

There was no objection.

NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1998—
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC.
NO. 105-231)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit for your immediate consideration and enactment the "National and Community Service Amendments Act of 1998." This legislative proposal extends and amends national service law, including the National and Community Service Act of 1990 and the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973. It builds upon the long, bipartisan tradition of service in our country, which was renewed in 1993 when I signed the National and Community Service Trust Act creating the Corporation for National Service.

Service to one's community is an integral part of what it means to be an American. The Presidents' Summit for America's Future held in Philadelphia last April reinforced the role of programs supported by the Corporation for National Service as key vehicles to provide young people with the resources to maximize their potential and give back to their communities. Citizens service is also at the heart of our efforts to prepare America for the 21st century, as we work to ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to make the most of their own lives and to help those in need.

My Administration's most important contribution to citizen service is AmeriCorps, the national service program that already has given more than 100,000 young Americans the opportunity to serve their country. By tying opportunity to responsibility, we have given them the chance to serve and, in return, earn money for post-secondary education. In community after community, AmeriCorps members have proven that service can help us meet our most pressing social needs. For example, in Simpson County, Kentucky, AmeriCorps members helped second graders jump three grade levels in reading. In Boys and Girls Clubs, AmeriCorps members are mentors for at-risk young people. Habitat For Humanity relies upon AmeriCorps members to recruit more volunteers and build more houses. In communities beset by floods, tornadoes, and hurricanes, AmeriCorps members have helped to rebuild lives and restore hope. AmeriCorps members are helping to mobilize thousands of college students from more than 800 college campuses in our America Reads program. In all of these efforts, AmeriCorps brings together people of every background to work toward common goals.

Independent evaluators have reviewed AmeriCorps, National Senior Service Corps programs, and Learn and Serve America programs and have concluded that national service yields a positive return on investment. The proposed legislation that I am transmitting builds on our experiences with national service to date and improves national service programs in four ways: (1) by codifying agreements with the Congress and others to reduce costs and streamline national service; (2) strengthening partnerships with traditional volunteer organizations; (3) increasing States' flexibility to administer national service programs; and (4) expanding opportunities for Americans to serve.

Since the enactment of the National and Community Service Trust Act in 1993, and particularly since 1995, my Administration has worked with constructive critics of national service to address their concerns and improve the overall program. This proposed legislation continues that process by reducing the Corporation's average budgeted cost per AmeriCorps member, repealing authority for redundant or obsolete national service programs, and making other improvements in the efficiency of national service programs.

National service has never been a substitute for the contributions made by the millions of Americans who volunteer their time to worthy causes every year. Rather, as leaders of volunteer organizations have often expressed, national service has proven that the presence of full-time, trained service participants enhances tremendously the effectiveness of volunteers. This proposed legislation will strengthen the partnership between the national service programs and traditional volunteer organizations; codify the National Service Scholarship program honoring exemplary service by high school students; and expand the AmeriCorps Challenge Scholarships, through which national service participants can access education awards. It also will authorize appropriations for the Points of Light Foundation through the year 2002.

The National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 explicitly conceived of national service as a Federal-State partnership. The Act vested significant authority in bipartisan State Commissions appointed by the Governors. I promised that we would accelerate the process of devolution as the newly created State Commissions expanded their capacities. This proposed legislation fulfills that promise in a variety of ways, including providing authority for the Corporation for National Service to enter into Service Collaboration Agreements with Governors to provide a means for coordinating the planning and administration of national service programs in a State.

This proposed legislation will also provide additional service opportunities. By reducing the cost per

AmeriCorps member, it will enable more people to serve; it will broaden the age and income guidelines for National Senior Service Corps participants, expanding the pool of older Americans who can perform results-oriented service in their communities; and it will simplify the administration of Learn and Serve America, so States and communities will more easily be able to provide opportunities for students to learn through service in their schools and neighborhoods.

This past January, I had the opportunity to honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by engaging in service on the holiday commemorating his birth. I joined 65 AmeriCorps members and more than 300 community volunteers in repairing and repainting Cardozo High School in the Shaw neighborhood of Washington, DC. Thirty-one years ago, Dr. King came to that very neighborhood and urged the people there to engage in citizen service to rebuild their lives, their community, and their future. That is what those national service participants, and the thousands more who were participating in similar projects across the country, were doing—honoring the legacy of Dr. King and answering the high calling of citizenship in this country.

Each of the more than 500,000 participants in the programs of the National Senior Service Corps and the 750,000 participants in programs supported by Learn and Serve America, and every AmeriCorps member answers that high calling of citizenship when they make and fulfill a commitment to service in their communities. This proposed legislation builds on the successes of these programs and improves them for the future.

I urge the Congress to give this proposed legislation prompt and favorable consideration.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 19, 1998.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

(Mr. FILNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

IMPORTANCE OF DOMESTIC OIL PRODUCTION

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

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about an issue awfully important to Kansans and the

American economy. Yesterday, the Washington Post contained a front-page story on oil prices hitting the lowest level in 10 years. And while to many of my colleagues this may sound like good news, I would like to take just a moment to remind everyone that there are, as usual, two sides to every story.

