

only unanimously adopt this. We vote on an awful lot of motions to instruct here that are immediately tossed in the trash can by the negotiators. I would hope that this would be one motion that is respected, where we deliver and where we give back a little bit to our seniors who gave so much to us, our grandparents, our great grandparents and others. The greatest generation deserves better than a cut in the programs that are helping the most fragile and vulnerable of them.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, just briefly, I think for those that have listened to this debate tonight, as a society we can take pride in this program of the Older Americans Act. And I might add one that has not been discussed yet is the Caregivers Program which is also in our subcommittee to help people gain the knowledge of how to provide care to their elderly relatives, family, and so on in the home setting. All of this adds up to a real effort to allow those who want to stay in their homes to do so. And in the House bill, we can increase the amount over last year. And we will be very mindful of the thrust of this instruction as we negotiate with the other body in a final number.

But, again, I would say that as Americans we can take pride in what we have done, I think in the Older Americans Act, to allow people to stay in their home, to allow people to have some social contact with the other members of their community, to allow the volunteers who want to help others to have this opportunity. So we certainly support the motion to instruct. And as a conferee, I will do all that I can to urge that we do get the highest possible number within the constraints of priorities that we have in the bill and the constraints of the allocation that we started with originally.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the committee, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) who is chairman of the Labor Health and Human Services and Education Subcommittee of the Committee on appropriations on which I serve. I want to join him in saying that I think we need to do a lot more within the Older Americans Act, not only in the congregate meal site and the Meals on Wheels, but, as you pointed out, the support for family members, many of them I know that you understand are burning out because they do not have the support that they need to care for their loved ones.

As the chairman has said so well, often the greatest number of caregivers in this country are seniors themselves. And they are caring for their loved ones, and they need to have all the support they can get too. So I thank the chairman for acknowledging that. We

need to look out for the caregivers, as well, if we care about those that they are caring for. I appreciate the fact that he made that observation.

With that, Mr. Speaker, let me just, once again, say that I rise in support of this motion to instruct conferees, to see it to the highest possible level when it comes to nutrition programs, Meals on Wheels, and congregate meal site programs within the conference report.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Kennedy motion to instruct conferees to the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill to insist on the highest funding levels for senior nutrition programs.

All of us know that the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill contains many of the most worthwhile programs administered by the federal government, and nutrition programs for seniors are just one example.

As a new member of this subcommittee, I was impressed by the testimony from the Administration on Aging outlining the enormous good that these programs accomplish each year. Although Chairman REGULA has often reminded us of the need to comply with budget restrictions, I believe he and the Republican members of the subcommittee know the importance of increasing funding for these programs each year in order to keep pace with inflation and to make progress in providing meals to additional seniors.

In California, with an estimated population of over 35 million people, over 4 million people are 65 years or over. These seniors are served over 11 million home-based meals through Older Americans Act programs, and another 9 million congregate meals are served.

These statistics are testament to the enormous leveraging effect that federal nutrition programs accomplish. As testimony by the Administration on Aging reveals, 44 percent of the cost of a congregate meal and 29 percent of the cost of a home-delivered meal comes from Older Americans Act funds—the balance comes from state, community and private contributions.

Unfortunately, the demand still exceeds these combined federal and local community efforts. The need for these programs is undisputed. In fact, testimony from the Administration on Aging reveals that 41 percent of home-delivered nutrition programs and 9 percent of congregate nutrition programs have waiting lists for services. On average, local programs had 85 seniors on a home-delivered meals waiting list with a wait time of nearly 3 months. On average, local programs had 52 seniors on a congregate meals waiting list with a wait time of about 2 months.

As the evidence indicates, I believe it is important that we strive to make incremental progress every year to support the goal of adequate nutrition for seniors by eliminating the waiting lists and providing meals to all seniors who need them.

The differences between the House and Senate bills with regard to senior meals may appear small—about 4 million dollars out of a total of over \$700 million for senior nutrition services. But we know these dollars make an enormous difference in the lives of so many seniors.

I urge my colleagues to support the Kennedy motion so we can make progress again this year.

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY).

The motion to instruct was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

2003 NATIONAL MONEY LAUNDERING STRATEGY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Financial Services:

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with section 2(a) of the Money Laundering and Financial Crimes Strategy Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-310; 31 U.S.C. 5341(a)(2)), enclosed is the 2003 National Money Laundering Strategy, prepared by my Administration.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, November 18, 2003.

ACKNOWLEDGING AN OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTING PEACE IN OUR WORLD NAMED REVEREND DR. MICHAEL BECKWITH

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge an extraordinary human being. Reverend Dr. Michael Beckwith, an outstanding man, an emissary of peace and a humanitarian for all people, has made a profound and lasting impact on our world through his distinctive stand for peace and harmony in our community.

Having known Reverend Michael, as his community affectionately refers to him, since he was a child, I can unequivocally say that his life is a testament to building community. In the 1970s, he began a journey that to this day embraces the major religions, philosophies and cultures of East and West. One significant manifestation of his vision began in 1986 when Dr. Beckwith founded Agape, a transdenominational community with over 9,000 members currently devoted to the study and practice of the New Thought-Ancient Wisdom tradition of spirituality.

If it is so, as Emerson has stated, that every institution is but the