

States to consult with Indian tribes before enacting policies that have a direct effect on them.

The history of Federal-Tribal relations has shown that consultation with Indian tribes works. The Federal Indian policies that have failed have been those that were developed without tribal input or are contrary to tribal input. On the other hand, the Federal Indian policy that has succeeded is that which allows Indian tribes the most input and control over their own affairs—tribal self-governance and self-determination. Indian tribes know what is best for themselves and for their members.

So it is disappointing that over 30 years after passage of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act that this Administration refuses to engage in timely and meaningful consultation with Indian tribes.

Despite the political and moral obligation, as well as Presidential Executive Order 13175 requiring the administration to consult with Indian tribes, this administration has flagrantly ignored this responsibility. Instead, the administration takes actions that often have serious and negative consequences on Indian country, without any consultation at all. The House Committee on Natural Resources hears from Indian tribes on a continuous basis about the lack of government-to-government consultation between the administration and Indian tribes.

This bill will require the Department of the Interior, the Indian Health Service, and the National Indian Gaming Commission to enter into a true consultation process with Indian tribes and Alaska Natives before new policies or actions are taken, which will directly affect them.

This bill will mandate that Federal Indian policy is formulated only with input from Indian country while respecting Indian tribal self-government, sovereignty, and with honor for treaties signed long ago.

This bill will ensure that the United States will not repeat the mistaken policies of the past where the Great White Father makes decisions and policies in a vacuum.

This bill will make sure that the United States as a government sits at the table with Indian tribal governments when decisions are to be made affecting the lives of our First Americans.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

RECONNECTING HOMELESS YOUTH ACT OF 2008

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today as the lead Republican Sponsor of H.R. 5524, the Reconnecting Homeless Youth Act of 2008. I am pleased to join with my good friend Congressman JOHN YARMUTH to introduce this important bill reauthorizing and strengthening programs for runaway and homeless youth programs set to expire this year.

Madam Speaker, each year, between one and three million children in the United States find themselves on their own and on the street. Throughout our Nation, local shelters, like Naperville Community Outreach and Aunt Martha's in my district, rely on Federal support to keep these kids safe and off the streets.

Congress first enacted the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, RHYA, in 1974 and has regularly reauthorized it to ensure a basic level of support for unaccompanied youth. The Reconnecting Homeless Youth Act does more than reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act. It gives children whose lives have been disrupted an opportunity to overcome homelessness and get on track for a successful future.

This bill gives needed flexibility to shelters receiving Basic Center Program, BCP, funds, which provide children with emergency short-term shelter while attempts are made at family reunification. It strengthens Transitional Living Programs, TLP, that provide older youth with life skills, education and employment services to help them become self-sufficient and independent. The bill also strengthens outreach efforts aimed at educating runaways on the services available and preventing youth from running away in the first place.

While the bill improves key components of runaway and homeless youth programs, I do have some concerns that I look forward to addressing as the bill moves through the Education and Labor Committee. First, I am concerned that raising minimum small state and territory allotments could adversely affect other States and territories if RHYA funding levels remain flat. Secondly, while I support the intent of more accurate research on runaway and homeless youth, I believe we can find a more cost-effective alternative to the research mandated in this bill. Lastly, I am concerned that the grant appeals process created in the bill attempts to fix a problem that simply does not exist and, in doing so, raises costs associated with administering the program.

I very much appreciate the assurances I've been given by the majority and minority on the Education and Labor Committee that we will discuss these and other issues in a bipartisan manner to make a good bill great, and, most importantly, to keep children off the streets.

IN RECOGNITION OF DELIA P. SANCHEZ IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, in recognition of Women's History Month, I rise today to honor Delia P. Sanchez, a champion for children in Florida. Ms. Sanchez is a wonderful example of the power of women to shape future generations and make a difference in their communities.

Ms. Sanchez is a lifelong learner. She obtained her bachelor's degree from Florida State University in social work with minors in education and Spanish in 1945 and went on to get her master's in social work at Columbia University in 1947. Until 1991, nearly 50 years later, she took graduate level courses in areas such as pupil personnel services, education, and rehabilitation.

All the while, Ms. Sanchez was affecting enormous change in lives of hundreds of children in the Tampa Bay area. One of the greatest services that Delia Sanchez provided to the Tampa community was to work with Congressman Sam Gibbons to bring the first Head

Start program to Hillsborough County. She began her career as a child welfare worker for the Florida State Welfare Board. From there Ms. Sanchez went on to work for the School Board of Hillsborough County as a school social worker and a case work consultant, working her way up the ranks to eventually serve as the administrative supervisor for Head Start for 9 years. Then, in the last 3 years of her career, she went into private practice to counsel troubled children.

