

which I introduced to correct a simple clerical error and will not cost any additional funding. Without the fix my legislation provides, numerous homeless outreach providers in Northeast Florida will be subjected to profound and unintended consequences.

In May 2001, The Emergency Services and Homeless Coalition of Jacksonville submitted a consolidated Continuum of Care Application to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requesting a maximum grant of \$3.5 million. The intent of this application, consistent with HUD's responsibilities under the SuperNOFA program, was to compete for and obtain funding for a total of 11 Jacksonville homeless outreach projects.

Due to a technical error in the way the grant was submitted, the full funding for all 11 projects in Jacksonville was inadvertently granted to one agency—Liberty Center. Unfortunately, due to an interpretation of the HUD Reform Act, HUD personnel cannot make the needed corrections to remedy the technical error—thus requiring this legislative proposal before us today.

As a result, many of the programs listed on the application will cease to exist due to a lack of funding. One of these projects, the "Quest" program, operated by the Jacksonville Mental Health Resource Center, requested \$293,979 and provides psychiatric medication case management to approximately 200 clients and case management services to several hundred others. There are 5 full-time and 2 part-time employees who will be cut. Without this program, these individuals will not have continuous case management basis and other public service facilities will have to deal with these individuals on a crisis basis. This type of problem will ripple through the region and disrupt years of quality service to these patients.

Mr. Speaker, without action today, another program, Goodwill Industries, will be forced to close its Job Options program, a \$431,707 renewal in the continuum. Goodwill run out of funding for this project on February 28, which will result in termination of 9 employees. This is a job training program which puts homeless or near homeless clients into paying jobs and off the dole. This past year there were 852 homeless participants enrolled in the program, of which 534 were placed in employment earning an average of \$7.95 per hour. It is a very effective program and saves substantial government dollars, which would otherwise have to be spent in support of these clients, were they unable to obtain jobs.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3699 simply corrects an administrative and clerical error in a grant application. My legislation corrects a horrible wrong that would inadvertently de-fund numerous projects. The legislation simply turns back the clock to the date the eleven members of the Coalition sat down together and submitted a consolidated Continuum of Care Application to help Jacksonville's homeless outreach projects. The bill does not authorize any additional funding; it only restores the original intent of the Homeless Coalitions Continuum of Care Application, allowing funding to be restored to all existing projects and to begin funding for the new projects. The Liberty Center would keep \$459,600 of the grant and the remaining funds of just over \$3 million would be dispersed to the other 10 projects in the priority order they were listed on the grant application.

This legislation will not cost the taxpayers any additional funds, and it will not change the original grant award amount of \$3,484,778.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague, Ms. Brown for joining me as an original cosponsor of this legislation and urge all my colleagues to support passage of H.R. 3699.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, today the House will begin the debate and vote on proposals to reform the way we finance federal election campaigns in this country. Some believe this issue rates very low in public concern, but I believe strongly that the proposals we debate today go to the very heart of our democracy.

This is a debate about the way we will run our elections, which are the foundation and a major safeguard of our republic. It is a debate and a decision about whether every voter will have an equal voice in deciding our nation's future or whether some interests will always have special status because their voices are backed by large financial contributions.

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing wrong with a person providing a financial contribution to a political candidate or committee. It is proper that candidates are supported at the grassroots level through the involvement of friends and neighbors. Each of us is here in large measure because we enjoy and appreciate such support from a wide range of Americans who care about our government and are personally committed to supporting us.

But, there is something wrong with this system when the link between candidates and the grassroots voter—our neighbors and our friends—is broken or bent beyond recognition by an avalanche of big money that comes directly from corporations, labor unions and from a very few, very wealthy individuals. That is the problem we face today.

Direct political contributions from corporations to individual candidates were outlawed in 1907, but today corporations give hundreds of millions of dollars to both parties in the form of "soft money" because current federal law has a loophole allowing such contributions for so-called "party-building activities." This loophole now allows enormous contributions—some of \$1 million in a single check—that go directly to the political parties rather than individual candidates. Although giving to political parties may lessen the appearance of corruption, the average American understands that Enron, big tobacco companies and other corporations do not give millions of dollars to a political party just to assure good government.

Mr. Speaker, the choices before the House are clear cut. We can again pass a bill that provides genuine, effective reform of the current system—the bill offered by Mr. SHAYS and Mr. MEEHAN. Some of the alternatives before us have the appearance of reform by at least providing some limits on soft money but they lack real substance because the limits are so high and so wide that they change very little in the current situation.

I believe it is essential that the House stand fast on the cause of campaign finance reform, that we again—for the third time—pass the Shays-Meehan bill. In doing so, we will end the soft-money chase. We also will assure that those who engage in campaign advertising that attacks or promotes candidates must fully disclose the sources of their funding to the voters.

The decision we make today is perhaps the most important decision that this Congress will

render. The outcome will influence everything else we do on a vast array of issues and concerns. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass real reform so that we send a clear message to the American people that this Congress intends to restore common sense to our campaign laws.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the rule, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will now put the question on motions to suspend the rules and on House Resolution 344, on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2998, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 3699, by the yeas and nays;

House Resolution 344, de novo;

And House Concurrent Resolution 326 de novo.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

□ 1845

RADIO FREE AFGHANISTAN ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and concurring in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 2998.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 2998, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 421, nays 2, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 15]

YEAS—421

Abercrombie
Ackerman

Aderholt
Akin

Allen
Andrews