

simply could not function without the good work and commitment of our staff.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the great good fortune to have what I consider to be one of the best offices in the Congress and I offer this statement as a small tribute to their good deeds. While individual staffers have come and gone over the years, the office has always functioned as a team, always striving to do their best for me and for the citizens of Queens and the Bronx. I thank them all from the bottom of my heart.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to mention a few of my closest and longest served staffers; individuals who I have come to rely upon without hesitation and whom I consider to be friends.

Jim Mathews, my current Chief of Staff, has served with me for over ten years. First as my Legislative Assistant for Merchant Marine and Fisheries, later as my Legislative Director, and then as my Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Fisheries Management. After a two year stint as the Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Jim was kind enough to return to work for me in his current position.

Steve Vest was with me from the start, first as my Legislative Director and then as my Chief of Staff for many years. He has gone on to a successful career as Vice President of Government Affairs with Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation. His advice and counsel always served me well.

David Springer served as my first Chief of Staff. Without David's excellent political insight and working knowledge of the Congress, I could not have been as successful as I was early on in my House service. He has since put his skills to work as a partner in the prestigious Washington Group.

John Olmsted, my Office Manager, has been with me since I took the oath of office in 1985. How a son of Minnesota made his way to the office of a Congressman from New York City I do not know, but I am glad he did. John has kept our computers running and my expense account straight. I will miss his advice on the market as I head towards retirement.

Brian Browne has served me well as my Queens District Office Manager. Balancing a new family with the long hours of a District staffer meeting with constituents at almost any hour of day or night, Brian has done a great job. I wish him well in his new career at my alma mater, St. Johns University.

Lizzy O'Hara has been my eyes and ears on issues relating to Ireland and Irish Americans. I take some small credit for helping move along the peace process in Northern Ireland, which culminated in the Good Friday Accord. My success in this regard owes much to the tenacity, gregariousness, and hard-work of Lizzy.

Elaine Simek, now a prominent securities lawyer in New York, previously served as my Legislative Director and my right-hand-woman on Irish issues. Her dedication over the years helped make the Congressional Ad-Hoc Caucus on Irish Affairs the successful organization it is today. And, like me, she was able to hold down a full-time job while getting her law degree at night school.

Bill Driscoll and Fran Kraft both served as my District Office Managers for many years. Their knowledge of the District and local politics kept me out of hot water more times than I care to remember.

My good friend and colleague, Walter McCaffrey, served me admirably as my very first District Chief of Staff. He later went on to win election to the New York City Council, where he still serves with distinction in the seat I once held.

The rest of my current staff have all played an important role in keeping me informed and knowledgeable of a multitude of issues and concerns. As I said before, they are the real backbone of a successful Congressional office.

Cinnamon Rogers, my Legislative Director, has done a yeoman's job for me on telecommunication and finance issues under the Commerce Committee. Matt Socknat, has helped me obtain crucial funding for cleaning-up a local water body and successfully fought to stop additional flights in and out of LaGuardia Airport. Maggie Berman has done a great job juggling my schedule while working on a number of tricky legislative issues. Adam Wolf has brought a unique sense of humor, dedication, and caring to his staff position. No one is better at obtaining White House tour tickets.

In my District Office, Angela Dekker has had the unenviable task of keeping my schedule straight, and has done so with alacrity. Irene Baker has done an outstanding job taking over the office's press duties and working with my constituents on a multitude of issues. Julia Jimenez has slogged through countless immigration cases without missing a beat. The two newest District staffers, Ivan Lavios and Tim Higgins, have brought a new zest and determination to working with my constituents. And, Fran Mahony Reilly, my Bronx District Office Manager, has successfully taken on the responsibilities of a several person office all by herself. Without her, I simply could not have adequately represented my Bronx constituency.

Mr. Speaker. Finally, I would like to mention a few other members of my staff, both past and present, who have made my offices very special over the years: John Feeney, Rodney Bedford, Sean McIntyre, Jorge Rodriguez, Tom Messina, Tara Thompson, John Smythe, Neal Fenton, and Peter Praeger. I am leaving many individuals out of this list, but I hope they understand that they all played a very important part in keeping the offices running and the constituents of the 7th Congressional District happy.

Mr. Speaker, again I congratulate and thank all of my staff for their many years of service. I will miss them, as I will miss my colleagues and this great institution.

HONORING LATVIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH
OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cleveland's Latvian community in celebrating 80 years of independence. Latvian-Americans have become an important part of this area, enriching it with their native heritage and lively culture.

The Latvian Community in Cleveland traces back its origins to 1897, when 28 families formed the Emmanuel Lutheran Parish. At the

end of World War II, the evasion of communism caused a massive immigration of Latvians to the United States, during which more than 2,500 displaced Latvians chose the Cleveland area as their home.

