

my best as he enters retirement, and begins this new educational journey.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EQUITABLE HEALTH CARE FOR NEUROBIOLOGICAL DISORDERS ACT OF 1995

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 1995

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Equitable Health Care for Neurological Disorders Act of 1995. I want to thank my colleagues, Representatives MCHALE, WARD, and GEJDENSON, for joining me as original cosponsors.

I am proud once again to introduce this important measure that would make such a dramatic difference in the lives of people afflicted with neurobiological disorders. This year, I am especially honored to be reintroducing the bill in memory of my dear friend, Enid Peschel. Enid was a pioneer in the emerging study of neurobiological disorders and the inspiration behind my decision to introduce this bill. It is my hope that her dream of seeing this legislation become law will be realized in this session of Congress.

As an active participant in the fight for health care reform, I continue to believe that health care reform is a goal that we must continue to work toward. All Americans should have the security of knowing that they will have health care coverage—regardless of their health or economic status.

Perhaps no group of individuals has faced more discrimination by our Nation's health care system than those with severe mental illnesses. In the past 15 years, a revolution has occurred in neurobiology that has clearly documented that many of these severe mental illnesses are, in fact, physical illnesses. These physical disorders of the brain—neurobiological disorders—are characterized by neuroanatomical and neurochemical abnormalities. Controlled clinical research undertaken by scientists across the Nation have produced a body of irrefutable scientific evidence documenting the physical nature of these disorders.

Despite this, individuals with neurobiological disorders and their families continue to face discrimination and stigmatization by health insurance plans and society at large. I have visited with families who have had to cope not only with the emotional pain of dealing with neurobiological disorders, such as schizophrenia and autism, but the financial hardship as well.

Health insurance coverage for mental disorders is often limited to 30 to 60 inpatient days per year, compared with 120 days for physical illnesses; copayments, which are usually about 20 percent for physical illnesses, are often raised to 50 percent. Because of these arbitrary limits on coverage, individuals and families affected by these disorders are faced with onerous financial burdens. These people deserve the same kind of care and treatment that is available to those who suffer from other severe illnesses such as cancer, diabetes, or heart disease.

Families who are faced with severe mental illnesses should not be placed in a different

category—financially burdened, stigmatized, and treated as if they had done something wrong.

My bill would help these individuals and their families by requiring nondiscriminatory treatment of neurobiological disorders. Health care plans would be required to provide coverage that is not more restrictive than coverage provided for other major physical illnesses and that is consistent with effective and common methods of controlling health care costs—such as copayments and deductibles. My bill also stipulates specific benefits that must be provided and assesses a penalty on those plans that do not comply with the act's requirements.

Requiring equal health coverage of these disorders is not just important to individuals suffering from neurobiological disorders and their families. It is also important to the Nation. According to the National Institutes of Mental Health, equitable insurance coverage for severe mental disorders will yield \$2.2 billion in net savings each year through decreased use of general medical services and a substantial decrease in social costs.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting passage of this important legislation. Adoption of this policy would go a long way toward saving billions of dollars in wasteful spending, eliminating the stigmatism and misunderstanding so often associated with neurobiological disorders, and most importantly, ensuring that all those suffering from these devastating illnesses are adequately cared for.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

HON. DAVID MINGE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 1995

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, actions of public officials are always scrutinized for conflicts of interest and self-benefit—and they should be. As public officials, we are trustees of the people we represent in the Nation. We should not benefit from the programs upon which we deliberate unless we do so on the same basis as the rest of the population, or unless the benefit is fully disclosed and subject to review. The goal is not just to avoid impropriety but also the appearance of impropriety. If we do not observe these principles, it undermines our role in this democratic institution.

In 1991, before I even considered becoming a candidate for the U.S. Congress, my wife and I purchased 106 acres of land adjoining the farm building site where we live. These 106 acres were once the fields and pastures, which together with our home site, comprised a single farm. Approximately 55 acres of our purchased land had been enrolled in Conservation Reserve Program [CRP] by the seller. As a part of the sale, we made an agreement with the seller to abide by the CRP contract. However, our contract and the current CRP program will expire in 1996.

The U.S. Congress is now considering the renewal of CRP. Since I sit on the House Agriculture Committee and the subcommittees which have jurisdiction over this legislation, my wife and I have applied to withdraw all our land from CRP effective September 30, 1995.

We expect that this will be approved except for a 2.7 acre tract on which the prior owner planted trees. This is a wind break/wildlife habitat and will stay in CRP for 1 more year. We have developed a conservation plan for the highly erodible land that has been in CRP.

