

Gephardt	Maloney (CT)	Ryun (KS)
Gibbons	Maloney (NY)	Sabo
Gilchrest	Manzullo	Salmon
Gillmor	Markey	Sanchez
Gilman	Martinez	Sanders
Gonzalez	Mascara	Sandlin
Goode	Matsui	Sanford
Goodlatte	McCarthy (MO)	Sawyer
Gooding	McCarthy (NY)	Saxton
Gordon	McCrery	Scarborough
Goss	McDermott	Schaffer
Graham	McGovern	Schakowsky
Granger	McHugh	Scott
Green (TX)	McInnis	Sensenbrenner
Green (WI)	McIntyre	Serrano
Greenwood	McKeon	Sessions
Gutierrez	McKinney	Shadegg
Gutknecht	McNulty	Shaw
Hall (OH)	Meehan	Shays
Hall (TX)	Meek (FL)	Sherman
Hansen	Meeks (NY)	Sherwood
Hastings (FL)	Menendez	Sherkus
Hastings (WA)	Metcalfe	Shimkus
Hayes	Mica	Shows
Hayworth	Millender-	Shuster
Hefley	McDonald	Simpson
Hill (IN)	Miller (FL)	Sisisky
Hill (MT)	Miller, Gary	Skeen
Hilleary	Miller, George	Skelton
Hilliard	Minge	Slaughter
Hinchee	Mink	Smith (MI)
Hinojosa	Moakley	Smith (NJ)
Hobson	Mollohan	Smith (TX)
Hoeffel	Moore	Smith (WA)
Hoekstra	Moran (KS)	Snyder
Holden	Moran (VA)	Souder
Holt	Morella	Spence
Hooley	Murtha	Spratt
Horn	Murphy	Stabenow
Hostettler	Nadler	Stark
Houghton	Napolitano	Stearns
Hoyer	Neal	Stenholm
Hulshof	Nethercutt	Strickland
Hunter	Ney	Stump
Hutchinson	Northup	Stupak
Hyde	Norwood	Sununu
Inslee	Nussle	Sweeney
Isakson	Oberstar	Talent
Istook	Obey	Tancredo
Jackson (IL)	Oliver	Tanner
Jackson-Lee	Ortiz	Tauscher
(TX)	Ose	Tauzin
Jenkins	Oxley	Taylor (MS)
John	Packard	Taylor (NC)
Johnson (CT)	Pallone	Terry
Johnson, E. B.	Pascrell	Thomas
Johnson, Sam	Pastor	Thompson (CA)
Jones (NC)	Payne	Thompson (MS)
Kanjorski	Pease	Thornberry
Kasich	Pelosi	Thune
Kelly	Peterson (MN)	Thurman
Kennedy	Peterson (PA)	Tiahrt
Kildee	Petri	Tierney
Kilpatrick	Phelps	Toomey
Kind (WI)	Pickering	Traficant
King (NY)	Pickett	Turner
Kingston	Pitts	Udall (CO)
Kleczka	Pombo	Udall (NM)
Knollenberg	Pomeroy	Upton
Kolbe	Porter	Velazquez
Kucinich	Portman	Visclosky
Kuykendall	Price (NC)	Vitter
LaFalce	Pryce (OH)	Walden
LaHood	Quinn	Walsh
Lampson	Radanovich	Wamp
Lantos	Rahall	Waters
Largent	Ramstad	Watkins
Larson	Regula	Watt (NC)
Latham	Reyes	Watts (OK)
LaTourette	Reynolds	Waxman
Leach	Riley	Weiner
Lee	Rivers	Weldon (FL)
Levin	Rodriguez	Weldon (PA)
Lewis (CA)	Roemer	Weller
Lewis (GA)	Rogan	Wexler
Lewis (KY)	Rogers	Weygand
Linder	Rohrabacher	Whitfield
Lipinski	Ros-Lehtinen	Wicker
LoBiondo	Rothman	Wilson
Lofgren	Roukema	Wise
Lowey	Roybal-Allard	Wolf
Lucas (KY)	Royce	Woolsey
Lucas (OK)	Rush	Wu
Luther	Ryan (WI)	Wynn
		Young (FL)

