

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ISSUES OF CONCERN TO YOUTH TODAY

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to have printed in the RECORD statements by high school students from my home state of Vermont, who were speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people today. I am asking that you please insert their statements in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as I believe that the views of these young persons will benefit my colleagues.

STATEMENT BY RACHEL SALYER REGARDING SUBSTANCE ABUSE

RACHEL SALYER: My name is Rachel Salyer. I am a senior at the Bellows Free Academy in St. Albans.

I think there are so many issues surrounding the youth of today, things like success—we are pressured to succeed in life, whether that is monetarily, or just self. And the adults in the community don't seem to be helping very much. When adults, parents and other adults alike throughout Vermont and the nation characterize teenagers as all being troublemakers or all being people who drink or party, then they are sending a message to the youth of the community that they don't care about our future, because it is our future, and they are not going to be around for it, and it is our own fault, basically.

These stereotypes are wrong. Not all youth in Vermont are people who like to drink, people who like to do drugs, people who go to parties every weekend. That's why organizations such as Green Mountain Prevention Project are such an important part of Vermont youth, because they sponsor programs like the Green Mountain Teens, which is a group of teens who have gotten together, who try to make other teens aware that there are all these issues surrounding them, that parents and adults have this image of us, and we want to try and change it.

Basically, what the Green Mountain Teens do is, we are a peer-awareness and prevention group. We provide healthy alternatives to doing drugs or drinking and things like that. We have coffee houses, we have haunted houses, winter balls, dances, anything you can imagine, any other kind of healthy lifestyle habit, we promote that, in order to tell teens that there is something else out there. We are setting examples for teens by being teens, and telling them that there are other choices. And we are trying to show the adults in the community that we need their support also, that we recognize there is a problem, and that it needs to be changed.

Congressman SANDERS: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT BY JOSH LEMIEUX, MARK BOYLE, CARL HALBACK AND RICHARD GONZALES REGARDING SKATEBOARD COMMUNITY BUILDING

CARL HALBACK: First of all, thank you for inviting us here. The point we are trying to prove today is, we have changed our community outlook and image from a negative to a positive outlook.

MARK BOYLE: A lot of groups here are talking about things they would like to do and things that they think need to be done, or processes they need to do. We would like to prove that works. We did a lot of community service and got help from a lot of community members in order to enhance what we enjoy. And this is one of those things that a lot of these groups out there need to think about doing, and this is how they need to do it, just like get a lot of help from the community and be able to follow the guidelines that the adult world uses, and not dwell on the fact that they need to let us do what we want to do, because we are going to do it anyway.

RICHARD GONZALES: Basically, I looked at the State of Vermont, and I seen that they don't recognize extreme sports as one of the big issues, as like physical activities, and, you know, we just took it upon ourselves to build our own park and raise money, and do stuff like that, try to help our city out.

JOSH LEMIEUX: Right now, we are building a new skate park. We just got done. It ran for like five years, and was getting too small. Right now, we are moving and expanding to a bigger skate park, and doing this by ourselves. And we have a grant from a couple of companies, and we are just raising money right now. We have the communities behind us, just trying to.

Carl, did you want to add something?

CARL HALBACK: Yes. Basically went around asking for donations, seeing who would like to help us. A lot of the times, we worked for the money, instead of having it handed to us. There is a sliding hill near our town. And we decided to go clean it up and put up all new fences and paint the buildings and take them down and rebuild them again, so they are in a much better condition, and made the sliding hill much more safe.

Congressman SANDERS: Are we talking about St. Albans?

CARL HALBACK: Yes.

Congressman SANDERS: Mark, did you want to add anything?

MARK BOYLE: We have done this all by ourselves. We have guidance of some outstanding citizens in our community, Miss Gridmore and Doctor Chip. I mean, they don't do work for us, but they help organize stuff, because not all community members are going to be totally accepting of a bunch of rag-tag kids coming and saying, can we do some work for money so we can do this, or can we have community support, and she helped us work through the right channels and we really appreciate it.

Congressman SANDERS: This is an excellent presentation.

STATEMENT BY JESS WALTERS, AND LINH NGUYEN, AND RYAN LAFEBVRE, AND GARY BAILEY REGARDING BURLINGTON'S OLD NORTH END

RYAN LAFEBVRE: Hello. My name is Ryan. I am here to represent Burlington's Old North End. We decided that one of the most important issues to us is how teens in the Old North End spend their out-of-school hours.