I hope this will clearly avoid any appearance of any self-interest in my work as a Member of Congress, on the Agriculture Committee, in promoting the continuation of CRP. I feel this is an important program and deserves disinterested analysis and review by Congress. I look forward to being a part of that process.

I appreciate the benefits of CRP for highly erodible land in this country. We must minimize top soil loss, protect ground water, and continue to reduce the fertilizer and chemical runoff to our lakes and streams. When this can be done in such a way that we provide wildlife habitat, and advance the farm program, it is a win-win situation. With such a tight budget this will be a challenge.

A REALISTIC LOOK AT CRIME FIGHTING FROM THE NEW BEDFORD STANDARD TIMES

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 1995

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, the city of New Bedford is an ethnically diverse, older industrial city, which is also one of the major fishing ports in the country. Thus, it has had its share of experience with all of the problems that affect modern America. And this has given the New Bedford Standard Times, the newspaper of New Bedford, a very good perspective on versions of these problems, including that of urban crime. It is for this reason that the very thoughtful and cogent editorial which ran in the Standard Times on May 25 seems to me worth sharing here. Too often today, in American journalism, bad news is all that gets attention. And the antidote to this is not factitious and unfounded optimism, but a willingness to look at encouraging trends in a thoughtful way, and to see what we can do to promote these trends.

The editorial in the Standards Times which I ask to be printed here does exactly that. The Standard Times quotes New Bedford Police Chief Richard Benoit in strong support of community policing. It points out that "grassroots policing and community building activities that prevent crime from occurring in the first place, are an essential part of an overall anticrime strategy."

No one can accuse the Standard Times of being soft on crime, or unaware of the need for strong law enforcement measures. The balance and thoughtful appraisal it gives of recent crime fighting efforts is all the more valuable for that reason. I ask that the editorial be printed here.

[From the New Bedford Standard Times,
May 25, 1995]

SUNNIER CRIME STATISTICS POINT THE DIRECTION FOR THE FUTURE

Life in the community got a lot better in New Bedford in 1994, judging by the crime statistics just released for the state. This city was one of a handful to experience a sharp drop in serious crime—a full 27 percent. Other towns and cities did even better;

crime in Plymouth dropped an amazing 67.6 percent, Weymouth 40.2 percent.

And in case anyone suspects that all towns and cities had the same results, look at Fall River, where the decline was modest, at 4.4 percent, and at Lowell, where crime rose 44.5 percent.

What is going on here? Is this news for New Bedford as good as it seems?

Perhaps it is. While it is not safe to make sweeping conclusions based on one year's statistics, something obviously went right in New Bedford last year. It goes against the reputation of this city to learn that there were just three murders here last year; that's fewer than some small towns experience. And it is far cry from such places as gang-infested Gary, Indiana, the per capita murder capital of the country, which can barely keep count.

New Bedford Police Chief Richard Benoit's view is that community policing—more uniformed officers working in concert with neighborhood associations—are making a dramatic difference. "You can put as many undercover officers out there but you wouldn't be having the same effect on someone who sees a uniformed officer," he told our reporter.

That strikes us as common sense, and it ought to be remembered by those in the state Legislature and in Congress who believe that the most effective way to fight crime is to endlessly build new prisons while starving the grassroots policing and community-building activities that prevent crime from occurring in the first place.

It used to be that liberals were routinely mocked for being for all the "soft" community programs intended to build character and keep young lives from going the wrong way. Now, the majority in Congress has set its sights on much the same objective, couching it in terms of such things as traditional "family values" and the old social structures in which people watched out for each other.

It would pay these lawmakers to keep an eye on New Bedford and other places, where such things are being tried with apparent success. It is not that this community has suddenly become an oasis of calm in a crime-ridden America. Heaven knows we still have our problems with drugs and violence. It just pays to remember that it could be far worse, it has been far worse, and our own experience can be our guide.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY AWARDEES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 1995

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize two constituents from the Second Congressional District in Mississippi. The Rev. Benjamin Ashford, Jr., pastor of Raspberry Chapel United Methodist Church, and Ms. Ada Brown, a retired teacher in Indianola, MI, were recently in Washington to receive the "Make a Difference Day Award" from the USA weekend magazine. These two constituents are to be honored for their diligence and determination in making a difference in their community. Reverend Ashford and Ms. Brown have devoted much time and effort to eliminating teenage pregnancy as well as encouraging teen mothers to continue their studies and graduate from high school. Instead of merely preaching sexual abstinence,

Reverend Ashford and Ms. Brown use interactive instruction to provide young people with the skills needed to be assertive in saying "no."

