post office was established

and other early enterprises included a grist mill, pottery, tavern, tannery, creamery, and distillery. The first school in the area was situated at Hopewell in the old building erected by the Presbyterian congregation. The town of New Bedford was a well-known stopping place for stage and mail coaches traveling between Mercer and Youngstown, OH.

A beautiful, rural area, New Bedford lies hundreds of feet above the water level of the Shenango River. This close-knit community is home to some 300 residents, many of whom can trace their roots of the founding families of the town. Such early entrepreneurial spirit is today reflected in the pride, patriotism, and virtues of the citizens of this outstanding town. It is a pleasure and an honor to congratulate them on the occasion of this historic celebration.

PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM TO MORRIS UDALL

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, two weeks ago, President Bill Clinton awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom to our former colleague, and my good friend, Morris Udall. I can not think of a more deserving recipient of our nation's highest civilian award.

Mo represented the 2nd District of Arizona in Congress for 30 years, coming in as a young upstart bent on dismantling the old seniority system and leaving as one of our most revered senior Members.

Mo served as Chairman of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee for fourteen years. He was instrumental in leading the way for the enactment of landmark legislation protecting the environment as well as the rights of American Indians and those living in the U.S. Territories.

Some of the laws which now stand as a testament to Chairman Udall are: the Alaska Lands Act, the 1984 Wilderness Act, the 1982 Nuclear Waste Management Act, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, the Indian Child Welfare Act, the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1989, the National Trails System Improvements Act of 1988, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, and the Compact of Free Association with the Trust Territories of the Pacific.

Mr. Speaker, Mo Udall was so successful in getting legislation passed because he was a master at building coalitions out of diverse interests. I am inspired each time I sit in the Morris K. Udall hearing room of the Longworth House Office Building where Mo served and presided for three decades. Mo's portrait looking down at us from its perch over the fireplace reminds me of the fairness, humor, and dignity with which he ran the committee. The issues before the Interior (now Resources) Committee have always been contentious. But Mo Udall was able to bring us all together to make the important decisions on how best to protect our precious natural resources for future generations.