

**STATEMENT OF MRS. JAMES H. WOLFE, WASHINGTON, D. C.,
ACTING DIRECTOR, WOMEN'S DIVISION, DEMOCRATIC COM-
MITTEE**

Senator BARKLEY. Give your name and residence and whom you represent.

Mrs. WOLFE. Mrs. James H. Wolfe. I am residing here in Washington now, formerly of Salt Lake City. I am talking only for myself, but I hope I represent Utah.

I only have a few words to say and I do want to speak as a citizen of Utah. As you know, Utah is in a similar situation to a number of Rocky Mountain States such as Montana, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, and Colorado. The States are large and sparsely populated. We have about a half million population, which is concentrated in 2 cities-about half of the population is concentrated in 2 cities. The natural resources of the State are also concentrated in particular areas, which immediately affects the taxation rates which are applicable to other parts of the State. It means that the burden of taxation of the State is borne by two counties. The remaining counties are in a very difficult situation in order to get enough funds to maintain their county governments. It is practically all they can do to get the bare necessities of government.

The health program is one of the first to suffer, and I should like to read just a little bit from a letter which I have from our secretary of the State board of health. Utah took advantage of the infant and maternity aid which the Government afforded several years ago, and Dr. Beatty, -who was secretary of the board of health at that time, was in charge of the program. This will give you an idea of how it affected our State.

Through the Federal aid extended under the maternity and infancy, or so-called "Sheppard-Towner Law," Utah received incalculable benefits. The State board of health was able to carry on a greatly expanded program for the protection of maternal and child health, which contributed to the reduction in the maternal deaths of 35 percent, and also a very substantial decrease in the infant death rate during the period of its operation, not to mention the discovery and correction of many thousands of physical defects.

Owing to the depleted financial resources of the State, the present need for outside aid cannot be overestimated. Our budget for health purposes is being cut far below the amount required for the urgent need of the department, including the suspension of all special activities for child-health programs. We humbly urge the enactment of the proposed measure. In this we are joined by all the agencies interested in child welfare.

In several of the counties in Utah they have not yet been able to get sufficient funds to employ a county nurse. I think that gives you an idea of the situation which exists there. The work being done under the E. R. A. at the present time has been an immense benefit to all, and we hope it can be carried on in this new measure.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much. Mrs. Harris T. Baldwin.

**STATEMENT OF MRS. HARRIS T. BALDWIN, VICE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, WASHINGTON, D. C.**

Mrs. BALDWIN. Mr. Chairman, may I refer briefly to the provisions for maternal and child health, sections 701 and 704 in Senate bill 1130? While the National League of Women Voters realize that this is not a controversial point, either in principle or detail, we should like to

express to you our gratification that the proponent framers of this bill recognized that the consideration of child welfare belongs in a well-rounded program for economic security.

Since the early days of its organization members of the National League of Women Voters, in their various States, have been concerned with the development of the maternal and child-health program and have worked for adequate appropriations to carry it on. In recent years we have watched with dismay health appropriations cut and protested with other organizations the curtailment of State and local maternal- and child-health services. It has seemed to us that the need for such a program has become more and more urgent with the prolongation of the depression.

It is hardly necessary for me to say that under the best of conditions the expense incidental to the birth of children is one of the economic hazards of family life. There are frequently additional expenses, because sometimes things do not go well and the mother and child are ill for a long period of time. Sometimes one or the other dies, and when the mother dies the loss is often as serious, and sometimes more serious, than the loss of the wage earner.

Our league members are greatly concerned with the fact that few women in rural regions, and in many small towns, have skilled nursing service before and after delivery. There are counties in the United States where there is no skilled trained nurse resident in the county.

Then there is the case of the child. Very often, because of the lack of proper care and the lack of proper food in infancy, there results physical handicaps and undernourishment which affect the child all during his adult years. The State may even be called upon to bear some of the economic costs of these handicaps.

Because of these facts the National League of Women Voters welcomes the proposal of Federal aid for maternal and child health, combined with participation by the States. We feel that such an educational program will go far toward saving lives of mothers and babies, and toward removing some of the hazards of childbirth and infancy. We know that the Children's Bureau is equipped to give thoroughly competent direction to the program, because of its 22 years of research and leadership on maternal and child health and on their relation to the social and economic welfare of the child.

