

When it comes to sprawl, city limits and county lines are often meaningless marks on a map. Limited jurisdiction makes it hard for local government to deal with an issue of this magnitude, and efforts to control sprawl in a limited area often just shift the problem from one community to another. It's like trying to stop a flood with a picket fence.

States need to encourage local governments in the same region to better coordinate their land-use and transportation plans, and the federal government can help a great deal by simply providing basic information that regions need. Much of this information—dealing with things such as the geographic mismatch between workers and jobs and the extent of outmigration from cities to suburbs—already exists, but it is difficult and expensive for localities to obtain. That's a fairly easy problem to fix, and the federal government ought to do it.

While regionalism by itself does not curb sprawl, it can moderate one of the engines of sprawl: the costly bidding wars between neighboring jurisdictions for sprawl-type development that holds out the hope for new tax revenues. Admittedly, the performance of some regional governments has been lackluster, but in other areas—Portland, Oregon, for examples—regionalism is making a difference in addressing the problems of sprawl and poorly managed growth. Encouraging and assisting similar efforts all over the country should be a cornerstone of federal policy.

Happily, the current Administration is taking an important step in that direction. The "Livability Agenda" recently announced by Vice President Gore proposes a major initiative to reduce barriers to regional governance and to fund local partnerships that pursue smart-growth strategies across jurisdictional lines. This will be the first flexible source of funding provided by the federal government to promote smarter metropolitan growth. It's a very welcome initiative.

Controlling sprawl is only half the battle, which brings me to the fourth thing the federal government should do: provide incentives for reinvestment in existing communities.

Discussions about the plight of the cities often overlook a simple fact: When people leave the city it's not necessarily because they love sprawl or hate urban life, but because leaving is the rational thing to do. More than anything else, urban flight is an indictment of bad schools, crime and poor public services. As if this "push" weren't enough, people are "pulled" out of the city by policies and practices that make homes and infrastructure in the suburbs less expensive and easier to build.

In place of this "push-pull" combination, we need public policy that favors existing communities. Fifty years ago the government began to offer economic inducements to families that wanted to flee to the suburbs; it's time to offer those same kinds of inducements to entice middle-class residents to return to, or stay in, the city.

It all comes down to choosing where to make investments. If the federal government chooses to pour funding into more outer beltways and more suburban infrastructure, sprawl will continue to spread like an epidemic. But if the government makes a commitment to existing communities, it can have an enormous, positive impact on the critical need to keep people in urban neighborhoods and give others a reason to move back to the city.

This is the missing piece of the administration's Livability Agenda, which includes a

heavy focus on the preservation of open space. There's no question that we need to speed up our efforts to protect open space and farmland through land trusts, easements, the purchase of development rights and other means. Saving greenspace is a very good thing, but it's not enough by itself. We could buy all the open land in the country and still not solve the problem of sprawl. We also need to focus energies and resources on reclaiming the streets and neighborhoods where people live—the towns, inner cities and older suburbs that we've neglected so badly for the past half-century. We must develop housing policies and programs that advance the goal of economic integration of our communities and lessen the concentration of poor households in inner-city areas. We must attract middle-income families back to the towns and cities, and we must improve the quality of housing for lower-income people.

One way to do this is by enacting the Historic Homeownership Assistance Act. This legislation, which has broad bipartisan support in both houses of Congress, would extend federal tax credits to homeowners who renovate their historic homes, giving residents of older neighborhoods incentives to stay and invest in their community's future, and providing an incentive for others to move back into the city. By offering a way to put deteriorated property back on the tax rolls while making homeownership more affordable for lower-income residents, this law could greatly benefit communities all over the country. Obviously, this one act won't solve America's urban problems—but it can help, and a step in the right direction is better than standing still.

In fighting sprawl, we're dealing with an issue that undermines many of the national goals and values that we've embraced over the years. The provision of affordable housing, improved mobility, a clean environment, the transition from welfare to work, the livability and economic health of our communities—all of these are undermined by sprawl. In fact, there is scarcely a single national problem that is not exacerbated by sprawl or that would not be alleviated if sprawl were better contained.

