

to move impoverished Americans to self-sufficiency, the Clinton Administration greatly expanded the number and scope of these waivers and many states took advantage. Many provisions of the innovative state waiver programs were later incorporated into the legislation that created the TANF program.

My state of Oregon took advantage of a welfare waiver and over the past six years has created a highly successful program that has seen welfare caseload reduction above the national average. Oregon's waiver and the waivers of eight other states have expired, or will expire, between September 2002 and September 2003. Once they expire, the states will have to spend scarce resources reconfiguring their programs to meet the federal TANF standards.

This comes at a particularly inopportune time. With the fall off in the American economy, states around the nation are experiencing some of the largest budget deficits in history. Furthermore, rising unemployment rates have forced many out of work and back on to the welfare rolls. Scarce resources should not be spent on programmatic changes to effective programs, particularly when it comes at the expense of our most needy constituents.

With work on TANF reauthorization uncompleted, states with expiring welfare waivers will not be able to adequately plan their welfare programs for the future. It makes little sense for them to begin transitioning to the current program with the knowledge that Congress intends to make substantive changes to TANF during the 108th Congress. But, under current law, this is exactly what they will have to do.

Mr. Speaker, it is irresponsible for Congress to force states to transition their programs twice and waste scarce resources on unnecessary programmatic changes, particularly in hard economic times.

Congress should correct this unintended consequence of its inaction by extending existing state waivers.

DAWSON FAMILY TRAGEDY

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay homage to our fallen "Front Line Soldiers". The soldiers that I speak of did not die thousands of miles away from our shores in a foreign land; they were executed in their own home as they slept. These soldiers were not trained in military combat or armed with the latest weapons technology can devise; they fought a life and death battle armed only with a strong voice and a determination that they would not surrender. If the City of Baltimore were to erect a monument to all the innocent lives lost because of the proliferation of drug violence in our community, tragically the most recent names to be added would be Carnell and Angela Dawson, along with their children; Keith and Kevin Dawson (9 year old twins); Carnell Dawson Jr., 10; Juan Ortiz, 12 and LaWanda Ortiz, 14.

On October 16th, while this family slept, a cold-blooded killer entered their home, spread gasoline throughout, and ignited a blaze that swept through the house in a few short min-

utes. Reportedly, this was done in retribution for the repeated efforts of Mrs. Dawson to stop these dealers from selling drugs in front of her home, in plain view of her young children. That night, Mrs. Dawson and five of her six children lost their lives. Mr. Dawson battled hard but perished a week later from the burns covering 80 percent of his body. We can not, and we will not walk away from the horrific acts of such cold-blooded killers.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress must take action to give the people of Baltimore and people around this country the tools they need to combat the proliferation of drug related violence in our communities.

As the Ranking Member on the House Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources Subcommittee I am especially wounded that such a barbaric act could occur within a city in my own district. I will do everything in my power to ensure that the effort to fight terrorism does not drain the fight against drug terror at home. Baltimore City Mayor Martin O'Malley and Police Chief Ed Norris have used their limited resources to make a positive effect on reducing drug-related crimes in the city of Baltimore. With the help of citizens, the mayor and the police chief have achieved a 23 percent reduction in violent crime in just a few short years. Federal agencies also report that Baltimore City has achieved the largest reduction in drug-related emergency room admissions of any major city in America. However, the plague of drug abuse is not a local problem or a problem limited to people of color; it is a national problem that demands a federal response.

National statistics shows that this problem is not limited to Baltimore City. The Bureau of Justice Statistics reports that in 1998 an estimated 61,000 convicted jail inmates said they had committed their offenses to get money for drugs. The cost-effects of these statistics on Baltimore City and other communities throughout this nation are incalculable. That is why I am encouraged by the swift and decisive actions taken by Director John P. Walters of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to arm our domestic front line soldiers with the tools they need to combat the bane of our communities.

I joined Director Walters on Oct. 23 of this year, as he announced the federal government response to this tragedy. Effective immediately, ONDCP will redirect existing funding resources within the Washington-Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Program (HIDTA) to better protect specified high-crime neighborhoods in Baltimore City. The federal funds will help to pay the cost of additional foot patrols, police overtime pay, surveillance cameras and improved street lighting. This is only a down payment on the debt owed to the Dawson family and the many other families around this nation who are the domestic front line soldiers in what some residents of Baltimore call "a killing ground."

More will be done; more must be done to protect families living in communities of fear. Drug gangs cannot be allowed to rule our court system through intimidation. Children should not fear stray bullets as they sit in front of their homes. Families await a day when they can sleep soundly knowing that the drug gangs are no longer lurking within their community. Baltimore City's fight against these drug gangs is not a war America can afford to ignore; and retreat is not an option.

SPECIAL JOINT SESSION OF
CONGRESS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of my colleagues I rise to introduce the remarks that I delivered in connection with the Special Joint Session of Congress convened in New York City on September 6, 2002. Along with my remarks, I would like to introduce the remarks of Mrs. Susan Magazine, Assistant Commissioner of the Family Assistance Unit of the Fire Department of New York City, Senate Majority Leader TOM DASCHLE, and Speaker of the House DENNIS HASTERT.

I believe that the nature and occasion of the event necessitates that these remarks be entered into the RECORD, so that along with the events at the Special Joint Session, they can be recorded for posterity.

RANGEL. You people look beautiful. (Laughter.)

Thank you, Mr. Mayor and Governor.

On behalf of our New York delegation, and especially Ben Gilman, who has been my friend for over 30 years, who leave us—where are you, Ben? (Applause.)

... and our entire delegation, which I hope would rise at this time, the supporters of our resolution . . . (Laughter.)

... I want to thank the leadership in the House and the Senate for supporting this resolution, our mayor and governor for giving it its political support, Ms. Annenberg for giving us our financial support, and most importantly all of you who took time from your busy schedules, and indeed our legislative schedules, to come to our great city to give us an opportunity to say thank you. History is a strange thing when you're making it. You're just not aware of the courage you may have or the shortcomings that you may have. And as the mayor, in telling you about the attributes of New York, it could be perceived that most of us from New York City have a little more self-esteem than we really need to get by. (Laughter.)

RANGEL. But when we were hit, we were afraid, we were scared. We didn't know whether we were going to be hit again. And Jerry Nadler, who's district was hit, was one of the first to get there.

And as the mayor said and the governor said, people came from all over. Not just our heroic policemen and firemen and emergency workers, but kids came, flags were there, foods were there, doctors were there. Everyone wanted to help.

Most of the New York congressional delegation in the city, we were there because it was a primary day. And so when we got back to Washington, we didn't know what to expect. We went by car. We went by bus. We went by train. And when we saw our colleagues there, singing "God Bless America," we recognized that we were not just New Yorkers; that we were Americans. It wasn't just . . . (Applause.)

It wasn't just our great city that was hit, it was our great country that was attacked. And we did come together, not as Republicans and Democrats and liberals and conservatives, but we came together in support of our president and our legislative leaders to let all of our foes know that we were united in our resolve to make certain that we would do all that we could to see that this does not happen again.

And even now as we gather to praise those that fought so hard for our country, that became our heroes, we send a message to our