Mr. Speaker, these are the types of leaders, though there are many, who so often go unrecognized. I take extreme pleasure in recognizing Reverend Ashford and Ms. Brown.

DR. HADEN MCKAY RETIRES AS MAYOR OF HUMBLE, TX, AFTER DECADES OF SERVICE

HON. JACK FIELDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 1995

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for most of us who call Humble, TX, home, and who voted in city elections on May 6, it was unprecedented: For the first time in our adult lives, Dr. Haden E. McKay was not on the ballot for mayor. At 87 years young, Mayor McKay had decided that the rigors of balancing a medical practice and leading a city of 14,000 people simply did not allow him enough time with Lillian, his wife of 54 years.

I could easily take up an hour or tow of the House's time listing honors that have been accorded Mayor McKay, citing his amazing catalog of medical society memberships, and reading Dr. McKay's truly impressive civic accomplishments. But for those of us who know him and respect him, that simply wouldn't do this great man justice.

Haden McKay is more—far more—than a list of medical society honors and civic memberships. Since he began his medical practice in Humble in 1938, Dr. McKay has been a guiding force in my hometown. Dr. McKay has seen Humble grow from a small town with board walks and dirt streets to a modern community that is home to Houston Intercontinental Airport and a wide variety of other businesses and industries. Dr. McKay has done more than observe such changes; he, more than any other single individual, is responsible for bringing about that transformation.

Mr. Speaker, Haden McKay has served his community as a medical professional as well as public official for well over half a century. And in an interview with the Houston Chronicle in 1991, he explained that he chose a career in doctoring for the same reason he chose to enter public service: to help people. I dare say there aren't too many people in Humble whose lives haven't been touched directly and significantly by Dr. McKay. During his medical career, he's brought more than 4,000 babies into this world. And even those he didn't deliver have been helped through Dr. McKay's successful efforts to responsibly guide Humble through changing times and toward a better future for all of its people.

Haden McKay has helped others as a caring doctor, as a courageous member of the U.S. Army Medical Corps, and as a concerned public servant. He has enjoyed well-deserved success in each of those areas. His medical practice provided accessible health care to an entire community. At the time of his discharge from the Army, he held the rank of major. And during his years as city council member and mayor, Humble has grown larger without losing the high quality of life we have always enjoyed in Humble.

Mr. McKay may no longer hold the title of "Mayor of Humble," but he will forever be known as "Mr. Humble" to his friends and neighbors. While we all wish Humble's new mayor, Wilson Archer, the very best of luck as he begins his first term as mayor, we all know that he has some very, very big boots to fill.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to salute a man who I respect almost as a second father. I know you and all of my colleagues join with me in wishing Dr. McKay and his wife, Lillian, many, many years of the same good health and happiness they have given to so many of us in Humble, TX, throughout their lives.

TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND WILLIAM T. KENNEDY, JR.

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 1995

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the outstanding contributions of the Reverend William T. Kennedy, Jr., to his community during his 25 years of service to the people of Philadelphia.

As a minister, educator, writer and lecturer, Dr. Kennedy has greatly influenced the lives of the many people who have been fortunate enough to know and work with him during his remarkable career.

Dr. Kennedy received a bachelor of science degree from the District of Columbia University in 1953 and went on to earn a bachelor of divinity studies from Drew Theological Seminary in 1956. He furthered his education, as well as his spiritual growth, by enrolling in Wesley Theological Seminary where he earned a master of divinity degree in 1963 and a master of sacred theology degree in 1964. In 1981 he was awarded the doctor of divinity degree from Livingstone College.

During his 25-year ministry, Dr. Kennedy has served as the pastor of Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church for 12 years, pastor of Tioga United Methodist Church for 3 years, and pastor of the Grace United Methodist Church for the past 10 years.

He shared his knowledge and experience by teaching others not only through his ministry, but also in academic environments. His academic experience includes: professor of ethics at Waterbury Hospital School of Nursing, associate professor of sociology and religion at Eastern College, adjunct professor of preaching at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, associate professor of preaching and practical theology at Yale Divinity School, professor of preaching at Lutheran Theological Seminary's Urban Institute, and adjunct professor of preaching at Drew Theological Seminary. In addition to teaching he has authored several publications and lectured on subjects including, "The Genius of Black Preaching" and the "The Black Preacher and Social Issues."

In addition to these accomplishments, Dr. Kennedy still found time to serve as a community leader in several church councils, community based committees, and the NAACP.

For these accomplishments, and most importantly, for the positive effects that these accomplishments have had on the people of Philadelphia, I would like to recognize and thank the Reverend William Kennedy, Jr.