

but Hoosiers are right to be skeptical and demand more progress. First, even a 10% or 20% reduction in crime would leave us far less safe than we were twenty or thirty years ago. Persons who remember what it was like to leave a home unlocked or the keys in the ignition will not and should not be satisfied with only a modest reduction in the crime rate. Second, while crime has declined significantly in cities, it continues to rise in small communities and rural areas. I have pushed for more attention to the unique crime problems in these communities, which are too often ignored by the media and policymakers. Crime has long been primarily a state and local matter, but there are things the federal government can do to help.

POLICE

One reason given for the reduction in urban crime rates is the increased focus cities have placed on community policing. More communities in southern Indiana are adapting this technique to fit our needs, and I am hopeful we can achieve a similar reduction in crime. For example, many officers meet regularly with local business and neighborhood organizations, patrol public places on foot and on bicycle, and run drug education programs in our local schools.

Our law enforcement officers are often overwhelmed, however, by increases in violent crime. In 1960, there were about 3 police officers for every violent crime in America. By 1993, that number was reversed: 3 violent crimes per police officer. More officers are clearly needed. I am pleased that the federal COPS program has provided funding for more than 70 new officers in southern Indiana, all paid for by reductions in the federal workforce. These officers are an important addition to the work of all Ninth District law enforcement, and we must continue our efforts to provide more police.

PROSECUTORS

Even the best police work will fall short without tough follow-up by prosecutors. My sense is that too little attention has been paid to the problems facing prosecutors. Anyone who watched the O.J. Simpson trial knows how difficult it is to prove a criminal case. Congress should help give prosecutors more tools and more resources, similar to the way it has assisted local police departments. At the county level, prosecutors and judges are so burdened with growing case-loads, it is difficult to prosecute minor offenses. The U.S. Attorney's office has too few resources to meet the demands placed on it, which means that less serious offenses get reduced sentences or plea bargains. Criminals who commit minor offenses are more likely to commit major offenses later. It is short-sighted to let them get off the hook.

PRISONS

With my support, Congress has passed a number of measures in recent years to increase funding for state and federal prisons. These were also paid for by reducing the federal workplace. I supported measures to encourage states to enact "truth-in-sentencing" laws that require prisoners to serve at least 85% of their sentences. At the federal level, tough provisions like the "three strikes and you're out" provision in 1994 anti-crime legislation mean that repeat violent felons will be kept off the streets.

For example, last year a New Albany man was sentenced to almost 30 years in prison for repeated felonies with a firearm. Although he had been arrested more than 30 times on charges of rape, sexual battery, trespassing, and other offenses, the state legislature provided only a three-year maximum sentence for his 1994 armed robbery. Because of the tough new federal sentences, however, this repeat criminal received a sen-

tence ten times harsher than under state law.

As crime rates and sentences increase, prisons are becoming more crowded. Indiana prisons are 14% overcrowded today, and county jails face a similar situation. Without enough jail cells, courts are forced to reduce sentences or release prisoners early. In addition to building more prisons, one solution is to reduce recidivism, the rate ex-convicts return to crime. The primary purpose of prison must be to prevent them from committing crimes again. Many correctional facilities have begun to require more work from inmates, as well as drug treatment and literacy training. Congress has provided funds to create youth boot camps, which impose discipline and order on younger inmates. These are the inmates who are most likely to be corrupted by older, more seasoned criminals in traditional prisons, and the ones who will benefit most from tough training.

PREVENTION

We must also address the root causes of crime by providing strong alternatives to broken families, as well as opportunities for young people to pursue normal, law abiding lives. It is important to focus on our young people before they turn to criminal activity. I am particularly concerned that more of our young people are turning to illegal drugs. We must act now to ensure that this group is not lost to the cycle of drugs and violent crime. There are a number of outstanding community groups in southern Indiana, often working with churches, that run youth centers, drug treatment, job training, and counseling. These groups deserve our strong support. Parents, schools, churches, community groups, and public officials must do everything in their power to ensure that our children become productive, law-abiding citizens.

There is no single answer to fighting crime. It is a complex problem, with no easy solutions. Police, prosecution, prisons, and prevention are all critical components of an effective anti-crime strategy. Congress' role must be to facilitate the work of state and local governments to protect all our citizens from crime.

TOM BIGLER HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, in 1993, I stood before my colleagues in the House of Representatives to bring to your attention the accomplishments of a good friend and community leader, Mr. Tom Bigler. I am pleased to once again join in a community salute to Tom as he is honored by the Ethics Institute of Northeast Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, Tom Bigler spent much of his life as a broadcast journalist. His editorial commentary during his 20 years at WBRE-TV became legendary and he set the standard for local news broadcasting which is still practiced today.

