

restricting women's access to information about abortion.

Clinics and hospitals are not required to offer abortion services, but in certain circumstances, are required to refer women to a doctor who will perform an abortion. The legislation we are debating today would allow a facility to accept federal funds for family planning, but not provide a woman information on what all of her options are. It would allow them to care for a Medicaid patient who has been raped, but not inform her that Medicaid would pay for an abortion, even if she asks for this information.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot have the right to choose without full information about our choices.

I would never advocate forcing an individual or organization to act against their conscience. And nothing in current law does so. But providing information is not the same thing as providing services. Women, particularly women who have been the victim of an attack, deserve information about all their choices, no matter where they get their health care.

I strongly oppose this legislation, and urge my colleagues to vote against it.

THE WILL OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, recently, I came across an e-mail that had been circulated last year shortly after the September 11 attacks. It was sent by a former military professor in which he stated that the will of the American people is the fulcrum of this Nation's war on terrorism. He stated that the terrorists that attacked on 9-11 counted on a "soft and spoiled" America, who would eventually quit if retaliation did not result in immediate success.

What the author of the e-mail discovered was an outpouring of "what can I do" to help in response. And I believe this amply illustrates what we continue to see across the United States. What the terrorists actually demonstrated with their attacks on 9-11, was their profound ignorance of the American people and of history.

Military theorist Clausewitz, terms war as a "remarkable trinity composed of the primordial passions of the people, the rational policies of the state, and the combination of incidents in battle."

The "passions of the people" were awakened after Pearl Harbor and again were awakened after 9-11. One year later, the passions are still high. American's are aware that what we are facing is that which America's has never seen up close. We were attacked on our own soil by an organization of individuals bent—not on removing our presence from certain parts of the world—but on our utter destruction.

We are facing an enemy who despises our very existence. They are consumed by hatred for the United States, that despite its faults, is open to all people regardless race or religion. We operate under principles of freedom, the ability to pursue life, liberty and happiness. As such, our country is fighting with hope against terror and freedom against oppression. Our

enemies will never know freedom, because they are imprisoned by hate; and for that they have already lost.

Former U.S. defense secretary, Caspar Weinberger, stated "The will of the American people once aroused . . . is capable of accomplishing all the things that have to be done." As long as we continue to maintain a moral high ground in this campaign against terrorism and its supporters and take the appropriate and precise responsive measures, the will of the people of this country will know no bounds.

CONDEMNING THE ATTACK ON THE SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE IN GUJARAT

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, this week, the world witnessed yet another act of senseless violence. I rise as the Co-Chairman of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans to express my condolences to the families of the victims of the brutal attack on the Swaminarayan Temple in Gujarat.

Thirty-two—including many children—died in an attack in Gandhinagar.

Last year, I lead a congressional delegation to Gujarat immediately following the devastating earthquake that hit the state. From that trip and my dealings with the Gujarati community in the U.S., I have developed a deep fondness for the people of Gujarat.

During my visit, I visited the Swaminarayan Temple and witnessed first hand the efforts of the Swaminarayan Temple to assist victims of the earthquake. Our heart goes out to all Gujaratis harmed by this violent act.

The Swaminarayan organization was established in 1907. It is a religion that preaches religious tolerance and practical spirituality. I only wish that more people in this world shared those values.

ABORTION NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2002

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this bill.

I support the right of an individual to follow his or her conscience and personally refuse to participate in abortion services, and if that was what this bill was about, I would be voting for it today.

Current law already allows health providers to refrain from providing any service to which they object. This bill goes too far by allowing insurance companies or HMOs to opt out of any reproductive services for any reason—not necessarily a religious or moral objection. It would even allow states to refuse to provide currently available abortion services to Medicaid beneficiaries who are victims of rape or incest or when the mother's life is in danger.

Most critically, this legislation bans the provision of information. People have many dif-

ferent opinions and beliefs about abortion. I believe women should be able to make their own decisions on this very personal matter. This bill goes too far by allowing restrictions on abortion information, counseling and referrals. Under this bill, emergency room physicians could be gagged from telling rape victims about emergency contraception. Even Title X clinics, which are funded by the federal government with the purpose of allowing women to make an informed choice from every available option, could be gagged if this legislation were to be signed into law.

