

The anti-worker provisions in this bill constitute nothing less than a full-scale attack on basic rights of working Americans.

Six thousand American workers are injured on the job each day, costing businesses \$112 billion each year. In California alone in 1993, 750,000 workers suffered from occupational injuries and illnesses and 615 workers lost their lives while doing their jobs.

In my district, workers face dangers from working with solvents, acids, metals, and toxic gases that can cause birth defects, cardiopulmonary problems, and damage to vital organs such as liver and kidneys.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration [OSHA] has succeeded in reducing on-the-job injuries by 57 percent since its inception. OSHA does have problems that need to be addressed. It needs to be made more efficient and to provide meaningful incentives to employers to provide safe and healthy workplaces. But OSHA should be fixed, not dismantled.

This bill would force OSHA to close half its offices and shed half its inspectors, resulting in as many as 50,000 more injuries and deaths to hard-working Americans.

Limited to the resources provided under this bill, OSHA inspectors would need 95 years to inspect each workplace in my State just once.

Furthermore, in yet another example of backroom legislating on an appropriations bill, the Republicans are restricting OSHA's development of ergonomic standards. Musculoskeletal injuries from repetitive motions account for 30 percent of lost workdays due to injuries and illnesses and more than \$2.7 million annually in workers compensation claims. Ergonomics, the science of physically fitting a job to a person, can reduce serious injury and illness and improve worker productivity and quality.

Yet the bill would prohibit OSHA from even conducting research to develop ergonomic standards that could help save millions of dollars and prevent hundreds of thousands of injuries. The cost to our society goes beyond the value of these claims. Workers who are disabled at unsafe workplaces end up on our unemployment and welfare rolls.

Those workers who lose their jobs will face a tougher time finding work under this bill. It would deny retraining and benefits to 273,000 dislocated workers and 84,000 low-income adults. The employment and training budget has been cut \$2.5 billion below 1995 levels. A \$357 million cut in California's education and training programs will force my State to drop 200,000 participants.

Finally, the right of working people to bargain collectively would be weakened through drastic cuts in funding and authority of the National Labor Relations Board [NLRB] and the prohibition on enforcement of the President's Executive order on striker replacements.

Hardworking Americans have basic rights to a safe and healthy workplace and to organize for these and other rights. The Republicans would take our worker protections back by decades.

This has been a fractious budget cycle so far, and I expect that it's going to get worse. Those who say that balancing the budget requires that priorities be identified are absolutely correct: and the priorities of the Republican leadership are coming through loud and clear during this Appropriations cycle.

If you're a corporate polluter who wants the government to just leave you alone—you're in luck.

If you're a defense contractor who wants to sell a few more of those planes—even if the Pentagon doesn't want them—you're in luck.

If you're an employer with an unsafe workplace and you just wish those busybodies at OSHA would leave you alone—you're in luck.

If you're cheating your employees by paying them less than the minimum wage, and you think it would be great if those guys at the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor didn't have time to deal with you—you're in luck.

But if you're a senior citizen who's wondering whether to buy medicine or food this month, or a poor mother hoping for a better education and a better life for your children, then this bill has a message for you: You're on your own.

That's a message which I can never vote to send to the people of this country, and I urge my colleagues to vote down this bill.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 2, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2127) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise to commend the chairman of our subcommittee for his leadership on this bill under the most difficult of circumstances. Discretionary spending in the bill we consider today is \$9.2 billion below the 1995 bill, a reduction of 13 percent. This is the reduction required by the allocation given our subcommittee under the direction of the House Budget Committee.

Needless to say, our subcommittee was required to make some very difficult decisions and to establish spending priorities for fiscal year 1996. The criteria we used emphasized programs that work well, provide the maximum return on our investment in them, and save lives. We also sought to make better use of Federal funds by eliminating or consolidating duplicative or ineffective programs to provide maximum program dollars and minimum bureaucratic overhead. In all, 170 programs were terminated in the bill.

