

community, and especially the United States of America—but, nonetheless, we are still in a very difficult economic situation. We have complex issues in the area of energy. We are hopeful that this winter will be less severe than last winter. We are better prepared for the winter than we were last year and in years past. Soon our atomic energy plant will also be supplying electricity, certainly by winter.

But, I believe that there is a more important precondition than energy for Armenia's economic future. That is the means of communication between Armenia and the outside world. This is more important, in economic terms, than all other issues. Until we are able to have open access to the outside world through all our neighbors—Azerbaijan, Iran, Turkey and Georgia—we cannot have a normal economy. Our economic destiny depends on two things: the pace of economic reforms in Armenia, and how fast Armenia can become integrated into the international economic system. This is the issue that we must resolve together with you.

I want to express my deep gratitude to all of you for the great efforts which you have made on behalf of Armenia—efforts which are already showing fruition. And through the people who are gathered here, I consider it my duty to express my gratitude to the people and the government of the United States of America. The aid that the United States has given to Armenia over the past four years has been vital to Armenia.

I have several aspects in mind: first, the great humanitarian assistance that has been given to Armenia; second, the role of the United States in the huge assistance that the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have given Armenia starting last year; and, third, the great role that the United States has played in maintaining peace and stability in our region, and in developing a political resolution to the issue of Nagorno Karabagh. This is such an important contribution toward putting our country on its feet, that we can consider the United States to be a participant in the establishment of Armenian statehood.

A few moments ago, Senator McConnell pointed out that aid to Armenia not only emanates from the interests of Armenia, but also from the interests of the United States. This is true. It is true because Armenia has the opportunity—of course, with your help—to become a model—a model in terms of democracy, a model in terms of the free market, and this is the realization of the faith of the United States.

In conclusion, I want to express my deep gratitude to each and everyone of you. First, from day one, you have stood by our government unconditionally, and I hope that we have not let you down. I am sure that, hereafter in the same manner, you will show the same faith and the same unconditional spirit in standing by us—both in our difficult days and in our bright future, which I am sure is going to come.

I also want to emphasize the role of the Armenian Assembly—headed by my friend, Hirair Hovnanian—in these years of our independence. This is an opportunity to say that you are the organization which has proven that it is possible—without political ambitions—to help Armenia in a much greater way than otherwise. And I think this should be a model for the diaspora.

In conclusion, I want to put aside this official mask for a moment—I am a human being, after all—and say a few words of appreciation to a man who, as a friend in our most difficult times—in our coldest and darkest days—was with us, and was also a key person in creating close relations between Armenia and America. That was Harry Gilmore. Ambassador Gilmore set

such a serious foundation for relations between our countries that, on the base of this foundation, Amb. Tomsen, who is now in Yerevan, is continuing.

I also want to express special thanks to the man who worked the hardest and suffered most this evening, Amb. Edward Djerejian.

I feel an obligation to say that the honor you are giving me this evening is your way of expressing your debt of honor to our heroic people's patience and stamina. I would like to see us all, together, keep the honor of our people high.

Thank you.

RECOGNITION OF AMSA ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 7, 1995

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and JIM OBERSTAR, the ranking Democrat of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies [AMSA] on the occasion of its 25th anniversary. AMSA is the only national trade association exclusively representing the unique interests of our country's largest wastewater treatment agencies. As the first line of defense in our national campaign against water pollution, AMSA members are responsible for the high degree of water quality that we now enjoy in the United States.

The emergence of AMSA as a nationally recognized leader in environmental policy and a sought-after technical resource on water quality and ecosystem protection issues has paralleled the maturation of the Nation's most successful environmental law—the Clean Water Act. AMSA was established in 1970 by representatives of 22 municipal sewage agencies to secure Federal funding for municipal wastewater treatment and serve as a forum to discuss emerging national interest in improving the quality of the Nation's waters. Based upon the shared goal of effectively representing the interests and priorities of publicly owned treatment works, they formed AMSA.

