

member, a committed community activist, and an exemplary mother. Her dedication is beyond praise, for it is impossible to calculate the number of young students who have been inspired by Yvonne in her career. Like ripples in a pond, Dr. Yvonne Scarlett-Golden's kind acts towards her students served as catalysts for them, to enrich their own spheres of influence with the strong guidance and example of character which they have received.

After a long career as a highly popular teacher, Dr. Yvonne Scarlett-Golden became an energetic city council member, and she continues her fight for the underdog in yet another venue. Vibrant, bright, and always committed, the devotion of Dr. Yvonne Scarlett-Golden to State of Florida has been an inspiration over the decades of our close friendship.

It is indeed one of my great pleasures to pay tribute to truly a great Floridian and, indeed, a such a great American, Dr. Yvonne Scarlett-Golden, on the occasion of her achievement in being awarded the title of Doctorate of Laws by Bethune-Cookman College.

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McGRAW FAMILY TO CELEBRATE  
50TH ANNUAL REUNION

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**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 29, 1999*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in special recognition of an occasion which will be celebrated in the County of Cortland in my district in Central New York State this summer. On July 18th, the McGraw family, along with the many guests who will join them, will hold their 50th Annual Reunion.

This wonderful tradition was begun in 1950 as a means of bringing together the large and distinguished McGraw family. Having settled in Cortland County in the 1850's in the wake of the Irish potato famine, the McGraws quickly became one of the most well-respected residents of the area. The most well-known member of this family, John Joseph McGraw, was the Manager of the New York baseball Giants from 1902 to 1932. Having won more games than any other manager in major league history, Mr. McGraw was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

Today, as was the case fifty years ago at the time of the first McGraw reunion, the Central New York area is indebted to the McGraw family for its many contributions to our community. I would like to express the sense of the many visitors and "honorary McGraws" who will travel from near and far to share in their celebration this summer in thanking them for making Central New York a better place, and in wishing them well in this and many family reunions to come.

**EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS**

**INTRODUCTION OF THE HOMELESSNESS ASSISTANCE FUNDING FAIRNESS ACT**

**HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 29, 1999*

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today the Homelessness Assistance Funding Fairness Act that will ensure that every state receives a minimum allocation of funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development's "Continuum of Care" grant programs. I am introducing this legislation in conjunction with Senator SUSAN COLLINS of Maine. We have been working to address the challenges of meeting the needs of homeless people in a rural state for some time now, and I believe that this legislation represents an important step forward.

Homelessness is a problem that knows no boundaries. In every state, Americans find themselves without adequate shelter or access to affordable housing. Unfortunately, since the Continuum of Care grants are currently awarded on a competitive basis, some states may be denied funding in a given year.

Homelessness is also not limited to urban areas. In fact, rural homelessness is a significant problem and may pose even greater challenges due to geographical realities. Maine is a predominantly rural state. Homelessness is a growing problem, with more than 14,000 people currently believed to be homeless. While this number may seem relatively small, when we consider that the state's overall population is only 1.2 million, we recognize that there is in fact a significant problem.

In the past, Maine organizations have competed successfully for Continuum of Care funding. In fact, last year, HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo visited several of Maine's homeless assistance projects and presented them with a "Best Practices" award in recognition of their excellent work. For that reason, it came as a shock when HUD announced in 1999 Continuum of Care grant recipients and we learned that no funds had been awarded to any Maine applicants.

In addition to Maine, three other states—Oklahoma, Kansas and North Dakota—were not awarded any Continuum of Care funding this year. The homeless of these four rural states are just as deserving and in need of assistance as the homeless of the other 46 states. Unfortunately, they are now facing drastic cuts in services and the outright elimination of many programs that have sought to provide housing and services to help break the cycle of poverty and dependency.

I respect the goals of the competitive funding process: to encourage excellence; to foster innovation; and to ensure that Federal taxpayers get the most "bang for their buck" when it comes to providing assistance to America's homeless. But I also recognize that in a competition such as this, excellent programs sometimes fall just short of the cut-offs that are determined by funding availability. And I am concerned especially because the cut-offs are absolute—Maine's funding, for example, went from about \$3.7 million to \$0.

For that reason, I am introducing this legislation which will provide a safety net to ensure

that every state receives at least a minimum allocation to provide a Continuum of Care to that state's homeless. My legislation would continue the grant competition, but would provide that every state must receive at least half a percent of the total Continuum of Care funds. This would ensure that the homeless of every state would be able to count on some continuity of services from year to year.

It is not an exaggeration to say that lives depend on the services provided as a result of the Continuum of Care grants. People must have a place to escape the bitter cold of a January day in Maine or the brutal heat of an August day in Texas. People must have a chance to break out of poverty and become productive citizens. This is difficult to do when much of each day must be spent meeting such basic needs as finding food and shelter.

The Homelessness Assistance Funding Fairness Act would take a small step in ensuring that no state's homeless persons are left without assistance in finding permanent or transitional housing. Unless we take action, the tragedy that has befallen Maine's homeless population this year, could easily happen to those of other states next year when the funds are competed again.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

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**INTRODUCTION OF THE TEENAGE PREGNANCY REDUCTION ACT OF 1999**

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 29, 1999*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of the Teenage Pregnancy Reduction Act of 1999. This legislation is an important commitment on the part of Congress to give local communities the resources they need to operate effective teenage pregnancy programs.

More specifically, the bill authorizes \$10.5 million in total over three years for HHS to conduct a study of effective teen pregnancy prevention programs, with an emphasis on determining the factors contributing to the effectiveness of the programs, and methods for replicating the programs in other locations.

It also authorizes the creation of an information clearinghouse to collect, maintain, and disseminate information on prevention programs; to develop networks of prevention programs; to provide technical assistance and to encourage public media campaigns regarding pregnancy in teenagers.

Finally, it authorizes \$10 million in total over three years for one-time incentive grants for programs which are found to be effective under HHS's study described earlier, to assist them with the expenses of operating the program.

Helping our communities prevent teenage pregnancy is an important mission. The United States has the highest teenage birth rate of industrialized countries, which has far reaching consequences for our Nation's teenage mothers and their children.

Unmarried teenagers who become pregnant face severe emotional, physical, and financial