

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF GIRMA ZAID, FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN EMERITUS OF THE GRACE WAITING HOME FOR CHILDREN

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 1995

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Girma Zaid, a caring, committed man who has dedicated his life to improving the plight of abused and neglected children.

Girma began to acquire the educational tools needed for his crusade for children at Long Beach City College and California State University-Long Beach, where he earned his associate and bachelor of arts degrees in sociology. Zaid continued his education at the University of California, earning his master of social work degree in 1984.

In 1975 Girma combined his education with a compassion for children as a children's services worker with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services. Here he counseled at-risk children awaiting reunification with their families and developed therapeutic programs for them. Girma's hard work and dedication were rewarded in 1981 when he was promoted to supervisor of children's treatment counselors, a job in which he supervised a residential facility for neglected and at-risk children. His star continued to rise in 1985 with his elevation to deputy children's services administrator for the Los Angeles County Department of Children's Services. As administrator Girma was responsible for the supervision of children's services for more than 2,000 abused and neglected children. He also supervised 100 social workers, caseworkers, and related personnel.

Zaid's crusade took him to the Bay area in 1988 as program manager for the Black Adoption Placement and Research Center, where he developed, implemented, and supervised a therapeutic foster care program and helped review ethnically-matched and culturally-appropriate homes for dependent children. While in the Bay area Zaid also served as assistant director of the Department of Social Services for the city and county of San Francisco. He returned to the Los Angeles County Department of Children's Services in 1991 as the deputy administrator for the adoptions division.

One of Girma's crowning achievements came in January 1992, when he founded the Grace Home for Waiting Children and assumed the role of executive director. On behalf of Grace Home Girma worked with the Los Angeles County Department of Children's Services, community leaders, and elected officials to ensure a safe, nurturing environment for abused and neglected children. He provided in-service training as well as foster parent training, and monitored clinical program activities. Today Grace Home has three offices in Los Angeles County—Inglewood, Long Beach, and Panorama City. Offices will soon be opened throughout the State in San Bernardino, Riverside, and Sacramento.

Under Girma's leadership, Grace Home is also expanding its operations nationwide, with offices opening in Washington, DC; Atlanta, GA; Las Vegas, NV; and Milwaukee, WI. Girma has also traveled to Ethiopia and Eritrea in East Africa to set up programs for displaced children. He is currently utilizing his experience and talents as CEO of Management Services International, a consulting firm which plans, develops, and implements innovative child welfare programs both in the United States and abroad.

Despite his busy work schedule, Zaid has found time to serve on several boards, including the International Foster Care Organization, the PROVIDERS South Central Los Angeles Residential Facility, and the Martin Luther King Drew Community Advisory Council.

Mr. Speaker, California and the Nation owe a debt of gratitude to Girma Zaid's pioneering work with foster children. His deep commitment to improving the lives of abused and neglected children greatly benefits all of us. I ask that you join me, Mr. Speaker, in paying tribute to this tireless and compassionate crusader for children.

THE REPUBLICAN ASSAULT ON MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 1995

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Republicans' \$270 billion cut in Medicare, and \$163 billion cut in Medicaid. Cuts of this magnitude will not only devastate these programs, but most importantly, they will seriously threaten the health status of the people which Medicaid and Medicare were designed to improve and to protect—children and seniors.

To jeopardize the quality of life—for millions of the most vulnerable in our society—for the sake of giving a tax break to the wealthy, is unconscionable. This tax cut giveaway will add millions of additional Americans to the already swollen ranks of the uninsured.

To gut critical quality of life health care services at a time when the health status of Americans is already compromised is irresponsible. Health status statistics confirm that now is not the time to destroy the Nation's health safety net system. This year alone nearly 1.3 million Americans will be diagnosed with cancer, over 500 thousand will die from the disease. Only about 40 percent of those who get cancer this year will be alive 5 years after diagnosis. Cardiovascular disease including heart attack and stroke, cause a death every 34 seconds in the United States, killing more than 900 thousand Americans each year. Nearly half of the 14 million Americans suffering from diabetes are not even aware that they have the disease. The gap in minority health continues to widen. The reemergence and spread of infectious diseases is on the rise. AIDS has become the

leading cause of death for all Americans ages 25 to 44. Medicaid is especially critical to women and children suffering from AIDS.

It appears that the Republicans did not factor the adverse impact of these devastating diseases into their Medicare and Medicaid restructuring equation. If the Republicans are allowed to gut \$270 billion from Medicare and \$163 billion from Medicaid, the health status of the American people will deteriorate further. We must not tolerate the Republicans' blatant disregard for the needs of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, the GOP assault on health status and health care services must stop. I applaud the President for his veto of the Republican budget, and I strongly urge my colleagues to stand up for the American people—vote "no" on measures to gut Medicaid and Medicare.

TRANSFER OF TWIN CITIES RESEARCH CENTER

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 1995

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 5, the House unanimously passed H.R. 308, a bill to transfer certain surplus Federal land in Hopewell Township, PA, to the Beaver County Corporation for Economic Development. The goal of the corporation, a non-profit entity, is to utilize the transferred land, in cooperation with Hopewell Township, as the centerpiece of a Hopewell Aliquippa Airport Industrial Park, and thereby promote economic development and create needed jobs for the people of Hopewell Township.

Mr. Speaker, as I stated during debate on this legislation, the Federal Government should be alert to opportunities like Hopewell that link property transfers to airports, industrial park opportunities and other core infrastructure facilities to create and promote jobs. The fact is that the only way to create job opportunities to succeed those that no longer exist because of industry closing or dislocations is to make property available for new business to locate there.

The transfer of Federal property, when done effectively, can reap untold benefits in terms of employment, economic development, and economic stimulus.

Such is the case with the U.S. Bureau of Mines' Twin Cities Research Center in Minneapolis, MN. The 225 outstanding and dedicated employees have provided world-class research capabilities for the mining industry for over 85 years. Their research has resulted in the development of advanced technologies that: First preserve and enhance the quality and integrity of the environment; second, mitigate health and safety in the work place; third, improve efficiencies and economics of current mining practice; and fourth, develop new and more environmentally-friendly mining systems.

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