Each day, teens in the Old North End decide how they will spend at least five of their waking hours when not in school. For many of these, the hours harbor both risk and opportunity.

For many that are home alone, the out-of-school hours present serious risks for sub-

stance abuse, crime, violence and sexual activity, leading to unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS. Time spent alone is not the crucial contributor to higher risk; it is what young people do during that time, where they do it, and with whom, that leads to positive or negative consequences.

According to a 1990 survey, my community contains 29 percent of the Burlington's population, and has the highest percentage of people of color in the city. Over half of the households are female-headed, and over 60 percent of these families live below the poverty line.

Poverty is especially pronounced for the Old North End's children, 42 percent of whom lived in poverty in 1990. That percentage is higher today. The Old North End has 32.1 percent of its residents living below the poverty level, compared with 19.3 percent for the city as a whole.

Recently, a number of focus groups were held, where youth, senior citizens, and business people spoke out about concerns they have about the Old North End. The following issues and concerns were continually mentioned: Public drinking, drug dealing, continuing poverty, racial tensions, and potential gang violence.

We proposed a teen center that would directly address many of our community concerns, as well as issues many of you will be presenting later today. Jessica is now going to tell you why there is a need for our teen center in Burlington.

JESSICA WALTERS: Hello. My name is Jessica Walters.

Yes, there are other teen centers in Burlington, but there are many reasons why they do not meet our needs.

First, they all have limited teen hours. For instance, I have nowhere to go after school until 5:30, and most youth centers close at 9:00 at night. My friends usually hang out on the street until teen hours start or until they have to go home.

Due to things mentioned by Ryan, North Street isn't really a safe place for teens to hang out. Most of the teens that live in the Old North End go to Burlington High School, where there is no computer and Internet access available to us after school. Currently, there is nowhere to go to do research or study after school hours. The other youth centers don't have a place for us to do this.

The final issue is the adults' role. Other youth centers have too much supervision and not enough opportunity for independence and creativity. There are also a lot of little kids around.

Now Gary is going to tell you about what our teen center will be like.

GARY BAILEY: Hello. My name is Gary, and I would like to tell you about our teen center.

Our teen center will be run by youth, it will be for ages 13 through 19, and it will be free of charge. We feel that it should be open for longer hours, like said she before, because other teen programs like the one we want to open will have to be open for younger children also, so we only have a section of the day that we can go there, so we are still out in the streets.

We feel that it should have a resource room run by adults, with a minilibrary, mentoring and tutoring facilities, a career college center, and information on social services. Also, a job board for a list for people to

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

get jobs easily, and maybe once a week somebody in there helping them out, somebody like Becky Trudeau or something, where they won't have to go five different places to look for a job, they can just go there and have one place to look.

We feel that it should have a computer room, with Internet access. A lot of people work right after school, and they have to be there around 3:30, including us. And we don't have the time to go after school and work on the computers to get an essay done, so we feel that it should have computers where it will be available for us after work.

We think there should be recreational rooms, including a gym, a game room. Also special events, such as, once a month, a dance or some sort like that. We also think there should be a lounge so that we can relax and watch TV.

Congressman SANDERS: Good. Linh, do you want to begin?

LINH NGUYEN: My name is Linh Nguyen. We would like to ask for continued support in finding out how we should embark on this teen center and after school program. We strongly believe this would make the Old North End a better place for teens, and not only the teens, but the community as a whole. We would, as well, be a model to replicate in the rest of Vermont.

Congressman SANDERS: Thank you very much. Thank you all very much.

REMEMBERING THE FLOOD VICTIMS OF FORT COLLINS AND LARIMER COUNTY, COLORADO

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recall Monday, July 28, 1997 and to describe to the House, one year later, a natural disaster which occurred in Colorado on this date, when an intense storm produced record amounts of rainfall in Fort Collins and unincorporated Larimer County, Colorado. The storm devastated area residents as they watched their homes, schools, and churches roll into the immense current which swept through their city. However, the loss far more costly was that of human life. JoAnn Roth, Rose Marie Rodriguez, Sarah Payne, Estafana Guarneros, and Cindy Schulz died as they attempted to escape the storm. Although this event caused a multitude of pain and sorrow, it also enabled members of our community to reach out to one another as individuals struggled to put the pieces of their lives back in place. As a Member of Congress representing Colorado's Fourth District where citizens worked together to restore their way of life, I hereby commemorate the victory achieved through this widespread community spirit and recall the names of those who perished.

