

requirements designed for abuse and neglect cases to children with emotional or physical disabilities—either because these requirements are an agency's standard operating procedure, or because of assumptions about the desired role of the family in treatment; and the lack of voluntary placement procedures in some States (which means that custody must be transferred to draw down title IV-E funds, or to place children out-of-home under other available funding streams, including Medicaid).

In general, our bill would amend the six major Federal programs that may currently be used to provide out-of-home services to emotionally disturbed and physically disabled children.

The amendment would require States to provide that parents not be required to transfer custody in order to have their child placed out-of-home, and that all such children be placed pursuant to a voluntary placement agreement.

In addition, the bill would clarify existing Federal law regarding custody transfer requirements under title IV-E.

As drafted, the bill would: ensure that custody transfer requirements are not imposed on children with emotional or physical disabilities; clarify that title IV-E does not require States to have legal custody over children in their physical custody, or to have legal custody in order to draw down Federal IV-E payments; prohibit States from requiring parents to transfer custody to access out-of-home Medicaid-EPSDT treatment services; and ensure that States have in place the necessary procedures to place these children without transferring custody.

Mr. Speaker, we believe that a full resolution of the custody transfer dilemma—and indeed the larger issue of adequate access to needed services for emotionally disturbed and physically disabled children—will ultimately depend on the development of a designated system of care for these children.

This legislation, however, will provide a significant first step towards ensuring that these children are able to get needed services without unnecessarily disrupting families, and that no child is denied access to funding solely on the basis of their custody status.

We are very excited about the possibility of enacting this piece of legislation. It will help thousands of families and will correct a practice that everyone agrees makes no sense—for children, for parents or for our governments. In the seven States that have enacted a similar State bill, the bill has passed with broad bipartisan support.

It is our expectation that introducing the bill today will give interested people the opportunity to fully examine the bill before the 104th Congress begins. Though the concept of preventing the transfer of custody of children is a simple one, the legislative solution is more complicated. A draft copy of the bill has been well received by child welfare, mental health, and parent advocacy groups, as well as researchers who have studied this issue.

We plan to reintroduce the bill January and look forward to its passage by the next Congress.

HONORING RONALD S. COOPER

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 9, 1995

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with many constituents of my district in honoring Mr. Ronald S. Cooper, managing partner of Ernst & Young's Long Island office, for being chosen as the secretary-treasurer to help formulate and launch the Long Island Association [LIA] Health Alliance. The goal of this newly formulated Health Alliance will be to control the cost of health care on Long Island.

Mr. Cooper was recently profiled in the Long Island magazine for his outstanding accomplishments. It gives me a great deal of pride to reprint this article below for the benefit of my colleagues who do not know Mr. Cooper.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me now in honoring Mr. Ronald S. Cooper for his many years of leadership on Long Island.

Reprinted from the Long Island magazine article "Making a Positive Impact" by Christa Reilly:

Ronald Cooper, managing partner of Ernst & Young's Long Island office, is proud to serve as secretary/treasurer to help formulate and launch the LIA Health Alliance. "It's very innovative and will be very helpful in driving down the cost of health care. It's an absolute win-win situation." Years from now, he explained, it will "probably be the one thing I can be really proud that I helped make happen."

Taking a leadership role in projects important to improve the quality of life on Long Island is a way of life for him. As he explained, "I have always believed, and acted on the belief, that you must get out in front and lead in order to make an impact on life. I don't enjoy being the back of the pack."

Cooper has served in leadership roles for a host of important community groups. He is treasurer of the LIA Board of Directors, and has made a strong impact upon the community through his many years of involvement with the UJA-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies. "When I first realized that UJA has no office on Long Island, I spearheaded a task force to get them one," he explained. Subsequently, he was elected as the first chairman for UJA's Long Island cabinet. Today, it is a thriving organization with a \$20 million campaign.

Cooper has been recognized for his leadership. He has received the Long Island Distinguished Leadership Award, the Distinguished Community Service Award of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the Brotherhood Award of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and the Franklin H. Ornstein Human Relations Award from the American Jewish Committee.

He has traveled to Israel about ten times and, with regard to the recent peace treaty between Israel and Jordan, said, "It's wonderful. I was invited to be in the gallery when Rabin and Hussein addressed the Joint House in Washington. It was a most thrilling moment to see the two of them indicate that the war was over."

Just like the peace treaty, the Long Island Action Plan also needs to be put into practice. A cumulative list of more than 250 action items that the 12 Summit committees compiled, the Action Plan represents the hopes of many Long Islanders. Cooper said, "The summit has a very useful function—to focus the public on issues we must face. The aftermath, however, will determine whether

it was successful. Everybody understands we need to solve the cost structure of taxes and LILCO rates."

Despite the cost structure, Cooper pointed out that Long Island has been a hotbed of entrepreneurship. Each year, Ernst & Young selects and honors an Entrepreneur of the Year. Although it was a program that began in Indianapolis and spread nationwide, it seems appropriate that a leader, such as Cooper, should wish to recognize another upcoming one. "It's the best such program on Long Island. It focuses on the great companies—the positives—of Long Island. It serves as a reminder that Long Island hasn't changed that much in terms of industry. Long Island goes through cycles. It used to be a defense industry economy, now we are moving into high tech and biotech industries."

MAKING IN ORDER IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE 104TH CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, as we begin our work this year, let us remember that our first responsibility is not to the parties to which we belong, but the people we represent. It is for that reason that I rise in support of congressional reform and in support of several parts of the proposed rules package. I believe the majority has structured some important changes to the way we function, and those changes should not be rejected by Democrats simply because they are offered by Republicans. At the same time, we must be forever mindful that no Member in the Chamber has a premium on what's best for this Nation. We all have a contract with America.

What makes us a great nation is the compassion we show for those who live in the shadows of life. We are strong because historically we have been able to make a place for all who live here, including those least able to help themselves—the young, the poor, the disabled. In this time of increased scrutiny, we must examine each and every program, but we must also consider each and every person affected by our changes. We must ask the question: Who is helped and who is hurt? And, at the end of each day, we must be honest about whether our actions helped the many in need or the few in clover. President Kennedy said it best, 34 years ago, when he stated:

A country that cannot help the many who are poor cannot help the few who are rich.

The contract to which each Member of this Chamber is bound, is to work in the best interests of the American people. On election day, we offered our services to this great country, and voters accepted our offer, from Rocky Mount, NC, to politically important New Hampshire, across the United States, past the vast stretch of Texas, to the Silicone Valley of California. We all have a contract with America.

That contract involves being open to the challenge of change. I support many of the reforms offered in this rules package, and I will vote for those reforms. We must get beyond