

America's homeless. But I also recognize that in a competition such as this, excellent programs sometimes fall just short of the cut-offs that are determined by funding availability. And I am concerned especially because the cut-offs are absolute—Maine's funding, for example, went from about \$3.7 million to \$0.

For that reason, I am introducing this legislation which will provide a safety net to ensure that every state receives at least a minimum allocation to provide a Continuum of Care to that state's homeless. My legislation would continue the grant competition, but would provide that every state must receive at least half a percent of the total Continuum of Care funds. This would ensure that the homeless of every state would be able to count on some continuity of services from year to year.

It is not an exaggeration to say that lives depend on the services provided as a result of the Continuum of Care grants. People must have a place to escape the bitter cold of a January day in Maine or the brutal heat of an August day in Texas. People must have a chance to break out of poverty and to become productive citizens. This is difficult to do when much of each day must be spent meeting such basic needs as finding food and shelter.

The Homelessness Assistance Funding Fairness Act would take a small step in ensuring that no state's homeless persons are left without assistance in finding permanent or transitional housing. Unless we take action, the tragedy that has befallen Maine's homeless population this year, could easily happen to those of other states next year when the funds are competed again.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TEENAGE PREGNANCY REDUCTION ACT OF 1999

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 1999

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of the Teenage Pregnancy Reduction Act of 1999. This legislation is an important commitment on the part of Congress to give local communities the resources they need to operate effective teenage pregnancy programs.

More specifically, the bill authorizes \$10.5 million in total over three years for HHS to conduct a study of effective teen pregnancy prevention programs, with an emphasis on determining the factors contributing to the effectiveness of the programs, and methods for replicating the programs in other locations.

It also authorizes the creation of an information clearinghouse to collect, maintain, and disseminate information on prevention programs; to develop networks of prevention programs; to provide technical assistance and to encourage public media campaigns regarding pregnancy in teenagers.

Finally, it authorizes \$10 million in total over three years for one-time incentive grants for programs which are found to be effective under HHS's study described earlier, to assist them with the expenses of operating the program.

Helping our communities prevent teenage pregnancy is an important mission. The United

States has the highest teenage birth rate of industrialized countries, which has far reaching consequences for our Nation's teenage mothers and their children.

Unmarried teenagers who become pregnant face severe emotional, physical, and financial difficulties. The children born to unmarried teenagers will struggle to fulfill the promise given to all human life, and many of them simply will not succeed. Many of them will remain trapped in a cycle of poverty, and unfortunately may become part of our criminal justice system.

How bad is the problem? In 1960, 15 percent of teen births were out-of-wedlock. In 1970, 30 percent of teen births were out-of-wedlock. In 1980, 48 percent of teen births were out-of-wedlock. In 1990, 68 percent of teen births were out-of-wedlock. In 1993, 72 percent of all teen births were out-of-wedlock.

Why do we care about this? For the simple reason that beyond the statistics, this trend has devastating consequences for the young women who become unwed teen parents, and for the children born to them.

The report, "Kids Having Kids," by the Robin Hood Foundation quantified some of these consequences. Compared to those who delay childbearing until they are 20 or 21, adolescent mothers: spend 57 percent more time as single parents in their first 13 years; are 50 percent more likely to depend on welfare; are 50 percent less likely to complete high school; and are 24 percent more likely to have more children.

Children of adolescents (compared to children of 20- and 21-year-olds) are more likely to be born prematurely and 50 percent more likely to be low-birth weight babies of less than five and a half pounds—meaning an increased likelihood of infant death, mental retardation or illness, dyslexia, hyperactivity, among others.

How can we make a difference? By working in partnership with communities. At the national level, we need to take a clear stand against teenage pregnancy and foster a national discussion—involving national leaders, respected organizations, the media, and states about how religion, culture, and public values influence both teen pregnancy and responses to it. The Congressional Advisory Committee to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, which I co-chair with Congresswoman LOWEY, will play an active role in this discussion.

At the local level, communities need to develop programs targeted to the characteristics, needs, and values of its families. Communities know what their needs are and what will be most effective with their teenagers, so it is critical that they design and implement the programs, not the federal government. This legislation will assist efforts of communities, and I hope that my colleagues will join me as a cosponsor.