## NAYS—1

Paul

## NOT VOTING—18

Andrews	Jefferson	McIntosh
Barton	Jones (OH)	Owens
Cubin	Kaptur	Rangel
Engel	Klink	Towns
Everett	Lazio	Vento
Herger	McCollum	Young (AK)

## □ 1129

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## □ 1130

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4678, CHILD SUPPORT DISTRIBUTION ACT OF 2000

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, by the direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 566 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

## H. RES. 566

*Resolved*, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 4678) to provide more child support money to families leaving welfare, to simplify the rules governing the assignment and distribution of child support collected by States on behalf of children, to improve the collection of child support, to promote marriage, and for other purposes. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The amendment recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the bill, as amended, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; (2) the further amendment printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules, if offered by Representative Scott of Virginia or his designee, which shall be in order without intervention of any point of order, shall be considered as read, and shall be separately debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent; and (3) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE) is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST); pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 566 is a modified closed rule providing for

consideration of the Child Support Distribution Act of 2000. The rule provides for one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and the ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill.

The rule also provides that the Committee on Ways and Means substitute, as modified by the amendment printed in Part A of the Committee on Rules report, shall be an original bill for the purpose of further amendment.

The amendment in Part A addresses the concerns expressed by several of our Members by giving States the option of paying child support that is currently retained by the State and Federal Government to mothers on welfare. This will give States the option of making payments on the obligations that accrued before 1997 to the families as opposed to the government keeping the money.

The amendment also lists several specific activities that fatherhood projects may include to promote and sustain marriage.

The rule also provides for consideration of the amendment printed in Part B of the Committee on Rules report if offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) or his designee, which shall be considered as read and shall be debatable for 10 minutes. All points of order against the Scott amendment are waived.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the rule provides another chance to amend the bill through one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, since Congress enacted the historic welfare reform in 1996, 6 million families have moved off the welfare rolls and into jobs that provide the satisfaction of self-sufficiency and personal responsibility. Today we have the lowest number of families on welfare since 1970.

While we celebrate this success, we understand that that transition from welfare to work is not necessarily easy. Many of these families rely on a single parent to hold things together and provide for all of their needs. For those of us who have raised children with the help and support of a spouse, it is hard to fathom the energy, patience, and stamina required to take on such a task alone. Every bit of help makes a difference to these struggling families.

The least the government can do is help these parents collect all of the child support that is rightfully theirs.

The Child Support Distribution Act would ensure that, when a family is off welfare, all rights to child support, including payments on past due support, would be assigned to that family. This would require States to hold off on collecting any past due child support that it has a right to until the family is completely repaid. In addition, when a family is on welfare, States will have

the option of sharing collections with the family.

The goal is to facilitate a relationship between the mother who is often the recipient of this support and the father who is often paying it, before the mother leaves welfare and does not have the State intervening in her behalf.

Of course the right to child support means little to a family if child support orders are not enforced. That is why this legislation seeks to improve enforcement by requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to provide guidelines for child support enforcement and issue a report on private companies involved in child support collection. Based on this information, Health and Human Services will set up 13 State demonstration programs designed to improve enforcement.

In addition, this bill cracks down on deadbeat parents by denying passports to individuals responsible for past due support and expanding the tax refund intercept program so that it can be used to collect past due support.

Mr. Speaker, while we seek to assist these families by making sure they get the money they are owed, we should also focus on the circumstances that have led to their dependency on government and the other social challenges that they face. There is no doubt that this is more difficult for single parent families to achieve financial security than for two-parent households.

In addition, kids who have only one parent to rely on have a harder time in school, a lower rate of graduation, a greater propensity towards crime, an increased likelihood of becoming a single parent themselves, and a higher chance of ending up on welfare.

That is why the Child Support Distribution Act includes a fatherhood grant program that seeks to build stronger families by promoting marriage, encouraging the payment of child support, and boosting fathers' income so that they can do a better job as providers for their children.

The bill encourages local efforts to help fathers by requiring that 75 percent of the funding be given to non-governmental community-based organizations including faith-based institutions. In addition, a national clearinghouse of information about fatherhood programs and a multi-city fatherhood demonstration project would be established.

The fact is that we are not sure what the best way is to get fathers back into the picture and engaged in their children's upbringing. But we think some community-based organizations might have some good ideas that would meet the unique needs of the fathers in their own cities and towns. This fatherhood program is designed to try to tap into these communities, try some new things, and then scientifically evaluate

the results so that good programs can be duplicated.

