

In 1896, in Toledo, OH, Joseph Blackburn, the Food and Dairy Commissioner for Ohio, met with his counterpart from Michigan, Elliot Grosvenor, to develop the foundation for an organization whose mission would be defined by the promotion of regulatory uniformity.

The initial meeting of the National Association of State Dairy and Food Departments, which later became the Association of Food and Drug Officials, occurred on August 25, 1897, at the Cadillac Hotel in Detroit, MI. This meeting was attended by representatives from ten States.

Since its inception 100 years ago, the AFDO has provided the basis for the furthering of uniform and rational regulations and the forum for the exchanging of ideas and the creation of solutions that win approval of both government and industry. The AFDO has also successfully ameliorated the status of consumer protection in the United States, and it has been in the forefront in support of crucial legislation such as the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906 and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act of 1938.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the formation of the Association of Food and Drug Officials. I know they will continue their proud tradition on into the next century.

TAIWAN NEEDS US

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I am happy today to give strong support for the resolution introduced yesterday by Mr. COX, myself, the Republican leadership and 82 bipartisan Members, expressing our continued and unequivocal support for the Republic of China on Taiwan. Mr. Speaker, the Clinton administration's response to the increasingly strident threats made toward the Republic of China has been almost nonexistent. They have pointedly refused to commit to the Republic of China's defense in the event that Communist China should invade or attack our friends in Taiwan. The administration's deliberate ambiguity in this matter sends absolutely the wrong message to Beijing, and practically invites an escalation of an already tense situation.

The Taiwan Relations Act—the law of the land in our dealings with the Republic of China, despite what Beijing would care to think, has at its core our desire to see disputes between Communist China and the Republic of China settled peacefully. We must make it clear to the rulers in Beijing that the United States intends to live up to its commitments under this law, and I think that this resolution will help to demonstrate in no uncertain terms that we take this obligation very seriously.

I would ask all of my colleagues here in the House to support House Concurrent Resolution 148. The people of the Republic of China on Taiwan need us, and the dictators in Beijing need to hear from us.

THE FAMILY SERVICE IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 1996

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to introduce the Family Service Improvement Act of 1996 this afternoon. I have been working on the concepts behind this legislation for a number of years. The Family Service Improvement Act will eliminate Federal redtape and unnecessary regulation. It will give local programs the flexibility they need to address local problems. It should create incentives for program coordination which serves kids and families better while making more efficient use of our resources. And it will demand accountability based on program results, not on process and paperwork.

I believe that a concerted Federal effort to rationalize and coordinate programs for children and families is long overdue. Over the years, Congress has created hundreds of categorical programs to help communities and families deal with the myriad of issues confronting them. Each of the programs was created with its own rules and regulations to deal with a particular problem. Over time, the list of rules and regulations has grown to stifle, rather than support, the very objectives we are trying to achieve.

In some areas, where local needs don't fit the problems covered by our categorical programs, our services for children and families are vastly inadequate. In other areas, services overlap and duplicate each other. For example, multiple programs may provide caseworkers to a single family, but each caseworker deals only with one aspect of that family's needs.

In many programs, caseworkers spend far too much time dealing with redtape and paperwork, juggling multiple programs with multiple eligibility criteria, application processes, and service requirements. The Federal Government has created hundreds of different taps through which assistance flows—and communities, programs, and families must run from tap to tap with a bucket to get the help they need.

As an appropriator, I am particularly concerned that our tax dollars be spent efficiently and effectively. In 1994, I asked the Department of Education to convene a working group on coordinated services to make recommendations for such a Federal effort. The working group was headed by Jeanne Jehl from the San Diego public schools, whom I would like to thank for her outstanding work. The working group, which met through 1995, included Federal employees and people from State and local governments and organizations across the country. I was particularly pleased that Maryland's outstanding Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick, was able to participate in this effort. The Family Service Improvement Act is based on the recommendations of that group.

FEDERAL FIXES FOR FEDERAL PROBLEMS

While I applaud the efforts of several of my colleagues in developing waiver bills which are now under consideration by this Congress, I believe that the Federal Government—not local programs—should have the responsibility of fixing the problems the Federal Government

created. Under the Family Service Improvement Act, a Federal Coordination Council is designated to oversee the effort to eliminate regulations, simplify requirements, and make waiver requests unnecessary. The Council's responsibilities include eliminating unnecessary and burdensome regulations; developing a single eligibility and application form for a range of services to children and families; developing a single information release form which can be used to authorize exchange of information among a number of service providers; and developing RFP's which can be used to apply for funding from multiple Federal programs.

