

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating one of the greatest teams in the annals of basketball, and of course one of the greatest players ever, Michael Jordan. In the more than 100 game that they played, the Bulls always delivered a championship performance.

And finally, I would like to congratulate and thank the greatest fans in the world for their undying support of the Chicago Bulls.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair certainly appreciates the gentlewoman from Illinois for holding up the shirt for display in her speech.

SUPPORT THE ELIMINATION OF NEA'S FUNDING

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, here we go again. Just as this Congress is set to debate the funding of the National Endowment for the Arts, NEA Chairwoman, Jane Alexander, has again shown us that both she and the taxpayer funded NEA, must go.

Last Sunday, at the New York Lesbian and Gay Video and Film Festival, director Cheryl Dunye premiered her film, "Watermelon Woman," funded by the tax dollars of hardworking Americans.

In the words of the director herself, this pornographic film depicts black "lesbians experiencing their sexual desire for each other." This film was produced from a \$31,000 grant from the NEA.

I believe that in the opinion of most Americans, Watermelon Woman has absolutely no serious artistic, or political value.

NEA Chairwoman Alexander and the National Endowment for the Arts are attempting to pull the wool over the eyes of taxpaying Americans by marketing this sexually explicit film as black history.

As Edmund Peterson, chairman of Project 21 and a leading black conservative put it, in Friday's Washington Times, "There is no demand in the black community for this movie; this is a classic example, of the Clinton administration, being in bed with the gay-lesbian movement, and funding a project through tax dollars, that can't get funded any other way."

Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time that Miss Alexander and the NEA have demonstrated a desire to divert our tax dollars to controversial works that demean the religious beliefs and moral values of mainstream Americans. One should not forget the March 1994 performance of Ron Athey, at the Minneapolis Walker Art Center.

This NEA-funded performance featured Mr. Athey carving a design into the back of an assistant, mopping up the blood with paper towels, and then sending the paper towels on a line, out over the shocked audience.

Miss Alexander defended the performance, stating in the Washington Post, "not all art is for everybody."

Many in Congress denounced this performance as an obscenity. Miss Alexander and the NEA responded by awarding more of our hard-earned tax dollars to the Walker Art Center.

Miss Alexander and the NEA have repeatedly thumbed their noses at Congress and the American public.

I call on President Clinton to find the moral courage within himself to protect the children of America from these obscenities, and to demand the immediate resignation of Jane Alexander. Mr. President, you cannot have it both ways.

Middle America does not share the NEA's values. The American taxpayer and the working families of the Third District of North Carolina do not want their money spent on so-called works of art, like a crucifix in urine, or photographs, which exploit our children.

This week, the House is scheduled to debate funding for the National Endowment for the Arts.

It is time the Government got out of the business of funding this so-called art.

I urge each of my colleagues to support the elimination of the NEA's Federal funding. The taxpayer cannot afford it and our children do not deserve it.

INCLUSION OF REPUBLICAN MSA PROPOSAL THWARTS EFFORTS TO MAKE HEALTH INSURANCE ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am a very strong supporter of health care reform and of the Kennedy-Kassebaum bipartisan legislation to afford us a first step in dealing with some very important issues that face working families today on the issue of health care. There is a serious problem that we do have today that working families face, two particularly.

First, is the whole issue of health insurance portability, that when you leave one job and go to another, what happens to your health care? People find themselves in that position today more and more without the opportunity of having the kind of health care coverage they need in switching jobs that is good for them or for their families.

The second issue that is very critical and important is the limits on coverage for individuals who have a preexisting condition where insurance companies will deny the opportunity for health insurance to somebody who has a preexisting condition.

Mr. Speaker, I have a preexisting condition; I am a cancer survivor. Ten years ago I was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Fortunately, today I am cancer free. But there is not a small business

or some business who wants to put me in their insurance pool because it drives those premiums sky high. Or if I go out and get insurance on my own, it is 12 or \$14,000 a year to cover people who are cancer survivors.