This community of Latvian immigrants has grown throughout the years, entering America's economic and educational mainstream, but always maintaining their Latvian heritage by sharing native foods, folk songs and dancing with their neighboring communities. The Latvian organizations in Cleveland have promoted and preserved their native values and culture, as well as worked to expose the ravages of communism. They contributed to the dream and final reality of an independent Latvia, when the country regained its independence in 1991, after 50 years of Soviet domination.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring Latvia's 80th Independence Day celebration in the Greater Cleveland area. This event commemorates the many accomplishments of this community, and it recognizes the struggle to gain the freedom they have enjoyed for the past eight decades. Latvian-Americans continue to hold on to their Latvian heritage, culture, traditions and maintain ties with family and friends who live in their native land.

TRIBUTE TO FRANCES LOUISE JACKSON BALTIMORE

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable woman who has recently departed this life. Frances Louise Jackson Baltimore (1918–1998) was a wonderful mother, wife, and friend to many. She was born to the late Cornelius Jackson and Fannie Burrells Jackson on June 18, 1918 in Linden, Virginia. She married at an early age to Bishop Eugene E. Baltimore, and gave birth to six children—Anna, Florence, Barbara Jean, Eugene, Wilbert, and Darlene. She was preceded in death by Barbara Jean, Eugene, and Darlene.

Frances attended the Cherry Hill Elementary School in Linden, Virginia. She married Bishop Eugene Baltimore in Front Royal, Virginia, and they relocated to Johnsontown, Jefferson County, West Virginia. She and Eugene raised five children, and ran a clean, tidy household of modest means. She had numerous skills, many of which she passed on to her children, including sewing, cooking, canning and preserving, and decorating. She worked very hard to raise a proper family during the depression era.

After her children were grown, Frances moved to New York City where she received her GED and earned a Certificate of Completion in Geriatric Nursing. She lived and worked in New York for more than 20 years and was active in the lives of friends and family there. She later took up residence in Annapolis, Maryland, in 1982, and became a member of her son Wilbert's church, the Holy Temple Cathedral Church of God.

Frances was the matriarch of a very talented family. Her offspring have gone on to become successful professionals, many of whom earned advanced degrees and served

honorably in the military. On October 11, 1998, Frances succumbed to Alzheimer's Disease. She will be remembered as a stylish, dedicated woman, who always knew how to make a little go a long, long way.

QUALITY DAY CARE PROTECTION ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. RICK LAZIO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because an increasing number of moms and dads are placing their loved ones in day care. The time is right for me to introduce a new bill, The Quality Day Care Protection Act. This bill has two parts: (1) A misdemeanor for a person who misrepresents intentionally the credentials of the day care provider or the conditions of the care provided and (2) A felony for a person who causes serious physical injury to a child under his care. This bill gives parents the peace of mind knowing that their children are safe and secure while being cared for by responsible, reliable, licensed professional day care professionals.

Last July in Albany, New York, a couple left their three-month old daughter, Julia, in the care of a licensed, in-home day care provider. The provider lied about the number of children for whom she cared on a daily basis. The provider left Julia alone. The baby had been placed in a swing and left unattended. Julia was not supervised for twenty minutes. During that time, Julia threw up her food and choked on her own vomit. She was rushed to a local hospital, placed on life support, and tragically she was diagnosed as brain dead.

The critical fact in this horrible story is that the day care provider lied. She told Julia's parents that she was caring for four children. An official investigation discovered that eight children were receiving care.

I must tell you another tragic story. Last January, three month old Jeremy Fiedelholz was being cared for by a licensed, in-home day care operator. The parents left Jeremy with the professional for two hours. It was a trial run; the parents were deciding if this day care professional was one they could trust. When the Fiedelholz' returned they found Jeremy face down in a crib, in a pool of his own vomit, dead. The state of Florida had licensed this facility to care for six children, but this woman had taken in thirteen children that day. On the day that Jeremy died, while the owner ran errands, all 13 children were left at the mercy of a poorly trained staff person who was not CPR certified. The provider lied to Jeremy's parents.

The circumstances surrounding the deaths of these two infants are frighteningly similar. In both cases, the day care provider misrepresented to parents about how many children would be accepted daily, who would be responsible for caring for the child, and the qualifications of the person who would care for the child. Two children died after the day care professional misrepresentations. In both cases, the only recourse for the parents was in civil court. No federal or state criminal law applied. Under my bill, a crime will be committed if a day care provider intentionally mis-

represents the credentials or the conditions of the day care provider: (1) Credentials licenses or permits that the provider or the staff possesses; (2) Number of children for whom they care; (3) Quality of the day care facilities.

