

times the rate at small businesses than are created in the larger companies with 500 or more employees. In fact in 1995, there were 800,000, 800,000 new businesses started in America, a 5 percent increase over the year before.

Not only do these small businesses help our economy, but they help stimulate the economy in our community as well. They have a ripple effect each time one is created. A business with up to 100 employees not only brings new families and school children to our communities, but they also spin off another retail establishment to help support it. They create over half a million dollars in retail sales within that community and over a million dollars of more personal income to be spent to generate the local economy.

Not only do small businesses stimulate the economy, they always give back to the community in which they live. Employees of small businesses, by research, are more charitable, give back to their communities, give more donations to the service providers that help our community run.

These quiet heroes are all around us. Recently in a local newspaper, the Family Image, which is run by an entrepreneurial company, Ron and Barbara Frazier, who like to reinforce the family values that are the foundation of our country, there is a profile of a small business, of a small businesswoman K.C. Choe. She is owner of Schlotzsky's Restaurant on 1960 West near the intersection with I-45 in north Houston.

K.C. was born in Seoul, South Korea, came to America after high school and in 1979 became a U.S. citizen. After working in the Houston hotel for three years, she caught the entrepreneurial spirit of this country and bought a restaurant in 1984 that her mother helped her buy. That restaurant became Schlotzsky's later in 1995. K.C. and her coworker Tammy Karpas work 70 hours or more a week. Her mom works there as well and helps take care of K.C.'s 12-year-old son Joey, who attends Twins Creek Middle School in Spring, TX, and K.C., Tammy and her mom work there day in and day out providing quality service to their customers.

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She and her family have faced a thousand challenges to keep that company alive and growing and prospering, and like a lot of businesses, it is hard to believe the type of regulation and the challenges they are up against that government helps create.

Recently Herman Cain, who is the chairman and CEO of Godfather's, jotted down in a local magazine, Success Magazine, some of the regulations that they face, just Federal regulations, that a typical restaurant in our communities will face, and it is amazing. Let me read just some of these organizations and agencies they have to comply with.

The Department of Justice, for accessibility to disabled customers; Bureau

of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, for the occupational tax for alcohol sellers; Occupational Safety and Health Administration, for blood-borne pathogen program for employees who give first aid; the EPA, for car pools for employers in high pollution areas and cooking emissions in high pollution areas; Department of Justice, for copyright law and restaurant music; Food and Drug Administration, to comply with egg refrigeration standards; Department of Labor, the Family and Medical Leave Act; the grease trap waste disposal regulations by EPA; health claims and restaurant food regulations by the Food and Drug Administration; health benefit plans and Americans with Disabilities Act by the EEOC; the Immigration Control Act regulates them as well.

Job application forms and the questions they can ask are regulated of their employees are regulated by the EEOC. Their lockout and tagout requirements are complied with through OSHA; minimum wage is determined and audited by the Department of Labor; the national origin discrimination is regulated by the EEOC; the FDA regulates the nutrient-content claims and restaurant food.

The IRS, of course, outlines overtime pay rules and the payroll tax deposits. The Department of Labor has the ban on the polygraph for employee testing. The Department of Labor has regulations on restaurant closings and advance notice to employees; the EEOC, sex discrimination; the IRS, tipping-income audits. The Department of Labor has uniforms and deposits; the National Labor Relations Board, the union contracts; the Department of Labor has the Veterans' employment rights; and earned income credit payment, the IRS regulates that on the W-5 form. And those are just the Federal regulations.

Restaurants also have to, even the smallest restaurants, also have to comply with State permits and regulations, city health inspections, and other registration requirements.

Mr. Speaker, we need to reduce this kind of burden on people like K.C. and other independent businesses, small businesses especially. Again, these are the quiet heroes, Mr. Speaker, that we honor this week.

CELEBRATING SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey Mr. PAPPAS is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to small businesses in our country. As many people know, across our country this week we are celebrating small business week throughout the 50 States of our great country. Many of us earlier today participated in a ceremony on the steps of this building with members of the National Federation of Independent Businesses.

