

Today I rise to speak about the unfortunate fact that legal immigrant children and legal immigrant pregnant women do not have access to federal matching health care funds for health care services.

Legal immigrants who enter the United States after August 22, 1996, must wait 5 years before they are eligible for either Medicaid or S-CHIP medical services. While these legal immigrants sometimes get emergency medical care, they are ineligible for basic medical services that reduce the need for such emergency care. This makes no sense and unnecessarily increases the costs to taxpayers.

The bill I have introduced, H.R. 1143, the Legal Immigrant Children's Health Improvement Act of 2001, will lift the 5-year ban currently in place for health services for lawfully present immigrant children and pregnant women who enter the United States after August 22, 1996. The bill gives States the option of extending such services. The legislation will provide coverage for between 150,000 and 200,000 legal immigrant children and about 50,000 legal immigrant pregnant women and their babies.

I ask my colleagues to please cosponsor H.R. 1143.

WE NEED A BALANCED LONG-TERM PLAN TO ADDRESS AMERICA'S ENERGY NEEDS

(Mrs. WILSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, this country needs a balanced long-term energy plan to address America's energy needs. We are more dependent on foreign oil today than we were at the height of the energy crisis in the 1970s. Fifty-five percent of the oil used in America comes from foreign sources, mostly in the Middle East.

We have made great strides in energy efficiency over the last two decades. We have cleaner water, cleaner air, and cleaner land today than we did 20 years ago. There is no going back, and nobody wants to. We can have conservation and an adequate energy supply.

Our energy policy must include both. We need to build the safe pipelines and the transmission systems to get our energy to where it is needed to meet the needs of a growing American people. We should expect the best energy system in the world, and we can pass a balanced long-term energy plan through this House in order to do so.

THE DEATH PENALTY IS NOT WORTHY OF A GREAT NATION

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, another man is gone. Another human being is gone. How long will we continue to travel down this inhumane road? The death penalty is not worthy of a great Nation. It is barbaric, it is uncivilized. What do we want, retribution, to get even, or to have revenge?

I happen to believe that in every human being there is the spark of the divine, and no government, not State or federal, has the right to destroy that spark. That right is reserved for the Almighty and the Almighty alone. How can we appeal to our people, especially our young people, not to use an instrument of violence to settle their disputes, and then sanction killing, sentencing someone to death?

It is time for us to join with the majority of the world and put an end to this form of barbaric punishment. It is time to put an end to the death penalty. Enough is enough, Mr. Speaker.

ELECTION OF RANDY FORBES TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, we of course champion the role of a free press in our society, and so it is for that reason that I come to the floor today, because there is a story that some of our establishment media outlets have not really talked about. So I return to my profession as a broadcaster to inform the House that last night, in the Commonwealth of Virginia, voters displayed great common sense in electing Randy Forbes to this Chamber.

It means a political realignment probably not receiving the same prominence as a recent political alignment in the other body. Yet, it bears testimony to the common sense of Commonwealth voters because, in his election, we are seeing now the prevalence of a sound policy striking a balance between protecting our precious environment and also our economy, understanding that education is a national priority but ultimately a local concern, and the notion that the money sent here to Washington belongs not to the federal bureaucrats, but to the people.

It was a sound election. We welcome Mr. Forbes to this Chamber, and we will focus on sound policy, rather than partisan politics.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAYS). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote

is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on postponed questions will be taken after debate is concluded on all motions to suspend the rules.

MAKING TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO MANUFACTURED HOUSING PROGRAM

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1029) to clarify the authority of the Department of Housing and Urban Development with respect to the use of fees during fiscal year 2001 for the manufactured housing program.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1029

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

SECTION 1. MANUFACTURED HOUSING.

(a) AVAILABILITY OF FEES.—Notwithstanding section 620(e)(2) of the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5419(e)(2)), any fees collected under that Act, including any fees collected before the date of enactment of the American Homeownership and Economic Opportunity Act of 2000 (12 U.S.C. 1701 note) and remaining unobligated on the date of enactment of this Act, shall be available for expenditure to offset the expenses incurred by the Secretary under the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5401 et seq.), otherwise in accordance with section 620 of that Act.

(b) DURATION.—The authority for the use of fees provided for in subsection (a) shall remain in effect during the period beginning in fiscal year 2001 and ending on the effective date of the first appropriations Act referred to in section 620(e)(2) of the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5419(e)(2)) that is enacted with respect to a fiscal year after fiscal year 2001.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. ROUKEMA) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. ROUKEMA).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on S. 1029, the Senate bill presently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 1029 is a technical correction to last year's Manufactured Housing Improvement Act. This bill authorizes HUD, the Housing and Urban Development Department, to continue operating its manufactured

housing program with its fees collected through the program until Congress enacts appropriations for the Department for the year 2002.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1029, and I want everyone to hear this and understand it, S. 1029 was passed in the other House on June 13 by unanimous consent. Last year, in a bipartisan effort, Congress passed the American Home Ownership and Economic Opportunity Act of 2000, and it was title 6 of that law that is the Manufactured Housing Improvement Act.