High priority was given to continued funding for the National Institutes of Health, which received \$642 million or 5.7 percent over the 1995 level. NIH remains the preeminent biomedical research program of its kind anywhere in the world. Our investment in unlocking the mysteries of many diseases and determining effective and lifesaving treatments is repaid many times over in lower health care costs, a higher quality of life, and a cure for

many diseases for which there was no successful treatment just a few years ago.

We have made great strides in the war on cancer, heart disease, stroke, diabetes, mental illness, and other diseases that rob the young and old of valuable years of life and leave many disabled and suffering. As with any battle when we are so close to victory on many fronts, now is not the time to retreat from our commitment to remain the world leader in this field.

One area of special interest where a small but continuing investment by our committee over the past few years has paid off is the National Marrow Donor Program. Through advances in research sponsored by NIH, doctors and researchers determined that unrelated bone marrow transplants were just as effective as related bone marrow transplants in curing patients diagnosed with leukemia or any one of 60 other fatal blood disorders. The problem, however, was the lack of access to a large pool of prospective unrelated individuals who might have matching bone marrow for patients in need of transplants. With the great diversity in the genetic makeup of people, the chances of finding a matched bone marrow donor range from 1 in 20,000 to 1 in a million.

Having brought the need for a national registry of potential bone marrow donors to the attention of our committee in 1986, I am proud to say that my colleagues have provided support to me in this effort every step of the way. The result of this effort is a program that is a true medical miracle which is saving lives every day throughout our Nation and around the world.

The National Marrow Donor Program now maintains a registry of 1.7 million prospective donors and is growing at a rate of 36,000 donors per month. My colleagues may recall that early in my search for a home for the national registry, some Federal officials told me we would never recruit more than 50,000 volunteers who were willing to donate their bone marrow to a complete stranger.

We proved them wrong and in doing so have given a second chance at life to thousands of men, women, and children and the numbers are growing. As the registry continues to grow so do the number of transplants. More importantly, we have given hope to thousands of families who otherwise would have faced the prospect of certain death for a loved one.

Our committee has included in the bill \$15,360,000 for the continued operations of the national registry under the oversight of the Health Resources and Services Administration. Responsibility for the registry was transferred last year from NIH to HRSA. The U.S. Navy also continues to play a leading role in providing operational support and direction to the program with additional funding made available by our Appropriations Subcommittee on National Security.

Other small, but significant programs supported by our subcommittee likewise save lives. The Emergency Medical Services Program for Children celebrates its 10th anniversary this year and we have included \$10 million to continue its operations. These funds increase public awareness and train health care professionals for the unique emergency medical needs of acutely ill and seriously injured children. Forty States have now established training programs to improve the quality of care available for children. The leading cause

of death for them continues to be accident and injury.

Children in the United States also continue to be at risk from illness due to the lack of timely immunizations, which can prevent diseases such as measles, mumps, and whooping cough. Unbelievably, our Nation continues to rank far below many lesser developed nations in the immunization rate for children. Our committee remains concerned about this problem and has consistently provided additional resources for childhood immunization programs. Again this year, we fulfill this commitment with increased funding to procure and distribute vaccines through public health centers and clinics.

We have made a significant investment in this bill in other areas of preventive health care. Funding is increased for the Centers for Disease Control to continue its breast and cervical cancer screening program, its surveillance for chronic and environmental diseases, screening for lead poisoning, tuberculous and infectious diseases, and for education and research activities to prevent injuries.

In another area of the bill, our committee maintained its commitment to the Social Security Program. For the first time, our committee has provided funding to a newly, independent Social Security Administration. Our bill includes \$5.9 billion for the administrative costs of the program, a \$300 million increase over the 1995 level, this despite the severe constraints faced by our committee.

This increase will enable the Social Security Administration to continue to make the investments necessary to automate agency operations based on a strategic plan that will improve the quality and efficiency of services. It will also allow for improvement in the processing of disability cases and in providing face-to-face phone service.

This reaffirmation of our support for Social Security sends a message that we strongly support the program, its almost 50 million current beneficiaries, and the countless millions of current contributors to the program who are future beneficiaries. We recognize the need to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Social Security service delivery.

