

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

LEGISLATION AMENDING THE SPOUSAL PROTECTION ACT

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 1996

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to amend the Spousal Protection Act so a former spouse's right to a Federal worker's pension is relinquished if the former spouse remarries before the age of 55.

Current law allows a former spouse to receive a portion of the Federal worker's pension even if the former spouse remarries. On the other hand, a survivor annuity stops permanently if the former spouse remarries before age 55. It cannot be restored, even if the new marriage fails.

A Federal worker whose spouse remarries could have a meager pension to live on. This occurs because the former spouse does not have to relinquish his/her right to the Federal worker's pension even if he/she remarries. The law should not be structured so one individual enjoys his/her golden years at the expense of another.

This legislation will not take money from a former spouse who needs and deserves it; it will provide equity to Federal workers who may find themselves in a desperate financial situation in retirement because they are still paying a portion of their pension to a remarried former spouse. Current law leaves the retired Federal employee—and any new spouse they may have—with their pension diminished to protect someone who no longer requires such protection. In 1986, the Congress recognized the survivor annuity inequity caused by the 1984 Spousal Protection Act and voted to rescind the rights of a former spouse in regards to the survivor annuity in the event that the former spouse remarries before age 55. Nothing has been done to protect the employee's pension in the same circumstances.

There is a precedent for this legislation. Former spouses of Foreign Service employees are not entitled to an annuity under 22 U.S.C. 4054 if before the commencement of that annuity the former spouse remarries before becoming 60 years of age.

In this period of Federal downsizing, this legislation would also affect the number of Federal workers taking early-outs or regular optional retirements. These Federal workers are more likely to continue working to receive their higher salaries and increase their pensions. Because of these workers staying in the Federal workforce, younger workers with lower salaries may find themselves more likely to be RIF'd.

I have a constituent who is a Federal employee approaching retirement age. Although his former spouse has remarried a retired business executive with a generous pension, he will be forced to pay his former spouse a portion of his pension. As a result, this employee and his new spouse will need to extend their careers to make up the difference.

Mr. Speaker, I support the Spousal Protection Act, but we need to rethink what the results are for retirees whose former spouses remarry, and that is what this legislation does.

STATEMENTS REGARDING OVERCROWDING PROBLEMS IN EDUCATION

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 1996

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of my colleagues I would like to have printed in the RECORD this statement by Jackie Frazier, Kate Greanon, Kay Gerson, Drew McNaughton, Kate McQuillen, Jennifer Arner, Lucas D'Amico, and Charley Hart, high school students from Vermont, who were speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people.

For the record, my name is Jackie Frazier, this is Kay Gerson, Kate McQuillen, and Drew McNaughton. Our discussion is actually, "Overcrowding, or Budget [Problems] and Education."

(Alternating speakers): We've been asked to directly discuss problems that arise within our school, and our students participating in school for seven years—being in a high school—and the problem that most prominently arises for us was the overcrowding problem in our school. What all of you may not know, is that we have 5 districts that come to our school, and we also have people that are paying tuition to come here. As most schools are having a problem with budget now, unless they live—earlier, someone was discussing how in . . . a resort town, they have more money to put into a school system. We have 5 towns, and this school was actually built at one time to support around 750 students; at this point in time, we have close to 910 people, which is not that much over, but each year we are increasing. Two years ago, we had a class of about 80 students, my class is about 130, the upcoming class of 7th grade next year will have around 170; I think it's a substantial increase each year.

If you were to look at a town in your report, you'll see that each year we are increasing drastically in the number of students, but we don't have the budget to increase either space or more teachers. Sometimes we have to actually hold classes in this auditorium, over on the side here, and in the small media room upstairs, which is normally held for just movies. Each year as the budget stays the same, and the capacity stays the same, the students go up; and what we'd like to discuss, and we have a movie to show you, is that each year when the amount of students do go up, the actual grade of the school goes down in standard: in the way we survive, in the air we breathe, and in the rooms that populate. Sometimes the student ratio is 30 students to one teacher, when ideally it's 20:1. So, each time that we do this, we want to show you how it looks, in reality.

Can everyone hear me? (narrating as video is shown): Due to the reduced janitorial staff

over the past few years, and increased student population we see an overall depreciation of the physical condition of the school. There is no classroom space available; this American History class uses a corner of the auditorium as a makeshift classroom for one period each day. One of our stairwells . . . This was . . . one of the Junior High classrooms, and . . . you can see, there are many classrooms in the school which have a severe overcrowding problem. A high school classroom, with a ratio of about 30:1.