Throughout her career and in her retirement, Ms. Sanchez has served as a board member or local representative to a number of community organizations. The list is too large to mention them all, but they range from the University of South Florida's Latin Community Advisory Committee, the Citizen's Advisory Council, the Child Abuse Council, the Ybor City Museum Society, to the National Association of Social Workers.

For all of her hard work for the education and welfare of children, countless organizations have recognized her. Ms. Sanchez is the recipient of the U.S. State Department Fellowship Award, the American Red Cross Service Award twice, the Mayor's Brotherhood/Sisterhood Award, the USF Social Work Alumni Society Award for Outstanding Community Service, the Channel 8 WFLA Volunteer of the Year Award, the Commemoration Committee Award for Dedicated Community Service, the Retired Social Worker Outstanding Achievement Award, the St. John Presbyterian Early Childhood Hand Print Award, the Ybor City Museum Society Pizzo Award to preserve Tampa's Latin heritage, the Hillsborough County Martin Luther King, Jr. Award, the Louis De La Parte Mental Health Advisory Council Award, and the National Head Start Association Lifetime Achievement Award.

And, if all of that wasn't enough, she is also a member of Sigma Delta Pi Spanish Honor Society, was named Social Worker of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers by the Tampa Bay Unit and then again by the Florida Chapter, received an honorary Doctorate from the University of South Florida School of Social Work, and in 1993 she was Hispanic Woman of the Year.

Madam Speaker, Delia P. Sanchez is a woman of the highest regard who has dedicated her life to helping others. I am proud to call her my neighbor, and I join many others to applaud her lifetime contribution to the Tampa Bay community.

HONORING ASNETH SYDONNIE COUNCIL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Asneth Sydonnie Council for outstanding and exemplary contribution to children and families in their pursuit of educational opportunities and advancement.

Asneth Council grew up in St. Ann, Jamaica in a home environment nurtured with love and strong family ties. She is the first of four daughters and one son of Mrs. Hillary Livingston, who is herself an educator. Her family's motto is "Education Is the Key to Success." Naturally, Ms. Council epitomizes this motto in

her professional life as well as her work with children, families, staff and community stakeholders.

Asneth attended and graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Behavioral Science from Mercy College. She continued her studies at Teachers College of Columbia University where she earned a Master of Arts Degree in Social and Organizational Psychology. Her love of learning propelled Ms. Council to return to Long Island University where she completed a second Master's Degree in Public Administration in May 2007. She is presently enrolled in Doctoral Studies with a concentration in Industrial and Organizational Psychology.

Starting at the Joseph DiMarco Head Start program where she worked with children and their families, she continued working in Head Start by setting up a joint Head Start program with Broadway Housing and Center for Urban Community Services.

In December 2005, Asneth Sydonnie Council joined the Police Athletic League where she was quickly promoted from Deputy Director to the Director of Head Start programs and in August of 2007, was promoted to her current position as Director of Childcare and Nutrition. Moreover, Ms. Council is also a member of the Police Athletic League Strategic Planning Committee.

Ms. Council and her husband, Herbert, are celebrating seven years of marriage and are the proud parents of five children who continue to excel in their educational pursuits. Keeping with the tradition of her family's motto, Asneth also believes that "every individual is important and has something to offer."

Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to honor Asneth Sydonnie Council for her important role, her unwavering dedication and valuable contributions on behalf of young children. She is selfless and gives all of her heart to the very young who need her compassion the most.

STEPHANIE MORROW

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Stephanie Morrow of Blue Springs, Missouri. Stephanie is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, and earning the most prestigious award of Girl Scout Gold Award.

Stephanie has been very active with her troop, participating in many scout activities. In order to receive the prestigious Gold Award, Stephanie has completed all seven requirements that promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values and leadership skills.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commanding Stephanie Morrow for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Girl Scout Gold Award.

HONORING NANCY PORTER MORRILL

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Nancy Porter Morrill—the 2008 recipient the Bucks County Women's History Month Award. Ms. Morrill is being recognized by the Bucks County Women's Fund for her hard work and exceptional achievements in working to improve her community.

