

had taken in 13 children that day. On the day that Jeremy died, while the owner ran errands, all 13 children were left at the mercy of a poorly trained staff person who was not CPR certified. The provider had lied to Jeremy's parents.

The circumstances surrounding the deaths of these two infants are frighteningly similar. In both cases, the day care provider misrepresented to parents about the number of children who would be accepted daily, who would be responsible for caring for the child, and the qualifications of the person who would care for the child. Two children died after the day care professional misrepresented the conditions of care being provided. In both cases, the only recourse for the parents was in civil court. No federal or state criminal law applied. Under my bill, a crime will be committed if a day care provider intentionally misrepresents: (1) Credentials, licenses or permits that the provider or the staff possesses; (2) Number of children for whom they care, or; (3) Quality of the day care facilities.

Most states do not have adequate criminal laws in this arena. In many states, there are standards but they are not consistently enforced. Critical gaps that would safeguard the basic health and safety standards for child care exist. For example, many states do not require small, in-home day care providers to apply for a license. Those providers are not inspected. Even when states require in-home providers to be licensed, most of the time there are no inspections.

Today, millions of parents have no choice. They must make ends meet to pay the bills. So, they are forced to place their loved ones in child care while they work. Currently, 77

percent of all women with children under the age of 17 hold a job. Each day, about 13 million children under the age of six spend part of their day in day care. There are six million infants and toddlers who are being cared for by people that parents are hoping they can trust.

Every parent wants to feel secure in knowing their loved ones are receiving quality day care. Quality care means providing a safe and healthy environment where care gives safeguard infants and nurture their development. Quality care means having a maximum number of children for each care giver. The best of all worlds means every child in day care receives as much one-on-one attention as possible. This bill gives moms and dads what they deserve—the peace of mind that goes with knowing their children are safe and secure and in the arms of a day care professional.

Jeremy and Julia's Law is a fair bill. Prosecutors will be allowed to pursue day care providers that deliberately break the law. Parents will see justice done when their child is seriously injured or dies. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

WHAT WILL POSTERITY SAY
ABOUT THE PETTINESS

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, first the impeachment debate; and now the trial in the Senate, have provided the American people

with graphic examples of government descending into dangerous pettiness. The House Managers or prosecutors have behaved like zealous persecutors. Beyond Kenneth Starr's forty million dollars already spent, they propose to paralyze the nation's decision-making process for an indefinite time period. Issues such as school construction and the minimum wage increase will get scant attention while we drag witnesses in for more Peyton Place depositions. Mice minds have hijacked the government machinery of a great nation. The situation may be summarized in the following RAP poem:

PROFILE OF THE PERSECUTING PROSECUTORS

Mice men gnawing
At the Core of the Nation
History will rate them
The pompous petty generation
Rodents feeding
On the Monica sensation
Eloquent enemies
Of issue liberation
Filibuster babies
Babbling in their bubbles
Mischievous teenie boppers
Making monumental troubles
Nice men guffawing
Mice men gnawing
Franklin's wisdom dies
Madison closes his eyes
Rodents raiding Hamilton
Jumping over Jefferson
Boasting bloody fangs
Pompous petty generation
Bloated on Monica sensation
Perfumed urination
Decorated defecation
Mice men gnawing
On the heart of the nation.