Mr. Speaker, all said, this legislation takes a number of important steps forward in our Nation's efforts to redefine welfare and make it work for families.

I want to thank and congratulate the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON) who authored this important legislation. I hope all of my colleagues will support the rule and our Nation's neediest families by voting for the Child Support Distribution Act. I urge a yes vote on the rule and the underlying legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is a modified closed rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 4678, the Child Support Distribution Act of 2000. This rule makes in order one amendment to be offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and provides that a further amendment, which has been developed by both the majority and the minority of the Committee on Ways and Means, shall be considered as adopted upon passage of the rule.

While the Democratic members of the Committee on Rules normally do not support rules which limit the amendments which may be offered to legislation, in this instance, we will not object to the rule reported by the majority.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4678 is an important proposal developed on a bipartisan basis by the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN). This bill makes important changes in the distribution of child support payments collected by the States on behalf of current and former welfare recipients.

This change would allow families to keep all arrears collected by the State that accrued before and after a family went on welfare rather than the 50 percent allowed by current law.

The bill also establishes a fatherhood grant program that would fund public and private fatherhood programs that seek to promote marriage, successful parenting, and better jobs for poor fathers.

The rule makes in order an amendment that will be offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) which has been included in previous legislation to make clear that any eligible entity cannot subject a participant to sectarian worship, instruction, or proselytization, clarifies that eligible recipients of these funds are in receipt of Federal financial assistance, and, finally, closes the loophole in welfare reform that allows discrimination against beneficiaries when another standing law permits it.

Mr. Speaker, this is worthy legislation that deserves consideration by the

House, and I urge my colleagues to adopt this rule so that we may proceed to the debate on H.R. 4678.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the distinguished chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I am a strong supporter of this excellent bipartisan legislation, H.R. 4678. I want to commend the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the ranking member, for his work on this important issue. I want to especially congratulate the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON) who has been a relentless and effective fighter for child support issues.

I am very proud to be a small part of this excellent legislation and which proves that legislation of substance can be bipartisan.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4678, the Child Support Distribution Act of 2000 and in support of the work of Chairwoman JOHNSON in assuring that our children receive the child support that they deserve.

Too many defenseless children are victimized by parents who do not support their children. Think of it: our most important resource—our nation's children—are often left without food or the basic necessities they need due to their parents' refusal to support them. These children, hungry and without money for support, are then forced to turn to the government for assistance when they are abandoned by their non-custodial parents.

There are two types of child support payments: current support and past due support, or arrearages. H.R. 4678 primarily deals with arrearages and the question of who keeps the collections: the family or the government. Previously, when a family left welfare, the government was able to retain all payments on past due support. The 1996 welfare reform law required the government to split the arrearages with the family. Due to the overwhelming number of families who have since left welfare to work, this legislation now will require that the other half be paid to the families. This way, the maximum amount of child support payments will be going directly to a family for their support. If a family is still on welfare, a state has the option to share collections with the family.

However, while H.R. 4678 provides for simplified rules for the review, collection and enforcement of support orders, I wish that we could have gone further. I believe that the duty of paying child support to one's child is as important as the duty to one's country to pay taxes. I introduced legislation this Congress, H.R. 1488, that would require the IRS to collect child support in the same manner that taxes are collected. The child support collected would then be disbursed to the custodial parent with penalties and interest if appropriate. This approach is not possible at this time. H.R. 4678 is a good step in the right direction. It improves our current system of enforcement and distribution to those who need

it the most, while promoting financial and personal responsibility. This ultimately curbs welfare dependency.

This vote is a vote for our children. Every child deserves to be supported, and this is Congress' chance to pass a law that will be for the kids' sake.

I'd like to congratulate Chairwoman JOHNSON and Ranking Member CARDIN for their leadership and dedication to this issue, and I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding me this time. I would like to thank the Committee on Rules for making one of my two amendments in order. The first amendment that was made in order allows us to consider the question of proselytization, Federal assistance, and discrimination against beneficiaries in one of the provisions of the bill.

