

and enriched by the hard work done year after year by ordinary volunteer citizens. Especially in our inner city communities which suffer from long public policy neglect, local grassroots leaders provide invaluable service. These are men and women who engage in activities which generate hope. I salute all such heroes and heroines as BEACONS-OF-HOPE.

Edena C. Gill is one of these BEACONS-OF-HOPE residing in the central Brooklyn community of New York City and New York State. During the 1960's, Ms. Gill became involved in the Civil Rights Movement and was motivated by such mentors as Jitu Weusi, Al Vann and many others who were involved in the Ocean Hill Brownsville fight. She even worked with assemblyman Roger Green on his first campaign.

Currently, she is a member-at-large of the Thurgood Marshall Democratic Club; recording secretary for the Central Brooklyn Martin Luther King Commission; member of the 100 Women for Major R. Owens; and member of the First Baptist Church of Crown Heights. Among her other affiliations, Ms. Gill is involved with the National Association of Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc. where she serves as President. Elena Gill also became active with the Lefferts Avenue Mothers, an offshoot of the Lefferts Avenue Block Association. She joined the Melvin Walker Democratic Club which later became part of the Partners for Progress Democratic Club.

Married and a mother of two, sons Kyle and Gary, Edena Gill has distinguished her life as one of dedication to community, God and to family.

Edena Gill is a BEACONS-OF-HOPE for Central Brooklyn and for all Americans.

INTRODUCING NURSE PRACTITIONERS MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce legislation to provide Medicaid coverage for all certified nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists for services they are legally authorized to perform.

Nurse practitioners provide vital primary care services to the underserved populations in our country. It is time we take full advantage of the quality, cost-effective primary care provided by nurse practitioners.

The legislation I am introducing would enable all nurse practitioners, regardless of specialty, to provide care to Medicaid recipients. Currently, patients are able to access the care of certain nurse practitioners such as family and pediatric nurse practitioners, but others such as adult and women's health nurse practitioners are not accessible.

Over 400 studies have confirmed that the health care provided by nurse practitioners in a variety of urban and rural primary care settings is of the highest quality. Nurse practitioners are particularly capable to provide health care to the indigent. Their educational programs emphasize the provision of care to patients who have limited financial resources. In a national survey conducted by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, over 60 percent of the patients seen by these providers

had family incomes of less than \$16,000 per year. Nurse practitioners rate as high in financial efficiency as they do in consumer satisfaction. Their ability to focus on preventative and curative medical services contribute to the quality as well as the cost-effectiveness of the care they provide.

It is well known that a majority of our underserved populations are located in rural and inner city settings across the Nation. While nurse practitioners are willing and able to provide services in these settings, not all nurse practitioners are currently being reimbursed by Medicaid for their services in these areas.

Nurse practitioners can play a central role in achieving our national goal of providing quality, cost-efficient health care for all citizens. I am hopeful this legislation will help to eliminate disparities in access to care for rural and inner city Medicaid populations by providing direct reimbursement to nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists who have proven their ability to deliver quality care in a cost effective manner.

DEFEND THE RIGHT TO LIFE

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a constitutional amendment for the protection of the right to life. Tragically, this most basic of human rights has been disregarded, set aside, abused, spurned, and sometimes altogether forgotten. Even more tragically, the U.S. Government has been a willing partner in this affair, and the sad consequence is the sacrifice of something far more important than just principle.

One of the things that sets America apart from the rest of the world is the fact that in this country, everyone is equal before the law. Regardless of race, religion, or background, each person has fundamental rights that are guaranteed by the law. However, we too often overlook the rights of perhaps the most vulnerable among us—the unborn. When abortion is legal and available on demand, then where are the rights of the unborn? When abortion is sanctioned and sometimes paid for by the Government, then how do we measure the degree to which life has been cheapened? When an innocent life is taken before its time, then how can one say that this is justice in America?

My amendment would establish beyond a doubt the fundamental right to life. Congress has an obligation to do what it has failed to do for so long, fully protect the unborn. I urge this body to move forward with this legislation to put an end to a most terrible injustice.

