

The Child SAFE Act would focus on outcomes, rather than process, to better protect children by (1) providing more resources, (2) promoting better outcomes, (3) increasing accountability for results, and (4) increasing State flexibility. The legislation would increase overall child protection program funding over the next 10 years by \$2 billion. Federal funding for every child protection activity—foster care, adoption, family services, and case-worker oversight—would rise over the next 10 years.

Current child protection programs provide limited funding for services to assist families and keep them safely together. At the same time, the system provides open ended funding if kids are removed from their families, leading many to conclude that the system encourages an over-reliance on foster care. The result is that countless children are abused and too many families broken up.

The Child SAFE Act would provide Federal foster care aid for every child regardless of income, addressing a longstanding concern among families, advocates and program officials. It also would guarantee rising foster care funding to States regardless of the number of children in care. That means that States that promote more up-front services to either keep kids out of foster care or move them more quickly through foster care will have even more dollars to invest in additional services. This will remove any financial incentive for a State to needlessly remove a child from their family or let that child languish in foster care for years.

The Child SAFE Act also would promote adoption of children from the public child welfare system. Federal adoption assistance will be available for these children regardless of income. Since 1995, the number of children adopted from the public child welfare system has more than doubled. However, more than 129,000 children in foster care await adoptive families. We must encourage States to do more to find safe, loving homes for these children.

The legislation would increase Federal aid for family services and caseworkers. Federal aid would be (1) merged, (2) guaranteed, and (3) increased by a total of \$2 billion over 10 years. States would have more funds, more flexibility, and greater incentives to serve families and prevent children's removal to foster care.

The Child SAFE Act also provides increased funding to Indian tribes for child protection programs. It expands funding and services for children placed with relatives. The legislation requires an assessment of children entering foster care—many of whom have deep physical and emotional scars—to determine what services they might need. States that excel in protecting children would receive a share of \$400 million in new performance funds. And the legislation is fully offset by provisions previously passed in the House welfare reform bill (H.R. 4).

I thank my colleagues, Mrs. JOHNSON, Mr. DELAY, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. CAMP, and Mr. CANTOR for joining me in introducing this important legislation. This legislation will improve our Nation's child protection programs so that children are safe and in loving families. I invite all Members to support it.

IN HONOR OF JOHN A. COLEMAN

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2004

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to recognize the achievements and activities of John A. Coleman. Mr. Coleman currently is serving as the President of the California Association of Sanitation Agencies otherwise known as CASA. CASA is a statewide association of wastewater treatment agencies that is responsible for ensuring the protection and improvement of California's water quality for more than 22 million Californians and their related businesses and our state's natural resources. He was elected CASA President after serving as a member of this association since 1990. It is also noteworthy that he assumed this leadership role after he was elected to the Board of Directors of the East Bay Municipal Utility District that provides water quality and water supply services to many of my constituents of the 10th Congressional District.

Mr. Coleman was the first CASA President to serve a two-year term of office, having been unanimously elected by the General Council of the California Association of Sanitation Agencies on August 9, 2002 and re-elected August 15, 2003. He will conclude his term as the 46th President on August 7, 2004.

Mr. Coleman's performance on behalf of CASA has been one of strong leadership. He has provided important guidance on complex legislative and regulatory issues affecting the management of local public wastewater agencies as these agencies strive to comply with the myriad of federal requirements. On many an occasion I have had the opportunity to review a number of these matters with Mr. Coleman in his capacity as President of CASA and as a member of the East Bay Municipal Utility District Board of Directors.

In each of these roles, Mr. Coleman displayed the highest level of integrity establishing a threshold of performance that served CASA well. He used his position at CASA both as President and a Member of the Executive Board to encourage all CASA members to maintain the highest level of professional performance in the course of conducting the public's business.

Of special note, during Mr. Coleman's tenure as CASA President, he launched a state wide program to promote the beneficial use of biosolids to improve the quality of our lands and minimize the inappropriate disposal of a useful byproduct of water quality programs. This program has generated a better understanding on the part of the public on how we can be better stewards of our local communities and their natural resources.

Most recently, Mr. Coleman oversaw the first CASA Federal Legislative Outreach Seminar, bringing to Washington 40 public officials to meet with their congressional delegations and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency officials. This effort typified Mr. Coleman's commitment to working to enhance the CASA members' understanding of the policymaking process and to promote increased public participation in the legislative and regulatory processes. Through this activity, he has elevated and solidified CASA's leading role as one of the most effective, respected, and influential

California public association dedicated to wastewater and water quality improvements.

As Mr. Coleman prepares to complete his term as CASA President, I want to take note of these accomplishments and to commend him for his tireless commitment to improve the water quality of California's lakes, rivers, streams and coastal waters. His commitment and leadership at CASA means that valuable recreational, economic and social activities that today's Californians enjoy will be available for California's future generations. I congratulate him on his many achievements.

HONORING THE ARMY RESERVE
367TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS
DETACHMENT UNIT FOR ITS
SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY DURING
OPERATION ENDURING
FREEDOM AND OPERATION IRAQI
FREEDOM

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2004

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Army Reserve 367th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment Unit for their participation in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. I commemorate the service of the 367th members from the 12th Congressional District, which I am proud to represent, and all who served in the unit. For fourteen months members of the unit worked to provide news and information to media sources from around the world. Additionally, due to the work of the 367th, soldiers from my district were able to send messages to loved ones by way of "video post cards home" broadcast on local television. This service provided my constituents and many other Americans the opportunity to watch our troops in action. Today, we thank its members for the sacrifices they made to serve our country.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share one example of the 367th's exemplary service to our Nation. The unit was in Tikrit, Iraq when it was informed of the capture of Saddam Hussein. Its members immediately realized the support that would be needed to accommodate the over 600 journalists who traveled to Iraq to cover the event. The 367th took action and coordinated an effort to provide transportation, lodging, food and even internet access. Because of the 367th's hard work, journalists from around the world were able to provide coverage of the historic event.

On March 3, 2004 the 367th returned home after a job well done. Once again, I thank the members of the Army Reserve 367th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment Unit for their service to our country.

NATIONAL BLACK DATA
PROCESSING ASSOCIATES

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Black Data Processing Associates (NBDPA). In honor of their upcoming 26th National Conference, I would like to