

20 years have contributed greatly to the community of Rancho Santa Fe.

REBUILD LIVES AND FAMILIES
RE-ENTRY ENHANCEMENT ACT
OF 2004

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Rebuild Lives and Families Re-Entry Enhancement Act of 2004. This legislation will be the next important step in establishing policy to help the men and women emerging from our Nation's prisons and jails re-integrate into society and rebuild their lives.

While our national crime rates have fallen over the last decade, we have seen an unprecedented explosion in our prison and jail populations. Over two million prisoners are now held in Federal and State prisons and local jails. Each year, approximately 650,000 people return to their communities following a prison or jail sentence, resulting in more than 6.7 million under some form of criminal justice supervision.

Reentry refers to the return of incarcerated individuals from America's jails and prisons to the community and their reintegration into society. There is a pressing need to provide these individuals with the education and training necessary to obtain and hold onto steady jobs, undergo drug treatment, and get medical and mental health services. However, they are confronted with the "prison after imprisonment"—a plethora of seemingly endless obstacles and impediments which stymie successful re-integration into society. These obstacles have substantially contributed to the historically high rate of recidivism, with two-thirds of returning prisoners having been re-arrested for new crimes within 3 years.

This legislation is designed to assist high-risk, high-need offenders who have served their prison sentences, but who pose the greatest risk of reoffending upon release because they lack the education, job skills, stable family or living arrangements, and the substance abuse treatment and other mental and medical health services they need to successfully reintegrate into society. Title I of the bill reauthorizes and enhances our early adult and juvenile reentry programs to broaden the availability of critical ex-offender services, while Title II addresses the substantive federal barriers to successful reentry. Both titles include provisions requiring that the funded programs be rigorously evaluated and the results widely disseminated, so that reentry programs can be modified as needed, to ensure that recidivism is reduced and public safety enhanced.

A recent study by Peter D. Hart Research Associates reveals that Americans strongly favor rehabilitation and reentry programs as the best method of insuring public safety. With this changing paradigm in public opinion, the opportunity is ripe to sensibly reassess the role and impact of criminal justice policies. This legislation translates this emerging public perception into balanced policies and procedures which dismantle the structural impediments to successful reintegration into society.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOEL D.
HEDENSTROM

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to honor and pay tribute to Mr. Joel D. Hedenstrom who retired September 3, 2004, from the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command at Fort Monroe, Virginia, after more than 35 years of service to our Nation.

Mr. Hedenstrom served in the United States Army from 1969 until 1973 with the United States Army Military Personnel Center in Alexandria, Virginia. His military service included an assignment with the Office of the Secretary of Defense to support a study-group that established the Survivor Benefit Plan.

Following his military service, he resumed duties with the United States Military Personnel Center, in a civilian capacity. He later accepted a position with the Secretary of the Army's Chief of Legislative Liaison, where he subsequently became a team chief and carried an additional duty as the Congressional point of contact for mass casualties.

In 1988, Mr. Hedenstrom was selected to serve as Congressional Affairs Specialist for the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command. Mr. Hedenstrom displayed the highest level of expertise in his field and was respected throughout the Command and the Department of the Army for his sound guidance and advice.

In recognition of his dedicated service, he was awarded the Meritorious Civilian Service Award for his outstanding performance of duties. I commend Mr. Hedenstrom for 35 years of honorable service to the Nation and the United States Army and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MR. CECIL BROOKS III

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a cultural innovator in my district, Mr. Cecil Brooks III. A world renowned jazz artist, drummer, band leader, composer, arranger, and record producer, Mr. Brooks and his wife Adreana have recently established a jazz club in West Orange. Opening in late June 2003, Cecil's is quickly establishing a reputation as one of the most prestigious addresses in northern New Jersey.

Mr. Brooks is responsible for bringing internationally acclaimed entertainers to our community, including renowned jazz saxophonist Don Braden and American comic legend Bill Cosby.

Mr. Brooks achieved international prominence as a Goodwill Ambassador, and is considered one of the most popular and innovative figures in the world of modern jazz, as well one of the most prolific record producers and band leaders on the scene today. He has been credited with numerous recordings which have been ranked in the Top Ten of the Gavin National Radio Airplay Chart and has worked

for several labels including Muse and Highnote/Savant records.

