

"POPULATION STILL MATTERS"

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, the first foreign policy vote of the 105th Congress may well take place in the first week of February. This vote will determine the rate of expenditure of appropriated funds for international population assistance. It will have a significant impact on the quality of life for men, women, and children all over the world. I place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for the consideration of my colleagues an editorial from the Baltimore Sun that appeared Saturday, January 18, 1997.

POPULATION STILL MATTERS

Recent reports indicate that world population growth has slowed, and that is good news. But with the number of women of childbearing age increasing by 24 million each year, there needs to be a similar increase in the availability of voluntary family planning programs to maintain the slower rates of growth.

Unfortunately, Congress has put restrictions on U.S. aid to voluntary family planning programs, including unconscionable delays in releasing the funds. Next month, after President Clinton certifies that the funding delays are "having a negative impact on the proper functioning" of the programs, both Houses of Congress will have a chance to approve the finding. If they do, family planning aid can begin flowing again March 1, rather than waiting until July.

Congressional votes on family planning often get tangled up with abortion. But these votes, having to do only with the timing of the release of funds already appropriated, provide a clean vote on support for voluntary family planning. They have nothing to do with abortion.

Population growth in itself is not a bad thing. But without rises in incomes and purchasing power in the developing countries where most of this increase occurs, continued growth in the world economy could be threatened. And as population puts pressures on land, firewood and other rural resources, poor people flock to cities, creating even more stress on fragile water, sanitary and social service infrastructures. In developing countries, cities usually grow twice as fast as the population as a whole. Anyone familiar with Mexico City, Manila or any other megalopolis knows what that can do to the quality of life in urban areas.

But the strongest argument for family planning aid is the beneficial effect it has on the health of mothers and their children. Voluntary programs often provide the only reproductive health care available to women in developing countries.

By spacing their children two years apart, these women are able to increase the chances that their infants will survive, while helping them preserve their own health. About 600,000 women die in childbirth every year, leaving millions of orphans. And each year some 15 million pregnant women are left with debilitating injuries, infections or other complications. That is too heavy a toll to sacrifice to ideological posturing to please domestic constituencies.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE TRADE
CORPS ACT OF 1997

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, one key reform essential to assure strong economic growth in our U.S. marketplace as well as to reduce the chronic U.S. trade deficit, is to upgrade the skill level of our U.S. trade negotiators. America must move our products into foreign markets, and assure that our trade negotiators are trustworthy.

The bill, the Professional Trade Service Corps, would achieve these goals by creating an accomplished professional body of American trade negotiators. Just like diplomats in our Foreign Service, our trade representatives are America's conveyors of our Nation's economic and political interests.

Specifically, the act authorizes the creation of the Professional Trade Service Corps to fill key trade positions in the six Federal agencies with major trade-related functions or offices. It will insure better coordination and continuity of service among the Office of the United States Trade Representative, the State Department, the Commerce Department, the Agriculture Department, the Labor Department, and the Treasury Department in their trade-related functions.

We would not allow graduates of West Point to lead foreign armies against our country. We should not allow trade negotiators trained at taxpayer expense to leave Government service and represent foreign interests against the best interests of our Government. We must treat this situation as seriously as any international proceeding.

There is a revolving door at the highest levels of government service that foreign interests use to manipulate our trade policies and destroy U.S. industries and jobs. This bill will go a long way to establishing standards to remedy this egregious problem.

The Professional Trade Service Corps Act will create a cadre of career trade professionals similar to the Foreign Service, identify key trade-related positions, and staff these positions with broadly trained experts in this highly specialized area. Just as importantly, it establishes a career path for continued government service and advancement, encourages continuity of staffing with the carrot of incentives, and the stick of postemployment restrictions.

This corps of trade professionals will be constituted of applicants chosen through a rigorous selection process. They will be carefully trained to establish a high level of excellence in these key trade positions.

To meet these objectives, this act establishes a Trade Service Corps Institute to provide specialized training which will include: the history of U.S. trade negotiations; trade negotiating strategies; the economics and politics of trade; the cultural and business practices of countries with which the United States has significant trade relations; foreign language instruction; and instruction in the operations within and the interrelationships among the various trade-related agencies.

This act will require the Professional Trade Service Corps members to remain in government service for a period of time at least three

times the length of their training, and subject them, as well as the legislative branch, to postemployment restrictions in their representation of foreign interests in trade-related matters.

It is time to stop the revolving door which threatens our trade interests and jobs. This bill is an important step in that direction. The Professional Trade Service Corps Act presents a comprehensive strategy for improving the quality and integrity of our trade negotiators. We must protect our economic and trade interests; to do otherwise is to compromise our national security.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the support of all of my distinguished colleagues and ask that they join me in cosponsoring the Professional Trade Services Corps Act of 1997.

INTRODUCTION OF HEALTHY
START ACT OF 1997

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing a variation of a bill proposed in the last Congress by our colleague, Representative Sam Gibbons of Florida, to provide universal health insurance for all American children and their mothers during pregnancy. The bill, entitled the Healthy Start Act of 1997, will end the national disgrace of 10 million uninsured children under age 18 and American women going through pregnancy without health insurance and without adequate prenatal care.

The bill is an investment in the future: healthier mothers and their children will mean a better American work force and economy. This bill has a price tag—but it has a pay-out that is beyond calculation in dollars and in a better quality of life.

The bill would ensure that every child in America up to age 18 and every pregnant woman would have health insurance roughly equivalent to the Medicare package of benefits, enhanced with pregnancy, well-baby, well-child and EPSDT benefits.

The bill is very, very simple: If a family does not have this package of insurance through the private market or the workplace, they would be required to buy it. If they are below the poverty level, they would owe nothing. Above the poverty level, they would buy it on a sliding scale basis, with premiums paid through the tax system.

The bill is a form of individual mandate: each parent is responsible for doing the right thing by their kids—and the Government's role is to make it affordable.

We have business alone.

We allow people to buy private policies as an alternative.

We maintain freedom of choice.

We don't disrupt families who already have insurance and are happy with their policies.

The need for this type of legislation is eloquently described in Representative Gibbons introductory remarks, and I refer readers to page E1252 of the July 11, 1996, CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The only difference between this bill and the original Gibbons bill is that my bill covers all children up to age 18, rather than age 13, and adds the EPSDT benefits as part of the required coverage for children.