

still provide that 30 days will be used for a comment period, and then the President can decide and the Secretary of HHS and everyone else. So that is what we are asking be done here.

This is being foisted upon us on a day when the Congress is not in session. We have six bills up when Congress is not in session, this is the seventh, which has not even been printed yet. The purported offeror, the gentleman from Racine, Kenosha, he himself, when asked on the floor tonight, did not know himself what the waivers were all about. He is being used as some kind of pawn here. It is really sad what is going on. The only thing we are asking is let us let the people of Wisconsin, on an issue that greatly affects them, be heard. That is what they are asking me to provide for them.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution, this action, cuts off the 30 days.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I would simply make the point that unless we give the people that 30-day waiver, this will be a supreme act of arrogance in which only politicians are allowed to voice their opinions.

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBEY. I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, welfare reform is a serious issue. The welfare reform of Wisconsin attempts to put people back to work, but that does not mean that people in Congress should stop doing our work. I think it would be a gross abdication of our responsibilities to, sight unseen, approve these waivers.

I called Governor Thompson's office yesterday to get a copy of his waiver request. I still have not received it. If they are asking 435 Members of Congress to vote on his waiver request, sight unseen, that is bad public policy. It shuts out the American people, and this Congress should debate this issue.

WHAT THE 104TH CONGRESS HAS BEEN DOING FOR CHILDREN

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

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, as we know, this Saturday, Washington will be the site of a rally for children, called the Stand for Children.

I commend the organizers of this rally for their commitment to helping children. I hope this rally will be a balanced presentation on how best the Federal Government can help our children, and more importantly, make our children's future brighter.

I am taking this special order tonight to let the American people know what the Congress has been doing for children.

The truth is that the 104th Congress is the most prochild Congress in the last 40 years.

What is a prochild Congress? What does that mean for people outside the

beltway, people who struggle to raise a family, people who want to pass on a better America to their children?

A prochild Congress must meet three tests.

First, it must be fiscally responsible. Passing on a bankrupt nation is the surest way to undermine our children's future.

This Congress passed the first balanced budget in a generation. It tried to restrain the growth of entitlement programs that will bankrupt the country in 10 years unless action is taken now.

Our children, individually, already owe hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt, because of the profligate spending habits of past Congresses.

We must stop spending our children's futures. This Congress has succeeded in reigning in wasteful Washington spending, and that is probably the best thing we could do, to stand for children.

Second, a prochild Congress works to strengthen the family.

Villages do not make the best parents. Parents make the best parents. It does not take a village to raise a child. It takes a family. It takes parents.

Allowing parents to keep more of their money to spend on their children is the quickest way to take the strain off the family structure.

Our \$500-per-child tax credit is real relief for parents to help them meet the higher costs of raising children.

Welfare reform is another way we have worked to strengthen the family. Our current welfare system has destroyed too many families. It has actually made it harder for two-parent families to stay together.

We have worked to change that system, by requiring work, by removing the disincentives for marriage, and by making it harder for fathers to abandon their kids.

A prochild Congress also promotes adoption.

I read with interest the First Lady's recent discussions of adoption, and the President's endorsement of our adoption reform bills.

Getting children into safe, loving, and permanent homes should be the paramount concern, not political correctness.

I hope the President's words match his deeds and that he continues to support our efforts to promote adoption and remove the barriers to adoption.

Finally, a prochild Congress is a prolife Congress.

We have been the most prolife Congress in the last 20 years.

Some on the liberal left will make the argument that you can be both prochild and proabortion.

I disagree. You cannot speak on behalf of children on one hand while promoting policies that kill them on the other.

I am proud of the work of this Congress, and I am proud of the work they have done to help children have a brighter and more prosperous future.

The 104th Congress does stand for children and for that we should all be proud.

WEAVING THE FABRIC OF A STRONG COMMUNITY MEANS DEVOTING MORE RESOURCES TO PREVENTING TEEN PREGNANCY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I disagree with the last speaker, that this Congress has been a prochild Congress. It certainly has not acted on behalf of children when it refused children the opportunity to have a decent lunch so they could learn better. It certainly has not acted in the good interests of children when they refused to allow them to have food stamps, where indeed their families were suffering. It certainly has not acted well on behalf of children where they were denied Title I educational funds that go to disadvantaged children to learn better, so they can make a contribution. Finally, it certainly has not acted in the best interests of children when it denies its family or wants to deny its family a liveable wage so they can provide for their families.

Mr. Speaker, I want to join the debate today by saying this is May, and May is, indeed, a month when we want to advocate about children, about Teenager Pregnancy Prevention Month. This is a time that we should look at that.

I want to speak maybe a little more philosophically.

Mr. Speaker, the fabric of our society is woven from numerous threads. Threads from the Federal Government's policies and services are interwoven with threads from State government policies and services, along with threads from county and municipal governments, civic organizations and private sector efforts.

These threads form an intricate pattern of policies, programs and services, all interconnected, that in turn effect the lives of all our citizens.

To achieve a strong community fabric, the Federal Government must carefully consider the length, the strength, the flexibility, the vibrancy, and the quality of threads that we contribute to the weave of policies, programs, and procedures.

The goal of teen pregnancy prevention efforts should be to assist teens to achieve social responsibility and long-term economic self-sufficiency. Achievement of this goal depends on the efforts of the participant, the service provider, and the administering governmental agencies. The primary role of the Federal Government should be to facilitate the success of each parties' efforts.

Our current teen pregnancy crisis evolved over several generations when the social fabric became worn and tattered and began to unravel. Consequently, we must realize that we cannot break this intergenerational cycle or eliminate the crisis over night.