We can continue turning much of our nation into a tragic patchwork of ruined cities and spoiled countryside, or we can insist on sensible federal policies that strengthen communities instead of scattering them randomly across the landscape.

We can keep on accepting the kind of communities we get, or we can summon the national will to demand the kind of communities we want and need and deserve.

The choice is ours, and the time to make that choice is now.

FIGHT DIABETES

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of my Colleagues to the following letter I received from a young Vermonter. Philip Burgin-Young is nine years old, and likes to play soccer, as well as study math and science. At the same time, Philip has to regularly check his blood sugar, take three insulin shots a day, and closely watch what he eats, because he is diabetic. Like

Philip, I believe that our government must do more for the 16 million Americans suffering from diabetes by investing in a cure to the disease.

I call the attention of my colleagues to this moving letter and submit the letter for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for their benefit.

FEBRUARY 21, 1999.

Hon. BERNIE SANDERS,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE SANDERS: My name is Philip Burgin-Young, and I am nine years old. I have had diabetes almost four years. I love to play soccer, study math, and experiment with science. To be able to do these things, I have to work real hard to take care of my diabetes. That means that I check my blood sugar at least six times a day (but usually closer to ten times), have at least three shots of insulin a day (in my stomach, arms, legs, and buttocks), count every gram of carbohydrate and fat that I eat, and make sure that I exercise a lot to keep my blood sugar balanced. My parents also check my blood sugar in the middle of the night while I am sleeping. But even doing these things, it is impossible to keep my blood sugar in the normal range all of the time. Diabetes is a very complex thing.

It is not easy to describe what it is like living with diabetes. But I have two stories that can describe it a little. The first story is about something my sister said to me. One day my sister said that if she had diabetes and then a cure was discovered, she would go out and eat a dozen donuts. She asked me what I would do. I said, "I wouldn't go out and eat a dozen donuts. I WOULD JUST BE SO RELIEVED!" I could tell that she couldn't really understand what it feels like to live with diabetes every minute of every day, even though she does help me with my diabetes. The second story is about something that happens all of the time, because I play soccer on a couple of teams. Before I go on the field I always check my blood sugar to make sure that I'm not too high or too low. If I'm too high, I can't play and I need to have a shot of insulin. Even though I do everything I am supposed to do to take care of my diabetes, this does happen and I missed the beginning of our playoffs because I was too high. If I'm too low, I also can't play and have to wait about 15 minutes for the food that I eat to get into my system. Then, during half time I do the same thing—I recheck my blood sugar. At the end of the game I check again to make sure I'm not too low or too high.

I want a cure for diabetes so that I can do what I want with my life—I want to be healthy and I want to help other people by being a scientist who helps to find cures for diseases. I also want a cure for all of the other people who have diabetes. As hard as it is for me with diabetes, at least I am lucky because my mom and dad and sister help me try to take real good care of myself. Some kids aren't so lucky and they end up in the hospital often.

Will you please vote for more money for research, to try to find a cure for diabetes? I know that with more money scientists will be able to find a cure more easily. There are so many areas that are being researched and if they don't have enough money they can't do the research. PLEASE HELP!

Sincerely,

PHILIP BURGIN-YOUNG.

March 2, 1999

CONGRATULATING THE STERLING HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Sterling High School girls basketball team on the Class 4A District 4 Championship.

The Sterling players, led by Coach Darrell Parker, will now advance to the next level in the state basketball playoffs and their shot at the Colorado State 4A Championship.

All teams, no matter what the sport, continually strive to find that special and unique combination of teamwork, leadership, skill and effort which unlocks the door to success. Under careful tutelage, hard-working teams not only win games, but also build the confidence necessary to win championships. Clearly, these dedicated hoopsters have found this winning formula and attained the next rung of sporting success.

Greater challenges remain, however, and I wish the Sterling High School girls basketball team the best of luck in the Colorado 4A State Championship. No matter what the outcome of the next game, this team has proven it has the heart of a champion, and can take pride in the District 4 Championship.

CONGRATULATING THE CALICHE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Caliche High School boys basketball team on their Class 2A District 2 Championship.

The Caliche players, led by Coach Rocky Samber, will now advance to the next level in the state basketball playoffs and their shot at the Colorado State 2A Championship.