Until last year, HUD's manufactured housing program operated under a permanent indefinite appropriation, with the fees collected from the manufactured funding program. The Manufactured Housing Improvement Act was the result of extensive bipartisan negotiations with industry and consumer groups, all of whom supported the final product.

The legislation passed by unanimous consent in both the House and Senate, but that is the past. What today is about is about closing an inadvertent loophole in the law. The manufactured housing program is funded through fees HUD levies on the industry. Prior to the new act, HUD could spend those funds as needed. However, to maintain better oversight over the program, the new law made the spending of the fees subject to the annual appropriations process. Again, it was agreed to unanimously.

The change in operating authority occurred after the approval of HUD's 2001 Appropriations Act. Therefore, this legislation that we have before us today is necessary.

Based on both the specific mandates in the Manufactured Housing Improvement Act and the statutory purposes of the program, it is clear that Congress intended these fees to be available to pay expenses for authorized program activities during the remainder of this current fiscal year. That is what this legislation is about. The legislation here today makes the necessary technical corrections to allow that appropriations continuation, and it is S. 1029, the bill that was enacted last year.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation to provide a technical clarification of the bill enacted last December to reform HUD's regulation of manufactured housing.

Last year, we labored mightily and successfully to enact long overdue changes to HUD's regulation of manufactured housing. That legislation strengthened consumer protections by authorizing national manufactured housing installation standards and by creating a process for dispute resolu-

tion to deal with manufactured housing defects.

It also streamlined and updated the regulatory process. HUD regulation of manufactured housing is funded through fees levied on the industry. As part of last year's reform bill, we made HUD's use of such fees for regulatory purposes subject to appropriations in advance. The purpose of this was to enhance oversight of HUD regulation.

However, due to negotiations on other issues, this authorizing legislation was not able to be enacted until December of last year, after the VA-HUD appropriations bill for the current fiscal year.

Thus, a technical reading of this authorizing legislation might preclude the ability of HUD to use fees collected after December 27 of last year for HUD regulation of manufactured housing until an appropriations bill is enacted for the next fiscal year starting October 1.

This potentially puts in jeopardy critical regulatory activities over the next few months. This was never the intent of the authorizing legislation. Therefore, the bill before us today, which passed the Senate by unanimous consent, would simply authorize HUD to use manufactured housing fees collected after December 27, 2000, for manufactured housing regulation, but only until such time as next year's VA-HUD appropriation bill is enacted.

This allows HUD to continue important manufactured housing regulatory activities while remaining true to the intent of the authorizing legislation to subject such fees in the future to the appropriations process for oversight purposes. I therefore urge support for this noncontroversial legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge the statement of my colleague, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY), and stress for all Members here that he and I have both concurred on the strong bipartisan, undivided bipartisan support of this technical correction.

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, as a long-time advocate and co-sponsor of the Manufactured Housing Improvement Act, I rise in support of this bill today. S. 1029 makes a very important technical correction that effectively prevents the Department of Housing and Urban Development's manufactured housing program from being unintentionally de-funded.

Last year, Congress finally enacted important reforms to the federal government's manufactured housing program as part of the Manufactured Housing Improvement Act. That program, administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, is financed through fees collected from the manufactured housing industry. Prior to last year's reforms, HUD was authorized to spend these collected funds at its own discretion. However, the new law made this spending subject to appropriations.

Since the new manufactured housing law was passed after the FY 2001 VA-HUD Appropriations Act had been signed into law, OMB determined that the appropriations measure did not include any provisions addressing HUD's use of collected manufactured housing fees. Consequently, HUD has continued collecting the fees but is unable to spend any of the funds it has collected since the manufactured housing reforms were enacted in late December. Without authority to spend those funds, HUD has indicated that it may be forced to shut down its program soon.

S. 1029 authorizes HUD to continue operating its manufactured housing program with fees it collects through the program until Congress enacts a FY 2002 appropriation for the department. It corrects a technical problem that was unintended by Congress, and will allow business to proceed as usual.

The manufactured housing industry is extremely important to my district and the nation as one of the leading methods of providing Americans with affordable homeownership opportunities. I was pleased to see the other body pass this measure so expediently, and am pleased the House followed suit today.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. ROUKEMA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1029.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1030

RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING GOALS AND IDEAS OF AMERICAN YOUTH DAY

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H.R. 124) recognizing the importance of children in the United States and supporting the goals and ideas of American Youth Day.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 124

Whereas national evidence indicates that America's youth are faced with oppressive issues, such as violence, drugs, abuse, and even family stress, causing the future of the youth of the United States, and therefore the future of the Nation, to be at risk;

Whereas youth in America, regardless of their economic status, ethnic or cultural heritage, or geographic location, are experiencing the pressures caused by contemporary society;

Whereas although Americans realize the challenges of today's busy lifestyles and balancing work schedules and youth activities, they remain committed to education, physical fitness, and civic-mindedness;

Whereas it is imperative that the people of the United States act willfully and purposefully