

## MIGUEL ESTRADA NOMINATION

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 5, 2003*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I join my fellow members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus in strong opposition to the nomination of Miguel Estrada to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals.

After meeting with Mr. Estrada, I am convinced that he possesses neither the professional qualifications nor the commitment to diversity necessary for service on the second most influential court in our nation.

We are disturbed by the fact that the President has nominated a person who has no prior experience as a judge and who is not considered one of the foremost legal voices of our time.

It is clear to us that Mr. Estrada's nomination has more to do with his Spanish surname than his qualifications for the job.

Miguel Estrada has no connection to the Latino community. He has no particular affinity for the role of the courts in lifting up the Latino community. He has never contributed pro bono legal services to Latino organizations, and has no interest in righting the wrongs of the past.

In short, he has no business representing our community on a bench that is just a stone's throw from the highest court in the land.

I strongly urge the Senate to vote against the confirmation of Miguel Estrada, and I stand in solidarity with our brave colleagues in the other chamber who are opposing his nomination.

H.R. 4, WELFARE REFORM  
REAUTHORIZATION**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 5, 2003*

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss my views on H.R. 4 and explain my reasons for opposing this legislation and supporting a moderate, workable substitute.

I believe in a "work first" policy for welfare recipients—the best path to independence for welfare recipients is a job. I also believe that we should do all that we can to ensure that work pays and remember that the reduction of poverty—especially child poverty—is the ultimate goal of this reauthorization.

When we last voted on legislation to reauthorize TANF, I shared with leaders in the House concerns expressed by officials in Kansas, including Janet Schalansky, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. Ms. Schalansky expressed clearly that the TANF reauthorization legislation must not impose another set of unfunded mandates and must recognize the great need for education, training and other supports for individuals leaving welfare. Unfortunately, her calls were ignored once again.

I had hoped that our President—a former governor—and congressional Republicans—who speak often of freeing the states from undue burdens placed by the Federal govern-

ment—would have heeded the concerns expressed about this legislation by governors and state officials around the country. Currently, and into the foreseeable future, most states are struggling with severe budget shortfalls that are projected to approach \$85 billion this year, and H.R. 4 imposes an additional unfunded mandate on the states to the tune of \$8–11 billion—\$67 million for the state of Kansas alone. Kansas is currently facing a budget crisis and its leaders are cutting services and raising taxes as we speak just to balance the budget. An unfunded mandate of this magnitude could devastate the state budget. If we are going to raise the bar for the states, we must provide support so that states can reach the bar.

The funding provided in H.R. 4 is not sufficient to accomplish and sustain the goals of the TANF program. Furthermore, this legislation allocates funding for child care that barely keeps pace with inflation and does not begin to provide the funding necessary to provide the child care that the additional work hours will demand. To fully implement this bill, the state of Kansas would need \$33.5 in extra funding for child care alone.

States, including Kansas, have done a good job implementing the provisions of the 1996 law. Kansas has reduced the cash assistance caseload by more than half, and helped approximately 37,000 adults become employed and retain employment. I want to continue to do what I can to ensure that the states have the tools and flexibility they need to help welfare recipients move from welfare to work, but H.R. 4, like H.R. 4737 before it, falls far short of that goal.

For these reasons, I am supporting the Cardin-Kind-Woolsey substitute that will provide an extra \$11 billion in mandatory funding for child care to help states provide child care for working welfare recipients and provide an inflationary increase for the TANF block grant.

Education is the path through which welfare recipients will truly find long-term, well-paying, permanent employment. Only education and training will give welfare recipients the skills they need to move permanently to a life of self-sufficiency. Unfortunately, this legislation greatly reduces the states' discretion to allow welfare recipients to get education and training to pull themselves out of poverty. This legislation removes vocational education from the list of work-related activities that count toward the core work requirement. In addition, the bill does not provide an employment credit to the states when individuals leave welfare for work.

That is why I am supporting a substitute that will allow states to combine successful "work first" initiatives with education and training. The substitute will give states credit when they move individuals from welfare to private-sector jobs—rather than giving them an incentive to create government "make work" programs.

Mr. Speaker, the House should reject H.R. 4 and approve the Cardin-Kind-Woolsey substitute. Our goal is to move welfare recipients to work and help people lift themselves out of poverty. The substitute gives the states the tools they need to achieve that goal.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 5, 2003*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on February 25, 2003, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote on H. Res. 46, honoring the life of Al Hirschfeld and his legacy, and H. Con. Res. 40, permitting the use of the Rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on both measures.

## HONORING KIMBERLY GREENWOOD

**HON. JEB BRADLEY**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 5, 2003*

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kimberly Greenwood of Greenland upon her recognition as a 2003 Prudential Spirit of Community State Honoree by Prudential Financial and the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

This honor, which is bestowed upon one middle school and one high school student volunteer from each state, is designed to emphasize the importance our nation places on service to others. Kimberly's actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities. Kimberly proves that with a little creativity and a lot of passion, one person can make a difference that has profound ripple effects in his or her community.

Motivated to educate her peers about the growing hunger problem, Kimberly faced the daunting task of planning events that would hold the attention of middle school students. Kimberly's creativity in planning events and fundraisers is a testament to her dedication to making a lasting impact on her peers. Kimberly organized a raffle, bake sale and a "dress-down pass sale," which allowed purchasers to wear everyday clothes instead of their school uniform for one day. Her keen business savvy proved successful, as she raised over \$750 for local and national charities. In order to highlight the program's impact, Kimberly collected all of the wasted food from the students' lunch period each day for one week during the food fast and weighed it. By the end of the week, the students had cut the amount of food they wasted by twenty pounds, and had achieved a greater respect for their own good fortunes. Kimberly is a living example of how people of all ages need to think about how to work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods.

Young volunteers like Kimberly are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow. She truly exemplifies what is good about today's youth. I applaud Kimberly for her efforts to make her community a better place to live and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of others. It is an honor to represent her in the U.S. House of Representatives.