

losers as less effort is put into collecting and enforcing child support. CANOW supports a policy that would establish a penalty base that does not increase when more money is spent by the state to improve the program. Also, CANOW believes that an allowance for reinvestment of the penalty dollars to improvement of child support enforcement is a worthwhile venture.

Please help CANOW to alleviate the potential suffering of millions by restoring equity to the child support automation computer penalty structure. Current economic times demand that we rethink the effects of punitive measures from years past.

Sincerely,

MELANIE SNIDER,
CANOW Legislative Advocate.

CENTER FOR LAW AND SOCIAL POLICY
AND NATIONAL WOMEN'S LAW CENTER,

March 5, 2002.

Hon. WILLIAM THOMAS,
U.S. Representative, Committee on Ways and Means, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMAS: The Center for Law and Social Policy and the National Women's Law Center support the State of California's request for modifications in the computer penalties incurred by the state—and we support reform of the child support distribution rules—in order to continue the significant progress that California has made in recent years to improve its child support program and get more child support to families.

As explained in more detail below, we recommend a change in the way penalties are calculated, by redefining the penalty base to avoid penalizing California for having increased its investment in its child support program. We also support a change that would permit California to reinvest in its child support program the computer penalties incurred by the state because of its delay in implementing a statewide system under the Family Support Act of 1998 (FSA). We believe that California's progress in restructuring its child support program and implementing a new generation of computer technology are unique circumstances that justify reasonable modifications in the FSA computer penalty statute. However, we do not support forgiveness or waiver of the penalty, nor do we support reinvestment of child support penalties incurred for reasons other than noncompliance with FSA computer requirements.

We also hope you will cosponsor S. 916 and S. 918, which would reform child support distribution rules, simplify California's systems development, and get more child support to former and current welfare families. We urge you to get help get child support distribution reform passed this year.

Modifying Computer Penalties

In 1998, Congress enacted an alternative computer penalty in lieu of withdrawing full federal funds from state TANF and child support programs for states that fail to meet child support computer system deadlines. The statute creates an alternative penalty available to states making good faith to comply with the automated system requirements and submitting a corrective action plan. The penalties escalate over time: the first year penalty is 4 percent of federal child support matching funds; the second year penalty is 8 percent; the third year penalty is 16 percent; the fourth year penalty is 25 percent, and the fifth and subsequent years' penalty is 30 percent. The percentage is applied to the "penalty base": the amount payable to the state in the previous year as federal reimbursement for state administrative

expenditures in the child support program (the 66% federal match). Thus, a state like California that substantially increased its investment in the child support program each year faces not only escalating percentages, but an increasing penalty base.

We each provided extensive technical assistance to the House Committee on Ways and Means as it developed the penalty language. The specific intent of the alternative penalty was not to punish noncompliant states, but instead to spur those states to address political issues within the states that were impeding system development. Congress did not anticipate that states would incur penalties for more than three or four years. To date, all but two states, California and South Carolina, have received or requested certification of Family Support Act systems compliance.

Although California is not yet in compliance, it responded to the alternative penalty in the way intended by Congress. After Congress adopted the alternative penalty, the California legislature restructured the state child support program by (1) creating an independent state child support agency, (2) reorganizing the program at the county level, (3) engaging in an ambitious top-to-bottom review of child support policies and practices, (4) revamping its computer development and procurement plans, and (5) substantially increasing state funding levels. We think these changes are producing positive and enduring results for families. However, because California has not yet completed its computer system, it will continue to face computer penalties for several years to come.

We support two changes in the alternative penalty applicable to FSA system requirements. First, we agree with California that the statutory definition of the base unintentionally penalizes the state for increased investments in the child support program. As the state puts more money into the program, the penalty base and penalty increase. We think the base should be adjusted to reflect a fixed year.

Second, we support a change that would allow the state to reinvest the penalty in its child support program in a fair and reasonable way. Given California's strenuous efforts to improve its child support program since enactment of the alternative penalty, we think it is counterproductive to continue to withdraw penalty funds from the program, particularly at a time when state budgets are experiencing severe shortfalls. Several studies establish a direct link between child support program performance and adequate finding levels. We are particularly concerned that California's system development decisions could be compromised if the state is required to continue to pay its substantial penalties to the federal government.