These are serious health care problems. They face approximately 21 million Americans in this Nation. Too many families, working families, in my district, the Third District in Connecticut, pay their bills, they work hard, they play by the rules, and they do live in fear of losing their health insurance if they change their jobs. Too many of them cannot even get health care coverage because of this preexisting medical condition. This is not only bad health care policy, it is wrong.

We have an opportunity with the Kennedy-Kassebaum bill, a bipartisan bill that addresses both of these issues. As I said, this is a first step. It is not all that we want to accomplish in health care reform, but it is a way in which we can modestly reform the health insurance industry to meet the needs of working families.

Sadly, under the banner of reform with this bipartisan bill, the congressional majority and the Speaker of the House today took the floor to talk about an opportunity for health care reform, but under this banner of reform what we have seen the congressional majority and the Speaker of the House do is to twist this opportunity, and in fact what would result would hurt consumers, and it would, in fact, increase the number of insured, the reason being the introduction of something called a medical savings account.

Medical savings accounts are expensive, they are destructive, and they are bad health care policy. They encourage the healthiest and the wealthiest individuals to opt out of the insurance pool. They allow individuals to create private accounts to pay for their medical expenses, and in exchange individuals get a bare bones catastrophic insurance plan with extremely high deductibles. It is shortsighted. What it does by people opting out, the healthiest and the wealthiest opting out of the traditional insurance pool, you leave the most frail, the sickest people in that pool, thereby driving the premiums up.

Mr. Speaker, I will tell you in order for the insurance companies to take care of these more sickly people, that cost goes up, and I am going to quote you a group, The American Academy of Actuaries, not a liberal group. These are the green eye shade people who look very carefully at the cost of insurance. Their estimate is that the process of skimming, getting the healthy out of this system, would result in a possible 61 percent increase in health care premiums for those who remain in traditional plans. If rates rise, people will no longer be able to afford insurance, and you thereby increase the number of uninsured in this country, certainly not what we want to try to do.

Let me mention another group to my colleagues, the Consumers Union. These are folks who produce Consumer Reports; you know when you go to look at buying a car, an appliance, and you take their word for what is happening, you do a comparison look. This is what they said on Wednesday June 12: No health care reform this year is better than a bill with the Republican MSA proposal attached. The inclusion, and I quote, of the Republican MSA proposal in the Kassebaum-Kennedy bill makes the legislation worse than a wash for consumers. It takes us backward in our efforts to make health insurance accessible and affordable.

MSA's are a time bomb. They turn the very principle of insurance on its head. Instead of pooling resources to take care of people when they get sick, MSA's funnel money away from doctors' bills and into accounts that will help healthy people accumulate wealth.

Please, understand that we have an opportunity to do something good for working families and health care, not through what the Speaker of the House wants to do with medical savings accounts.

WHO REALLY SPEAKS FOR THE CHILDREN?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. GUTKNECHT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, when talking about children, there is one significant difference between Democrats and Republicans. Democrats believe it takes Washington programs and Washington spending and Washington bureaucrats to raise a child.

Republicans disagree. After 30 years of excessive taxation, after 30 years of a failed welfare system, after 30 years of a rapidly failing public education system, after 30 years of a deteriorating justice system, Republicans have a different answer—in just three words—two responsible parents. That's what it takes to raise a child successfully today—two responsible parents.

We should not be asking the question "what should government do for children." Instead, our question should be "What must we do to get parents to do more." What children need is not more Government spending but a mother and a father who care about them. Americans have correctly lost patience with Washington, but they have not lost their compassion for the children and their commitment to the common good.

When talking about children, Republicans begin with three principles:

First, that the moral health of a nation is no less important than its economic or military strength. That fact is, you cannot have a healthy moral environment to raise children in America when 12-year-olds are having babies, 15-year-olds are killing each

other, 17-year-olds are dying of AIDS and 18-year-olds are graduating with diplomas they cannot read. If we are to restore the moral health of America, this behavior has got to stop.

