

around" a DCF office. At night he slept on the floor, next to his caseworker.

The child flunked sixth grade twice and had been hospitalized numerous times for threatening to hurt himself and others.

"This is a case of the system failing the child for a multitude of reasons," the report states.

The team faulted DCF in the case of another 13-year-old, whose adoptive parents abandoned her. The state could have prevented the failed adoption, the consultants found, but investigators did not act quickly after receiving reports of problems in the home, including harsh discipline and sexual activity between children.

Later, the girl kicked a teacher and hit a Department of Juvenile Justice worker, sending her to a St. Petersburg delinquency program two hours from her hometown of Ocala.

No relatives visit her, "nor do any of the people in the system," the reviewers wrote. "She seems to be a child who is 'out of sight, out of mind.'"

LAWYER SEES PROBLEMS

Richard Komando, a Fort Lauderdale lawyer who represents about 90 children in DCF care, said he routinely encounters problems the consultants identified, including poor communication, too few foster homes and decisions driven by money.

"It's rare when I see a kid where everything's going right," he said.

Indeed, the experts found little going right for a 10-year-old Brevard County boy. In his first two years in care, DCF moved him 12 times.

His father, a convicted sex offender, committed suicide. The department, despite warnings, planned to return the boy to his mentally ill mother. "The mother is presently living with a friend or in her car. No one is certain," the report states.

The boy should have been in fifth grade but was functioning on a first-grade level. A therapist thought he could not read, yet DCF "had no contact with the school regarding his progress," the report states.

"The child's remaining in one home since May 2000 after a history of instability is the only mark of progress," the consultants wrote. "There is inadequate knowledge of this case, its history and its future by DCF."

WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 7, 2002

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Wisconsin State Journal, which was founded in Madison, Wisconsin 150 years ago in 1852.

The daily Wisconsin State Journal, which we celebrate today, evolved from an afternoon weekly called The Madison Express. The Madison Express covered stories directly related to a young and isolated frontier town, Madison, at a time when area wolves decimating local pig populations dominated the early paper's headlines. It was a dedication to providing exemplary local coverage that ensured the survival of the weekly edition and eventually led to a broader daily newspaper that connected a developing, city with the world. Through the years, both The Madison Express and then the Wisconsin State Journal were able to survive the competition of over 80 competing local newspapers.

Today, the Wisconsin State Journal is a thriving metropolitan newspaper that maintains a balanced focus on both the wider world and the local developments of the Madison area and Wisconsin. The newspaper currently has a circulation of over 110,000 households in a territory spanning 17 counties. In recognition of its quality, the Wisconsin State Journal has received an impressive seven Lee Awards for excellence in journalism and five Inland Press Awards for community service and public affairs reporting.

The newspaper has shown its commitment to the area through its community involvement. The Wisconsin State Journal originally conceived and now leads the Schools of Hope project, a broad, community-driven program that has helped improve the reading scores of area students.

Congratulations on 150 great years.

RECOGNIZING CONTRIBUTIONS OF HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS

SPEECH OF

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2002

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, investing in a sound education is one of the most important things that we can do to give a child the tools to get ahead in life. I am proud to have been an original cosponsor of H. Res. 561 Recognizing the Contributions of Hispanic-Serving Institutions. These institutions of higher learning are an integral part of America's commitment to quality education for all Americans.

South Florida students, in particular, have benefitted from the academic excellence "Hispanic-serving institutions" (HSI) strive to provide to their students. We are talking about schools, in which student enrollment must be at least 25 percent Hispanic, with at least 50 percent of these Hispanic students from low-income families. While comprising only 5 percent of all institutions of postsecondary education, Hispanic-serving institutions enroll 49 percent of Hispanic-American students. These institutions have devoted themselves to ensure that these underrepresented students receive the same opportunities and quality of learning as their peers who come from higher socio-economic backgrounds, and for that these schools deserve every praise.

Most recently, on September 3, 2002, the U.S. Department of Education awarded two grants totaling more than \$3 million to Florida International University (FIU) for programs to expand the University's capacity to serve Hispanic and low-income students and provide pre-collegiate opportunities for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. I am proud that FIU is a part of the South Florida community. It has proven through its long and distinguished history as an HSI, that administering programs effectively addressing the educational needs of underrepresented and underserved students, leads to these students becoming positive contributors to our society.

There is an ever-growing number of postsecondary institutions that are striving to serve our nation's Latino population. Throughout the nation more and more institutions of higher education are reaching out to and enrolling an

increasing proportion of Spanish-speaking students. According to the U.S. Department of Education, the enrollment of Hispanic American students in college is growing twice as quickly as college enrollments in general. Many of these students are learning English as a second language, and come from families where Spanish is primarily spoken. These institutions provide a comfortable and nurturing setting in which to acclimate primarily Spanish-speaking students with their English-speaking peers. Therein, all students from various backgrounds can further develop their academic skills.

I commend HSIs for the opportunities they provide to Hispanic students and also to low-income students. I also commend their graduate and professional programs which are designed to improve and expand graduate and professional opportunities for Hispanic students and other students.

Today's students are our country's future and, therefore, our investment in a sound educational system is crucial.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 7, 2002

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, due to an unavoidable scheduling conflict, I was not present for rollcall vote No. 438, on Thursday October 3. Had I been present, I would have voted "no".

TRIBUTE TO BEN GILMAN

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 7, 2002

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor to my good friend and colleague, Chairman BEN GILMAN.

Mr. GILMAN has served 30 distinguished years to the people of the 20th Congressional District of New York. I have only had the opportunity to work with Chairman GILMAN for four years, but they have been insightful and meaningful ones.

Chairman GILMAN has always been known for his influential backing of key social reforms. His instrumental role in securing fair human rights practices in the former Soviet Union has been felt and has contributed to the proliferation of American values of democracy and equality worldwide.

As Chairman of the Committee on International Relations, Mr. GILMAN handled challenging and difficult situations with sensitivity and in a most diplomatic manner. Chairman GILMAN has also been an example of what it means to be truly committed to supporting the State of Israel and the Jewish people. His instrumental involvement in peace and reconciliation in Israel as well as in Ireland has secured him a special place in the history of American foreign affairs.

Chairman GILMAN never hesitated to share with me the outstanding wisdom and knowledge he possesses. His years in the House have been filled with dignity and grace, friendship, loyalty, honesty and integrity. Mr. GILMAN's decision to retire from the House will