

pregnancy changes a woman's life forever—even if the pregnancy is not carried to term.

The law states that women have the right to choose between carrying the baby and aborting it. Before she makes the decision, I pray that she is given the information and the support to truly be able to choose what is best for her and the tiny baby.

This bill strengthens a woman's choices in two ways. First, it increases access to information about adoption in the health clinics where it is needed most. Women facing unplanned pregnancies deserve to hear about their options from a well-trained counselor who can provide accurate, up-to-date information and refer them to a reputable placement agency.

This bill also authorizes a new grant program for research and additional services (such as mobile health clinics to provide comprehensive health services, including ultrasound screenings), to enhance access to health care for pregnant women and infants, including grants to increase access to prenatal care, ultrasound services, and prenatal surgery.

Prenatal surgery is now a very realistic option. Look at this picture that was taken by Max Aguilera-Hellwag—this baby underwent prenatal surgery to correct spina bifida. Sarah Marie Switzer was born on August 22, 1999.

Mr. Speaker, there are many exciting programs contained in this bill, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 4365.

IN RECOGNITION OF BENNIE L.
THAYER

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Ms. VALÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a sad farewell to Bennie Thayer, the long-time President and Chief Executive of the National Association for the Self-Employed, who died October 2.

As a retailer and manufacturer himself, Mr. Thayer knew small business issues from the inside out. On the first day that I became the Democratic leader of the House Small Business Committee, he came to my office to advocate the need to accelerate the 100 percent deduction of health insurance for the self-employed.

He was a regular fixture in the Halls of Congress, where he frequently testified about the importance of simplifying government regulations for small businesses, clarifying the home-office deduction and promoting tax fairness.

When Mr. Thayer talked, I listened, because I knew he spoke straight from the heart of the small business community.

He has such an impressive history of accomplishments on behalf of small businesses that it is impossible to list them all adequately. He chaired and served on the boards of numerous local and national business associations concerned with economic development, credit development, small business enhancement and general business growth. In this capacity, he advised three Presidents on small business issues.

He authored a book that examined health care issues from the standpoint of small business owners. It was called, "We, the People: An American Solution to Health Care Reform."

But his accomplishments don't stop there. He served as the State Chair of the Maryland delegation to the 1995 White House Conference on Small Business and as the Regional Implementation Chairman. He was also on the Microsoft Small Business Technology Board to promote computer and information technology to small businesses nationwide. And he served as the Co-Chairman of the Maryland Delegation to the 1986 White House Conference on Small Business.

He was a renowned public speaker, appearing on various radio and television shows to increase awareness of the opportunities and challenges of the self-employed.

I will remember Bennie Thayer as a passionate champion of small businesses, a man of principle and someone who cared deeply about his community.

While the nation's small businesses have lost a great advocate, Mr. Thayer's legacy will live on in Congress and in the hearts of the self-employed.

I salute Bennie Thayer and extend my sympathies to his family.

A LETTER FROM THE HUNGARIAN
AMBASSADOR

HON. ERNEST J. ISTOOK, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letter from the Hungarian Ambassador into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE AMBASSADOR OF HUNGARY.

October 4, 2000.

HON. ERNEST J. ISTOOK, JR.,
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ISTOOK: I am deeply moved when I express my heartfelt gratitude to you and your distinguished Colleagues in the House of Representatives on the adoption of H. Con. Res. 400 congratulating my country, Hungary, on the 100th anniversary of its statehood. I am particularly indebted to Congressman Frank Pallone, who initiated the resolution, and your 29 Colleagues, who joined you as co-sponsors.

The eloquence and historical depth of the resolution will surely impress all my compatriots, as well as hundreds of thousands of Americans of Hungarian descent. Being a historian myself and as someone who lived through a greater part of the 20th century, which brought so much misfortune to my people, I also very much appreciate the words used by you and your colleagues in approving the resolution. On this occasion let me share a few ideas with you on the links that bind your great nation of America with Hungary.

The people of Hungary have been admirers of the United States for well over two centuries. We, too, have fought for our freedom and independence several times during these centuries. We felt your nation's sympathy in many difficult periods, particularly in 1848/49 and 1956. In 1978 the United States returned the Holy Crown of St. Stephen, kept in safety at Fort Knox since 1945, to the Hungarian people, boosting our morale and pride in our

history, thus contributing to the process which led to the peaceful transformation of the political system of Hungary in 1989/90.

I am pleased to say that we, Hungarians, are not alone in celebrating the establishment of the State. Like the United States, Hungary is also a nation of immigrants. When our ancestors moved into the Carpathian Basin they soon absorbed its sparse Slavic and Turkic population. Later on we welcomed many individuals and whole national groups in search of a better life and more freedom. Thus credit for the achievements of our thousand year old history goes not only to our Founding Fathers, but to all those who joined our nation through the centuries, embraced our culture and language and enriched us immensely with their industry, knowledge, culture and traditions. Among our neighbors, the Slovaks shared a common state with the Hungarians for over 1000 years, and the Croats a union for 800 years. But all the peoples of Central and Eastern Europe joined the Hungarians at one time or other struggling against common enemies, sometimes even under common Sovereigns. Hungary was also open for refugees escaping war and oppression and it became a truly multinational country, showing both good and bad examples how to get on with many languages and cultures. The resolution appropriately points out the outstanding contributions in science, arts, culture and economy that Jewish Hungarians provided to our nation. Later on many of our citizens left the homeland, in order to seek knowledge, freedom or opportunity. That is how we established so many links to Western Europe and the Americans. Thus, the Hungarian Millennium is a common Central European celebration, and also a Trans-Atlantic one.

The bust of Louis Kossuth, Governor of revolutionary Hungary in 1849, and later a refugee most warmly received in the United States in 1851/52, stands in one of the hallways of the Capitol. The dream of Kossuth and so many other Hungarians has come true: our two nations have become allies. We are working together to turn South-Eastern Europe, a region of conflicts, into a stable and prosperous one. We are fighting jointly against international crime and terrorism, and the rights of people oppressed. We count on your support in our efforts to seek the safeguarding of the rights of close to three million Hungarians residing in the states bordering on Hungary.

A historian of ancient Rome, Sallustius, stated: "Truly not armies nor treasurers are the safeguards of a kingdom, but friends." We, Hungarians, have a modest army and small wealth, but a great friend in the United States. We are grateful for your friendship and for the resolution which is such a beautiful testimony of that.

Sincerely yours,

GEZA JESENSZKY.

REPUBLIC OF CHINA NATIONAL
DAY

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2000

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, our long time ally and close friend, the Republic of China on Taiwan, will be celebrating its 89th anniversary on October 10th.