

In short, Mr. Speaker, WIC serves as a safety net for this country's most vulnerable citizens. However, the greatest testament to WIC comes from not from politicians or bureaucrats, but from those who actually participate in the program.

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Allow me to share some comments from a few of the dozens of letters one of the WIC directors in my district received over the past few days. Each of these women felt compelled to write and to urge careful consideration of full funding for WIC.

Erica Miner said that WIC "helped provide my son a better life than what I could before I started the program."

Laura Tadoun praised WIC for "showing me how to eat and drink properly so I could have a healthy baby." She continues, "I don't know how we could have made it without you."

Julia Bruno commented that "thanks to this program, my children are physically and nutritionally well. It is my sincere hope that WIC continues so that in the future we will have healthy, happy children and save money on medical costs."

Tina Donaldo wrote, "If it weren't for the WIC program I wouldn't be able to get by at all."

Finally, Nicole LeBaron pleaded, "Please take this service and the funding that they need into serious consideration before cutting it and cutting the families like myself that depend on it to help their children grow healthy."

These WIC success stories from my Florida district, Mr. Speaker, are representative of the performance of the program as a whole across the country.

However, in this era of budgetary constraints and fiscal conservatism, everything boils down to dollars. And yet on this count, WIC has indeed withstood fiscal scrutiny and, without question, actually increases the return, increases the return on our investment in the program.

Studies have shown that WIC provides a 350 percent return on the tax dollars spent on the program. For example, for every dollar that WIC spends, \$3.50 is saved in expensive neonatal and disability programs. Money spent on pregnant women in WIC produces similar Medicaid savings for newborns and their mothers.

At a time, Mr. Speaker, when we are reducing welfare rolls and stressing personal responsibility, I can think of no better way to encourage fiscal stability and certainty than by supporting and appropriating full funding for the WIC program.

Let me share with my colleagues the words of my good friend, Clara Lawhead. Clara is the Director of Nutrition of WIC Services in Pasco County, FL, in my Ninth Congressional District.

She succinctly explains the problem in my district, in terms we all can understand:

In Florida, we have faced the problem that this year's funding cannot support our cur-

rent caseload and we have already been forced to initiate a reduction in benefits to our WIC participants. This effort was necessary to maintain some level of service to our clients that have already been identified with a medical or nutritional risk. We began in February to carefully evaluate the diet prescription (food package) in milk and fruit juice for low risk clients. The next step is to reduce caseload.

Friends and colleagues, WIC is too important to the future of this Nation to leave to political games.

In short, WIC is supported by many people and continues to be a popular program. It yields tremendous returns on our investments and has been proven, time and time again, to improve the health and well being of pregnant women, infants, and children.

Mr. Speaker, if the greatest sin we commit is erring on the side of caution—on the side of children—I will be proud to make that mistake. I believe many of my colleagues feel the same and will support me in calling for the full \$76 million in supplemental funding for the WIC program.

Let me close with the simple yet eloquent words of Dawn Stamper, who lives in New Port Richey in my congressional district:

Our children are our future and need to be given the best chance and first steps needed to lead a healthy and nutritious life.

Our children are the future. This investment in WIC is one that, at the end of the day, we can all point to with pride, because we did what was right and we did it for the people who sent us here in the first place.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a bill and a concurrent resolution of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 5. An act to amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, to reauthorize and make improvements to that Act, and for other purposes.

H. Con. Res. 66. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol grounds for the sixteenth annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 101-509, the Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, announces the appointment of C. John Sobotka, of Mississippi, to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 101-509, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic leader, announces the reappointment of John C. Waugh, of Texas, to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress.

FEC FUNDING

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

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, the last action on the rule that has resulted in this time for the Republican leadership

to kind of regroup is very important, because that rule was defeated in a bipartisan vote, and there is no fundamentally more important reason to defeat that rule than the fact that that rule eliminated the need for funding for the Federal Election Commission.

Mr. Speaker, last February, the FEC asked for a supplemental appropriation of \$1.7 million needed to address the campaign abuses from the 1996 campaign, which the Committee on Appropriations granted. Up until last night, there was every indication that the appropriation would go forward. But last night, the Committee on Rules unilaterally, and without warning, left the public hearing and behind closed doors deleted the appropriation for the bill. They did this even after the gentleman from New York [Mrs. MALONEY], the gentleman from Connecticut [Mr. SHAYS] and myself asked that the specific appropriation be included and that certain restrictions be removed.

The FEC funding was the only funding deleted, and it was no accident. This, after all, was the first money that Congress would have appropriated to allow investigations into the congressional campaign abuses to go forward.

Make no mistake. What we have here is a total abuse of process, a total violation of fundamental fairness. In fact, today we now have the majority really committing a double abuse. First, the majority is abusing the legislative process which we were counting on to make sure that the FEC is able to enforce the law as a small first step to clean up our campaign system.

Second, Mr. Speaker, as a result, they are obstructing the FEC's ability to investigate congressional violations of Federal election law. This was a hatchet job, and it is especially outrageous in light of the Congress's alleged outrage over the 1996 campaign and its providing of millions of dollars to investigate politically charged investigations, allegations that have been ongoing over the last several months.

It was interesting, because just last week, Michael Kranish from the Boston Globe reported that an organization created by former Republican Chairman Haley Barbour to boost the GOP's image wrote a fundraising plan that relied partly on newly available documents disclosed. The organization, a Republican think tank called the National Policy Forum, wound up receiving a \$2.2 million loan guarantee from a Hong Kong business and then failed to repay \$500,000. Since that time, the Republican National Committee has agreed to return the money.