All right, so that was a video to show visually what's the matter with it. Now, I want to talk about what the funds are directed towards, instead of building maintenance. By 1997, the future budget is planning on increasing itself by \$617,000, and \$409,940 of which is going to Special Ed. programs. I think if Special Ed. is increasing itself by 85%, and while all of this is going on, U-32 High School is going rapidly down. We already mentioned the American History class, and how it's held over there; but there's also a Spanish class upstairs that has 30 students in it, and the rooms about as big as about a third of this stage. We're all cramped together in it—it decreases individualized . . . one-on-one help with a teacher, so they fall behind, and they can't catch up. The ventilation problem in the school, you've probably already noticed; so when one student gets sick, the whole student body gets sick. So I think on a national scale, U-32 is the representation of the problem, in that . . . we're supposed to be a world power, and I don't think our schools should be run this way. It's a bad way to represent our country.

HONORING THE U.C. DAVIS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 1996

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the University of California, Davis, School of Medicine, which is celebrating its 25th year of graduating students with the doctor of medicine degree. The U.C. Davis School of Medicine has a national reputation as a leader in the training of primary care medical residents, particularly in family practice with a rural orientation.

Because of its excellent curriculum and rigorous academic standards, the U.C. Davis School of Medicine was ranked second in the nation by U.S. News and World Report among all comprehensive medical schools in 1995. In addition, the school's academic medical center, with its outstanding patient care, superb medical faculty, and state-of-the art medical technology, is consistently ranked among the best academic medical centers in the nation.

Since its inception, the School of Medicine has created an extensive network of affiliated community hospitals, clinics, and physician group practices throughout the Sacramento region. The medical staff consists of over 1,000 primary care and specialty physicians, many of whom have gained national reputations for excellence. In addition the medical center

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serves as the only level I trauma center in northern California.

I salute the U.C. Davis School of Medicine for its twenty five years of contributions to the community and numerous medical advances. They have truly made our community a better and healthier one.

REV. LOUIS CAESAR CAPPO

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 1996

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker and Members of the U.S. House of Representatives, it is an honor for me to bring to the attention of this body and the Nation a remarkable individual who has devoted his life to helping others. Rev. Louis C. Cappo is celebrating his 50th anniversary of ordination into the priesthood on June 8, 1996. Throughout his career Reverend Cappo has enriched Michigan's Upper Peninsula economically, socially, but most important spiritually. He is currently Rector of St. Peter's Cathedral parish, a parish known for their poetic liturgies and beautiful music.

Reverend Cappo was born and raised in Houghton County, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. He attended St. Lawrence College and St. Francis Seminary in Wisconsin, graduating in 1943 with a degree in theology. On June 8, 1946, Father Cappo was ordained a priest in Milwaukee at St. John's Cathedral. After ordination he returned to the Upper Peninsula, beginning his ministry in Ishpeming. Reverend Cappo spent his first 25 years of ministry serving parishes, hospitals, and Catholic schools throughout the Upper Peninsula from St. Ignace to Hancock to Escanaba.

In 1972, Reverend Cappo settled in Sault Ste. Marie when Bishop Salatka appointed him executive director of the Tower of History and head of the department of community services and family life for the Marquette diocese. In this assignment, Father Cappo's responsibilities included running various social and community programs, including the Campaign for Human Development, Natural Family Programming, marriage, family, and individual counseling, infant and special needs adoptions, and infant foster care programs. Father Cappo served as director of the department of community service and family life for 13 years. In 1975, he was appointed to his present position, Rector of St. Peter's Cathedral.

Reverend Cappo is known throughout the Upper Peninsula not only for his devotion to improving our spiritual life and social programs, but also for the work he has done to help improve the area's economy. One of his most noteworthy accomplishments was in 1966 when he was instrumental in bringing natural gas to the Upper Peninsula. Father Cappo has participated in the International Trade Commission, the U.S. Small Business Administration Advisory Council and the Marquette United Way Board of Directors. He has also been chairperson of the Michigan Tourist Council and is currently Chaplain to the Michigan State police.

Reverend Cappo's devotion is recognized by colleagues, Catholics, and fellow citizens throughout our State. As an example of his devotion, in 1974 he was presented with the Northern Michigan University President's

Award for outstanding citizenship. This remarkable man is 76 years old and as devoted to his priesthood as ever.