Our goal to reduce teen pregnancy is challenging and difficult. But if we work together we CAN make a difference.

EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS REDUCTION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union has under consideration the bill (H.R. 1184) to authorize appropriations for carrying out the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 for fiscal years 2000 and 2001, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 1184, the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Authorization Act of 1999.

H.R. 1184 will take earthquake research and earthquake engineering research to the next level enabling the replacement of antiquated earthquake warning systems and equipment while linking monitoring centers and laboratories together and stimulating scientific research that will help prevent losses of life and property due to earthquakes.

I am pleased that H.R. 1184 will establish two new projects that will greatly boost our earthquake research and monitoring efforts: the Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation (NEES); and the Advanced National Seismic Research and Monitoring System. These programs will join earthquake engineering research facilities and monitoring systems from across the country while upgrading and expanding earthquake testing at the facilities. The programs will help to eliminate duplication of research and promote coordination, cooperation and sharing of information to better enable us to utilize science in the protection of life and property.

I am also pleased that the Committee accepted an amendment offered by Congresswoman WOOLSEY to direct FEMA to report on the components of the "National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Programs that address the needs of at-risk populations: the elderly, the disabled, the non-English speaking, and single parent households." These populations face additional challenges following natural disasters and we must not neglect the most vulnerable of our populations during such disasters. I applaud Congresswoman WOOLSEY in her effort to address this problem.

I also appreciate the committee language expressing that the committee will soon begin examining why insurance companies refuse to reduce insurance premiums to builders, home owners, and commercial properties, that have complied with the new engineering standards and practices shown to reduce damages caused by earthquakes. Those who make conscious efforts to incorporate higher standards to prevent earthquake damages should not have to pay the same rates as those who do not incorporate these standards.

I support this legislation because we need to be prepared for earthquakes; we need to improve our abilities to predict earthquakes; and we need to implement policies and building practices that would minimize losses of life due to earthquakes. But, in addition to this, we must prepare for the rebuilding and relief efforts that would be necessary in response to disastrous earthquakes and other natural phenomena including, tsunamis, hurricanes, and

volcanic eruptions. We must accelerate community efforts to prepare for such incidents by encouraging the development of response plans and promoting construction practices that minimize losses from disasters.

Accordingly, I have introduced legislation to provide our nation better protection from financial catastrophe caused by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and tsunamis. My bill, H.R. 481, the "Earthquake, Volcanic Eruption and Hurricane Hazards Insurance Act of 1999," would establish a Federal residential insurance program, much like the national flood insurance program, to cover damage by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and hurricanes so that home-owners have access to affordable insurance that can help protect them against total financial ruin because of a natural disaster. It would require States that wish to participate in the program to implement mitigation measures to help guard against extensive damage which might be preventable.

Although I hope we may never need to utilize such a program, it is only a matter of time until we are faced with another disaster and it is irresponsible not to prepare for the worst.

I support H.R. 1184, the "Earthquake Hazards Reduction Authorization Act of 1999," and I urge immediate consideration of H.R. 481, the "Earthquake, Volcanic Eruption and Hurricane Hazards Insurance Act of 1999."

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 1569, H. CON. RES. 82, H.
J. RES. 44, AND S. CON. RES. 21,
MEASURES REGARDING U.S.
MILITARY ACTION AGAINST
YUGOSLAVIA

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, we are here today in this impressive and ornate building, full of pride in our suits and dresses; safe in the knowledge that we are protected by metal detectors and police officers and sergeants at arms. No one but us can enter this room. We are pretty secure. But what are we doing here? What message are we sending to our men and women in the armed forces? They aren't as safe as we are. They are in harm's way in Europe working to make life safe for innocent people over there. I am apologetic and ashamed of the message we are sending to them. We should not be showing our troops, our enemies, or the world that we are divided during this crucial time. I believe that we are doing this for political reasons and at the expense of our brave men and women in uniform. I don't think they are very proud of us right now.

I am proud of them and I admire them. My prayers are with them. God bless them.

CHINESE-AMERICAN CONTRIBUTION
TO TRANSCONTINENTAL
RAILROAD

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 1999

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the Chinese-American community and pay tribute to its ancestors' contribution to the building of the American transcontinental railroad.

