

VOUCHER PLAN RAISES UNREASONABLE EXPECTATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, in anticipation of bringing a bill to the floor, the Republican majority is pouring thousands of dollars into ads for a voucher bill. But I challenge them to use that to send some of the 7,500 kids they want to help to parochial schools, as they claim they want to do.

This is a political exercise. It has become a political perennial, because it comes every year. This year it is an election year charade. We know it is a charade because the President has promised to veto. If the majority is sincere, I challenge them to sit down with me and write a bill that can be signed.

This year a bill of this kind is a real insult because we have a real shot at exponential improvement in the D.C. public schools, finally.

One good example is the Summer Stars program about to begin. We will become the first big city school system to eliminate social promotion and replace it not only with a remedial program but with a program in the summer that helps youngsters catch up so they do not fail in the first place. A rigorous academic program is going to be put in place. Our youngsters are going to have to read 25 books next year in order to pass the grade.

Want to help? There are ways to make a real difference for the many and not merely the few. It is cruel to raise the expectations of 75 youngsters for 2,000 school vouchers. It is cruel because there are two insurmountable barriers, and we know they are insurmountable. First is the veto, but, second, no serious constitutional scholar believes public school vouchers are constitutional.

As I speak, there are two injunctions on public school vouchers right now. Two courts in Wisconsin have stopped public school vouchers with injunctions on constitutional grounds. An appeals court in Ohio has stopped public school vouchers on constitutional grounds.

D.C. schools need help. If Members want to raise people's expectations and then let them fall, they should go do it in their own districts. Do not come in and do it to my folks. I challenge the majority, if they want to see D.C. kids go to parochial schools, I will join Members in raising private funds to send them to private schools.

Everyone knows what they are doing. They are preparing for a \$1 billion raid on the public Treasury to take money that would go to public schools and give it to private and parochial schools. We are not going to let them do it. Either the President will stop them or the courts will stop them. Meanwhile, they are playing with the lives of the people I represent.

I ask Members to stand back and instead come forward and join me in

truly helping youngsters who are crying out for help but cannot get it, as Members know they cannot, in the way they have chosen.

We can work together. No one has even come to me and approached me about this issue. They would not dare go into the district of another Member without even approaching her on the district. They have not asked me if there is an approach that we can agree upon.

I can tell them that the approach that they are depending upon, a starkly partisan approach that has nothing to do with the youngsters I represent, will in fact be turned down not only by me but by those I represent. And, for them, I resent Members coming forward to raise their expectations, knowing full well that they cannot meet them and having no intention whatsoever to meet them in yet another election year charade designed falsely to show what Members cannot show, and that is that public schools cannot be improved. Perhaps they cannot be. Neither, I assure the Members, will the courts of this great country allow us to empty the Federal Treasury of funds and put them into private schools.

If Members want to help my kids, understand that they want your help, need your help, and that their Member is willing to cooperate with others in order to get help. But I ask Members to cooperate with us, not to exercise their will on us.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. MCKINNEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GREENWOOD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HINCHEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GILCHREST addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MALONEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL JAMES J. LYONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. HULSHOF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HULSHOF. Madam Speaker, I have come to the floor of the United States House of Representatives tonight to talk about big news in a small town in Missouri's Ninth Congressional District. That town is Kirksville, Missouri. For those who do not know about Kirksville, it is the home of nationally-recognized Truman State University.

Tonight my good friend, Jack Magruder, the President of Truman State, and some of his colleagues have tuned in for this tribute, because it is time, Madam Speaker, to pay tribute to a man of honor.

Tonight I am here to salute a great countryman, Lieutenant Colonel James J. Lyons. His friends call him Jim. They also call him dependable. Lieutenant Colonel James Lyons has dedicated more than 29 years to Army service.

He entered the Army as a private in the Ohio Army National Guard in 1968, completed basic training, completed Advanced Individual Training-Infantry at Fort Jackson, South Carolina; and after a period of enlisted service with the Ohio Guard, he entered Officer Candidate School at Fort Hayes, Ohio. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1970 and assigned to C Company, 113th Medical Battalion, where he served as ambulance platoon leader and training officer.

Lt. Col. Lyons moved to Kirksville in 1972 and was assigned to the 5503d U.S. Army Hospital in Columbia, Missouri. He served in a number of staff officer positions, including assistant personnel officer, food service officer and hospital company commander.

In 1976, he was project officer for the First Army Reserve Medical Symposium. A year later, he led the quartering party which organized the 901st Medical Detachment which, Madam Speaker, was the first Army Reserve Medical Unit in northern Missouri. Subsequently, he served as that unit's training officer and executive officer.

In 1988, Lt. Col. Lyons helped establish the 303d Field Hospital in Kirksville. He also served as that unit's executive officer and deployable medical systems project officer.

Lt. Col. Lyons was selected to be the first commander for the newly formed

4207th U.S. Army Hospital in 1995, a position he has held until his military retirement.

Lt. Col. Lyons's awards and decorations are many. They include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Humanitarian Service Medal for work with Cuban refugees, the National Defense Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Reserve Components Achievement Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, as well as the Armed Forces Reserve Medal and the Expert Rifle Marksmanship badge.