Child Support Distribution Reform

It is also important that California have the authority to avoid programming existing distribution rules in the development of its new system. Problems with automating complicated rules have been cited by federal and state administrators as a cause of system development delays and costs. And one expert, Policy Studies, Inc., estimates that once the rules are implemented, 6 to 8 percent of all child support program costs—up to \$360 million per year—are spent maintaining them.

About half of the support arrears collected for families who have left welfare are not paid to the families, but instead are kept by the government as reimbursement for welfare costs. By paying the support to families, distribution reform would help families make the transition off of welfare and stay off. Research from the Wisconsin pass-through demonstration finds that when child

support directly benefits their children and is not kept by the government, fathers are more willing to establish paternity and pay support for their children.

We urge you support both California penalty relief and distribution reform this year.

Sincerely,

VICKI TURETSKY,
Senior Staff Attorney,
Center for Law and Social Policy.

JOAN ENTMACHER,
Vice President, Family Economic Security,
National Women's Law Center.

IN RECOGNITION OF AGNES GUND

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2002

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Agnes Gund on the occasion of the 34th Annual Museum of Modern Art Party in the Garden. Ms. Gund's extraordinary contributions to The Museum of Modern Art and the art community have made contemporary art accessible to countless people. It is a pleasure to pay tribute to this great educator, activist and philanthropist.

Ms. Gund has been a trustee of The Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) since 1976, and has served as President since 1991. Throughout that time, she has worked to expand the museum's services to a larger, more diverse public and has led MOMA to prominence both as a major tourist attraction and a standard-bearer for cultural institutions everywhere.

An advocate for arts education, she founded the Studio in a School Association in 1971, a program that places artists as teachers in New York City public schools. For her pioneering work in this innovative program, she received the Doris C. Freeman Award from the City of New York and the New York State Governor's Arts Award in 1988. With the Studio in a School program, Ms. Gund forged a new partnership between professional artists and public schools and introduced children to the joys of creative expression.

For her outstanding commitment to the 'excellence, growth, support and availability of the arts in the United States', Ms. Gund was awarded the prestigious 1997 National Medal of Arts by President Clinton. One of 11 recipients of the nation's highest award for achievement in the arts in 1997, she was the only patron of the arts to receive such recognition. Ms. Gund also received the College Art Association Women in the Arts award in 1996 and was elected as a fellow to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1995.

As an eminent leader of the arts community, Ms. Gund was recognized as one of Crain's 75 Most Influential Women in Business in 1996, and has received four honorary doctorates throughout her career. She has also devoted time to public service, particularly in issues surrounding AIDS research, arts programs and education, and has served as a benefactor to museums, art organizations, social and environmental groups and women's issues.

Ms. Gund is bringing MOMA into the 21st century with a \$1 billion expansion. The museum has taken the bold step of moving to Queens while the massive building project is underway. Prior to the move, she initiated a

series of revolutionary exhibits, MOMA 2000, mixing genres and blending mediums of expression to encourage visitors to take a new look at MOMA's collection.

A prominent collector of postwar art, Ms. Gund grew up surrounded by art and as a young woman became one of the foremost collectors of modern painters, eventually amassing 400 works of art. Generous with her collection, she has given some of her most important pieces to museums. After the birth of her 4 children, she returned to school and received a master's degree in art history. Ms. Gund has been a lifelong champion of the arts, and has succeeded in sharing her passion with the American people.

In recognition of these outstanding achievements, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Agnes Gund. Ms. Gund's generous spirit, devotion to arts education and love of creative genius will continue to benefit our nation for generations.

TRIBUTE TO BASEBALL GREAT
LARRY DOBY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 4, 2002

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to rise today to recognize a legend in baseball history, Larry Doby, on the occasion of the dedication of the Larry Doby Baseball Field in Eastside Park in Paterson, New Jersey.

Larry Doby has made history as the first African American to play in the American League when he joined the Cleveland Indians in 1947, and finished his career as a member of the Baseball Hall of Fame. Always an exceptional athlete, Larry Doby grew up in Paterson, New Jersey participating in four Varsity sports: baseball, football, basketball, and track. At this poignant start to his career he was an "All State" athlete in three out of his four competitive sports, displaying his clear athletic ability at an early age.

Larry Doby was an inspiring power-hitting center fielder and a key member of the Indians' pennant winners in 1948 and 1954. Preceding his breaking the color line with the Indians, Doby also starred with the Negro National League's Newark Eagles taking them to win the 1946 Negro League World Series. In later years, Doby was a nine time All-Star player, leading the American league twice in homers. Since the culmination of his baseball career, Doby has worked within his community, establishing a basketball league in Paterson, New Jersey for young people within the school system, grades six through nine.