On May 8th, the Colfax Area Historical Society in my Congressional District will place a monument along Highway 174 at Cape Horn, near Colfax, California to recognize the efforts of the Chinese in laying the tracks that linked the east and west coasts for the first time.

With the California Gold Rush and the opening of the West came an increased interest in building a transcontinental railroad. To this end, the Central Pacific Railroad Company was established, and construction of the route East from Sacramento began in 1863. Although the beginning of the effort took place on relatively flat land, labor and financial problems were persistent, resulting in only 50 miles of track being laid in the first two years. Although the company needed over 5,000 workers, it only had 600 on the payroll by 1864.

Chinese labor was suggested, as they had already helped build the California Central Railroad, the railroad from Sacramento to Marysville and the San Jose Railway. Originally thought to be too small to complete such a momentous task, Charles Crocker of Central Pacific pointed out, "the Chinese made the Great Wall, didn't they?"

The first Chinese were hired in 1865 at approximately \$28 per month to do the very dangerous work of blasting and laying ties over the treacherous terrain of the high Sierras. They lived in simply dwellings and cooked their own meals, often consisting of fish, dried oysters and fruit, mushrooms and seaweed.

Work in the beginning was slow and difficult. After the first 23 miles, Central Pacific faced the daunting task of laying tracks over terrain that rose 7,000 feet in 100 miles. To conquer the many sheer embankments, the Chinese workers used techniques they had learned in China to complete similar tasks. They were lowered by ropes from the top of cliffs in baskets, and while suspended, they chipped away at the granite and planted explosives that were used to blast tunnels. Many workers risked their lives and perished in the harsh winters and dangerous conditions.

By the summer of 1868, 4,000 workers, two thirds of which were Chinese, had built the transcontinental railroad over the Sierras and into the interior plains. On May 10, 1869, the two railroads were to meet at Promontory, Utah in front of a cheering crowd and a band. A Chinese crew was chosen to lay the final ten miles of track, and it was completed in only twelve hours.

Without the efforts of the Chinese workers in the building of America's railroads, our development and progress as a nation would have been delayed by years. Their toil in severe weather, cruel working conditions and for meager wages cannot be under appreciated. My sentiments and thanks go out to the entire Chinese-American community for its ances-

tors' contribution to the building of this great Nation.

NATIONAL GRANGE WEEK

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, last week Colorado Grangers joined more than 300,000 of their colleagues in celebration of National Granger Week. Today, I rise to pay tribute to the Grangers and their time-honored American values.

Organized in 1867, the Grange is a grass-roots organization designed to promote the best interests of agriculture and preserve family values. Grangers are known for many community-centered projects including youth scholarships, activities for the deaf, emergency relief for farmers and ranchers and lobbying legislatures to provide opportunities and education for all family members. In my home state of Colorado, the Granger combined forces to fund relief for Colorado ranchers who lost cattle in the blizzards of 1997.

Mr. Speaker, our nation began as many small communities and families working together to support one another. Today, local Granges work hard to preserve our American traditions. Therefore, I proudly rise in recognition of National Grange Week. With confidence, I look forward to the continuing success of Grangers nationwide.

"KITTY HAWK REVISITED"

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 1999

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to submit a poem entitled "Kitty Hawk Revisited" into the RECORD. This poem was written by Ms. Marion Brimm Rewey of Verona, Wisconsin, and I believe she captures the adventurous spirit of the Wright brothers first flight with her words.

KITTY HAWK REVISITED

(By Marion Brimm Rewey)

I wish I had seen them, the quiet men who built bicycles and odd machines, pushing and dragging their da Vinci dream over sea grass and sand.

It might have been a good day to change the world, full of cumulus clouds, strings of pelicans flying ragged formations, a sandpiper or two and curlew calls . . . and the wind of December purling off the Atlantic, plucked wires and struts, hummed such music as had not been heard since sirens lured Ulysses to forbidden shores.

So, while running seas rearranged the sand and every man stood with feet planted firmly on solid ground, here, under untied skies, on Kill Devil Hill, a hand-made skeleton, like a prehistoric bird, teetered on the ledge of the last frontier.

In the broken silence of birds, wind, tide, Orville belly-flopped on the waiting wing.

Then came a universe splitting roar-propellers spun, sand exploded and ballooned,