

even retirement. After 6 months of steady work, Janice and her family moved from welfare to work. Janice is a story of determination. Janice is a story of hope. I salute her and an even better welfare reform bill today.

THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY, WORK, AND FAMILY PROMOTION ACT OF 2002

(Mr. TANCREDO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, success has 1,000 fathers and failure is an orphan. This is especially true and it comes to mind when the ex-President of the United States recently claimed credit for the passage of the Welfare Reform Act after, of course, he twice vetoed the bill. The reason that Mr. Clinton now wants to be a parent of the bill is because it works. It is wildly successful. Nearly 3 million children have been lifted from poverty and the child poverty rate is at its lowest level since 1978.

When we reaffirm the dignity of work and the reality of welfare reform, it is not about a social program, but rather it is about a job. I hope that everyone joins me today and votes for the Welfare Reform Reauthorization.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 397 and H.R. 3799

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 397 and H.R. 3799.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. QUINN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

NECESSARY CHANGES FOR WELFARE REFORM

(Mr. CARDIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I have been listening to my friends on the other side talk about the debate we are going to be having today on welfare reform. Unfortunately, the rule that the Committee on Rules is recommending will not let us have a full debate, will not let us bring up amendments to a bill that is extremely important to our States, in not only getting people off of cash assistance welfare, but getting people real jobs.

Mr. Speaker, my concern is that if we look at the Republican bill that we will be debating later, it moves backwards. If welfare has been such a success, why are we imposing new restrictions on our States? Why are we telling our States that they cannot provide education and training to the people that are on welfare today? Why is education

important for everyone in this country, except for people that happen to be on cash assistance and on welfare?

Mr. Speaker, we will have a debate on welfare today, and I hope that we will be able to make some changes in the bill that comes forward so that we all can agree that the next chapter of welfare reform should be getting people out of poverty.

CONTINUING ON THE PATH OF SUCCESS

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I stand before my colleagues today to encourage all of the Members of this body to vote "yes" for H.R. 4700, the Welfare Reform Reauthorization. It is important that those who need government assistance get it, and those who can work get work.

Our 1996 welfare legislation was very successful, and there is no reason why the legislation we are voting on today will not be just as successful.

A few years ago, the Republicans voted three times to pass a welfare reform bill that revolutionized the lives of welfare recipients. In the past 3 years, over 3 million children have been lifted from the depths of poverty. Former welfare recipients and their children are now achieving their independence from the welfare system. We have taken a large step in the right direction, but it is critical that we continue our progress.

The House must finish the work we started 6 years ago. Let us continue to follow the path of success and continue to help change for the better the lives of millions of people. Vote "yes" on welfare reform.

FAILURES ON THE PATH OF SUCCESS

(Mr. HASTINGS of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in the limited time that I am here this morning, I have heard a significant number of Members speak to the subject of welfare reform. In 1996, allegedly, we were supposed to move people from welfare to work. In the State of Florida that I represent, it did not work. So for all of those coming here talking about welfare reform being an unqualified success, let me suggest to my colleagues that there were some failures along the path of their alleged success.

One thing needs to be understood by this body. If we do not have child care, no matter what we do in here with reference to welfare, it is not going to work. If one does not have educational benefits, if one does not have training for people, then what we are going to do is lead people into dead-end work that leads to dead-end lives.

Enough already. We have trapped people in this program, and what we are preparing to do is to trap them even more and create that cycle.

COURAGEOUS REPUBLICANS REFORM WELFARE

(Mr. SCHROCK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, before 1996, it was evident to most Americans that the welfare system was out of control and needed immediate and meaningful reform. So in 1996, the Republican-led Congress had the courage to reform welfare, making work the centerpiece for the new law, providing a hand-up, not a handout. Since then, millions of Americans have left the welfare rolls, child poverty rolls have dropped, and the poverty rate among African Americans is at a new all-time record.

Welfare reform has required millions of poor Americans to obtain employment, leading them from dependency on the government to personal independence and from low self-esteem to self-respect and self-confidence as they lifted themselves out of poverty.

Mr. Speaker, now this Congress is tasked with the reauthorization of the Welfare Reform Act. We must continue our progress by strengthening the path towards independence through work. Welfare reform has given millions of Americans a second chance at the American dream, and they are achieving it. Let us not turn back the clock on these wonderful achievements. Let us stay the course, ensuring life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all Americans.

MOVING FORWARD WITH WELFARE REFORM

(Mr. FLAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, in 1996, Congress did a very good thing: they reformed welfare and it was said at the time that it would throw children into poverty and a lot of people would be worse off than they were before.

Let us look at the figures. Mr. Speaker, 4.2 million fewer Americans live in poverty today than they did in 1996, and 2.3 million fewer children live in poverty today than in 1996.

