

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.

“(B) RECIPIENTS OF TANF FOR LESS THAN 5 YEARS.—

“(i) 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 a recipient of assistance under the State program funded under part A and that has received the assistance for not more than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, to the extent that—

“(I) the State pays the amount to the family; and

“(II) subject to clause (ii), the amount is disregarded in determining the amount and type of the assistance provided to the family.

“(ii) LIMITATION.—Of the amount disregarded as described in clause (i)(II), the maximum amount that may be taken into account for purposes of clause (i) shall not exceed \$400 per month, except that, in the case of a family that includes 2 or more children, the State may elect to increase the maximum amount to not more than \$600 per month.”

Page 9, after line 9, insert the following:

(d) STATE OPTION TO DISCONTINUE CERTAIN SUPPORT ASSIGNMENTS.—Section 457(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 657(b)) is amended by striking “shall” and inserting “may”.

Page 9, line 10, strike “(d)” and insert “(e)”.

Page 9, line 22, strike “section 457(a)(2)(B)(i)” and insert “clause (i) or (ii) of section 457(a)(2)(B)”.

Page 10, line 1, strike “(e)” and insert “(f)”.

Page 10, beginning on line 9, strike “section 457(a)(2)(B)(i)” and insert “clause (i) or (ii) of section 457(a)(2)(B)”.

Page 13, line 16, strike “The” and insert “Not later than October 1, 2001, the”.

Page 15, strike lines 20 through 24 and insert the following:

States that had a public non-IV-D child support enforcement agency as of January 1, 2000.

Page 19, line 13, strike “related to information-sharing”.

Page 25, strike lines 13 through 18 and insert the following:

“(1) promote marriage through such activities as—

“(A) counseling, mentoring, disseminating information about the advantages of marriage, enhancing relationship skills, teaching how to control aggressive behavior, disseminating information on the causes and treatment of domestic violence and child abuse, and other methods; and

“(B) sustaining marriages through marriage preparation programs, premarital counseling, and marital inventories, and through divorce education and reduction programs, including mediation and counseling;

Page 25, line 19, insert “such activities as” after “through”.

Page 25, line 21, strike the comma.

Page 26, line 4, insert “such activities as” after “viding”.

Page 27, line 5, strike “or”.

Page 27, line 7, strike the period and insert “; or”.

Page 27, after line 7, insert the following:

“(iv) at risk of parenthood outside marriage, but not more than 25 percent of the participants in the project may qualify for participation under this clause.

Page 28, strike lines 4 and 5 and insert the following:

stances, and information about sexually transmitted diseases and their transmission,

including HIV/AIDS and human papillomavirus (HPV).

Page 33, after line 6, insert the following:

“(i) to the extent that the application submitted by the entity sets forth clear and practical methods to encourage and sustain marriage;

Page 33, line 7, strike “(i)” and insert “(ii)”.

Page 33, line 23, strike “schedule or” and insert “schedule.”.

Page 33, line 24, strike “(unless” and insert “, or marrying the mother of his children, unless”.

Page 34, line 2, strike the close parenthesis.

Page 34, line 12, strike “(ii)” and insert “(iii)”.

Page 35, line 1, strike “(iii)” and insert “(iv)”.

Page 35, line 6, strike “(iv)” and insert “(v)”.

Page 46, line 27, strike the period and insert “; and”.

Page 46, after line 27, insert the following: “(E) develop and distribute materials that are for use by entities described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) and that provide information on domestic violence and child abuse prevention and treatment.”

CHILD SUPPORT DISTRIBUTION ACT OF 2000

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 566, I call up the bill (H.R. 4678) to provide more child support money to families leaving welfare, to simplify the rules governing the assignment and the 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 Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 566, the bill is considered read for amendment.

The text of H.R. 4678 is as follows:

H.R. 4678

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Child Support Distribution Act of 2000”.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD SUPPORT

Sec. 101. Distribution of child support collected by States on behalf of children receiving certain welfare benefits.

TITLE II—REVIEW AND ADJUSTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT ORDERS

Sec. 201. Mandatory review and modification of child support orders for TANF recipients.

TITLE III—EXPANDED INFORMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Sec. 301. Guidelines for involvement of public non-IV-D and private agencies in child support enforcement.

Subtitle A—State Option to Provide Information and Enforcement Mechanisms to Public Non-IV-D Child Support Enforcement Agencies

Sec. 311. Establishment and enforcement of child support obligations by public non-IV-D child support enforcement agencies.

Sec. 312. Use of certain enforcement mechanisms.

Sec. 313. Effective date.

Subtitle B—State Option to Provide Information and Enforcement Mechanisms to Private Child Support Enforcement Agencies

Sec. 321. Establishment and enforcement of child support obligations by private child support enforcement agencies.

Sec. 322. Use of certain enforcement mechanisms.

Sec. 323. Effective date.

TITLE IV—EXPANDED ENFORCEMENT

Sec. 401. Decrease in amount of child support arrearage triggering passport denial.

Sec. 402. Use of tax refund intercept program to collect past-due child support on behalf of children who are not minors.

TITLE V—FATHERHOOD PROGRAMS

Subtitle A—Fatherhood Grant Program

Sec. 501. Fatherhood grants.

Subtitle B—Fatherhood Projects of National Significance

Sec. 511. Fatherhood projects of national significance.

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 601. Change dates for abstinence evaluation.

Sec. 602. Report on undistributed child support payments.

Sec. 603. Use of new hire information to assist in administration of unemployment compensation programs.

Sec. 604. Immigration provisions.

Sec. 605. Correction of errors in conforming amendments in the Welfare-To-Work and Child Support Amendments of 1999.

Sec. 606. Elimination of set-aside of welfare-to-work funds for successful performance bonus.

TITLE VII—EFFECTIVE DATE

Sec. 701. Effective date.

TITLE I—DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD SUPPORT

SEC. 101. DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTED BY STATES ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN RECEIVING CERTAIN WELFARE BENEFITS.

(a) MODIFICATION OF RULE REQUIRING ASSIGNMENT OF SUPPORT RIGHTS AS A CONDITION OF RECEIVING TANF.—Section 408(a)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 608(a)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) NO ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES NOT ASSIGNING CERTAIN SUPPORT RIGHTS TO THE STATE.—A State to which a grant is made under section 403 shall require, as a condition of providing assistance to a family under the State program funded under this part, that a member of the family assign to the State any rights the family member may have or acquire (on behalf of the family member or of any other person for whom the family member has applied for or is receiving such assistance) to support from any other person for any period for which the family receives assistance under the program, in an amount equal to the lesser of—