The bill, as it is written, allows Federal funds to be used to essentially subject the program participants to proselytization. That is wrong, and that is why the amendment should be in order, and it is in order. It also provides that the receipt of Federal funds will bring with it the civil rights attachments. The bill as it now stands is silent on that. It also prohibits on any circumstance discrimination against beneficiaries based on religion.

All of those amendments should be adopted. One amendment that I had offered that was not found in order would prohibit the discrimination based on religion by the program. We have a situation where the programs now may discriminate based on religion against perspective employees.

I would like to read, Mr. Speaker, a part of a letter from the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, which says that "charitable choice language will permit religious institutions that receive government funds to discriminate in their employment on the basis of religion. This amounts to federally funded employment discrimination and allows religious organizations to exclude people of different faith from government funded programs."

Mr. Speaker, that is obviously wrong, and we ought to be able to address that. We will be addressing it in the motion to recommit. Because all of these issues will be allowed under the rule as presented, I will not oppose the rule.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

□ 1145

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, this is a very good bill to improve child support

collections and to assert the priority of giving child support collections to the custodial parent, the mother usually, rather than to the States, as at present. That is a very good thing to do, and I applaud the sponsors of the bill.

I do think there is one defect in the bill, which could be very much improved by the amendment to be offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), and I rise in support of that amendment.

No one opposes the participation of religious institutions in this or any other program. In fact, currently, many religious organizations, including Catholic Charities, Protestant Welfare Services, and so forth, play a vital role in the delivery of these services. The problem is not their participation; the problem is allowing a taxpayer-funded program to be restricted, as the language in this bill would currently do; allowing a taxpayer-funded program to be restricted to members of only a particular religion or forcing an unwilling participant to participate in a religious activity or to be subject to proselytization in order to receive taxpayer-funded services. As presently drafted, this bill would allow that, and that is a real defect.

We should respect the religious beliefs of every American. That is what religious liberty is all about. We should never ask anyone to lay aside his or her beliefs in order to receive taxpayer-funded services. The Government has no business subsidizing religious intolerance or discrimination in any form.

So when it comes up for consideration, I urge my colleagues to support the Scott amendment, which would simply clarify that none of the funds in these programs be used in a way which would discriminate against any American on the basis of religion. It would harmonize this bill with the spirit of the first amendment and with the spirit of our civil rights laws and would make this bill, if not a perfect bill, then as close to a perfect bill as we are likely to see.

So I urge my colleagues to support the Scott amendment and then to vote for the bill.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the rule, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to once again tell my colleagues that this is a fair rule that allows the House to debate important legislation to continue the success of welfare reform.

The rule should not be controversial, as it accommodates many of our colleagues who had concerns about the legislation by incorporating their ideas into either the part A amendment adopted under this resolution or through consideration of the part B amendment to be offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

In addition, I would remind my colleagues that the House has already worked its will in a large portion of this bill. H.R. 4678 includes the Fathers Count Act, which the House overwhelmingly passed in November by a bipartisan vote of 328 to 93.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation strengthens family by giving more single parents and children the financial assistance they are owed and by encouraging fathers to be responsible parents and play a greater role in their children's lives. Through this legislation we are increasing the odds for families who are struggling every day to make ends meet and we are helping impoverished children have a better chance of success in school and society by encouraging both parents to become involved in their upbringing.

I hope that my colleagues will support this attempt to provide more families with the pride of financial self-sufficiency, security, and dignity and vote for the children who need the strength of both parents to help them make better lives for themselves. I urge a "yes" vote on the rule and the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MAKING IN ORDER AMENDMENT IN LIEU OF PART A AMENDMENT PRINTED IN HOUSE REPORT 106-798 TO H.R. 4678, CHILD SUPPORT DISTRIBUTION ACT OF 2000

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during consideration of H.R. 4678, pursuant to House Resolution 566, the amendment recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill be modified by the amendment that the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON) has placed at the desk in lieu of the amendment printed in part A of House Report 106-798; and that the amendment she has placed at the desk be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE)?

There was no objection.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 7, line 25, strike the close quotation marks and the following period.

Page 7, after line 25, insert the following:

"(7) STATE OPTION TO PASS THROUGH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT WITH FEDERAL FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (2), a State shall not be required to pay to the Federal Government the Federal share of an amount collected on behalf of a family that is not a recipient of assistance under the State program funded under part A, to the extent that the State pays the amount to the family.