Now, the other side of this debate says that those are the "alleged benefits." Those are not the alleged benefits; those are the facts. People are better off, everyone: children, women, minorities. We are all better off today than we were in 1996.

What it all comes down to it, we can look at individuals. There is a great story here. Tanya, a single mother, went on public assistance when her twin girls were a year old. Since completing her work with Calworks last

year, she has been able to earn enough money to purchase her own home. It is success stories like this, individuals that bring the meaning to us, that prove that we need to reauthorize this program and to continue to move forward.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3994, AFGHANISTAN FREEDOM SUPPORT ACT OF 2002

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 419 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 419

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3994) to authorize economic and democratic development assistance for Afghanistan and to authorize military assistance for Afghanistan and certain other foreign countries. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on International Relations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on International Relations now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered by title rather than by section. Each title shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommend with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. DIAZ-BALART asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 419 is an open rule

providing for the consideration of H.R. 3994, the Afghanistan Freedom Support Act. The rule provides 1 hour of general debate, evenly divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on International Relations. It is a fair rule and allows ample opportunity for all Members to present their views on this very important underlying legislation.

Since the beginning of the war on terror in Afghanistan, the Bush administration has made a continuous point that this is not a war against the people of Afghanistan. It is in reality quite the opposite. The Commander in Chief has worked to include the people of Afghanistan in our efforts to rid their country of terrorist networks and he has met this challenge with extraordinary success.

Now that the roots of freedom are in place, we should work to ensure that the people of Afghanistan and the interim government have resources to ensure that Afghanistan remains a full member of the democratic community.

The passage of the Afghanistan Freedom Promotion Act reiterates our commitment to peace and stability in the region. It authorizes over \$1 billion over the next 4 years for development, economic, and security assistance for Afghanistan. It also provides President Bush with needed flexibility in allocating assistance to take into account the fluid situation in Afghanistan and the corresponding needs there.

It is important, however, that we realize that this is not a blank check, this legislation, without verification. It conditions reconstruction and development assistance on the Afghan government, providing full support for counternarcotics efforts and implementing the commitments to peace and pluralism that were made in Germany last December.

The bill also earmarks \$15 million annually to support the UN Drug Control Program activities in Afghanistan and \$10 million annually for supporting a traditional Afghan assembly. The underlying legislation also provides assistance to meet urgent humanitarian needs such as food aid and disaster relief and emphasizes the need to assist refugees in returning to their communities when it is safe to do so.

This is a good bipartisan bill, Mr. Speaker. It preserves the successes that have been achieved in Afghanistan. The legislation provides for the national security of the United States as well as other friends and allies by helping the effort to eliminate Afghanistan as a source of terrorism and instability in the region.

I urge my colleagues to support both this rule and the underlying legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first let me thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-

BALART), my good friend and neighbor, for yielding me this time.

The rule itself is fair enough in that it is an open rule. I would also like to at this time thank the distinguished chairman and ranking member of the House Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), for their extraordinary work on this legislation.

As a former 9-year member of the Committee on International Relations, I well know how hard that committee works to bring sensible legislation to the House floor that is sound public policy for the United States and equally sound globally. So again, I want to recognize the hard work of the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE).

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Mr. Speaker, the bill before us today, the Afghanistan Freedom Support Act, is a good bill as far as it goes. I appreciate my good friend, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART), for saying that the circumstances in Afghanistan are fluid, and that is without question my opinion; and I would echo his sentiments in that regard.

This bill also authorizes a broad range of development, economic and security assistance for Afghanistan including more than \$1 billion in various assistance activities over 4 years, and urges the President to appoint a special coordinator to oversee overall U.S. assistance. And I think that that area should be underscored.

The bill also conditions assistance in certain regions to counter narcotics efforts and links future assistance to the furtherance of the "Bonn process" which provides a frame work for Afghanistan's political factions to decide their country's political future.

I read a summary of the bill last night, Mr. Speaker, which notes that this bill, and I quote, "includes strong language on the provision of assistance to meet the educational, health, vocational needs of women, endorses the needs for increased security throughout Afghanistan," housing, infrastructure.

Candidly speaking, I wish we had the money to do all the same things in my district and the rest of this country, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately, I have read the Republican welfare bill, and I fear the House today may very well be doing good for Afghans, as rightly we should, and more for them than we are for some Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I only half jokingly refer to this bill as "welfare for warlords." The cold facts tell me that sending this amount of money to a region that is still war-torn and rife with organized crime may be a dangerous thing to do. Peacekeepers in that region for a substantial period of time are going to be a must. Accountability is absolutely essential.

I am, however, very encouraged; and I spoke actively during the runup of