

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I really appreciate the gentlewoman yielding to me, and I want to bring up a point about H.R. 4.

It takes food away from poor kids to fund tax breaks for the wealthy, sort of Robin Hood in reverse. According to the California Department of Education, each day 745,000 children will no longer be eligible for school and child care needs. Almost 1,000,000 kids a day, will no longer be eligible for meals.

H.R. 4 really hurts because it abolishes the donated food program, donated food. Right now 49 counties in California have been declared natural disasters. More than 6,000 pounds of food has already been delivered.

In the Loma Prieta earthquake 880,000 pounds of food were delivered. H.R. 4 eliminates those food donation programs.

People in my district are livid. A letter from John Cruz, superintendent of Fowler Unified School District in Fowler, California, writes:

Living in an agricultural area with a large population of low-income students, I am keenly aware of the negative impact this legislation will have on our students and parents. You can rest assured that a large number of students will come to school hungry. We make every effort to overcome obstacles so that we can effectively educate our students. But hunger has no remedy but a warm meal, served in the comfort of a school cafeteria. I understand that tough decisions must be made, but please don't make them at the expense of our kids.

This is a bad bill. I urge everyone to oppose it.

Not to mention the fact that this bill abolishes the donated food program—donated food, Mr. Speaker—which is crucial during natural disasters like the devastating floods that have pounded my district this year. More than 880,000 pounds of food was delivered to needy families who fell victim to the natural disasters of the Loma Prieta and Northridge earthquakes. Six thousand pounds have already been delivered during the recent floods in my district.

I have received hundreds of letters from community leaders across California and throughout the country who are alarmed by the threat this GOP bill poses to kids. John Cruz, superintendent, of Fowler Unified School District in Fowler, California writes:

Living in an agricultural area with a large population of low-income students, I am keenly aware of the negative impact this legislation will have on our students and parents. You can rest assured that a large number of students will come to school hungry. We make every effort to overcome obstacles so that we can effectively educate our students. But hunger has no remedy but a warm meal, served in the comfort of a school cafeteria. I understand that tough decisions must be made, but please don't make them at the expense of our kids.

Suzanne Du Verrier, supervisor for Alisal School District food services department in Salinas, California writes:

School lunch is not a welfare program. Including school lunch in Personal Responsibility Act as a part of the nutrition block

grant would become an administrative nightmare for States and the various school districts. All the work that has been done to bring meal requirements into a healthier realm will evaporate. Our Nation's children must not pay for the sins of the Nation's adults.

Maria Doyle, from Monterey, writes:

This approach will increase child care costs for low- and middle-income parents, even forcing children out of regulated care and back into latch-key situations.

Finally, little 8-year-old Annie Brown of Salinas, writes:

Everyone needs to learn to love, please don't hurt the children.

Mr. Speaker, don't be mistaken, Democrats across the board are demanding change. Democrats want to reform welfare, but we know we can do it without putting the health of innocent children at risk.

Democrats believe that we must move people from welfare to work not homeless shelters. We should demand and reward work rather than punishing those who go to work. This mean-spirited GOP measure will hurt far more than it will help Americans who want to free themselves from the destructive grasp of social welfare programs. It will only throw them out into the street, without the benefit of the training they need for meaningful employment or the child care they need for their children.

H.R. 4 is poorly conceived legislation and deserves to be rejected. It's been rushed through Congress for one purpose and one purpose only: campaign P.R. and a spot on the nightly news. The children of my district can't stand up to this Speaker's bully pulpit, but I can, and I encourage my colleagues to do so as well.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from California, and I would simply like to rise to oppose H.R. 4 because I think there is some misinformation around, and that is that the H.R. 4 does not cut school lunch. There is something about a 4.5 percent increase, and let me simply say to you that first of all H.R. 4 has no money for school lunches, and, second of all, the cash assistance does not take into consideration the value of direct food purchases, and there is no guaranteed funding level. We in Texas lose some \$690 million in school nutrition programs or total nutrition programs, and let me tell you that the State of Texas loses 58,400 children that will not have lunch.

Let us vote against H.R. 4. Let us stand for the children.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] for her leadership on this issue and for informing us of the impact of the Republican cuts in Texas.

WELFARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Ohio [Mr. CHABOT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker I yield to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOKE].

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I just want to point out in this child nutrition school based block grant and current law, CRS report dated March 20, that in the State of California the increase from 1996 over 1995 on these school based programs is from \$808 million to \$854 million, an increase of \$46 million.

Mr. CHABOT. Reclaiming the balance of my time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to read a direct quote, what one of our former Presidents said about welfare. Here is what he said:

The lessons of history show conclusively the continued dependence upon relief induces a spiritual and moral disintegration fundamentally disruptive to the national fiber. To dole out relief in this way is to administer a narcotic, a subtle destroyer of the human spirit.

Now some of my liberal Democratic colleagues on the other side of the aisle would probably call that statement mean spirited. But do you know who said that? Which one of our Presidents? Well, he was a Democrat. It was Franklin Delano Roosevelt. He was speaking to Congress, and he was absolutely right.

Sadly, Congress did not listen. Instead the Federal welfare monstrosity tore families apart. It destroyed individual initiative and mocked the concept of personal responsibility. It has become the narcotic, the destroyer of the human spirit, that Franklin Roosevelt decried. The welfare system has trapped millions upon millions of Americans in a snare of dependency.

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Generation after generation of people in this country never work. They get a welfare check every month, and they live off those Americans who do work. It is an absolute disgrace, in fact. And here may be the saddest fact of all. Innocent children born into the welfare habit are 300 percent more likely than others to be on welfare when they grow up.

We have kids all over this country who grow up in homes where they never see an adult in the home go to work. But I refuse to believe that we should write off entire generations and consign them forever to desperate and unproductive lives.

