

more. To them I say JOE MOAKLEY was as good as they come. He was a true public servant in every positive sense and I stand today to honor this gentleman of all time.

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TRIBUTE TO GILDA'S CLUB

**HON. JERROLD NADLER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 14, 2001*

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Gilda's Club of New York City on the occasion of its sixth anniversary. Since opening its doors in 1995, Gilda's Club has welcomed over 2,600 people—men, women and children—all of whom have been affected by cancer. The Club was founded in honor and named after the late Gilda Radner. While best known for her work as a comedienne, Radner's legacy continues in Gilda's Club as it carries out her dying wish: that persons, like herself, living with cancer would find a community in which to meet, support, and share with those also struggling with this deadly disease.

Gilda's Club is a non-profit organization that provides free-of-charge services to anyone living with cancer, from those struggling with their own illnesses to their families and friends. Most noteworthy of these services is the Club's innovative and effective Basic III 'Plus' program. The program focuses on providing members with an emotional and social foundation from which to draw hope and strength. From encouragement in Support and Networking Groups, to education in Lectures and Workshops, to family bonds in Noogieland, The Family Focus and Team Convene, the Basic III 'Plus' program covers all the bases in creating the network patients need to heal both emotionally and physically.

This network is made possible by the volunteers and members of Gilda's Club, who strive to create a welcoming atmosphere for newcomers. These members and volunteers form lasting bonds while participating in Club programs. It is this unique bond that allows members to feel comfortable turning to the Club in their times of need. Executive Director Joel Sesser most accurately describes the Club as "a special community at the crossroads of the world." Everyone, regardless of their sex, religion, or ethnic background, is guaranteed loving care and support at Gilda's Club.

For the hope and spirit it has provided to its members and the inspiration it provides to the community, I offer my sincere congratulations to Gilda's Club of New York City for its six years of exceptional service.

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THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2001

**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 14, 2001*

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Emergency Food Assistance

Enhancement Act. My bill increases commodity purchases for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) to help emergency feeding organizations—food banks, food pantries, soup kitchens—meet the needs of their communities. It also provides more federal support for the cost of storing, transporting, and distributing food donated to these organizations by the federal government and private sources. A total of up to \$40 million a year of money that is not being used for employment and training programs is earmarked for these food purchases and handling costs, in addition to the \$100 million a year now set aside for TEFAP food purchases and \$45 million a year appropriated for storage, transportation, and distribution costs.

Food banks and other organizations meet the needs of their communities by managing donations from the government and private sectors, and most government donations are from TEFAP. It is a unique program that has the ability to provide nutritious domestic food products to needy Americans, while at the same time providing direct support to the agriculture community. Although federal food donations through the TEFAP are not the only source of the food distributed by food banks and others, they are key because they provide distributing agencies with some certainty as to their inventory and contribute greatly to the variety of food items that are offered. TEFAP grants for storage, transportation, and distribution costs also enable these agencies to efficiently handle a large volume of federal and private donations. In the 1996 welfare reform act, Congress made TEFAP commodity purchases mandatory because of the integral role it has in providing food aid to needy families and individuals.

TEFAP benefits are a quick fix, something to get families through tough times. TEFAP gives them the support they need, but it doesn't catch them in a cycle of dependency. These food purchases also provide much needed support to the agriculture community. While other food assistance programs are much larger, TEFAP purchases have a much more direct impact on agriculture producers.

The 1997 Balanced Budget Act included hundreds of millions of dollars for employment and training programs aimed at able-bodied adults between the ages of 18 and 50 without dependents whose eligibility for food stamps was restricted by a work requirement set up in the 1996 welfare reform law. The bulk of the money is dedicated to employment/training programs that keep unemployed able-bodied adults on the food stamp rolls, if they participate. But much of it is going unspent. Several hearings and reports have said that this money is unspent because few are taking advantage of employment and training assistance offered through the Food Stamp program; states running the program are not seeing a demand and are not drawing on this funding. The unused pool of employment and training money now tops \$200 million, and continues to grow. At the same time, food banks and other emergency food providers report increased demand from this group and others.

Why not put the money where the need is? The Secretary of Agriculture continually reviews states' spending of their Food Stamp

program allocations for employment and training programs. If a state doesn't use the money allocated to it, the Secretary can reallocate it to another state that can use it. My bill does nothing to change or restrict this authority. It simply allows the Secretary to tap up to \$40 million a year in unspent and unallocated employment and training funds for TEFAP commodity purchases and storage, transportation, and distribution costs.

Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that the Emergency Food Assistance Enhancement Act will enjoy resounding and rapid support from the full House of Representatives. It is important that we increase commodity purchases for this important program and help emergency food providers handle the maximum volume of food donations possible.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE MENTAL HEALTH JUVENILE JUSTICE ACT

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 14, 2001*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to announce the introduction of the Mental Health Juvenile Justice Act of 2001. I am pleased to be joined by 32 original cosponsors who share my strong desire to improve the treatment of children with mental health needs who enter the juvenile justice system.

The rate of mental disorders is significantly higher among youth in the juvenile justice system than among youth in the general population. Federal studies suggest that as many as 60% of incarcerated youth have some mental health disorder and 20% have a severe disorder. In my home state of California, a recent study by the California Youth Authority found that 35% of boys in its custody and 73% of girls need mental health or substance abuse treatment.

We also know that many youngsters in the juvenile justice system have committed minor, non-violent offenses or status offenses. While they may be better served through the mental health system, often times these youngsters are incarcerated in juvenile facilities because of a lack of access to or the availability of mental health programs in the community. These youngsters, their families, and society, could be better served if we made available appropriate local mental health, substance abuse, and educational services as an alternative to incarceration, particularly for first offenders and non-violent offenses.

Our nation's juvenile justice system cannot adequately serve the needs of children with mental health disorders. Juvenile facilities are overcrowded and lack the necessary programming required to accommodate the needs of these youthful offenders. Staff working in these facilities are not trained to work with children in need of mental

Mental health treatment and services have been proven more effective than incarceration in preventing troubled young people from reoffending and are less expensive than prison. In the long run, they are even more cost-effective to us as a society, because they increase