He has been recognized in the Downbeat Magazine Critic's Poll as "Producer Deserving Wider Recognition," and has performed on world tour with jazz icons such as Houston Person and Etta James, Pharoah Sanders, Stanley Turrentine, the Mingus Dynasty Big Band, the Dizzy Gillespie Reunion Band, and was the drummer for The Bill Cosby Show.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending my thanks to my neighbors Cecil and Adreana Brooks for their contributions to the civic and cultural life of our community, and I invite my colleagues to join me in sending our congratulations for their outstanding achievements which celebrate jazz, the truly American art form, and have brought such positive recognition to the city of West Orange.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5006) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes:

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Chairman, each year the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill is one of the most difficult measures for this body to complete. One reason is that it is often the costliest of our spending bills. Another is that the programs it funds are the most critical to the well-being of our citizens.

I want to thank the members of the Appropriations Committee, particularly Chairman YOUNG, Ranking Member OBEY, and Subcommittee Chairman REGULA for their hard work on this measure, particularly in light of the budgetary limitations on what we can accomplish for many vital domestic programs.

I am pleased that the House has increased by \$22 million the bill's funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and I want to thank the gentleman from Vermont, Mr. SANDERS, for his leadership and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their support of his amendment.

I also want to thank Mr. OBEY for his leadership on the key issue of overtime pay. American workers deserve to be paid fairly for the work they perform, and I am proud that the House has voted to eliminate damaging aspects of the Labor Department's rule.

This is a bill that in many ways improves upon the President's budget proposals, and I intend to support it. However, I am concerned about the low funding levels in several areas that I hope can be improved upon in conference.

In the area of education, this bill does not do enough for our Nation's elementary and secondary school students. In my home state of Maryland, more than 100 schools do not

meet state standards required by the No Child Left Behind Law. Even though many school districts find themselves unable to meet the goals of the law, the bill before us today provides \$9.5 billion less than the funding promised. Today's bill also falls \$2.5 billion short of the \$13.6 billion promised last year for special education when IDEA was reauthorized last year. I would also hope that we can improve upon the higher education funding, particularly in the areas of Pell Grants and Perkins Loans, so that lower and middle-income students can continue to enroll in public and private colleges across the Nation.

This bill also shortchanges Americans already in the labor market. Eight million Americans who want to work cannot find jobs, but the job training funds do not keep pace with inflation. In fact, compared FY 2001, it cuts job training funding in real terms by over \$700 million. I would hope that we can improve upon these levels in conference.

Finally, we must increase funding for several programs in the Department of Health and Human Services. Last month, we learned that the number of uninsured Americans reached 45 million, yet this bill reduces Maternal and Child Health Block Grants that fund care for uninsured women and children, and it eliminates the Community Access Program, which has funded grants across the Nation for preventive and primary care. This bill also cuts vital Ryan White AIDS Care programs, and it does not adequately fund the lifesaving NIH research that Americans diagnosed with Alzheimer's, cancer, diabetes, and other debilitating diseases are depending upon. Unfortunately, this bill contains an increase of only 2.6% in NIH funding—less than medical research inflation.

I hope, as this House bill moves forward in conference, that the funding levels for these critical needs can be increased to a more realistic level.

VICTIMS COMPENSATION FUND EXTENSION ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, in the immediate aftermath of the September 11th terrorist attacks the Congress created the Victims Compensation Fund (VCF) to provide compensation for victims of 9/11. This fund provided aid to the families of 9/11 victims and to individuals who suffered personal injury. Among other things, aid from the fund pays for medical expenses and lost wages. In return for accepting these funds, recipients relinquished rights to any future litigation. The fund had a deadline for applicants of December 22, 2003.

At the deadline, close to 100% of the families who lost a loved one had filed with the fund, but many individuals who were injured as a direct result of 9/11 had not. After the filing, many of the injured were denied benefits, despite a clear need.

The main reasons for not filing applications included people who did not know they were eligible as well as others whose injuries were late-onset. There are literally hundreds of individuals who are now just developing career-

ending injuries—such as pulmonary and respiratory ailments—but are not eligible to receive assistance because they developed their symptoms after the deadline.