Many people believe that small business is the engine that is driving our economy. In fact, more than 99 percent of the Nation's employers are employers that are considered small businesses. Most of the job growth that takes place in our economy in the United States is driven by small businesses.

I am very pleased to be a part of a Congress that has committed itself to fostering and moving forward legislation that would be supportive of small business. And when I say supportive of small business, I mean to really allow small business to function, to allow small business to operate unhindered and not to take the approach of throwing stumbling blocks, which, unfortunately in the past, was done. I do not believe intentionally, but that was the practical application of so much that emanated from this city, Washington, D.C.

Joining the 105th Congress was an honor for me and certainly is a privilege and continues to be so, but as someone that is a product of small business, I am very happy to be a part of a group of Members that is trying to be sensitive to the needs of small businessmen and women throughout our country.

I am a member of the Committee on Small Business. When I had the opportunity to submit to the leadership of my party which committee assignments I was interested in serving on, small business was one of my first choices. Some here do not necessarily view the Committee on Small Business as being the first tier, but I certainly believe that it is a first tier because of what it means to so many of our fellow American citizens.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I just want to thank the Speaker for the supportive approach he takes personally, and so many of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle, to the functioning of small business. I am looking forward over the next several months to continuing to move forward pieces of legislation that will once again be supportive of the entrepreneurial spirit that has made this country the wonderful country that it is, that enables people to get ahead, to provide for greater opportunities for themselves, for their families and for future generations. That is what our focus should be and that is what one of my main focuses is.

HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from New Jersey Mr. PALLONE is recognized for half the remaining time until midnight as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, Democrats have been active in trying to provide health care coverage for uninsured children, and since the last Congress Democrats developed the Families First Agenda that basically puts families first and insists that there be, as

part of our legislative agenda in this Congress, a kids' health care initiative.

The initiative that we have put forward was basically developed by the Democratic Health Care Task Force, which I happen to be one of the co-chairs. I wanted to mention, Mr. Speaker, that our task force has held numerous meetings and hearings on the issue of kids' health insurance. Testimony has been submitted from child advocacy groups, health care providers and actual families.

In addition, discussions have been held with the Health Care Financing Administration, representatives from the insurance industry and some of our Nation's Governors. Democrats have been dedicated, basically, and shown a commitment to developing a workable plan that will first build upon the foundation of Medicaid; second, provide States with additional resources to meet the health care needs of children in working families; and, third, enact private insurance reforms to make it easier for families to purchase children only policies.

I have to say, Mr. Speaker, that if it were not for Democrats leading the charge on children's health care, it probably would not have been included in the budget resolution that we will be considering tomorrow in conference.

In 1996, dozens of my Democratic colleagues joined me in writing a letter to the President, to Secretary Rubin and to Secretary Shalala urging inclusion of funds to provide assistance for the Nation's 10 million uninsured children. As the Speaker knows, the President's initial fiscal year 1998 budget did include monies for children's health care.

I want to commend the President, because President Clinton basically held his ground and insisted on including monies for children's health care in the balanced budget agreement that will be coming back from the conference tomorrow. What I am hoping is that the Democratic initiative, the Health Care Task Force initiative, will be included as part of this budget resolution. It will be ready for reconciliation, which we will of course begin to consider next week.

Without getting into the details of the Democratic caucuses plan, though, right now, I would like to yield some time to one of my colleagues on the Committee on Commerce, who has been very active in the kids' health insurance issue, the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. STRICKLAND.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend for yielding me this time. It is disturbing to me that in a country which is making progress on many fronts, where the economy is doing well for most Americans, where the deficit is shrinking, that we continue to have a health care crisis in this country. Some 40 million Americans are without health insurance, and the sad, tragic fact is that over 10 million of that number is composed of America's children.