Most states do not have adequate criminal laws in this arena. Critical gaps that would safeguard the basic health and safety standards for child care exist. In many states, there are standards but they are not consistently enforced. For example, many states do not require small, in-home day care providers to apply for a license. Those providers are not inspected. Even when states require in-home providers to be licensed, most of the time there are no inspections.

Today, millions of parents have no choice. They must make ends meet to pay the bills. So, they are forced to place their loved ones in child care while they work. Currently, 77 percent of all women with children under 17 hold a job. Each day, about 13 million children under the age of six spend part of their day in day care. There are six million infants and toddlers who are being cared for by people that parents are hoping they can trust.

Every parent wants to feel secure in knowing their loved ones are receiving quality day care. Quality care means providing a safe and healthy environment where care gives safeguard infants and nurture their development. Quality care means having a minimum number of children for each care giver. The best of all worlds means every child in day care receives as much one-on-one attention as possible. This bill gives moms and dads what they deserve—the peace of mind that goes with knowing their children are safe and secure when in the arms of a day care professional.

The Quality Day Care Protection Act is a fair bill. Prosecutors will be allowed to pursue day care providers that deliberately break the law. Parents will see justice done when their child is seriously injured or dies. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

H.R. 4838, THE HOUSING PRESER- VATION MATCHING GRANT OF 1998

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, on October 14, 1998, I introduced, H.R. 4838, the Housing Preservation Matching Grant of 1998, which would authorize the Secretary of HUD to make grants to States to supplement State assistance for the preservation of affordable housing for low income families.

I consider this bill advance notice for the agenda of the 106th Congress which should begin in allocating resources to match the efforts of some States in preserving affordable housing units across this nation. During the consideration of the FY 1999 VA, HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations bill, I attempted to offer an amendment that would expand the notification a tenant receives from 60 days to 12 months that a building's mortgage will be prepaid, ending its lower income affordability. In the end, we succeeded in achieving a five-month notification requirement. A greater victory, however, would be to achieve the long-term preservation of those housing units as affordable housing.

We are facing a dire situation with regard to affordable housing needs in this country. Low-to moderate-income residents receiving housing assistance are on the cusp of a crisis and Congress *must act* to attempt to avert the breakdown and loss of the national public and assisted housing stock. Without preservation, the best of the worst case scenarios is a "vouchering out" of what little affordable housing remains.

Some states are allocating resources to save federally subsidized housing for the future. In my home state of Minnesota, where 10% of the roughly 50,000 units of assisted housing are at risk, \$10 million was appropriated in 1999 for an Affordable Rental Investment Fund to finance the acquisition, rehabilitation and debt restructuring of federally assisted rental property and for making equity take-out loans. This laudable effort, however, is only one state and even there, the resources allocated cannot match the great need for affordable housing, especially for seniors and those with special needs, other states and local governments must step forward with funding to help, Federal housing policy should encourage and facilitate such action.

H.R. 4838 recognizes these kinds of commitments and matches them with two federal dollars for every State dollar. If there is not funding for the federal Low Income Housing Preservation and Resident Homeownership Act (LIHPHA) perhaps this new Housing Preservation Matching Grant can encourage a forestallment of prepayment, which places low-income families at risk of losing their homes. With action and enactment of this bill in the next Congress we could provide a benchmark for states and local communities to work from and with as they produce their own initiatives to avert this pending national crisis in affordable housing.

A section-by-section of H.R. 4838 follows:

Section 1. Short title

The short title of the Act is the "Housing Preservation Matching Grant Act of 1998".

Section 2. Findings and purpose

(a) *Findings.*—The Congress finds that—

(1) more than 55,300 affordable housing dwelling units in the United States have been lost through termination of low income affordability requirements, which usually involves the prepayment of the outstanding principal balance under the mortgage on the project in which such units are located;

(2) more than 265,000 affordable housing dwelling units in the United States are currently at risk of prepayment;

(3) the loss of the privately owned, federally assisted affordable housing, which is occurring during a period when rents for unsubsidized housing are increasing and few units of additional affordable housing are being developed, will cause unacceptable harm on current tenants of affordable housing and will precipitate a national crisis in the supply of housing for low-income households;

(4) the demand for affordable housing far exceeds the supply of such housing, as evidenced by studies in 1998 that found that (A) 5,300,000 households (one-seventh of all renters in the Nation) have worst-case housing needs; and (B) the number of families with at least one full-time worker and having worst-case housing needs from 1991 to 1995 by 265,000 (24 percent) to almost 1,400,000;

(5) the shortage of affordable housing in the United States reached a record high in 1995, when the number of low-income households exceeded the number of low-cost rental dwelling units by 4,400,000;