INTRODUCING THE SECOND NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION TO ELIMINATE WASTE IN GOVERNMENT—A NEW GRACE COMMISSION

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to create the

Second National Blue Ribbon Commission to Eliminate Waste in Government Act. This legislation is similar to H.R. 217 from the 104th Congress. Building upon the example set by the Grace Commission in 1982–84, my legislation creates an independent private sector commission to help Congress eliminate Government waste.

The Grace Commission, officially established as the President's Private Sector on Cost Control in the Federal Government, marshaled the considerable private sector resources of more than 2,000 business professionals at no cost to the taxpayers. After 2 years of investigating the Federal Government for more cost-effective ways of doing the Nation's business, the Grace Commission delivered its final report to President Reagan in 1984. This effort yielded more than 2,000 commonsense, cost-cutting recommendations, two-thirds of which have become law and saved taxpayers nearly \$450 billion. In addition, this commission helped establish the private, nonpartisan organization known as Citizens Against Government Waste.

Building upon that example, my legislation establishes a commission to take several additional steps toward curbing waste in Government. First, the commission would survey the private sector for management and cost control methods to be used in the Federal Government. Second, the panel would conduct in-depth reviews of executive branch operations. Third, the panel would review and reevaluate past reports by agencies such as the Congressional Budget Office and the General Accounting Office.

This 12-member commission would be appointed by the President and the bipartisan leadership of Congress, with no more than six members of the same political party. After the thorough review, the commission would report its findings and recommendations to Congress. The commission's finding would serve as a basis for Congress to reduce waste and streamline Government operations.

I hope that all my colleagues will join me to promote greater fiscal responsibility and more effective Government by cosponsoring this legislation.

WILLIAM DAVIDSON'S GIFT TO CREATE THE FIRST SCHOOL FOR MANAGEMENT OF TECHNOLOGY IN ISRAEL

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Mr. William Davidson, president and CEO of Guardian Industries Corp., and managing partner of the National Basketball Association's Detroit Pistons Basketball Club. Bill Davidson has made a remarkable gift of \$30 million to establish a world-class business school at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa. Mr. Davidson's great vision and philanthropy will ensure that Israel will continue to develop and expand its highly advanced technology-based industries. Furthermore, the international business community will gain an unparalleled resource in the study of management of technology.

The Technion, founded in 1924, is Israel's leading science and technology university. With this gift, the Technion will establish a premier business school with the unique combination of a Masters of Business Administration program, advanced technological education, and international management strategy.

Bill Davidson firmly believes that education is the best tool for promoting economic growth. To that end, he has focused enormous philanthropic efforts over the years. In 1992, he gave \$30 million to the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor to create an institute to assist nations around the world in making successful transitions to market economies. In 1994, a gift of \$15 million was made to establish a graduate school of Jewish education at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York City.

This latest gift to the Technion demonstrates Mr. Davidson's conviction that technology-based industries represent a tremendous opportunity for Israel to expand its economy, attract foreign capital, and, in turn, enhance its long-term economic security. The new Davidson school will allow the Technion to leverage its vast technological capabilities through targeted management education and research and thereby make a critical contribution in Israel's quest for economic independence.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Bill Davidson's generosity and vision in creating a remarkable new business school at one of the world's great scientific institutions. This gift will enrich the lives of countless people in Israel and around the world.

INTRODUCING THE INDIAN CHILD ADOPTION ASSISTANCE AND FOSTER CARE ACT

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will allow Native American tribes to better serve children who are in foster care or in need of adoption assistance.

My bill will reimburse tribes under the title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance Program for children placed by tribal courts. Currently, only States qualify for the Federal funds for adoption assistance and foster care. This means if a native American child is placed with a family by a tribal court, that family receives no additional financial support. If that same child was adopted or placed in foster care by a State court, that family would be provided with extra resources to care for that child.

Last year, the Congress was wise to pass bipartisan welfare reform legislation which preserved the entitlement status of the adoption assistance and foster care programs. These programs reflect our Nation's commitment to taking care of some of the most financially and emotionally needy children in our country. It is a tragedy that any child would be left out of our country's support system.

I hope that you will join me in working to pass this bill in the 105th Congress and provide equal and deserved financial assistance to thousands of Indian children.

