

this information, it is troubling that according to recent studies, the quality of child care is rated mediocre to poor.

In many cases, parents are able to use relatives. But such care is not always available or preferable. Often there are no relatives living close by, or nearby relatives are working or are unable to meet the demands of a caregiver for a young child.

In recent times, businesses have made efforts to help their employees find and pay for child care, but such help is still scarce. Businesses account for only 1 percent of the total child care expenditures.

In January, President Clinton announced a historic initiative to improve child care for America's working families. The initiative proposes \$21.7 billion over 5 years for child care to help working families pay for child care, build a good supply of after-school programs, improve safety and quality of care and promote early learning. This initiative is an important start to our providing new resources and building on existing State efforts to address child care trends.

Now it is up to my colleagues here in Congress to strengthen this proposal and enact a child care package that ensures quality, affordable child care for every family who needs it. Last month the First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton, visited a child care center in my district. During her tour of the center, Mrs. Clinton was able to learn more about the relationship-centered child care model. This nationally acclaimed model of care employs the unique concept of small, family groups of children who are with the same teacher over time so that they grow with better reading, math, language and interpersonal skills.

I believe that relationship-centered child care has the potential to be the benchmark for child care in America. It is my hope that the model program will expand to include more of America's children and families.

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#### STOP PLAYING POLITICS WITH SENIORS' HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Lucille Harris lives in the First District of Georgia. She is 69 years old. For the past 3 years she has been somewhat worried about her health care, affectionately known as Medicare, because she knows that in April of 1995 the Medicare trustees said Medicare is going bankrupt and that Congress needed to act to preserve and protect it. We tried for many years to protect it and preserve it; but, unfortunately, politics got in the way.

Then, last year, we finally came up with a bipartisan solution which the House passed, the Senate passed and

the President signed into law. We did do some good Medicare reform. We gave our seniors a choice of plans. We cut fraud and abuse. We increased spending from \$5,000 to \$7,000 per person.

In addition to that, we said that States are required to cover people who have fallen through the cracks; to come up with something for people who were not Medicare-eligible, like the 51-year-old man from Vermont that I talked to last night; people who cannot get coverage through the standard health care market. The bill required that States come up with plans, each State, to protect these people.

The second thing that it did along that line is it said that we would set up a bipartisan Medicare committee; and the bipartisan committee, which is chaired by a Clinton-appointed Democrat Senator, would address the long-term solvency needs of Medicare as more and more baby boomers retire and use this coverage. We decided it was more important to protect Medicare for the next generation, not just the next election.

So, Mr. Speaker, having made this great and difficult bipartisan progress, why is it that the President has now ignored that legislation and his own commission? Why is he willing to risk Medicare because of election year politics? Why is it that if it is profitable to lower Medicare eligibility and it does not cost the system, why is it the private sector is not already providing that coverage?

Mr. Speaker, I am afraid the President is again playing politics with our seniors' very important health care plan. We need to protect and to preserve it. We do not need to play politics with it. Medicare deserves bipartisan support. People like Mrs. Harris and millions and millions of Americans, perhaps one's mother or father or grandparents, they deserve better.

Mr. President, do not monkey around with our seniors' health care. Let us continue to work on a bipartisan basis to protect Medicare. Let us see what the bipartisan commission with the President's chairman has to say before we go changing the plan and incurring unnecessary risks to our seniors' health care plan.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Speaker and not to the President.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SHERMAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. UNDERWOOD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. DELAURO addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### THE AMERICA AFTER SCHOOL ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, experts estimate that nearly 5 million school-age children in the United States spend time without adult supervision during a typical week. Too many of these unsupervised children hang out on the street, exposed to drugs and crime, or sit at home with only the television set for company. I recently introduced the America After School Act, H.R. 3400, to expand high quality after-school programs for 5- to 15-year-old students to give these kids a safe place to go when the school day ends.

In 64% of families with children under 18, both parents work. A recent study showed that when children were unsupervised for long periods of time early in life, they were more likely to display poor behavior adjustment and academic performance as early as the sixth grade. Clearly, we no longer live in the time of Ward and June Cleaver. Young people today need productive, supervised activities for the periods when they are not in school.

In my district of Rochester, NY, Henry Lomb School #20 has an after school program that serves about 25 students. They could easily triple this number, based on their waiting list and space availability, if only they had enough funding to increase their staff to meet the one-to-ten staff-student requirement.

Meanwhile, Adlai Stevenson School #29 has an after school program that has enough funding to serve sixteen of its students. This is a great start. However, the school has four hundred students. This is another example of the great need to expand after school child care in this country.

Other schools in my district report the need for increased funding for transportation, staff, and supplies to provide supervision and constructive activities for school-age children when the school day ends. Because of the lack of funding, schools do not have the resources to provide after-school care for all students every day. They ration the care—two or three days per week for each student. However, a study in my district showed that school attendance was higher on days when students knew they had their after-school program at

the end of the day. Clearly, students desire a safe haven after school, as much as their parents desire it for them.

In addition, the peak hours for juvenile crime are from 3 PM to 8 PM. We need to get kids off the streets and into safe, productive programs at their schools where they can receive help with their homework, participate in the arts, and expend positive energy on athletic competition.

We have learned so much about the development of young minds and the importance of nurturing children at a young age. Expanding after school programs will help more children benefit from supervision and constructive attention from adults. We can stimulate these young minds through tutoring opportunities, arts and computer projects, and drug prevention activities.