When are all of these stories going to stop, and when are we going to do something about campaign finance reform? The Federal Election Commission, and I just left a hearing before the Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law of the Committee on the Judiciary where officials from

the FEC reported before that committee that they cannot even get to 68 to 70 percent of the cases because of their inadequate funding.

I am amused by all of the dialog, the political rhetoric, the partisan rhetoric on both sides of the aisle about how we need to have these investigations by Congress, and the only nonpartisan group that is discharged with the responsibility to conduct investigations of congressional campaigns is the FEC. The FEC puts in a request for an appropriation for \$1.7 million in order to get funded, and what does the Congress do?

The Committee on Rules, in the middle of the night, decides we are not going to take this up. This action is outrageous, and when the Republican majority is meeting to try to figure out, they are all meeting, how are we going to get this bill passed, what they ought to do is put the request for the FEC funding into the budget. It is significantly less money than we have appropriated for literally millions of dollars for politically charged investigation. Let us let the FEC do its job, and we ought to start with this supplemental appropriations bill.

Now is the time for Congress to put its money where its mouth is and provide the FEC funding to investigate congressional abuses.

Mr. Speaker, it was the ax last night, nothing less than a midnight massacre, on the obstruction of the process and the ability of the FEC to conduct investigations of the congressional campaigns that were held in 1996. It is an outrage.

I think the fact that this rule was defeated lends credence to the fact that we need to make sure that we fund the FEC if we are serious about conducting fair, nonpartisan investigations and giving the FEC fair enforcement power so that they can do their job. Let us make sure we include that funding.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on House Resolution 146.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nevada?

There was no objection.

BLM BULLIES

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, today I want to discuss something so powerful and hurtful that it cripples the economy, puts a stranglehold on businesses and farms, destroys livelihoods and families, and yet seems unstoppable.

The monster that I am discussing is the power that was once granted to Congress in article I, section 1 of the

U.S. Constitution, which reads: All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in Congress. Today, however, the executive branch of this very Government has taken control of this reserved privilege and holds it captive at the expense of American citizens.

To illustrate my point, I would like to discuss newly assumed police power Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt and the Bureau of Land Management allege to possess. The proposed law enforcement regulations are an attempt to vastly, and in most cases unconstitutionally, expand the BLM's law enforcement authority by increasing the number and types of actions which may result in the violations of law and substantially increase penalties for violation of such regulations.

Let me share with my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, exactly what powers the BLM is commandeering. A story: On July 24, 1994, a family from New Mexico was on a family outing in the Santa Cruz Lake area in the northern part of New Mexico. After fishing and picnicking for 2 hours, the family loaded up their car and were leaving the area when they were stopped by a BLM ranger. According to a complaint filed by the family's attorney, the BLM ranger approached the vehicle carrying a shotgun and ordered everyone out of the car using threats of bodily harm laced with profanity. The BLM ranger fired his shotgun at the car to show that he meant business.

This complaint continues to state that the three men got out of the car and asked why they were being stopped. They asked if it was for fishing without licenses, but they were never asked for their fishing licenses. When a man, woman, and the children tried to leave, the BLM ranger maced the driver and handcuffed him. The driver's mother tried to help her son but was knocked to the ground by the ranger who then stomped on her leg before handcuffing her.

After handcuffing the mother, the BLM ranger went back to the driver and sprayed him again in the face with mace. All this time the children were crying and the ranger yelled at them to shut up. According to the complaint, the BLM ranger said he was going to blow their, and I will delete the expletive, heads off.

It gets worse, Mr. Speaker. When one of the men picked up a child to comfort him, the BLM ranger put a shotgun to the child's head and ordered the man to put the child down. Two other BLM rangers allegedly arrived and began waving their weapons around as well. The BLM rangers refused to say why they had stopped the family in the first place.

The adults were incarcerated, and the BLM ranger did not notify the Attorney General, as they are required to do. Although records at the Santa Fe jail indicate six adults were arrested on charges of assault and hindering a Federal employee, a U.S. magistrate released all those jailed because the BLM

did not produce a written complaint and no formal charges were made. To this day the family has no idea, Mr. Speaker, why they were arrested.

Remember these are Federal public land management employees who are committing these atrocious acts. It becomes very evident that these power hungry bureaucracies have designated themselves unconstitutional police powers without having proper authority or training. The agents are turning into bullies with little respect for public safety or property.

Mr. Speaker, no longer are Americans free. They are chained to the dictatorship of bureaucratic monsters. It is time for Congress to stand up for its constitutional rights and the protection of the American people. This is exactly what I and the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands intend to do tomorrow when we bring the BLM and the Department of the Interior before our committee and the American people.

The regulatory authority now used by these Government agencies to create rule after rule and regulation after regulation has begun to put a stranglehold on the Western part of this country to the extent that it may never breathe again.

THE WIC PROGRAM

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

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend my colleagues who supported voting no on the rule that came before us that addressed the issue of funding for WIC. Unfortunately, the rule that was in front of us did not guarantee solid, long-term funding for WIC. I am very pleased that the rule was voted down and that we now have an opportunity to come back and do the right thing.

I also rise today, Mr. Speaker, to commend colleagues of mine in a bipartisan basis, the gentlewoman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] and the gentlewoman from New Jersey [Mrs. ROUKEMA], who have worked very hard in a bipartisan way to guarantee that women and children under the WIC Program have the nutritional services and the food that they need in order to be healthy and successful.

My colleague from the other side of the aisle from Florida spoke a few moments ago very eloquently about the need for the WIC Program. I would just add to that. In my years of working in county and State government, I have not felt more confident about any other program of government as I have about the WIC Program. It provides supplementation directly to pregnant women and women and young children up to 5 who are low income and in need of good nutritious food, vegetables, fruit, other nutritional supplementation, eggs, milk, and so on.