Today Tom teaches journalism and communications at Wilkes University and continues his dedication to the community through his volunteer service. This month Tom will assume the presidency of the Board of Directors of the Family Service Association of the Wyoming Valley.

His affiliation with the Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce, The Osterhout Library,

Leadership Wilkes-Barre and of course the Ethics Institute have kept Tom on the forefront of local issues and policymaking.

For several years, Tom has brought his keen insight on current events to print as a columnist for the Times Leader.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to once again have the opportunity to bring the many accomplishments of this distinguished community leader, Mr. Tom Bigler to the attention of my colleagues. I applaud the choice of the Ethics Institute for selecting him as this year's honoree. I join with his many friends, family and the community in thanking Tom for his years of service and dedication to the community of northeastern Pennsylvania.

TRIBUTE TO BONITA HOUSE OF BERKELEY, CA

HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the accomplishments of Bonita House of Berkeley, CA, on the occasion of their 25th anniversary of service to the community. Bonita House has provided extremely important services to our community and provided valuable assistance to thousands of Bay Area residents who struggle with mental disabilities and substance abuse problems, allowing them to regain their independence and become productive members of society.

Bonita House was the first psychiatric residential treatment facility in Alameda County. In 1971, Bonita House opened the Berkeley Creative Living Center which was the first living center of its kind. This center has been instrumental in supporting people living with mental disabilities to achieve relatively autonomous and independent lives. It also opened the doors to the Junkman's Palace Cafe. Junkman's Palace Cafe illustrates one of many creative and innovative treatment methods implemented by Bonita House. The cafe has been a productive source for alternative vocational training and rehabilitation.

In 1982, Bonita House was given a HUD grant to open a living facility for adults with mental disabilities.

In 1991, Bonita House implemented a treatment strategy to deal with the dual issues of substance abuse and mental health problems.

The expansion of programs, the establishment of subsidiary agencies, and the implementation of integrated treatment services, are testimony to Bonita House's commitment to our community. It is with these attributes in mind that it gives me great honor to recognize Bonita House on their 25 years of distinguished service.

CLARION COUNTY, PA:
COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR

HON. WILLIAM F. CLINGER, JR.

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, all eyes in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania—and increasingly throughout the Nation—are fixed admiringly on Clarion County.

I have the pleasure to report that Clarion County, in the Fifth Congressional District, is the selection for the prestigious Community of the Year honor by the Pennsylvania State Chamber of Business and Industry. And this distinction follows on the heels of the Clarion River's selection for tribute during Pennsylvania's River Month last June.

On what grounds, Mr. Speaker, is Clarion County sweeping all honors this year? I have a hunch, and I will share it with you. But I maintain that the best way for you and our colleagues to understand is for each of you to visit for yourselves.

That's because Clarion County is nothing short of a stunning natural treasure. And, importantly, those who call it home recognize its wonders and true value. They share a very real commitment to serve as its stewards not only for today but for all future generations.

And it's paying off. Their dedication to preserving the beauty of northwest Pennsylvania has contributed to the region's flourishing reputation as a tourist's haven. The dividends, cautiously earned, will continue to be paid through the years.

I am especially pleased, Mr. Speaker, to share this honor with my colleagues in the House today. Just hours ago, the Resources Committee reported legislation to designate 51.7 miles of the Clarion River as part of the National Wild and Scenic River System. This legislation is really the product of 4½ years of impassioned public effort, and I ask for the support of the House to enact it in the waning days of the 104th Congress.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity to offer my most sincere congratulations to the people of Clarion County, PA.

HEALTH CARE FOR KIDS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today a bill to require insurers to offer health insurance policies for kids, coupled with a sliding scale 80 percent refundable tax credit to help families buy such insurance policies.

There are 10 million children in the United States without health insurance. Health insurance equals access to health care. Access to health care equals better health and a better quality of life. It is that simple. As a recent article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA, August 14, 1996, p. 477) so well said:

... access to health care is dramatically increased if one has health insurance, and this increased access has in turn been shown to improve outcomes, such as whether one lives or dies. The most significant action within the health system that we can take to preserve health and improve longevity is to provide health insurance to everyone.

The bill I am introducing is about the life and death—and lifetime productivity—of our Nation's children.

This bill is not a mandate; it does not require any individual to buy health insurance. It does, however, make sure that there is widespread competition in the offering of these health insurance policies and it does help families, even very low income families, buy a policy of their choice.