As we reflect on the events of the past year, we recall the words of Luke 8:23-24, "... A windstorm swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. They went to him and woke him up, shouting, 'Master, Master, we are perishing!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm."

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4194) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. STARK. Mr. Chairman, today I join with Congressman TIM ROEMER and Congressman DAVE CAMP to take a stand for common sense and fiscal responsibility when it comes to our budget.

When Congress first approved the International Space Station in 1984, the original price tag was \$8 billion. A recent General Accounting Office [GAO] report projects the station's total operating costs at \$95.6 billion. Congress keeps throwing taxpayer dollars into this money pit, and we have no tangible benefits to show for it.

Since its conception in 1984, the station has been redesigned three times. The latest model would accomplish only two of its eight original scientific missions. Furthermore, many of the remaining goals envisioned for the station could be accomplished aboard unmanned satellites or aboard the space shuttle for a small fraction of the cost.

Furthermore, the station's rising costs are a threat to other promising projects. Already, NASA has shifted \$200 million from other programs like space shuttle safety and space education grants to pay for station cost overruns. This year, NASA has requested the authority to shift an additional \$375 million. As the station experiences more cost overruns, the space station budget will literally consume the NASA budget at the expense of proven programs like probes within our solar system, the Space Shuttle, earth sciences, and aeronautics.

Every year we pour billions upon billions of dollars into NASA and the International Space Station at the expense of schoolchildren, the elderly and the infirm. We cannot afford the price of the space station when we have such pressing needs here on planet Earth. If we choose to look to the stars, we must first have our feet planted firmly on the ground.

THE LONG TERM CARE ADVANCEMENT ACT OF 1998

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the aging of the Baby Boom generation has been extensively discussed in Congress and among the American people, with particular attention to the impact on Social Security and Medicare.

What has not been widely discussed, however, is a related but very distinct trend: the rapid expansion of the group of Americans defined by the Bureau of the Census as "the oldest old"—those senior citizens aged 85 and above. Often lost during discussions of the Baby Boom generation is the fact that the fastest growing demographic age group in the United States is the "oldest old."

That is why I am introducing legislation, joined by my colleagues Phil English (PA), Ron Paul (TX), John Ensign (NV), and Chris Shays (CT) to help Americans better prepare themselves and their families for their long term health care needs of the future. The tax breaks contained in this legislation will go a long way towards providing families with peace and security against the massive costs of professionally provided long term care, including nursing home care, home health care, and adult day care services.

I am pleased that this legislation has already secured the support of the 60 Plus Association and the Home Health Assembly of New Jersey. The Health Insurance Association of America (HIAA) has also endorsed the concept behind the bill.

Our Nation will soon be grappling with a long term care crisis unless Congress acts now to prevent it. From 1960 through 1994, the senior citizen population (age 85+) increased by 274 percent. And the number of Americans in the 85+ age cohort is expected to double in size by the year 2020, reaching 7 million. The number of senior citizens between the ages of 75 and 84 will reach nearly 15.5 million by 2020. The sixty four thousand dollar question is: how will we as a nation meet our parents' and grandparents' long-term care need?

This demographic change will put an enormous strain on our nation's fragmented system of long-term care. Already, our Medicaid program has demonstrated its financial shortcomings when providing long-term care services to increasing numbers of the frail elderly. The Medicaid program already spends over \$40 billion on long term care services for senior citizens. These expenditures are projected to double over the next 10 years.

A vital part of any comprehensive response to these trends must be the promotion of private long term care insurance (LTC) for Americans. Although the number of persons insured under LTC policies has nearly doubled between 1992 and 1996, this growth is from a very low base. The fact of the matter is that the overwhelming majority of Americans still do not have any private LTC insurance coverage at all. This needs to change, and soon.

Mr. Speaker, the Long Term Care Advancement Act of 1998 will assist Americans prepare for their future long term care needs. My bill will allow penalty-free withdrawal from IRAs and 401 (k) plans when the funds are used to pay for 'qualified' LTC insurance premiums (as defined by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996).

In addition, a certain portion of the IRA/401 (k) withdrawals used for LTC will be excluded from taxable income. Depending on one's tax bracket, age, and type of policy purchased, the savings on a long term care insurance policy under my bill are considerable, and could range from 15 to 25 percent.

Lastly, the Long Term Care Advancement Act will provide a refundable \$500 tax credit for families caring for a dependent elderly