My bill increases the availability and affordability of quality care for 5- to 15-year-olds before and after school, as well during summers and weekends through the Child Care Development Block Grant program. It also expands the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program, which gives students a safe environment in which to do homework, receive tutoring in basic skills, benefit from college preparatory training and get experience with technology. Students also receive counseling on drug and violence prevention, learn to appreciate the arts and compete in athletics.

Finally, H.R. 3400 invests funds into after school prevention programs for areas with high at-risk youth populations. By giving these young people positive alternatives, we can dissuade them from high risk behavior and encourage productivity and positive interactions with both peers and adults.

I am proud to be the House sponsor of the America After School Act and look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to improve the care of school age children.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### ENOUGH SUFFERING IN CYPRUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KLINK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a subject that has to be very difficult for anyone to listen to, particularly if one happens to be a parent.

On March 5, after nearly 24 very long years, the family of Andreas Kasapis of Detroit, Michigan, finally were assured that the remains that were found in a field on the island nation of Cyprus were that of their son, 17-year-old Andreas Kasapis. Andrew was an American citizen who, along with four other American citizens, was visiting Cyprus back in 1974 when the Turks invaded that island nation. As a result of that invasion, nearly 37 percent of the landmass of that island nation are

under Turkish control nearly a quarter of a century later; and the families of 1,619 Cypriots and Cypriot Americans have been unaccounted for.

We found out only a year or so ago in a very cursory comment from the Turkish leaders that, well, these people were all killed. Their families did not know that. For decades, their families did not know what happened, did not know if they are languishing in a prison camp, did not know if they had been killed, did not know if they were working in slavery, did not know what had happened to their families.

Here was a 17-year-old boy that, if he were alive today, would be a 41-year-old man; and only now, after spending millions of dollars in American taxpayer money to do highly sophisticated DNA tests on the bones that were found in a field, not in a grave in Cyprus, but lying in a field scattered about by plowing; and, in fact, it was very difficult, according to news reports, to find a bone that was suitable to perform the DNA test to find out that this was, indeed, the body of this 17-year-old American citizen.

Americans in this country have worried for many years and, rightfully so, about what has occurred to missing Americans who served on the battlefields of Southeast Asia and other parts of this world. We should be very concerned about this. This was not a battlefield. This was a vacation spot. This was visiting the homeland of one's parents. Americans were just in a sovereign country enjoying themselves and went through this invasion of 1974, and they were caught up, and they were killed, brutally killed.

We can only imagine how brutal the slaying had to be for these bones of the people who were killed in this one field just to be scattered and not to be dug up but to be found as farmers plow these fields and the bones come up to the surface. What a horrible, horrible picture for the family of Mr. Kasapis to have to deal with. But at least they have the peace of knowing what happened to their son. The other 1,618 families do not know what has happened.

Mr. Speaker, I would say that at this time we hope that the discovery and the identification of this one set of bones in this field nearly half a world away might lend those of us in government, those in the American community, those in the Turkish and the Greek communities, those in Cyprus, to work much harder to redouble their efforts to give answers to these families so that they can lay to rest, if not in a grave site at least in their minds and in their hearts, what happened to their loved ones nearly a quarter of a century ago.

I would hope that the world community, as we focus on Saddam Hussein and weapons of mass destruction, can take a look at what Turkey has done, take a look at the green line that divides Nicosia, take a look at the line across Cyprus that divides more than one-third of this island which prevents

Greek Cypriots from going into their homes, from worshipping in their churches, that again this sovereign nation can become one, not associated with the Greek government, not associated with the Turkish government, but as a sovereign nation where, left alone, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots would be able to live together, would be able to have free exchanges, free elections, would be able to establish their own kind of government.

That is what the world has been waiting for. This island nation should not be divided, and the families of over 1,600 Cypriots and Cypriot Americans should not have to wait any longer.

Mr. Speaker, I say that in this nation people like Phil Christopher, who is the President of the International Coordinating Committee of Justice for Cyprus and the Pancyprrian Association; people like Andrew Manatos, the President of the National Coordinated Effort of Hellenes; and folks like Andy Athens, the President of the World Council of Hellenes Abroad; have kept this issue in the minds of the world and of Greeks and Greek Americans and, hopefully, also Turkish Americans and Turkish Cypriots. We hope that this is the beginning of putting this very painful part of history behind us, of healing the wounds and giving some peace to these families who have lost loved ones.

#### THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS REFORM AND RESTRUCTURING ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, very soon, perhaps tomorrow or next week, we will be considering H.R. 1757, the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act. This conference report not only takes an important step toward reforming the outdated structure of our foreign affairs agencies, but also it includes important provisions that I was proud to have introduced to further tighten the noose on the Castro dictatorship, while still protecting U.S. American interests.

One of the provisions that I have, for example, imposes severe limitations on the amount of assistance that the United States gives to foreign countries if those foreign countries are extending lines of credit or any kind of nuclear assistance such as petroleum, et cetera, for Cuba in the termination of their and in the completion of their nuclear power plant in Juragua, which is close to Cienfuegos, Cuba.

This nuclear power plant has been found to have severe structural defects in the construction and in the type of materials that are used; and we know that because of the individuals who have previously worked in the plant, who have defected and are now part of the United States. They have actually come to the United States Congress, testified in front of our committees, testifying that this plant suffers from