As terrible and as horrifying as it is, there are some politicians who have a vested interest in perpetuating the current system of handouts. This determination to hold people down is sickening, but the huge Federal welfare bureaucracy has real political power.

The architects of the current disgraceful system fight hard to keep what they have created, and those who have been complicit in creating the cycle of dependence that is our current welfare system simply do not want to see any changes at all.

When those of us who are working for reform propose some initial efforts to

break the bonds of dependence, we are told to sit down and shut up.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we will not sit down, and we will not shut up. We are going to stand up for the hopes of future generations. We are going to speak out on behalf of victims of the current system, both recipients, yes, and the taxpayers.

If the only coherent, straightforward argument made against welfare reform is the two command words to shut up, then maybe the protectors of the present system ought to consider at least getting out of the way.

The intellectual wellspring of the status quo seems to have run dry after a torrent of rhetoric and \$5 trillion of taxpayer money spent over the last 30 years on this ridiculous system of welfare that we have. The nay sayers simply have not made the case for protecting a bureaucratic Federal welfare system that penalizes work and rewards irresponsibility and writes off whole segments of our community.

So this Congress, I hope, is finally prepared to pass welfare reform. This bill is based upon true compassion. It has the work requirement. It protects children.

It seeks to discourage teenage sex and to crack down on deadbeat dads who want the Government to take the responsibilities for kids that they produce. They ought to own up and pay for these kids themselves. These deadbeat dads have been getting off for far too long.

Our welfare reform eliminates taxpayer-financed subsidy payments for drug addicts and alcoholics. We have been paying drug addicts and alcoholics welfare benefits and SSI benefits. It is disgraceful.

Importantly, it ends discrimination in adoption.

It is time for welfare reform. It is long overdue. We are finally going to pass this tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. MFUME] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MFUME addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. WELLER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, as one of the chief sponsors of the Family Reinforcement Act, I rise in strong support of the goals of child support enforcement provisions and the Personal Responsibility Act. All are Republican welfare reform initiatives.

The condition of America's families is of utmost importance to the future of our country. We must act quickly and decisively to restore and encourage and protect our most fundamental unit of America society, the family.

I am here today to voice my support for the common-sense goals of H.R. 4,

reducing welfare dependency by ensuring that parents support their children, strengthening and streamlining the State-based child support system and giving the States the tools they need to get the job done.

Too many single parent families have had nowhere else to turn but to resort to government support programs. Too many children go to bed hungry or do without, all because their deadbeat parents outrun the current bureaucratic and time-consuming child support collection system. This has got to stop.

Republicans are working to change our child support collection system. Republicans want to help the needy children of America, particularly when we see that today \$34 billion is owed to children today by deadbeat parents. In my own State of Illinois, that is \$176 million on unmet obligations to the children of Illinois.

Let us look at what is in H.R. 4 regarding child support. The Personal Responsibility Act has three goals in child support: to reduce welfare dependency by ensuring that parents support their children, strengthening the State-based child support system and giving the States the tools they need to get the job done.

It provides for strong measures to establish paternity, requiring applicants and recipients of public aid to establish paternity for their children, granting States financial incentives for establishing paternity.

The bill also provides better tools to locate absent parents, making additional information available to the States, including law enforcement systems and data on licenses, newly hired employees and members of organized labor.

H.R. 4 also provides streamlined procedures to collect child support. In fact, if you look at the States' caseload, which has grown almost 150 percent since 1983, then you will discover that this plan helps States manage caseloads more effectively by providing expedited procedures to order genetic testing, enter default orders and issue subpoenas.

It also removes the barriers that exist when parents reside in different States by requiring States to honor the child support orders of one State so no parent can avoid child support by leaving the State their child lives in.

And it also puts in place tough techniques, tough tools so States can enforce child support orders, strengthening the States' enforcement capability by allowing States to use assets, income and even lottery prizes to satisfy child support debt.

It also requires licensing agencies to collect social security numbers so States may match child support and licensing records and impose restrictions on licenses held by people who fail to support their children.

With adoption of the Salmon amendment today, it allows States to place liens on property of deadbeat parents who fled their States, such as someone

who would flee my home State of Illinois, to avoid their responsibility to their own children.

Ladies and gentleman, H.R. 4 provides tough tools to help deadbeat parents be located and, of course, be forced to meet their responsibilities. If you look at the facts, if you look at the record, H.R. 4 helps kids. In fact, when you know the facts, that too many deadbeat participants have stiffed their own flesh and blood for far too long, then it is time to support the Personal Responsibility Act.

Let us vote for real reform that helps kids, helps children. Let us pass H.R. 4 tomorrow on Friday.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AND REQUEST OF MEMBER ON SPECIAL ORDERS LIST

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name replace that of the distinguished gentleman from New York [Mr. OWENS] on the list for special orders.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. CLYBURN]?

There is no objection.

WELFARE TO WORK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. CLYBURN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I think we can all agree that the welfare system is in need of reform. But the Republicans' idea of welfare reform is to callously toss welfare recipients off the government rolls without much thought to getting or keeping them on payrolls.

You will get no arguments from me that the best way to reduce the welfare rolls is to find jobs for many of the recipients. But merely requiring welfare recipients to find jobs without looking at the factors that make it difficult for them to get or keep these jobs is a reform measure that is primed for failure.

H.R. 4, is the GOP's "Personal Responsibility Bill," takes practically no responsibility for providing mechanisms by which these welfare recipients can make a realistic transition from welfare to work.

First, the bill that we are debating here today contains no funding for work programs. Under this bill, welfare recipients can receive government assistance for up to two years before they are required to work. Why not begin right away with helping these recipients find gainful employment?

Second, this is the same bill that would put low-income working mothers in a bind by cutting federal funds to existing childcare programs.