All teams, no matter what the sport, continually strive to find that special and unique combination of teamwork, leadership, skill and effort which unlocks the door to success. Under careful tutelage, hard-working teams not only win games, but also build the confidence necessary to win championships. Clearly, these dedicated hoopsters have found this winning formula and attained the next rung of sporting success.

Greater challenges remain, however, and I wish the Caliche High School boys basketball team the best of luck in the Colorado 2A State Championship. No matter what the outcome of the next game, this team has proven it has the heart of a champion, and can take pride in the District 2 Championship.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING THE SWINK HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Swink High School boys basketball team on their Class 2A District 4 Championship.

The Swink players, led by Coach Tim Jordan, will now advance to the next level in the state basketball playoffs and their shot at the Colorado State 2A Championship.

All teams, no matter what the sport, continually strive to find that special and unique combination of teamwork, leadership, skill and effort which unlocks the door to success. Under careful tutelage, hard-working teams not only win games, but also build the confidence necessary to win championships. Clearly, these dedicated hoopsters have found this winning formula and attained the next rung of sporting success.

Greater challenges remain, however, and I wish the Swink High School boys basketball team the best of luck in the Colorado 2A State Championship. No matter what the outcome of the next game, this team has proven it has the heart of a champion, and can take pride in the District 4 Championship.

CONGRATULATING THE CHERAW HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Cheraw High School girls basketball team on their Class A District 2 Championship.

The Cheraw players, led by Coach Charles Phillips, will now advance to the next level in the state basketball playoffs and their shot at the Colorado State A Championship.

All teams, no matter what the sport, continually strive to find that special and unique combination of teamwork, leadership, skill and effort which unlocks the door to success. Under careful tutelage, hard-working teams not only win games, but also build the confidence necessary to win championships. Clearly, these dedicated hoopsters have found this winning formula and attained the next rung of sporting success.

Greater challenges remain, however, and I wish the Cheraw High School girls basketball team the best of luck in the Colorado A State Championship. No matter what the outcome of the next game, this team has proven it has the heart of a champion, and can take pride in the District 2 Championship.

TRUE COMMUNITY SERVICE: IN HONOR OF SISTER MARY ALICE MURPHY

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sister Mary Alice Murphy. September 1, 1999 marks the end of an era defined by community service as Sister Murphy will step down as executive director of Community Affordable Residences Enterprises. Known as CARE, the organization builds affordable housing for low-income residents in Fort Collins.

A Roman Catholic nun, Sister Murphy came to Fort Collins in 1983 to lead Catholic Charities Northern where she recognized the need for affordable housing in my hometown. Keep in mind, before 1993, affordable housing was not even on City Council's policy agenda. She had the foresight to point out a problem 16 years ago that today has become one of the most crucial issues in Fort Collins. Sister Mary Alice could have stopped there like most critics do, just pointing out a problem, but she acted and led the leaders. She developed a plan for low income residents in Fort Collins which resulted in the construction of the Mission homeless shelter in 1989.

Again acting with foresight, Sister Mary Alice knew the Mission shelter was only temporary, and shelter residents would eventually need a more permanent place. CARE wanted to build new homes for low-income residents because renovation of existing homes in Fort Collins was not the optimum solution. Sister Mary Alice shepherded CARE's construction of the 40-unit Greenbriar complex in 1995, the first of three new housing units for low-income families.

Now in 1999, after almost two decades of service to low-income families in Fort Collins, CARE, under Sister Mary Alice's direction, has built three affordable housing complexes with 116 new housing units in Fort Collins and plans are in the making for a fourth project. When Sister Mary Alice steps down in September, I am proud to say she will still be involved with affordable housing in Fort Collins by assuming an advisory role in CARE's board of directors.

Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to pay tribute to a woman who exemplifies community service, service to humanity and faith in God. Sister Mary Alice Murphy is the person who identified the need for affordable housing in Fort Collins and followed through by shepherding the construction of it. We need more citizens like Sister Mary Alice who see problems and fixes them.

CONGRATULATING THE GENOA-HUGO HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Genoa-Hugo High School boys