send them there on guard duty, on police duty, and that sort of thing. That is not what they are about.

We need to be loyal to them and pass this legislation and bring the troops home from Bosnia at least by the end of this year, by December of this year.

CHILD CARE FUNDS DROPPED FROM WELFARE REFORM ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands [Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House passed H.R. 1048, to make technical corrections to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, otherwise known as the Welfare Reform Act. While I support H.R. 1048, I rise today to express my strong disappointment about the fact that a Clinton administration proposal to set aside one-half of 1 percent of mandatory child care funds for allotment among the territories was dropped from the bill during the markup in the Committee on Ways and Means because the Congressional Budget Office scored the provision as having a cost to the Federal Treasury.

I am disappointed, Mr. Speaker, because when the Welfare Reform Act was enacted, no mandatory child care funds were provided for over 4 million U.S. citizens residing in the United States non-State areas, even though residents of my district and the other territories have been operating child care programs under section 402(g) of the Social Security Act.

Mr. Speaker, welfare reform is intended to promote self-sufficiency through work. As a result, securing adequate child care funding will be one of our more pressing needs if we are to be successful in our goal of moving former welfare mothers from dependency into our work force.

During the markup of H.R. 1048, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. SHAW], chairman of the Subcommittee on Human Resources of the Committee on Ways and Means, stated that there were several provisions that would be dropped from the bill because they were scored as having a cost and not purely technical in nature. The chairman went further to state that his subcommittee will go back and take a look at those issues that were left out of the bill as it came out of the subcommittee markup.

It is my intention, Mr. Speaker, to work with the gentleman from Florida [Mr. SHAW], the chairman, and the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. LEVIN], the ranking member, to ensure that low-income parents in the U.S. territories receive adequate child care to enable them to be able to go to work to support their families.

PATHWAY FOR OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, today more than ever our children need us to stand up for them. As a parent and as a grandparent, I simply want to pave a path to the future for our young people. Unfortunately, there are those who want to keep them trapped in the past. There could be no more urgent time than this moment in history to make a difference for our children.

Consider this. Every 5 hours, a child dies from abuse or neglect. There is a connection with the fact that every 32 seconds a baby is born into poverty. From the dawn of life to the dusk of life, from birth to early death, far too many of our children are behind when born, live wretched lives and die before they truly have a chance to live.

We can stop this vicious, downward spiral. We can move our children from under the dark cloud of planning their funerals to the bright sunshine of planning their futures.

That is why I am here, Mr. Speaker, to stand up for WIC, to stand up for the nutritional needs of our country's poorest women and children. This is a time when so many of our children are at their lowest and worst point, and we need to call upon our highest and best effort as a nation.

During this Congress, there are those of us who have carried the commitment to children and we have been able to do so because we have fought for it. We carried our fight on a foundation of faith and belief that our fight for children was a fight for our Nation's future, and through this we have made some gains. The fight goes on.

More than 2,600 babies will be born into poverty this day and each day. We want to make a pathway for our children's future. There are those who would want to keep them trapped in the past. We will win the fight because we dare to fight. That is why we are here, Mr. Speaker, to fight the majority that want to cut the heart of our WIC program, a program that nourished over 7.4 million women and children in the year 1996; to fight the majority, as they have cut $38 billion out of the WIC supplemental, necessary funding for the one government program regarded by experts to be the single most successful social program run by the Federal Government.

Over 180,000 hungry women and children will be dropped from the WIC program, which has proven to be a successful weapon against low birth weight, infant mortality, and childhood anemia. GAO stated in 1992, for each $1 invested in the prenatal portion of WIC, the Federal Government saves at least $3.50 in Medicaid, SSI, and other relevant Federal programs.

I implore the Speaker to fully fund the WIC program at the administration requested level of $78 million and to give 180,000 American women, infants, and children the nutritional help that they need. We need to move people out of poverty, not into poverty. The President has said we need a lean but not a mean Government. It should not mean cutting nutrition programs which are essential to the well-being of millions of our citizens, people who in many instances cannot fend for themselves and need assistance for their basic existence. They are not asking for much, just a little substance to help them through the day, WIC and other nutritional programs, which in many cases provide the only food that many of our Nation's poor receive daily.

We are all aware that poor nutrition breeds poor development in children. I come from a rural area, a very poor district. Making cuts in this nutritional program will certainly be adverse to my district and to many of my constituents. Let us stop picking on children. Let us stop picking on the poor. Let us make some cuts, surely, but let us make them to the people who can afford them, not to taking food out of the mouths of pregnant and nursing women, infants, and children.

DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION AGENDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, tonight I want to talk about the Democrats' education agenda. Before I get into some of the details, however, I wanted to briefly touch on the evolution of our plan to expand and improve the Nation's education system. I think it is particularly important to keep the history behind our plan in mind as negotiations over the budget continue the next few days or the next few weeks.

The Democratic Party has historically been the champion and defender of education in this country. The 104th Congress, in fact, illustrated this observation in very stark terms. Upon taking the majority for the first time in some 40 years, Republican leaders immediately set out to dismantle Federal education programs. Led by Speaker GINGRICH and primarily the freshman Republicans who were elected for the first time in the 104th Congress, the GOP proposed the largest education cuts in history.

A look at the record shows that on August 4, 1995, the Gingrich Congress christened its attack on education when 213 House Republicans voted for the largest education cuts in history, voting to slash education programs by 15 percent, or $3.6 billion. These cuts across the full spectrum of education were particularly heavy on student loan programs. But the proposed cuts left no stone unturned. They targeted Title I, Safe and Drug-Free Schools, Goals 2000, Head Start, vocational and adult education, as well as student