INTERDISCIPLINARY COORDINATION

No effort to make services to families more effective and efficient will succeed unless programs which meet different aspects of family needs are better coordinated with each other. Cross-program coordination is the key to improving service quality and efficiency. The Family Service Improvement Act allows the creation of consortia of program providers in a community. Consortia members could include State, local, or tribal governments, and not-for-profit organizations. Each consortium must include providers in at least three of the program areas of education. Head Start, child care, job training, housing, nutrition, maternal and child health, family support and preservation, juvenile justice, and drug abuse prevention and treatment. In addition, it creates several incentives to encourage coordination, reduce program duplication, and improve services.

INCENTIVES FOR COORDINATION

As any State or local official who has been involved in the process will tell you, requesting a waiver from the Federal Government is time consuming and complicated. Where multiple programs are duplicating the same steps, common sense dictates that they ought to be able to join forces without going through the hoops of requesting a waiver.

For example, authorizing legislation requires many programs to assess community needs each year and to provide case managers to assist families. We certainly want programs to plan based on community needs, and to perform case management, but it simply doesn't make sense for each program to repeat work done by several others. Under the Family Service Improvement Act, a consortium of three programs which are required to do a community needs assessment and to provide a case worker to the same family would be automatically exempted from meeting such duplicative requirements as long as the requirement was met by the consortium or one of its members. Consortia will then be permitted to spend these funds to expand or improve their services.

In addition, the Family Service Improvement Act would allow consortia to set aside up to 10 percent of their Federal funds in a flexible fund. This flexible fund must be used to expand or improve services consistent with the programs run by the consortium. This provision will give service providers much needed flexibility to meet local needs which might not be anticipated by our Federal rules and regulations.

ACCOUNTABILITY

What counts in human service programs is performance: Are our programs working? Instead of measuring input and process, we

should be measuring outputs. Is the infant mortality rate going down? Are kids staying in school? Are kids learning more in school? Are parents getting—and keeping—jobs?

In an atmosphere of waivers, flexibility, and interdisciplinary coordination, the challenge of program evaluation becomes even more difficult. The Family Service Improvement Act creates what I believe is a workable system for both tracking and evaluating the impact of our Federal investment in these programs.

Many States are moving toward this focus on results, and have already identified State goals such as improved employment, reduced crime, increased high school completion and decreased infant mortality. Under the Family Services Improvement Act, a number of consortia will develop plans which identify goals taken from their State's list. The consortia will be responsible for collecting data over time to measure progress toward these goals. Data will be collected on a community-wide basis as well as disaggregated by appropriate subgroups as identified by the consortium, and published.

I believe the results of this demonstration will show that four purposes are met by collecting and publishing data in this way. First, collection of data will show how well the programs accomplish their goals for all people in the community, and allow the consortium to improve and adapt services as necessary. This information will become a valuable diagnostic tool for improving services. Second, publication of data will create bottom-up pressure within the community to serve all segments of the community. Third, disaggregation of data will help to prevent programs from cherry-picking the best clients just to improve their outcome statistics, and will create incentives to address the needs of the hardest to serve as well as the easiest. And fourth, collection of this type of data will allow the Federal Government to evaluate the effectiveness of its financial investment in these programs.

The Federal Government must demonstrate its leadership in promoting flexibility, demanding accountability, and eliminating redtape. We must get rid of the "taps and buckets" approach, and instead create a seamless flow of assistance that truly meets the needs of children and families. The Family Services Improvement Act is an important step in that direction.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

149

SPEECH OF

HON. RICK LAZIO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 1996

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly condemn the cowardly acts of wanton terrorism that have resulted in the deaths and wounding of innocent Israeli civilians in the past few weeks and to urge my colleagues to unanimously support House Concurrent Resolution 149.

Terrorism must not triumph. The terrorist groups responsible and those who support them must be held accountable. All civilized governments should assist Israel's efforts in its counterterrorist efforts, and I commend all the nations who are attending the antiterrorism conference this week in Egypt.

As an ally, the United States must stand by Israel and strongly support Israel's decision to make its people's security its top priority. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat must immediately eliminate Hamas as a political organization and the Palestinian Authority must stop the charade of Hamas masquerading as a charitable group. Legitimate charitable activities should be assumed by the Palestinian Authority.