But not only has Lt. Col. Lyons distinguished himself in the military arena. He has also challenged himself academically. Lyons holds a Bachelor's degree in psychology from Fordham University and a Master's and Ph.D. in psychology from Ohio State University. He has been a faculty member at Truman State since 1972 and has served as the head of the Division of Social Science since 1979.

His friend, George Melloh, refers to him as the linchpin of Truman State University, giving Lyons much credit for putting Truman State's name on the map.

Also of importance, Madam Speaker, is how Lt. Col. Lyons has maintained careers in both the military and academic fields while earning honors in both. Kathy Reick, the dean of admissions at Truman State, points out that it takes a very special talent and a very special person to work with faculty during the week and with military on the weekends. The same approach to management and administration certainly does not work with both groups.

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Yet Lyon's colleagues from both the faculty and military praise him for his dedication, for his effectiveness, and for his good judgment.

While Lt. Col. Lyons will retire from the military next month, he will continue to serve in the leadership of the social science department of Truman State University. We thank Lt. Col. Lyons for his service to his community, to his country, and we wish him the best of luck.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT PARITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. RAMSTAD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RAMSTAD. Madam Speaker, "Minnesota nice" took a hard hit last week. Within a few blocks of downtown Minneapolis, the body of a 77-year-old woman was found wrapped in plastic, stuffed in a cardboard box in a bedroom closet of her own apartment.

Why was "Miss Annie," as her friends and the small children she befriended in the neighborhood called her, so cavalierly and heartlessly murdered and her body left to rot? Apparently, she had become a mere inconvenience

to the drug users and dealers who had literally commandeered her apartment. And as I found out from nearby residents, such hostage takeovers are not uncommon in the Phillips neighborhood of Minneapolis.

During a tour last week at the invitation of frustrated victims of the crime and drug epidemic in this area of our community, neighborhood residents told me of their constant fears living in crack-infested areas where drug dealers and violence dominate their daily lives.

Boarded up, abandoned buildings; drug dealers and crack houses on every block; and gang members and prostitutes readily adapting to the environment. As the exodus of community stakeholders, landlords, small business people and law-abiding residents continues, prospects for a better future dwindle.

Madam Speaker, do not tell the residents of the Phillips neighborhood in Minneapolis that crime statistics are down. They are literally trapped in the vicious cycle of crime and drugs that has gripped America for too long. As person after person after person told me last week in this neighborhood where Miss Annie was savagely murdered, these people are literally without hope.

Madam Speaker, no child, no neighborhood, and no community in America should be without hope. If we are truly serious about addressing the crime and drug epidemic in America, we must first acknowledge what every cop, every treatment professional, and every corrections person in America knows: 80 percent of all crimes are tied to drugs and/or alcohol addiction. 26 million Americans are addicted to drugs or alcohol. One hundred fifty thousand Americans died last year from chemical addiction. Eighty percent of the 1.4 million men and women in American prisons tonight are there because of drugs and/or alcohol. They are addicts.

Madam Speaker, Congress must provide a comprehensive strategy to address the crime and drug epidemic in America. We need to provide consequences for criminals and treatment for alcoholics and addicts. We need to go after the 7 percent of the violent criminals who are committing 70 percent of the violent crimes and lock them up. But we also need to break the cycle of chemical dependency that is causing the bulk of criminal behavior in America.

Of the 26 million American alcoholics and addicts, approximately 16 million of them are covered by health insurance plans. But only 2 percent of them, of this 16 million who had health insurance, are getting treatment for their addiction.

As the recent five-part Public Television documentary by Bill Moyers pointed out, it is time to put chemical dependency treatment on par with other diseases. It is time to knock down the barriers to chemical depend-

ency treatment created by certain health insurers that discriminate against alcoholics and addicts. It is time to treat chemical dependency as the disease that it is, as the disease that it has been recognized to be by the American Medical Association since 1956. It is time to provide access to treatment to deal with America's number one public health and public safety problem.

Senator WELLSTONE and I have introduced the Substance Abuse Treatment Parity Act to provide equal access to chemical dependency treatment with treatment for other diseases covered by health plans. As a recovering alcoholic myself, Madam Speaker, I know firsthand the value of treatment. As someone who stays close to other recovering people and chemical dependency professionals in Minnesota and across the country, I have been alarmed by the dwindling access to treatment for people who need help. The current system either blocks access for people who are chemically dependent or extremely limits their treatment experience.

Providing access to treatment is not only the right thing to do, but the cost-effective thing to do. All the actuarial studies, all the empirical evidence show that treatment parity will actually save money in the long run.

Providing treatment for alcoholics and addicts covered by health insurance will raise premiums in the worst case scenario by one-half of 1 percent. In other words, for \$1.35 per month, or the cost of a cup of coffee, we can treat 16 million chemically addicted persons in our country. For every dollar we invest in treatment, we will save \$7 in costs down the road.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join the 56 other Members of the House who have already cosponsored H.R. 2409. The people of America cannot afford to wait any longer.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCCOLLUM addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

ANTISMOKING ZEALOTS SHOULD FIGHT ILLEGAL DRUGS WITH EQUAL FERVOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULSHOF). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of discussion recently about efforts to reduce teenage smoking in America, and all of us in the Congress recently returned from our Easter recess in which we went back home to work and talk to constituents about problems facing them.

In my district I met with a lot of young people, a lot of educators, and it