We are a country that claims to value our children. We use children in

commercials to sell products, everything from toilet paper to new houses. We talk about how much we value children and that we are a child centered society. But I believe that a country's values are best reflected, most accurately reflected in the behaviors and the public policies that it pursues rather than in the words that its leaders speak.

Ten million children without health insurance. And who are these kids? Some think that they are only composed of children whose parents are not working or who are on welfare, but of course that is absolutely not the case.

Currently, children whose parents receive welfare benefits, and are qualified to do so, the parents of those children do have access to quality health care through the Medicaid program. But many of the children, in fact most of the children that are without health care coverage in this country today, are the children whose mothers and fathers work.

They work full time, most of them. Most of them are from two-parent homes, and yet their parents work for employers that, for sometimes good reasons, other times for not good reasons, do not have health care benefits as a part of the employment package of benefits. And yet their wages are so low that they could not possibly go on the open market and purchase health insurance for their children. So these kids do without. They do without timely and appropriate dental care. Many of them do without those kinds of annual examinations which every pediatrician recommends in order to identify problems early so that they can be promptly treated and remediated.

So today, in this country, a rich country, a country that boasts of a booming economy, low unemployment, a shrinking deficit, at a time when we are talking about having a balanced budget, there are many Americans, and many in this Congress, I am sad to say, who seem to be unconcerned about 10 million American kids.

I am happy that the President is proposing in this budget agreement that we extend benefits to at least five additional million, but it troubles me, it really troubles me that we are not talking in terms of all of our children and making a commitment to using our national resources as they ought to be used to make sure as a priority that America's children, regardless of their economic situation, regardless of what families they come from, that those children have access to quality, timely, appropriate health care.

So as we look forward to the next weeks and months in this chamber, it is my hope that the American people will begin to express themselves, and that conservatives and liberals alike will say that 10 million American children without health insurance is unacceptable and we will not tolerate it for a longer time.

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Mr. PALLONE. I want to thank the gentleman from Ohio Mr. STRICKLAND for his comments. He brought up a number of things that I think are very important. I have tried and sometimes I am partisan, sometimes I am not. On this particular occasion, I tend to be very partisan.

Really, for a long time, the Republican leadership was essentially ignoring this issue of kids' health insurance, the 10 million uninsured children that my colleague mentioned. Now that it is in the budget agreement, and presumably there is a pot of money, I think about \$16 billion over 5 years, that is available for this.

It is not likely that that amount of money would cover, as my colleague said, more than about half of the 10 million children. But, obviously, what we want to do as Democrats is to make sure, on the one hand, that the \$16 billion that is available covers as many kids as possible. Then we also feel very strongly as a group, and I know the Democratic task force does on health care, that we need to go beyond that and try to find a way to insure the other kids that are not currently insured.

There are obviously various ways to go about this. The gentleman from Ohio mentioned the Medicaid program, which is of course our primary program now for those who are below the poverty level or close to the poverty level. One of the things that we have noticed in the task force in some of the hearings and meetings that we have had is that there are actually 3 million children who are now eligible for the Medicaid program that do not sign up for one reason or another.

After meeting with some of the families and talking with some of the health care professionals, what we found is that there are a lot of reasons why those 3 million kids are not covered. First of all, as my colleague mentioned, a lot of times the parents are both working and they just do not have the time to be bothered. They are not aware or they just find that the bureaucracy of having to sign the kids up, I do not mean they do not want to be bothered in the sense they do not want to help, but they are just not aware, for whatever bureaucratic reasons, they just do not know to sign the kids up.

There is also an extreme element of pride. I know a lot of people, unfortunately, I think see Medicaid as a welfare program. And if they are working, which most of these people that are eligible that are not signing up are overwhelmingly working, they are reluctant to sign up for Medicaid, they say they see it as some sort of Government handout.

What we have done in our Democratic task force proposal is to, at least initially, and the President has talked about this as well, try to find a way to get these 3 million children who are eligible for Medicaid signed up. And our