Second, it is the results, not the rhetoric, that counts. Anyone can sound compassionate, but the truly compassionate are those that go out and find ways to make the lives of our children more happy and healthy, and

Third, we must be willing to face ourselves in the mirror and be honest with the American people about the failure of the Washington welfare system to help those who need it most. It is our responsibility as elected officials to acknowledge that Washington got it wrong, so that next time we can get it right.

We have created a welfare trap in this country that literally enslaves generations of Americans on Government assistance. Our welfare system has deprived hope, diminished opportunity, and destroyed the lives of our precious children.

Just look at our inner cities. You'll meet a generation fed on food stamps but starved of nurturing and hope. You'll see second graders who don't know their ABC's; fourth graders who cannot add or subtract.

Yet every year Washington spends more money on more programs to help more people—expanding the welfare trap from one community to another, from one family to another, from one child to another from one generation to another.

The Washington bureaucracy is well intentioned, but what the Democrats don't understand is that raising more taxes to hire more bureaucrats to expand a welfare system that doesn't work now will only make matters worse later.

And welfare isn't the only problem facing children. Among industrialized nations at the start of this decade, we had the most murders the worst schools the most abortions the highest infant mortality the most illegitimacy the most one-parent families the most children in jail and the most children on government aid. We were first only in the number of lawyers and lawsuits.

A Washington-based social policy does not help children. It destroys them. It does not keep families together. It tears them apart. Instead of turning urban areas of America into shining cities on a hill, it has made them into war zones where no one dares go out at night and often in the day as well. Instead of turning schools into bastions of knowledge and learning it has served as an employment agency for bureaucrats.

Washington politicians drag children to Washington to hear a couple of speeches by Washington politicians and Washington lobbyists. I want parents to take their children to school on weekdays and to religious services on Sundays.

Washington politicians talk the talk. We need to do the work.

And that work begins with welfare. Let me state this clearly so there is no confusion. We have spent over \$5 trillion on welfare related programs, and yet we have more poverty, more crime, more drug addiction, more broken families, and more immoral behavior. The Washington welfare system is broken. The Washington welfare system does not work. The Washington welfare system needs to be shut down. We need to start over. Period.

Right now, there are alternatives to the Washington welfare bureaucracy that are less expensive and work better than the current system. Let me just mention two.

Why does Habitat for Humanity work so much better than HUD? Because Habitat for Humanity first requires recipients to learn the responsibility of home ownership, then requires them to build a home for someone else, and only then do they build their own home. What does HUD require? Absolutely nothing. Do you see the difference? The private charity requires something of the individual. The Washington bureaucracy requires only something from the taxpayer.

Why does Earning for Learning work so much better than the Washington Department of Education? Earning for Learning pays young children in inner cities to read books. The more books they read, the more money they make. They gain knowledge and learn about positive incentives. Who does the Washington Department of Education educate? Absolutely no one. Do you see the difference? The Private charity produces results. The Washington bureaucracy produces rules, regulations and not much else.

The current Washington-based welfare system demands no responsibility, no work ethic, no learning, no commitment, and in the end, no pride. What we need is locally based solutions that involve local citizens working with local children on a face-to-face, person-to-person basis.

Spending more on the current Washington welfare system will not help children. It's time we take away the blindfold and accept reality. We have to rebuild parents, families, and communities, but you cannot do it from high-rise office buildings in Washington. It has to be done at home, in school and on Sunday.

Changing the welfare system will help children. Encouraging families to stay together will help children. Putting welfare recipients back to work will help children. Restoring the work ethic will help children. Improving the quality of local education will help children. Encouraging spirituality will help children.

But even that is not enough. It's time we tackle the problem of American culture. We have grown to accept prostitution on our streets, crime in our neighborhoods, and garbage on television and in movies. This complacency has to stop.