

An agreement was made that that amendment would be offered in the Labor HHS appropriation. The rule had originally included the protection of that amendment. However, as a sponsor of that amendment, I have agreed to withdraw it. I am not withdrawing it because it is not an important issue. I am not withdrawing it because of pressure by anyone in particular. The amendment is actually being withdrawn in the interest of the larger body and the passage of a bipartisan Labor HHS appropriation bill.

The amendment is extremely important, and I need to make clear that we will see the issue again. The issue is regarding something that surprises and shocks a lot of people once they hear that it actually happens in this country, and that is, that we know of at least 180 schools in the United States that hand out the morning-after pill to minors. These same schools will not even give a child an aspirin for a headache. Yet our law permits them to hand out the morning-after pill to little girls.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, it was a difficult decision to withdraw this amendment. Now my colleagues understand why. It is important for us as Members of Congress to protect our children. Protecting our children, in fact, is a large part of the things that are included in the Labor HHS appropriation bill.

We are not certain of the safety of the morning-after pill, especially its impact on very young women, those who would now receive it in at least 180 of our schools. In fact, in Great Britain a 15-year-old girl suffered a stroke after she had taken the pill at the age of 14.

The question, I think, that faces this body, and that will face this body again, is are we willing to go to the extent that we need to to protect our children? If a school cannot give a child an aspirin, why does this Congress permit a school to give a little girl a morning-after pill? That means, basically, that we are condoning, first of all, that that little girl has admitted to having been sexually active, likely at a very young age. Again, these are minors that are being handed out the morning-after pill.

Concern has been raised with me ever since I became the sponsor of this amendment in the spring by parents, by teachers, by church leaders, by people I run into in the mall; and support for this amendment has been expressed from all sectors. In fact, it has been expressed by both pro-life and pro-choice people.

That is an important point to make, Mr. Speaker, because we should not make this an abortion issue. This is an issue of little girls and giving parents and schools the ability to take care of them, to protect them, and to protect their health. Federal law currently per-

mits the use of these Federal funds to distribute the morning-after pill to schoolchildren. Numerous courts have ruled that schools using Federal funds for family planning services are forbidden to notify parents, regardless of State parental consent notification laws.

Therefore, the amendment would prevent that by doing the following: the amendment would have said that any school that distributes the morning-after pill to these children would, therefore, not be able to receive any Federal funding.

That is the only way, Mr. Speaker, that we will prevent these schools from being social activists and encouraging, in a way, these young ladies to be sexually active without any protection, and, in fact, placing these children in danger of transmitting sexually transmitted diseases and contracting sexually transmitted diseases.

Mr. Speaker, it is only sensible for us to consider this issue at another time. I have had meetings this morning with leadership and have been assured that I will be able to move this issue forward at another time as a freestanding bill through the Committee on Education and the Workforce. Hopefully, we will get the support of the members of that committee. But until we do, Mr. Speaker, I want everyone to understand that this Congress is continuing to allow the distribution of what is and can be a very dangerous drug to these young ladies when that same school cannot even give the girl an aspirin for a headache.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3061, making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. LATOURETTE. Pursuant to the order of the House of today and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in

the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for consideration of the bill, H.R. 3061.

□ 1326

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 3061) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, with Mr. COMBEST in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA).

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, first of all, I want to thank the Members of the Subcommittee and of the Full Committee for their help in getting this bill to the floor. I want to thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) for working with us on a bipartisan basis.

This is a far-reaching bill that touches the lives of every American, and I think we have had a spirit of bipartisanship in both the subcommittee and the full committee, with the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) in their roles as chairman and ranking minority members of the full committee.

I also want to thank the staff of both committees. They have worked closely together to ensure that we have a good bill that does the greatest amount of good for the American people. And I want to say a special thanks to the associate staff of the members of our subcommittee. They have been very helpful in letting us know and letting the staff of our committee know what was important to their members, so that we have tried to incorporate in this bill things that are very positive in every way.

I have said early on that the Bible says there are two great commandments, the first is to love your Lord and the second is to love your neighbor. This committee is the "love your neighbor committee," because there is not a life in America that is not touched by what we do.

We could spend a lot of time, but we do not have a lot of time, so I do want to highlight some of the important things in this bill that are very essential, very important to the American people.

The fiscal year 2002 Labor, Health and Human Services appropriation bill