My first visit to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1998 was for Larry Doby's induction ceremony, which I was pleased to attend because of my great respect for him. As a youngster growing up in Newark I looked forward to seeing him play at Rupert Stadium from 1942-43 and 1946-47, in the years surrounding his military experience. His career exemplifies what can be done with hard work and determination, having risen through prejudice and poverty to becoming a world-renowned athlete. He serves as a role model to all young people and especially to those aspiring athletes in our home state of New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues here in the United States House of Represent-

atives join me today in recognizing this great athlete and his innumerable contributions to society and send their very best wishes to him for a healthy and prosperous future.

2002 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FURTHER RECOVERY FROM AND RESPONSE TO TERRORIST ATTACKS ON THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 23, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4775) making supplemental appropriations for further recovery from and response to terrorist attacks on the United States for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes:

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the amendment offered by my colleague, Mr. MORAN, to prevent the potential bankruptcy of the Nation's 6th largest and the eastern seaboard's second largest airline, US Airways.

As the representative of New York's LaGuardia Airport, I know how important the preservation of this airline is, not only to the traveling public, but to the men, women and children in my district.

Following the events of September 11, our Nation's airlines took a tremendous financial hit, resulting in the dismissal of approximately 100,000 airline employees. As members of Congress, we felt we needed to do something to stop the bleeding. To that end, we passed a \$15 billion aid package to save America's airline industry. This package included \$10 billion in loan guarantees. Not recommendations, but guarantees.

Now in one fell swoop, the commitments made by Congress have been undermined by a select few members of this House without the consultation or consent of a majority of the members. US Airways has dedicated itself to preparing documentation, including a new business plan, with contributions from its employees, communities and vendors, which should be finalized later this month to meet the imposed deadline. US Airways has followed the law in good-faith, expending money and energy, to meet the requirements set out by the Loan Stabilization Board, the Department of Transportation and the Office of Management and Budget. For Congress to suspend this line of credit and arbitrarily suspend the loan guarantee program runs counter to Airline Stabilization Act that President Bush signed into law just six months ago.

This is not just about saving an airline; this is about protecting the livelihood of 40,000 American families. We must do everything we can to live up to our commitments, and stand by the hard working airline employees and their families during this difficult time.

Therefore, I urge all my colleagues to support this amendment.

2002 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FURTHER RECOVERY FROM AND RESPONSE TO TERRORIST ATTACKS ON THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 23, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4775) making supplemental appropriations for further recovery from and response to terrorist attacks on the United States for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes:

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word. What I say tonight, I am sure has already been said by other Democrats over the past two days . . . because this fight is not over a procedure, but rather over principles and beliefs that we Democrats believe in and are willing to fight for today, tonight and tomorrow—as long as it takes.

We believe you must be honest with the American people. No gimmicks, no tricks, no procedural shenanigans. A straight up and down vote.

Be honest with the American people. If this Republican resolution passes, we as a nation will be \$300 billion more in debt this year and \$200 to \$300 billion more each year for the next nine years.

In this resolution, the Republican leadership has hidden from the American people the second largest debt increase in our nation's history—\$750 billion!—and they will raid the Social Security Trust Fund to pay for it, because the Republican leadership has maxed out our country's credit card! I stand on the floor tonight in full support of our troops fighting terrorism here and abroad. House Democrats are fully committed to winning the war on terrorism and once again making America safe from harm.

Unfortunately, House Republicans are using the war to pass a dangerous and cynical provision that allows the federal government to break its own spending limit and take hundreds of billions of dollars from the Social Security Trust Fund!

America can be strong militarily without becoming weak economically.

The Republicans are hoping they can escape today's debate without leveling with the public; they have driven the nation back into deficit and now plan to raid the Social Security Trust Fund to pay for other programs.

Democrats are staunchly opposed to this plan. Democrats support a responsible budget that makes needed investments in national security, protects Social Security and Medicare, and does not burden our children and grandchildren with an enormous national debt.

We can defeat terrorism without destroying Social Security. Democrats stand on the principle of a responsible, honest and bipartisan budget; protecting and strengthening Social Security; and ensuring that we meet our obligations today so that our children are not burdened with debt.

We should have an economic summit between the president, Republicans and Democrats. Let's come together to address the national debt without this sham of a resolution