Mr. Speaker, in Hebrews it states, "one does not take this honor on his own initiative, but only when called upon by God, as Aaron was, you are a priest forever." Father Cappo has been called by God to be a spiritual leader for all the residents of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. For whenever we have called upon Father Cappo he has been there for us. It is appropriate that we give honor to Father Cappo and as we recognize Father Cappo's achievements, we give honor to God. Honor to God through his priest, who is our priest forever.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of St. Peter's Parish, the Marquette diocese, and the entire State of Michigan, I congratulate Rev. Louis Cappo on this golden anniversary of his ordination into priesthood.

TRIBUTE TO JULIE SIMPSON

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 1996

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable dedication and accomplishments of a constituent in my district, Julie Simpson of Spring Valley, CA. For the past 16 years, Julie has been employed by the U.S. Navy in San Diego, CA. I would like to take a moment to commend her hard work and dedication.

Julie began her quest for independence in the Grossmont Union High School district's special education program. It was there that she was first introduced to the Navy Defense Subsistence Office of the Pacific Rim. Under this Navy program, Julie was given civil service status and became self-sufficient for the first time in her life. She began as a typist and has since moved up to her current position as a transportation clerk and computer specialist. Julie is responsible for processing the ordering and warehousing of perishable produce for the Pacific Navy fleet. Currently, Julie has a GS-4 ranking, a remarkable achievement for a mentally handicapped person, and has become an invaluable asset to the San Diego Navy Depot.

The Covenant Ministries of Benevolence in Spring Valley has arranged a recognition assembly to honor Julie as well as those who have played prominent roles in her life. The event is scheduled for July of this year in San Diego. Among those who will be honored will be Julie's mother, Beverly, who has served as a constant source of strength and inspiration to her daughter.

Mr. Speaker, in a time when our mentally challenged citizens are so often given a second rate status, individuals like Julie Simpson offer hope and assurance to us all. Julie is an exceptional person who has gained a solid identity and shown her strength and abilities through hard work. I would like to join with the many others in honoring Julie for all of her remarkable qualities and personal achievements.

WINNING ESSAY: "IMPOVERISHED METROPOLISES"

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 1996

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, when HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros leads U.S. representatives to HABITAT II—the Second U.N. Conference on Human Settlement—in Istanbul, Turkey, the official delegation will include a Michigan high school student whose essay won first place in the 1996 National High School Contest on the United Nations.

In his essay, John Hart, a junior at Kimball High School in Royal Oak, MI, describes the impact of migration, trade policies, and international economics on urban centers throughout the world, and argues for a "new set of priorities," based primarily on free trade and multilateral investment, to promote global prosperity.

Hart's essay, "Impoverished Metropolises," won a \$1,000 first prize and a trip to HABITAT II for both Hart and his history and international relations teacher at Kimball High School, Patricia Estep. The conference focuses on building links among national urban development programs, environmental studies and social service networks.

I compliment John Hart for his accomplishment, and commend his work to the attention of my colleagues.

IMPOVERISHED METROPOLISES

(By John Hart)

The fate of the world is entwined with the fate of its cities. Social critic Lewis Mumford remarked that "the city is a place for multiplying happy chances and making the most of unplanned opportunities." At the turn of the century, roughly five percent of the world's people lived in cities with populations over 100,000. Today, an estimated forty-five percent, slightly more than 2.5 billion people, live in urban centers. Every year, millions migrate to metropolitan areas in search of prosperity. However, bright hopes have been clouded by dim prospects, as rapid population growth has strained resources and ignited economic turmoil. These problems plague the growth of the developing world. Millions of citizens face deplorable living conditions, while others struggle to support themselves. Poverty and unemployment form the core of metropolitan crises; economic and social hardships in developing nations are one of the world's most prevalent ills.

The influx of billions of people into metropolitan areas strains the resources, leadership, and infrastructure of dozens of nations. Migration is a continuous trend. Citizens from the poor interior of sub-Saharan Africa travel to Kinshasa, Zaire, despite the collapse of its economy and services. Rapid population growth has pushed Kinshasa to the edge of anarchy. Between 1950 and 1995 the number of cities worldwide with a population of over one million increased fourfold, from 83 to 315. Cities, first and third world alike, are coping with waves of poor newcomers while affluent citizens move out, driven away by crime and a deteriorating quality of life. Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Jakarta, Mexico City, Cairo, Delhi, and Beijing face similar situations. The United Nations estimates that by the year 2025 more than five billion people, or sixty-one percent of humanity, will be living in cities.

Poverty and disease are rampant in hundreds of the world's metropolises. Unsanitary conditions breed infectious diseases, infecting millions chronically. In Poland, the