Terrorism threatens every country, including the United States and no country can afford to sit idly by. As we learned at the World Trade Center and Oklahoma City, what has happened in Israel can happen in our country as well.

My heart goes out to all those affected by terrorism in the Middle East and I urge my colleagues to pass House Concurrent Resolution 149, of which I am an original cosponsor.

COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF NANCY FASIG

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 1996

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend. Nancy Fasig of Marion, IL, is retiring after 17 years of service with the Nutrition Education Program [NET], which is administered by the Southern Illinois Regional Education Service Center [SIESC]. I was the assistant director of SIESC in the mid-to-late 1970's, and had the pleasure to work with Nancy during these years. She was not only a model of efficiency and skill, but the kind of person who truly brightened the work environment and made it a better place to be. It is with great admiration that I wish her a happy retirement and best wishes on her future endeavors.

Politics is full of talk these days about family values and positive role models. There are few greater examples of family values than Nancy. She has given her all to her family. Nancy and her husband, Joe, have 5 kids, and have been blessed with 11 grandchildren. Nancy stayed home with the children until they were in school, and then went to work for NET. In many ways these two roles were similar. As a mother, she guided her kids through the trials and tribulations of growing up, while at work she made sure the office functioned on an even keel. The effort involved in doing both of these roles well is monumental, and the true embodiment of dedication, sacrifice, and love.

Mr. Speaker, in a larger sense, we all owe a debt of thanks to Nancy and other committed parents like her. To raise healthy and productive children is too often an unsung accomplishment in our society. It is in fact, the heart of family values. It has been my great honor to know and represent Nancy Fasig in the U.S. Congress. It is also my sincerest hope that she now reaps the reward of her labors by enjoying her family for years to come.

STATEMENT BY RABBI ISRAEL
ZOBERMAN CONGREGATION
BETH CHAVERIM VIRGINIA
BEACH, VA

HON. OWEN B. PICKETT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 1996

Mr. PICKETT. Mr. Speaker, I offer for inclusion into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD this statement made by Rabbi Israel Zoberman of the Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, VA, on February 16, 1996, at his request.

A JEWISH RESPONSE TO THE RELIGIOUS RIGHT

One of the poignant lessons of the Jewish people's story is not to take for granted a hospitable environment which confers equality on all its children. That must mean that we have a stake in preserving and enhancing the quality of American Life. Eternal vigilance is the non-negotiable price that comes along with the previous benefits of a great democratic system of government.

The United States has flourished due in large measure to its built-in pluralism, a complex and delicate texture that would unravel without one essential thread—the traditional separation between church and state as guaranteed in the First Amendment to the Constitution.

That principle has been under attack by powerful forces committed to replacing the enviable American way of life with their own sectarian vision. The Religious Right, potentially embracing fifty million Americans, first flexed its considerable muscle at the 1980 presidential elections and has kept faithful to its promise to try to change America as we know it. The proponents of our nation as an exclusively Christian one, have proven to be creative and resourceful.

Let us not take lightly a movement with a sense of mission, particularly one with a mixture of religious and political aspirations that also happens to have friends in some of the highest offices in the land. In spite of its flirtation with the State of Israel, I assume that the Religious Right counts the Jews among those who will yet have to see the light.

There is surely a no better place to begin implementing one's radical plan than in the mind of a child. It is no wonder then that our public schools have turned into contested arenas, with children becoming pawns in a scheme to recreate American society. I believe that God should, indeed, be present in our public educational system, but not in a subjective manner upholding a certain religious approach clearly identified or nebulous. God is found where caring, sensitivity, concern and learning permeate the classroom, where a student's and teacher's sacred heritage and secular curriculum are not compromised by undue pressure to conform to enforced guidelines of religious expression of whatever type. The Book of Genesis was not intended to be a scientific textbook. Its thrust was and remains to instill an appreciation for revered ideas and principles. The cause of religion is best served when its teachings and guidelines are expounded upon in one's church, synagogue and mosque, where interpretation is offered according to one's traditions.

While we should be candid about our fundamental disagreement with the Religious Right, we are duty-bound to emphasize to its supporters and to ourselves that we also share a common agenda.

The urgent need to stringent family life, though we part ways on the issues of reproductive choice and life styles. The significance of transcendent values and time-tested