

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

QUALITY CHILD CARE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 1997

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we are learning new information each day about just how critical the first 3 years of life are for a child's brain development, intellectual growth, and emotional, social, and moral development. These factors will help determine the health and productivity of a child in later life. In 1993, the National Education Goals Panel reported that nearly half of infants in the United States do not have what they need to grow and thrive. High quality care from a parent or other adult is necessary to facilitate growth and development. Five million children under age 3 are in the care of other adults while their parents work outside the home. Parents of very young children have few child care service options. Many cannot afford to stay home with their children or to pay for safe, high quality developmental child care services. The Federal Government's involvement in the development of our children and grandchildren has become even more critical.

Child care providers are a valuable asset to their communities. Their contributions to providing quality child care is the backbone to economic stability throughout this country. For example, over 85 percent of the children in child care in southern Maryland participate because their parents work. Without quality child care options, parents will not be able to provide their children with the early childhood development they need to get a quality start to their future.

Child care needs in Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties in southern Maryland are a prime example of the national need for quality child care. In 1990, the number of children under age 3 in these three counties ranged between 2,500 and 5,000. Child care providers in southern Maryland, and throughout the country, are doing a good job at meeting child care needs, but there is the possibility that resources will become strained in the future. Child care providers cannot provide quality services without the Federal Government's support.

I have been committed to ensuring that the Federal Government provide sufficient resources to increase the quality of child care throughout the country. One of the programs that I have focused on is the Child Care and Development Block Grant. This program makes funds available for child care services and activities to improve the availability, accessibility, and affordability of child care. A portion of the funding is set aside to improve the quality and availability of healthy and safe child care for all families, including quality activities such as training.

The Child Care and Development Block Grant was reauthorized last year as part of the welfare reform bill. A portion of this legislation permitted a slight increase in funding for the

Child Care and Development Block Grant. But, in order for child care providers to be able to provide the type of quality care we all want for our children and grandchildren, they need to have access to sufficient resources.

This is why Congresswoman DELAURO, Congressman MCGOVERN, and I are working toward getting child care providers the resources they need by further increasing the amount of funding that goes toward the Child Care and Development Block Grant. The Early Learning and Opportunity Act, which we introduced, does just that. The bill creates flexible, competitive State grants to improve the quality of care for children under age 3. In addition, it increases funding for Head Start and more than doubles funding for Early Head Start, a crucial component to quality child care.

The White House is hosting a conference in October on child care. The national attention to be focused on quality child care during this conference will be critical. I am confident that it will lead to local and national quality child care improvements. I look forward to participating in this conference and working with other Members of Congress to ensure that early childhood education and child care funding this country so desperately needs becomes available.

IN MEMORY OF REV. FERRIS A.
KLEEM

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Rev. Ferris Kleem, a Catholic and Maronite priest, a scholar, and a philanthropist.

Father Kleem was born in Wilkes-Barre, PA. After high school, he served in Italy in the infantry and medical corps of the U.S. Army. He earned a bachelor's degree in biology and chemistry from King's College and went on to study medicine at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon. His international experiences did not end there. He earned a degree in sacred theology at Catholic University in Angers, France and was ordained as a Roman Catholic priest in the Holy Cross order in LeMans, France. His passion for learning led him to pursue further studies at Catholic University of America, Johns Hopkins, McGill and Cleveland State Universities, and the University of the Holy Spirit in Lebanon. He received a doctorate in higher education from Wayne State University.

As an assistant at St. Brendan Church in North Olmsted and at SS. Cyril & Methodius Church in Lakewood, Father Kleem shared his spirituality, international experiences, and knowledge with many Catholics in northeast Ohio. During this time, he also counseled divorced and separated Catholics in Cleveland. He led pilgrimages to Lourdes, Fatima, the Holy Land, and other religious sites. In 1991,

he founded a philanthropic group, Our Lady of the Cedars Society.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring a man whose countless contributions and achievements will never be forgotten.

A RECOGNITION OF FEDEX'S DONATION TO THE NATIONAL DIGITAL LIBRARY

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 1997

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to take the opportunity to recognize FedEx Corp. for its \$1 million donation to the National Digital Library Program at the Library of Congress.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the Library of Congress is the world's largest library, with a collection of more than 111 million items, which until recently was only available to those who could visit its hallowed halls. Thanks to recent advancements in technology, however, that has all begun to change.

Over the last 7 years the Library has been able to begin digitizing a wide array of its archives, ranging from Civil War photographs and panoramic maps to Thomas Edison's early films and Walt Whitman's writings. Moreover, since 1994, when the National Digital Library Program was launched, these and other invaluable historical documents have been available via the World Wide Web to millions of people across the globe, including elementary and secondary students right here in America. And thanks to FedEx's generous gift last week, even more of this priceless information will become widely accessible in the next century.

It goes without saying that the residents of Memphis and the mid-South region are extremely fortunate to have a corporate partner in their community that is led by an innovative and visionary chairman, Fred Smith, who recognizes the nexus between technology and education. Mr. Speaker, FedEx understands that if this Nation is to compete and win in tomorrow's marketplace—driven and dominated by digitalization, deregulation, diversity, and globalization—then we must develop a workforce that is more highly skilled and computer literate than ever before.

By donating resources to ensure that every young person with access to a computer can be exposed to the world of ideas, FedEx is helping to fulfill its role as a partner with its community and the Federal Government. The challenge now is for Congress to step up to the plate and muster the political will and resources to partner with States and the private sector to rebuild and computerize every schoolhouse in America, so our young people can lead this Nation from what has been to what can be in the new millennium.

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