Health insurance for children in America is getting worse—not better. With the cuts in Medicaid, it may get disastrously worse. We desperately need to reverse the trend of rising uninsured rates for children. The General Accounting Office recently issued report to Senator CHRISTOPHER DODD, dated June 17, 1996, entitled "Health Insurance for Children: Private Insurance Coverage Continues to Deteriorate" (GAO/HEHS-96-129). The report states:

The number of children without health insurance coverage was greater in 1994 than at any time in the last 8 years. In 1994, the percentage of children under 18 years old without any health insurance coverage reached its highest level since 1987—14.2 percent or 10 million children who were uninsured. In addition, the percentage of children with private coverage has decreased every year since 1987, and in 1994 reached its lowest level in the past 8 years—65.6 percent.

To repeat, health insurance can mean the difference between life and death—and between a good quality life and a stunted life. The GAO's report I have just cited provides a concise summary of why the lack of insurance is so important:

Studies have shown that uninsured children are less likely than insured children to get needed health and preventive care. The lack of such care can adversely affect children's health status throughout their lives. Without health insurance, many families face difficulties getting preventive and basic care for their children. Children without health insurance or with gaps in coverage are less likely to have routine doctor visits or have a regular source of medical care. They are also less likely to get care for injuries, see a physician if chronically ill, or get dental care. They are less likely to be appropriately immunized to prevent childhood illness—which is considered by health experts to be one of the most basic elements of preventive care.

My bill is a small, incremental step forward. If it is by no means everything I would like. If I could waive a magic wand, I would make sure that everyone in America had high quality health insurance tomorrow morning. That is not going to happen—but this small step, starting with children, could help millions of children grow up to be healthier, more productive citizens. Like my amendment which started the COBRA Health Continuation Program which has been used by 40 million Americans, this bill could make a world of difference to millions of Americans in the years ahead.

Under the bill, insurance companies would be subject to a tax penalty if they did not offer for sale—so-called guaranteed issue—a policy which provided a Medicare-type package of health benefits, with additions designed for well-baby and well-child care and with a 10 percent—but no more than \$10 per Part B service—rather than Medicare's 20 percent copay. By requiring insurers to offer such a benefit package, consumers will be able to shop widely for a policy they can afford. The competition in this sector should help make affordable policies available.

The key problem is to make this policy affordable to the families of the 10 million uninsured. The basic reason so many children are uninsured is that they are in working families which are not eligible for Medicaid, but the families do not have health insurance offered through the workplace and cannot afford the \$500 to \$700 per child these policies will prob-

ably cost. Therefore, I propose a refundable tax credit to make the policies affordable. The tax credit/payment will be phased out at the rate of 50 cents per dollar of tax liability of the purchaser.

In the past, refundable tax credits have had integrity problems. I propose to avoid this abuse of the program by requiring that the taxpayer submit a 1099 type form with their tax form, in which the insurance company will certify that a tax-qualified kid's insurance policy has been purchased. The companies will, of course, also submit this documentation directly to the IRS so that a data match can be performed before refunds are issued.

I do not spell out how the 80 percent credit is to be financed, but the money can be found as part of a future reconciliation bill. If additional funds can be found, the credit percentage can be phased out more slowly to help additional families.

To repeat, the bill is not a mandate, but a chance for parents to have affordable private health insurance for their children. It uses the private market exclusively. It is a first step and as additional moneys become available, we can add a maternity and prenatal benefit for mothers-to-be and a slower phaseout of the credit.

I welcome cosponsors of the bill, and comments and suggestions from the public on ways to improve the bill and to help finance the proposal. I am introducing the bill late in this Congress so that the public can review the bill before the start of the 105th Congress and suggest changes and improvements before its reintroduction in the next Congress.

TRIBUTE TO ST. MARK CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate St. Mark Catholic Church, its pastor, the Reverend Robert P. Gehring, and the 421 parish families, on the celebration of St. Mark's 75th anniversary. On September 22, 1996, St. Mark Church, located in Gary IN, will hold a grand banquet at the Hellenic Cultural Center in Merrillville, IN, to proclaim its celebration theme, "Continuing the Mission of Christ." This banquet will be preceded by a jubilee Mass at St. Mark Church celebrated by Bishop Dale J. Melczek.

I would also like to congratulate the current Pastoral Council, which include Maria Azcona, Richard Burgess, Joan Bynum, Pat Corgan, Jesse Covarrubias, Alma Erris, Maria Gutierrez, Marcia Mizen, Roni Opong-Duah, Natalie Ousley, Felicia Flowers Smith, and Carl Terlicher. In 1994, this council, which serves as an advisory body to assist the pastor in decisions concerning the operations of St. Mark Church, replaced the former parish council.

Early in this century, traveling missionaries ministered to the needs of Catholics in the northwest Indiana area, and small parishes were formed in scattered villages and towns to aid the missionaries in their work. However, there was a strong need to establish a permanent parish. Without waiting for church authorities to ease a critical situation, a group of laymen collaborated to begin a Catholic parish in