Restricting information and choices is not the way to reduce the number of abortions in America. I challenge my colleagues today to reject election-year politics and work with me toward policies that prevent unintended pregnancies, improve reproductive health, and strongly encourage adoption.

TRIBUTE TO THE VICTIMS AND HEROES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the victims and heroes of September 11, 2001. Over the past year, this country has tried to come to terms with the tragedy we experienced on September 11th. Although I have written or spoken about that day many times, I have found that words often fail to describe the magnitude of that day. There are the haunting stories of loss and grief as well as stories of heroism and triumph. We learned about ourselves and our country that day and while we grieved for those we lost, we also cultivated a new sense of unity and patriotism. As a nation we renewed our belief in the American spirit and in the bravery of fellow Americans who would willingly risk their lives for a stranger. The stories of what ordinary men and women did under extraordinary circumstances continue to amaze me.

As we remember September 11, 2001, let us remember all the brave men and women who not only saved lives but saved our sense of brotherhood. Let us extend our prayers to all our brave men and women in the Armed Forces who right now are protecting our way of life and let us extend our deepest gratitude to our fire and police forces who have redefined the word 'sacrifice'.

COMMEMORATING SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

HON. DENNIS R. REHBERG

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, Americans should be proud of how they've handled the past 12 months. Yes, September 11th changed America forever, but not in the way the terrorists anticipated.

Those who committed this horrible act of war were intent on destroying America and our way of life—but they failed miserably. They tried to make us question our dedication

to democracy but they only increased our resolve in preserving the greatest form of government the world has ever known. They tried to destroy our economy—but the whole world knows America is still open for business, for farming, for travel. And they tried to extinguish the flame of liberty and hope in our country, but they only made it burn brighter. Yes, America has changed—we're stronger than ever.

CRISIS IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, over the past few days, millions of Americans watched their television screens transfixed by the horrific images of a woman repeatedly striking her 4-year-old daughter in a department store parking lot. As a result of intense media coverage, the mother eventually turned herself in and the state took protective custody of the child.

The unsettling incident has unfortunately played itself out in the media like a tragic movie of the week. Clearly, the child needs protection to determine if this violence was a pattern of abuse, and to prevent additional incidences of mistreatment. The mother faces up to three years in prison. The 4-year-old child is left to struggle with the emotional scars caused by the mother's physical abuse and the subsequent trauma of being removed from familiar, albeit dangerously dysfunctional, family surroundings.

The assumption and hope is that the child is now under the custody and supervision of the state and has been placed in a safe home. Unfortunately for the thousands of nameless children under the protective custody of state child welfare systems, the assurance of a safe and healthy environment is inconsistent with the reality.

Nationwide more than 550,000 children are currently in foster care. Class action lawsuits and multiple newspaper reports have documented the failure of states to meet the social service needs of vulnerable children and families in crisis, despite billions of dollars in federal assistance. Across the nation, allegations of limited access to services, improper placements, inadequate staff training, poor wage compensation coupled with massive case-loads, and high staff turnover rates are commonplace.

In the following article, the Columbus Dispatch identifies an innovative program aimed at meeting the challenging objective of ensuring child safety and providing much needed support services to parents in crisis. The Family to Family program detailed in the article is based on the belief that some families in crisis can receive services in their own homes. The family preservation program links troubled families with social service agencies, community centers, and other social service networks. The goal is to coordinate service delivery in efforts to increase quality and continuity of services.

The disturbing incident of child abuse caught on videotape taps into our greatest fears about abusive parents and the harmful

experiences of children, who through no fault of their own, are subjected to inadequate care. This incident highlights the need for a competent child welfare system that swiftly and effectively meets the needs of vulnerable children and families in crisis. To that effect the following article presents one possible solution to this ongoing child welfare crisis.

The article follows:

[From The Columbus Dispatch, Sept. 22, 2002]
HELPING MEND TROUBLED FAMILIES; AGENCY'S INNOVATIVE PROGRAM KEEPS KIDS AT HOME OR NEARBY

(By Encarnacion Pyle)

Sabrina Martin's oldest daughter told a teacher last winter that her mother had whipped her so hard that she had bruises.

In the past, a social worker likely would have stopped by Martin's house, packed her two children's clothes into a garbage bag and dropped the kids off at a foster house far from their family, friends and school.

But under a new program, Franklin County Children Services worked with the single mother from South Linden to safely care for her daughters as it investigated the abuse charge.