Mr. Chairman, we have had to make many difficult decisions in the preparation of this legislation, but we have clearly defined some high priority areas in which the Federal Government must maintain its leadership responsibilities. This was not an easy task and it is one that will continue as this legislation moves through the House, Senate, and into conference.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 2, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2127) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education,

and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Mr. FAZIO. Mr. Chairman, this bill is an outrage, and it deserves to be rejected and repudiated by every Member of this body.

This bill is unfair to the people who depend most on our Government: Our children and the elderly. This bill is shortsighted. It does not provide for investment in students and workers—the very people who will grow our economy.

This bill cuts \$6.3 billion from programs that average working families depend on.

Why? The unvarnished truth is that my Republican colleagues need to finance a tax break for wealthy Americans.

Every Democrat in this House is prepared and committed to bring our budget into balance, and provide a solvent, secure future for our children.

Yet, one-half of the cuts in this bill are stolen directly from the single best investment we can make in our future: education.

Overall spending on education has been slashed by nearly \$4 billion. Few children have been spared. Some of the most significant and effective programs for kids—including title 1, school-to-work, and safe and drug-free schools—are subject to potentially crippling cuts.

It's an exhaustive list, and frankly, to reduce this bill to a series of programmatic cuts, masks the underlying meanness of this bill. In its breadth and scope, this bill is simply a monster of inequity.

If you are the principal wage earner in a hard-working family, or you have found yourself among the growing ranks of the working poor, and you desire to provide a brighter future for your children, this bill is a declaration of war.

This bill declares war on opportunity. This bill puts politics ahead of principle. This bill values pay-offs ahead of people.

This much is certain. The Republicans do not discriminate. If you are not on the receiving end of the Republican tax bailout—that is, if you are elderly, poor, young, unemployed, or just struggling to get by—you suffer in equal measure.

Seniors fare no better than our children. This bill sends a strong message to our senior citizens that their past efforts are no longer acknowledged, and that their current contributions are no longer appreciated.

This bill guts the Older Americans Act, including Green Thumb. It targets other programs which provide preventive health support, pension and Medicare counseling, and home meals to a growing senior population.

This bill undercuts the health and safety of American workers. It undermines the enforcement of hour and wage laws. It makes it more difficult for people who have lost their jobs to find new jobs by slashing job training.

Some of the most vulnerable members of our society are subject to the most extreme—the most harmful—and the most mean-spirited provisions in this bill. If this bill is passed, victims of rape and incest will no longer be guaranteed the right to an abortion.

I urge my colleagues to stand up for working families and reject this bill. Don't allow the GINGRICH Republican to sell us down the river so they can reward their wealthy friends.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. ERNEST J. ISTOOK, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 2, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2127) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Chairman, I have consulted with Mr. STUMP, chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, regarding concerns raised by some veterans service organizations about the definition of grants in the provision of H.R. 2127 prohibiting use of Federal grants for political advocacy. They have long been furnished space and office facilities, if available, by the Department of Veterans Affairs for the free assistance and representation of veterans by veterans service organizations in making claims for their veterans benefits. The furnished space and facilities are specifically authorized by section 5902 of title 38. The VA is authorized under section 5902 to recognize the veterans representatives as well.

Chairman STUMP has informed me that the furnishing of space and office facilities for this purpose has never been considered a grant to veterans service organizations. The free assistance given to veterans by the service organizations is in fact of considerable benefit and value to the Government because the Government itself is legally obligated to assist veterans in making their claims.

Furthermore, Chairman STUMP has emphasized to me that the assistance and representation given to veterans by the veterans service organizations has not involved political advocacy in any way, shape, or form. The assistance has been solely for the purpose of helping individual veterans to make their claims for VA benefits. This free representation for veterans by veterans service organizations is unique. I know of nothing else like it and I want to see it continued.

Therefore, I want to make it crystal clear that there is no intent for this measure to apply to section 5902 of title 38. It does not. I have assured the veterans service organization that I will make every effort to make the legislation more specific about this point during conference.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
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ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 2, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under