We must carefully examine the fabric of our programs to determine where

the strength is, where the wear and tear has occurred and where the frayed edges and holes have occurred.

The mending occurs when we revise current policies and implement new ones. To create an effective policy and weave a durable social fabric we must add the appropriate thread in the correct proportions.

Just as the textile industry weaves nylon thread to create a more durable cloth, to break the cycle of teen pregnancy and poverty, we must implement pregnancy prevention programs that educate and support school age youths [10-21] in high risk situations and their family members through comprehensive social and health services, with an emphasis on pregnancy prevention.

I strongly support abstinence education and feel that it is critically important to fund abstinence programs for preteens as well as teenagers. Within 5 years, a concentrated abstinence program for preteens should bring about a decline in the number of teenagers who are sexually active.

However, we cannot ignore the fact that today, so many of our teenagers are already sexually active. It is therefore imperative that we also provide funding for comprehensive prevention programs including contraceptive use.

We must also weave a comprehensive policy to address the numerous factors that contribute to the number of teenagers having babies. We currently have a patchwork of different policies which has been created by patching the holes in our social fabric.

Every time a problem began to tear the social fabric, it was patched by creating an individual policy to address each individual problem.

This patchwork includes the obvious differing policies: Encouraging abstinence, preventing unintended pregnancies among the sexually active, alleviating the problems associated to adolescent parenthood, and attempting to ensure that teen pregnancy does not lead to welfare dependency.

However, there are big holes in the fabric that have not been patched. These include establishing paternity and holding fathers financially responsible, enforcing child support laws, protecting young teenagers from sexual abuse, and enforcing States' statutory rape laws that are currently on the books.

We must weave a comprehensive policy into the social fabric at the federal level to prevent teen pregnancies.

The first thread is a policy that allows state and local agencies to implement concentrated, organized contraceptive intervention programs.

The second thread is to enact cohesive policies and laws, at the Federal, State and local levels.

The third thread is sufficient Federal funding to implement them.

Devoting more resources to preventing teen pregnancy will not only save us money in the long run, but it will strengthen the social fabric by improving the health, education, economic op-

portunities and well-being of our Nation's youth.

IN RECOGNITION OF COACH ELVIN J. JAMES, GOLDSBORO, NC

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of an outstanding individual from eastern North Carolina, Elvin J. James.

Elvin James is the head football coach at Goldsboro High School, in my district in North Carolina. Recently, USA Weekend Magazine honored Coach James with its "Most Caring Coach Award, 1996."

Without a doubt, education is an issue that is critically important to the future of our country. Though we spend more money on education than any other country in the world—\$27 billion to be exact—our students' test scores and literacy levels have steadily declined.

It is becoming more and more clear that we must return education to parents, local communities, and especially to teachers. Mr. Speaker, it is a teacher like Coach James, who goes that extra mile, who dedicates so much of himself to his students, that brings this message home.

Coach James is a living example of where hard work and dedication can take you in this world. Coach James grew up in Beaufort, NC, and was adopted by his grandmother, Jennie James, who supported him and eight other children by working as a maid.

She admits to this day that the family had very little, but Jennie James taught her children right from wrong.

Her continuing message, "Get an education, work hard, be respectful," had a great impact on Coach James' life.

Coach James excelled in football and other sports during his school years. In 1974, he was awarded an athletic scholarship by Elizabeth City State University in North Carolina, to play football and to pursue a college education.

Unable to pay for his expenses, James left school and joined the U.S. Army. After serving 4 years, he returned to college and earned a degree in education.

He has been teaching ever since. Coach James currently lives with his wife Mary Kay, their daughter, Ashelyn and their son, Elvin Jarrod.

Mr. Speaker, Elvin James is worthy of our recognition for more than just this. During the past 10 years, Coach James had helped more than 50 students earn college scholarships, and helped numerous students stay in school.

He spends countless hours on the phone talking with college coaches about potential candidates. Many times a year, Elvin James travels from State to State, taking students on

campus visits and trying to introduce them to opportunities, they never dreamed were possible.

Since he began, Coach James has put more than 80,000 miles on his car. He has spent more than \$3,000 of his own money, and given up more than 45 of his sick and vacation days to take these players on recruiting trips.

Less than a half-dozen of these players would have received scholarships if it had not been for these trips.

Coach James doesn't stop here. James is there for each student, literally, every step of the way; helping them prepare for the SAT or helping them fill out their college applications.

On several occasions, when parents were unable to take their children to college, Coach James was the one who took them and helped them move in. He has even let students with family troubles move in for a while, until things at home got worked out.

Coach James works in a school that serves many disadvantaged students. Many of his students come from broken homes. By many of society's standards, the odds are against these children's success.

However, Coach James is a great motivator, who encourages students to believe in themselves, even when no one else does. When Coach James looks at these children, he sees wonderful young men and women, who, if given the opportunity, will become outstanding and productive citizens.

Mr. Speaker, for more than 14 years, Elvin James has been touching the lives of young people. He deserves this award and our praise tonight.

Coach Elvin James, USA Weekend Magazine's Most Caring Coach, 1996, is an example of what is truly right with our education system. Our country and especially our children need more teachers and parents, just like Coach James.

I am proud to recognize Coach James, as a symbol of all the men and women who have dedicated their lives to education, and who care so much about our children's future.

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THE 1997 REPUBLICAN BUDGET: THE STAND AGAINST CHILDREN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. FILNER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, this coming Saturday, June 1, thousands of families, schools, churches, synagogues, and other organizations will gather at the Lincoln Memorial for what is aptly being called the Stand for Children. Stand for Children is a national day of commitment to children that has been convened by the Children's Defense Fund and endorsed by more than 3,000 national, State, and local organizations.