Family to Family is built on the belief that families often can be helped to care for their children in their own homes. Or, when children need to be removed, that they should be placed with a relative, close friend or foster family in the neighborhood.

The program linked Martin, 31, to St. Stephen's Community House, where she learned new skills for being a parent and the girls learned ways to control their behavior.

During its investigation, Children Services discovered that a baby sitter had hit 8-year-old Sadie. And although Martin would rather not have been involved with the agency, she said, the Family to Family program helped her become a better parent.

"Parenting is hard, especially if you're single and your children are challenging," she said. "I used to be so hot-tempered, I'd snatch the girls up by their arms. But I've since learned better ways to discipline them and deal with stress."

Children Services and St. Stephen's introduced Family to Family in North and South Linden in 2000. It was so successful that the agency, with help from the Gladden Community House, expanded the program to Franklinton last year and hopes to start it on the Near East Side in October.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation in Baltimore created the program 10 years ago as a way of meeting the growing challenges facing the child-welfare system, said John Mattingly, the group's senior associate.

"It is not another social-services pilot, fad or new model for child-welfare work," he said. "There is no quick fix."

The number of children being cared for away from their parents' homes nationwide has more than doubled from 260,000 in the 1980s to more than 550,000 today, with only a few communities reporting a decline in the past few years.

In Ohio, 26,000 children are in foster care. In Franklin County, 2,585 children are in paid placement, which includes all temporary and permanent custody, said John Saros, executive director of Children Services.

As a result, social workers carry enormous caseloads, and children are staying longer in foster care and group homes and suffering more-difficult behavioral and physical problems.

At the same time, the number of foster families nationally has dropped, so that fewer than 50 percent of the children who need temporary placement are placed with

foster families. The others go to group homes, institutions and—in some cities but not Columbus—to homeless shelters.

With Family to Family, instead of automatically taking custody of children, social workers from Children Services and the community centers meet with parents to work out ways to keep them home.

When that doesn't work, the parents are invited to sit down with foster parents and social workers to plan the child's care.

Friends, family, teachers, counselors, pastors, juvenile-justice workers and anyone else who can help the family are encouraged to attend. That's largely because children today have so many needs that parents must be experts in discipline, special education, learning disabilities, health care and mental health, said Marilyn Mehaffie, associate director of St. Stephens.

During the meetings, parents are praised for their strengths before their weaknesses are discussed.

"Before, we'd start by criticizing them for being a crack addict with no money and no food in the house," said Walter Torain, who heads Family to Family and Children Services' north region. "Now, we'd first praise them for being active in their children's schooling and caring enough to show up to the meeting."

Family to Family has placed nine children in foster homes in their Linden-area neighborhoods. Five more stayed in their own homes. Thirteen new foster homes were created in the area.

The biological parents are encouraged to tell the foster family what their children's favorite foods are, how they like their hair done, what makes them grumpy and how they can be comforted.

"That keeps birth parents from trying to find fault with the foster parents," said LaTisha Hines, Family to Family coordinator at St. Stephen's.

Children, who rarely were consulted about what is best for them, often are included in the discussion.

"It helps the kids from feeling like something is being forced on them," said Marika Sanders, a social worker at St. Stephens. "And it lessens their anxiety about divided loyalties."

To help limit the alienation that comes with removing children from their parents, friends, school and everything they know, Children Services heavily recruits foster parents in the neighborhood.

"Keeping kids in their community cuts down on the trauma," said Cordelia Foster, 53, who has cared for more than 65 children in 14 years as a foster mother.

The strategy represents an about-face to the traditional goal of child-welfare agencies of pulling children away from abusive or neglectful parents at all costs, often to the detriment of the child, said Richard Wexler, executive director of the National Coalition for Child Protection Reform in Alexandria, Va.

"It's the first good news I've heard about Franklin County Children Services in years."

Despite the benefits, the program's introduction presents formidable challenges, notably because child-welfare agencies have to accept a new way of doing business. Compounding the task are the traditionally ill feelings between foster parents and birth parents and the public's general mistrust of child-welfare agencies.

Still, Mattingly said, the program has flourished.

It began in Ohio and four other states, and now is in 32 communities nationwide. Combined, they've received nearly \$75 million in grants and technical assistance from the Casey Foundation, a private organization that works to improve the lives of disadvantaged children.