A BALANCED FEDERAL BUDGET

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to fulfill the pledge I made to the citizens of southern Missouri to introduce and work tirelessly to pass an amendment to the Constitution of the United States that requires a balanced Federal budget. Over the course of the past several decades, fiscal irresponsibility has produced a Federal debt that is fast approaching \$5 trillion. That's trillion, with a "t." Mr. Speaker. A debt of \$5 trillion is a mind-boggling figure, but it can be placed in a much clearer perspective. A child born today immediately inherits nearly \$20,000 of debt, owed directly to Uncle Sam. The same is true for every American. The era of continuing annual budget deficits must end, and it is clear that the only way to restore conservative fiscal values to the Nation's budget is to pass the balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

The stakes in this debate could not be more important. The fiscal future of the United States hinges on the ability of Congress and the President to make the difficult choices required to balance the Federal budget. It's more than debating trillion dollar figures. It's about making our economy stronger and providing every working American family with a better chance to make ends meet. A balanced budget will strengthen every sector of our economy with lower interest rates that will help families stretch each paycheck further. Home mortgages, automobiles, and a better education will become more affordable to every working family, making the American Dream closer to reality for all.

Mr. Speaker, I am committed to working with my colleagues in the new Congress to see that the balanced budget constitutional amendment is passed and sent to the States for ratification. A constitutional amendment is certainly no substitute for direct action on the part of the Congress. However, we have seen time and time again instances where those who object to conservative fiscal responsibility find convenient excuses to deny the American people a balanced budget. An unbreakable enforcement mechanism is clearly needed to ensure that those who would continue to spend our children's future further into debt are not able to do so.

I also want to make plain that the Social Security trust fund has no place in this debate. The independent trust fund is a sacred trust between generations and must never be used to balance the budget or hide the true size of the deficit.

Commonsense conservatives in Congress and the American people are committed to balancing the budget. I look forward to working throughout this session with all of my colleagues and the White House to pass the balanced budget constitutional amendment on a bipartisan basis. The obligations we owe to hard working American families, their children, and our Nation's future generations deserve nothing less than decisive action to preserve our future by balancing the budget. A constitutional amendment will ensure this outcome.

FAIR CLEAN AIR COMPLIANCE DOWNWIND FROM POLLUTERS

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that requires the Environmental Protection Agency to consider the downwind transportation of air pollution when determining a region's air quality compliance. This legislation is similar to H.R. 1582, which I introduced in the 104th Congress with the support of the county of San Diego.

In 1990, Congress amended the Clean Air Act to base the smog control requirements for each area on the severity of the area's pollution problem as indicated by the nonattainment area classification. The EPA has established five such classifications: marginal, moderate, serious, severe, or extreme. Under current law nonattainment status is determined without addressing air pollution transported from upwind areas.

Due to pollution blown downwind from the Los Angeles basin, San Diego was initially given a nonattainment classification of severe. San Diego was later reclassified to serious because the ozone design value, 0.185 parts per million, was at the lowest limit of severe. Had the design value been outside that narrow window, San Diego would have been forced to carry out excessively stringent and costly control programs to combat air pollution created and transported from elsewhere.

This situation affects many other communities, too. I encourage all of my colleagues to join me by cosponsoring this legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE A TAX DEDUCTION FOR EMPLOYER-PROVIDED EDUCATION

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today, Mr. LEVIN introduced legislation which makes permanent the tax deduction for employer-provided education. I am an original cosponsor of this legislation which would include graduate education. The Small Business Job Protection Act extended this deduction from December 31, 1994 until January 1, 1997. The provision only included graduate education until December 31, 1995.

The Democrats of the Ways and Means Committee worked to have graduate education included until January 1, 1997. Unfortunately, our efforts fell short. The legislation introduced is extremely important as it would make this deduction permanent and include graduate education.

We should do all that is possible to make education more affordable. Our economy is becoming more global and we need skilled workers in order to compete. Our job growth is occurring in fields which require high skilled workers. We need to provide employees and employers incentives to further their education.

Recently, the General Accounting Office released a report on this provision. This report backs up my belief that this provision of the