In the quarter century that followed, the association grew and its interests diversified. Today, AMSA is a dynamic national organization involved in all facets of water quality protection and representing over 160 municipalities. Viewed as a key stakeholder in both the legislative and regulatory arenas, AMSA has built credible and collaborative relationships with Members of Congress, Presidential administrations and the Environmental Protection Agency. Recent years have reflected heightened involvement for the association in a broadening array of environmental laws and regulations, including the gamut of ecosystem issues encompassed under the umbrella of watershed management, among them nonpoint source pollution control and the protection of air quality and endangered species. As chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I am in a good position to observe that AMSA has met the goal of its founders and continues to pursue every opportunity to develop and implement scientifically based, technically sound and cost-effective environmental programs.

AMSA's active membership, prominence as a nationally recognized leader in environ-

mental policy, and a close working relationship with Congress and EPA, will undoubtedly allow it to help shape the course of environmental protection into the next century.

POPCORN RESEARCH, PROMOTION, AND CONSUMER INFORMATION ACT

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 7, 1995

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Popcorn Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act which will allow the U.S. Department of Agriculture to issue an order establishing a popcorn checkoff program. This would be similar to other agricultural checkoff programs for dairy, beef, pork, eggs, potatoes, and soybeans, to name only a few.

Americans consume 17.3 billion quarts of popcorn annually, or 68 quarts per man, woman, and child. It is one of the most wholesome and economical foods available. Last year, over 7,500 acres in popcorn production were harvested in my home State of Iowa, which is also home to several of the major popcorn processors.

The popcorn industry has always rallied to promote and market its product. As a result of these efforts, total popcorn sales have grown throughout the past several years, but a great potential exists to accelerate this trend with a larger, cooperative effort.

Under a popcorn checkoff program, popcorn processors would first vote to determine whether the program should go into effect. If a majority votes in favor, each popcorn processor would pay a small assessment on each pound of popcorn marketed. The Secretary of Agriculture would then select a popcorn board, made up of people from the industry to administer the program, with oversight by the USDA. The funds collected would be used for research, promotion, and consumer information projects with the goal of increasing consumption of popcorn.

I look forward to full consideration of the Popcorn Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act by the House of Representatives. This proposal will provide great benefits to the production of popcorn—and at no cost to the Federal Government.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF REV. WALLACE HARTSFIELD

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 7, 1995

Ms. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and respect that I rise today to bring to your attention, and to the attention of the House, the outstanding work and commitment of Rev. Wallace Hartsfield for the last 29 years to parishioners of the Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church in Kansas City.

Reverend Hartsfield was born in Atlanta, GA, November 13, 1929. He was an only child, raised by his mother, Ruby Morrisette. Reverend Hartsfield received a bachelor of

arts degree in 1954 from Clark College in Atlanta and a master of divinity degree from Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta, in 1957. His first pastorate was at a Baptist church in Pickens, SC.

Reverend Hartsfield is married to Matilda Hopkins and this year on August 28 they celebrated their 38th wedding anniversary. Reverend and Mrs. Hartsfield are the proud parents of four wonderful children: Pamela Faith, Danise Hope, Ruby Love, and Wallace S. Hartsfield II.

I have known Reverend Hartsfield over the years through his extensive involvement in the community. He has been a leader in many worthwhile causes and a wonderful role model for our city's young people.

Reverend Hartsfield recently chaired the capital fund campaign to expand and update Kansas City's Swope Parkway Health Center, which provides invaluable assistance to many people who could not otherwise afford or have access to quality, state-of-the-art health care. Millions of dollars were raised and the new health center stands as a testament to the untiring efforts of committed and dedicated people like Reverend Hartsfield.