Ms. Morrill has a long and distinguished career of service to Bucks County. Committed to improving Bucks County, Ms. Morrill dedicated herself to working for various organizations, such as Community Development Advisory Council, Human Services Advisory Council and the Operations Review and Evaluations Committee.

Ms. Morrill has also worked to improve the scholastic and cultural environment of Bucks County. She was an important member of both School Works! and the Pennsbury School District, working to advance the relationships between businesses, teachers, students, and parents.

She has had an impact on the arts as well. She helped create the Arts and Cultural Council of Bucks County and the Food and Wine Festival in Bucks County which she co-chaired for 5 years. Ms. Morrill was also an active member of the Pennsbury Arts Foundation and the Art Committee of the Phillips Mill Community Association.

Of all Ms. Morrill's outstanding achievements, her most important work has been done fighting for women's rights in Bucks County. Over many years, Ms. Morrill worked tirelessly for the Planned Parenthood organization. She was head of the fundraising committee for the Planned Parenthood clinic in Doylestown and she went on to serve as the president of Bucks County Planned Parenthood organization. Also, Ms. Morrill was named the secretary of the board of the Family Planning Association of S.E.P.A., and helped to build the Bucks County Women's Fund.

As her outstanding resume shows, Nancy Morrill has pledged her life to helping those in her community. Through her tireless work, Ms. Morrill has changed Bucks County for the better. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Ms. Morrill for her extraordinary accomplishments and extremely honored to serve as her Congressman.

HONORING OLD FIRST CHURCH IN SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I would like to commemorate the First Church of Christ, Congregational, located in Springfield, MA, commonly known as "Old First Church." The congregation first established on the banks of the Connecticut River in 1637, conducted its last service on Sunday, December 31, 2007. Its steeple bells tolled for

the last time after the service was concluded and rang out over Court Square and downtown Springfield in its entirety. Its closing should not go unreported.

Old First Church was founded by settlers, including William Pynchon, who came to the banks of the Connecticut River from Roxbury, MA, in 1636. The settlers began worshiping in settlers' homes in 1637 with the Reverend George Moon. The First Meeting House was built in 1637, the second in 1677, the third in 1752 (during the ministry of the Reverend Robert Breck), and the fourth, and current, Meeting House was built in 1819. The dedication of the building took place on August 19, 1819. Three thousand people, essentially the entire population of Springfield and the surrounding area were in attendance.

Old First Church is the "mother church" for 15 congregations throughout the Connecticut River valley and over 30 churches can trace their roots to Old First Church. Several of the churches were established for reasons of theological difference and sometimes because of differences relative to a particular pastor's style and perspective. Among the active "daughter" churches are: First Church of Christ, Congregational, Suffield, CT; Enfield Congregational Church, Enfield, CT; First Congregational Church UCC, West Springfield, MA; Wilbraham United Church, Wilbraham, MA; First Congregational Church, Brimfield, MA; First Congregational Church UCC, Chicopee, MA, First Church in Ludlow UCC, Ludlow, MA; The Thirds Congregational Society; South Congregational Church UCC in Springfield, MA; and First Church in Longmeadow, MA. The members of Old First Church hope that their legacy, which includes a commitment to social justice and to serving the people of Greater Springfield in countless ways, will continue through the members of those "daughter" congregations.

The current Meeting House was designed and built by Captain Isaac Damon, with a steeple alter the manner of Christopher Wren. Captain Damon originally traveled to Western Massachusetts from Weymouth, MA, to work on the First Church of Christ in Northampton. Subsequently he worked on additional projects in the Northampton area and it was his work in that area that caused the members of Old First Church to seek him out.

From its position atop the steeple of Old First Church, the Rooster weathervane (which was first placed on the third Meeting House in 1768 and on the current Meeting House when fully constructed in 1819) has been a witness to Springfield's rich and important New England history including: George Washington passing by on June 30, 1775, to take charge of the defense in Boston; the travel of Henry Knox and his train of artillery on January 26, 1776; the selection of Springfield as the site for the first United States Arsenal; General Burgoyne's army after its defeat in Saratoga, New York in 1777; and the defense of the Springfield Armory from rebel forces lead by Daniel Shays in 1787. In more current times, it has gone on to witness community celebrations and commemorations, demonstrations and festivals. It has remained steady and devoted to the City of Springfield and its citizens, just as the members of the Congregation of Old First Church have for hundreds of years.

There are many events and activities of note which have taken place at Old First Church over the centuries, which include the