Largely as a result of the VCF's restrictions on applicants, 1,755 of the 4,430 personal injury claims considered were denied. While there was some leeway, the rules required workers to have arrived at Ground Zero within 96 hours of the attack and would have needed to seek medical treatment within 72 hours. This is reasonable for rescue workers who suffered immediate injuries, but leaves no recourse for individuals with late-onset injuries or who arrived after September 15, 2001 to assist in the recovery effort and are now suffering from injuries.

In order to care for the individuals who are now just developing physical injuries and to provide an opportunity for injured individuals who did not know they were eligible, I am introducing the Victims Compensation Fund Extension Act.

This bill would: Amend eligibility rules so that responders to the 9/11 attacks who arrived later than the first 96 hours could be eligible if they experienced illness or injury from their work at the site. Amend eligibility rules so that those who did not seek immediate medical verification for their illness or injury from the disaster, but who have since obtained medical evidence, would be eligible. Extend the deadline for applications to allow those with either late-onset illness from the disaster or those who were never informed of their eligibility for the Victim Compensation Fund to consider applying.

HONORING JERRY RABER FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jerry Raber, a resident of Newark, California. The city of Newark will pay tribute to Jerry on September 16, 2004 at the dedication of Jerry Raber Ash Street Park.

All who know her describe Jerry as a truly special woman. For over thirty years, Jerry has been a tireless advocate fighting to meet the needs of children in her community.

When a fire devastated the original Ash Street Youth Center in March 1969, Jerry pushed and pursued the city to replace the building. Through her leadership and perseverance, she garnered support from volunteers and local contractors to help rebuild the center. Service clubs, such as Kiwanis and Rotary donated funds for play equipment while local contractors contributed roofing, concrete and other building materials. Area businesses and restaurants joined forces and placed donation jars in their establishments to collect funds that helped to complete the softball field.

Along with city funding, federal grants, generous grassroots donations and hard work, the Ash Street Youth Center was rebuilt. The Center was ready to serve the community with programs such as ballet, cake decorating, adult education, secretarial courses, storybook hours, book exchanges, arts and crafts, a game lending library and a horse clinic.

In June 1971, Ash Street Park joined the Ash Street Youth Center and services to the community were expanded. A wide variety of recreational activities included picnicking, softball, flag football, Easter egg hunts, supervised overnight camping and even a pet parade.

Jerry Raber continued to push for further services for the community and assisted in the expansion of Ash Street Park. In 1992, Jerry, along with area residents, school officials and PTA members, formed a non-profit organization, Friends for Ash Street Community Enrichment, better known as FACE. FACE, with the city of Newark, started a new balanced lunch and recreation program.

Children enrolled in the program received free hot lunches and the opportunity to participate in arts and crafts, sports games, lessons on public safety awareness and teambuilding.

Jerry Raber's drive and persistence to make Newark a better place for children has been recognized and appreciated through the years. She has many markers of success she can point to with pride. Her accomplishments have earned her the honorary title "Mayor of Old Town". I join in thanking Jerry for her tireless efforts and investment in the community to make a difference in the lives of others.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL AND KATE TAUER

HON. BOB BEAUPREZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two distinguished Coloradans who reside in my district. I am pleased to announce that Paul and Kate Tauer, of Aurora, Colorado, were recipients of the 2004 National Excellence in Parenting Award presented by the National Parents' Day Council.

I believe that commitment to family and community is a core value all Americans should share. Unfortunately, we rarely take the time to recognize individuals who place their own interests behind those of their family and community.

Paul and Kate Tauer have been married for 47 years and are the parents of 8 children and the grandparents of 13. They have been tireless in their volunteer efforts, in which their children take an active role. The Tauer family has served on countless committees and participate in a myriad of volunteer endeavors. Together they started the Aurora Asian Pacific Partnership and both serve on the Mental Health Center Board. Paul recently retired as a four-term Mayor of Aurora, the third most populous city in Colorado. Following in the footsteps of his father, Paul's son Ed was elected to succeed him as Mayor of Aurora.

This award provides an opportunity to recognize and promote parenting as a central vocation for our families and our communities. It is my genuine honor to be able to represent Paul and Kate Tauer. They are distinguished citizens, activists and parents—there is no higher or more honorable calling.