His leadership was invaluable, also, in redeveloping a blighted part of Kansas City when he led the Baptist Ministers Union of Kansas City in their efforts to demolish the old St. Joseph's Hospital and replace it with a much-needed new shopping center, the Linwood Shopping Center. Residents of the city's central core had to travel some distances to buy groceries, drop off dry cleaning, and have a prescription filled, before the new development became a reality. Reverend Hartsfield successfully led the charge to come up with sufficient investment capital for the project, when resources for new development in that area of the city were scarce. He was also instrumental in the construction of a low-income 60-unit housing development, known as Metropolitan Homes, in that same geographical area.

Reverend Hartsfield has received numerous awards, including the One Hundred Most Influential Award from the Kansas City Globe newspaper; the Greater Kansas City Image Award, presented by the Urban League; he was named "One of the Top 50 Ministers in America" by Upscale magazine of Atlanta, GA; he received an honorary doctor of divinity degree from both Western Baptist Bible College in Kansas City and also from the Virginia

Seminary and College of Lynchburg, VA; he received the Minister of the Year Award from the Baptist Ministers Union of Kansas City; a Public Service Award from the Ad Hoc Group Against Crime; the Role Model for Youth Award from Penn Valley Community College, in Kansas City; and a Community Service Award from Kansas City, MO, and then-mayor Richard Berkeley, among others.

Reverend Hartsfield is also chairman of the Economic Development Commission of the National Baptist Convention of America, Inc.; second vice president of the National Baptist Convention of America, Inc.; president of the Greater Kansas City Chapter of Operation PUSH; and an adjunct professor of the Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, KS.

Reverend Hartsfield is a member of the board of directors for the national organization of Operation PUSH, the Congress of National Black Churches in Washington, DC, and the Morehouse School of Religion in Atlanta, GA, among others.

We are celebrating Reverend Hartsfield's 29th anniversary as pastor at the Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church in Kansas City, and recognizing all of his good work and the leadership he has provided in the community over that span of time. He has blessed the lives of so many. Reverend Hartsfield loves people and he loves helping people. He has made a difference in the city he calls home, Kansas City, and we're proud to have him as one of its outstanding citizens.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join with me and the congregation of the Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church, the family of Reverend Hartsfield, and the citizens of Kansas City, MO, in congratulating Reverend Hartsfield for his 29 years of service to his church and his community, and in wishing him many more wonderful years as pastor of the Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church.

PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION BAN ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 1995

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

consideration the bill (H.R. 1833) to amend title 18, United States Code, to ban partial-birth abortions:

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Chairman, I come before this House today to protect the intent of this legislation. In this country, we have a democracy, not a police state—so why are we in government legislating medicine as well as morality?

It is not the right of this House to govern, to micromanage how American physicians practice medicine. Who are we, without the benefit of the knowledge and specialized training, to dictate what procedures may or may not be performed by physicians. A weighty decision such as this should be left up to the mother, the father, their faith, and their physician—not controlled by government edict that is inflexible and ignores the specific and individual tragic circumstances. H.R. 1833 is a perilous infringement on the right of an individual physician to determine appropriate and necessary medicine treatment for each of their patients.

The legislative language of H.R. 1833 is extremely vague, without definitions of key phrases such as "partial-birth abortion" or "living fetus". With bills such as this, it is critical to have a concretely and tightly delineated definition for these terms of art. Without such definitions, this act of Congress would be ineffectual and unenforceable since no physician would be able to meet the burden of proof required for justification and defense of their actions.

Unfortunate circumstances, such as fatal fetal abnormalities and the fragility of the mother's life, call for sometimes unpleasant but necessary actions to sustain. This procedure is performed rarely and only as a last resort in order to preserve the life and the reproductive health of the mother. In tragic cases such as these, the families and the physicians have been through enough—especially faced with possibility that the mother will die as well as the child. Why turn them into criminals?

Mr. Speaker, I call on my colleagues to defeat this nebulous legislation that places physicians, who are charged by the Hippocratic Oath to save lives, at risk for criminal penalties as they strive to accomplish that goal.