For the Kansas oil industry, this recent drop in prices is devastating and could result in substantial job loss for the State's oil industry. Most important, however, is the potential loss in infrastructure for domestic oil production in the future. Kansas produces over 40 million barrels of oil, and the oil industry supports around 15,000 jobs in our State.

Historically, Kansas has produced almost 6 billion barrels of oil to fuel our domestic economy. But with the recent drop in prices of crude from about \$16 a barrel to about \$10.75, this industry is in danger. For Kansas, it is a simple proposition that it is not just the reduction in price but this means we are plugging wells that rarely are put back into production.

Our dependence in this country on imported oil continues to grow. According to the Department of Energy, crude oil imports were over 7.7 million barrels a day in the last 4 weeks. This has a tremendous impact on our balance of trade. And we must keep in mind that imported oil comes at a significant price. The United States spends over \$250 billion annually for the Department of Defense, with a large amount of those resources devoted to the Middle East.

I am certainly a strong supporter of our Armed Forces and recognize the value of defense spending. However, when we are spending billions of dollars in defense money to protect imported oil, we might question what we are doing to protect the basic infrastructure of our domestic oil supply. At this time, it is clear that, while we will protect our international suppliers, we do little to protect or even to promote our domestic oil production.

Mr. Speaker, the oil and gas industry has long been an important and fundamental sector of the economy of the United States. It is time that we in this Congress recognize that this industry is important and we work to ensure its survival for the future.

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 Extension of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. EWING addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

A TRIBUTE TO SARAH HEGARTY

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

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to a brave young woman from my District who passed away on Monday, just a few weeks after receiving a three-organ transplant.

Sarah Hegarty was a remarkable young woman with hope and promise for the future. She spent the last 2 years of her life simultaneously isolated from the life she lived so vibrantly and immersed in friends and family offering love and support for her throughout her ordeal.

Her family has been saddened by the loss of a loved one at such an early age, but they also have been enriched by the strength and courage Sarah displayed and the support their community has given them.

Though she was only 17, Sarah lived a full life. She was a starting guard on the Divine Savior Holy Angels High School 1996 State Championship Basketball Team. She was an all-conference soccer player. She was an integral part of life at her school, and her friends stayed by her side during 2 years of surgery and hospital stays.

Sarah's classmates at Divine Savior Holy Angels High School conducted several spiritual services for Sarah during her illness. They carried with them a tape of the service conducted just before her latest surgery and played it for her in her hospital room. Sarah's classmates found solace in the services and used the services as a means to pay tribute to her.

On Tuesday, as the Nation celebrated St. Patrick's Day with parades and the wearing o' the green, the students at Divine Savior Holy Angels High School celebrated the life of a classmate, a teammate, their friend, Sarah Hegarty. A writer for our local paper described the service quite appropriately as a remembrance of "someone with whom they had walked the noisy courts of triumph into the quiet corridors of pain."

On the day she died, Father Larry Gillick, a friend of the family, visited her and relayed his thoughts of the struggle both Sarah and her parents endured. He said, "She is a fighter, two years of this suffering; what parents won't do. Amazing love."

That is what it is, Mr. Speaker, amazing love. I can only offer condolences and the best wishes from myself and my family to Sarah's parents, Dolly and Jerry; her brother, James; and her sisters as they begin down the long road of healing. I know Sarah will be missed, and I am confident that her life made an impact that will always be remembered.

AMERICA HAS A CRISIS OF THE SOUL

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

tleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, today America is enjoying a great economic time. We are setting record after record on the New York Stock Exchange. This is a reflection of the confidence that the average investor has in the market.

Likewise, many retailers are enjoying a prosperous year because consumer confidence has increased and we Americans are buying more. Unemployment is at the lowest level in 20 years. Things just look good on the outside, but on the inside America has a crisis of the soul.

The statistics are staggering. Drug abuse is increasing, especially for younger Americans, making our society more dangerous, more susceptible to robbery, car jacking and gang-related crimes.

Child abuse has increased, as broken homes try to mend themselves with new relationships; and, too often, it is a stepparent that is the initiator of the abuse. Children are so vulnerable to an adult, and far too often the one parent fails to protect the children from another.

Spouse abuse has increased. Often women who are physically unable to defend themselves are the victims.

Divorce rates are also a high percentage of marriages. Many people choose not to honor the commitments they made on their wedding day; and, too often, it is the children that suffer. Often quietly, they suffer through retreating into their rooms filled with the darkness of insecurity.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, America is experiencing a crisis of the soul. Culturally, we have turned from the virtues that built a great Nation, virtues like hard work, honesty, integrity, faith in God, respect for our neighbors, both men and women, regardless of race or religion. Now we seem adrift in an ocean of quiet pain and suffering, abused children that never make the news, abused spouses that never make the news unless it is the most violent of cases, broken homes, broken dreams, broken promises, broken commitments, broken commitments to ourselves, our families, our country, and our God.

How can we return to that fullness our soul desires? How can we rebuild our families? How can we make America better?

Well, Mr. Speaker, I believe each of us know in our hearts what is right and what is wrong, and each of us have to make choices that are the right choices. For, if we fail, our country fails.

So I would like to challenge my colleagues and my fellow Americans that we return to the virtues that built a great Nation: honesty, integrity, hard work, honoring commitments, faith in God, treating our fellow man as we would treat ourselves.