We are glad to see that the bill calls for the active participation by the States through the requirement of matching State appropriations, because the States must increasingly carry the responsibility of giving actual service to the women and children within their borders.

Since there are more than 2,000,000 babies born each year in the United States, perhaps no other preventive efforts in the economic-security program will mean more to so great a number of families. We shall perhaps reap the benefit of such service not only in dollars and cents but in human values. We hope you will agree with us and act favorably on these sections of the bill.

Senator Harrison, I have here the statement of five national women's organizations. Their representatives did not wish to take your time to be heard but they would like to file these.

The CHAIRMAN. You may do so.

Mrs. BALDWIN. Would you like to know what they are?

The CHAIRMAN. Yes.

Mrs. **BALDWIN**. They are the statements of the American Association of University Women, the National Board of the Young Women's Christian Associations, the National Council of Jewish Women, the American Nurses' Association, and the Women's Homeopathic Medical Fraternity.

The **CHAIRMAN**. Thank you.
(The letters are as follows:)

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN,
Washington, D. C., February 11, 1935.

Hon. PAT HARRISON,
Chairman Committee on Finance,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR HARRISON: The American Association of University Women, which has a membership of approximately 40,000 extending over the 48 States, wishes to go on record in support of title VII, section 701, of the economic security bill, **S. 1130**.

Our association endorsed the principle of Federal aid for maternal and child health work at the time the original Sheppard-Towner bill was introduced into Congress and has supported this principle consistently ever since.

The members of the American Association of University Women throughout the country, and especially those in rural communities, had the opportunity of observing at first hand the operation of the Sheppard-Towner Act during the period of its enforcement, and they feel that the services performed at that time for the health of mothers and children were of inestimable value to the Nation. They feel, further, that the discontinuance of these services at the end of the period specified in the act was a distinctly backward step, and therefore this association earnestly supports S. 1130, title VII, section 701, in order to resume the needed safeguards of that most vital phase of our country's welfare, maternal and child health.

Yours very sincerely,

MARGARET F. (Mrs. J. **AUSTIN**) **STONE**,
Member of the National Legislative Committee.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *February 9, 1935.*

Senator PAT HARRISON,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR HARRISON: Members of the Young Women's Christian Association have been interested for a long time in the efforts promoted by the Federal Government in cooperation with the States for the reduction of infant and maternal mortality and for improving the health of mothers and babies, which was carried on up to 1929.

The national board of the Young Women's Christian Association began to study this subject in 1920, supported the Sheppard-Towner bill in 1921, and since that time support of work in maternal and child health has been included in the program adopted by the biennial national conventions of the association. Reports of the work carried on under the maternity and infancy law up to 1929 show, we believe, the possibilities for lessening the death rate and for improving the health of mothers and babies.

As a woman's organization, we are interested in measures for the conservation of human life. Our experience, particularly through the work of our health education department and through our contact with women in rural communities, with industrial women, and with foreign-born women, reinforces our belief that this work should again have the aid of the Federal Government.

We are very eager that the work should be made possible through favorable action of your committee on the provisions of S. 1130 on maternal and child health.

Yours very sincerely,

ESTHER CODY **DANLY**.

(Mrs. E. C. Danly, representing the national board of the Young Women's Christian Association.)

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN, INC.,
New York City, February 11, 1935.

The National Council of Jewish Women, an organization composed of 40,008 members in 43 States and over 200 cities in the United States, respectfully asks Congress to retain provision for maternal and child care in the economic security measure now under consideration.

Representing an organization whose chief aims include philanthropy, religion, civics, and legislation which affects women and children, we recognize the present great need, and urge the favorable consideration of such measures as will provide the continuation of Federal supervision and aid in maternity and infancy welfare.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN,
 Mrs. **ARTHUR BRIN**, *President.*
GERTRUDE M. SCHLOSS,
National Representative;

AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION,
February 9, 1935.

To Senate Finance Committee:

The American Nurses Association wishes to reaffirm its position in support of Federal assistance to mothers and infants as presented in section VII of S. 1130, introduced by Senator Wagner. This association is composed of 110,000 graduate nurses, many of whom are now engaged in public-health nursing in rural communities.

Therefore, we feel that we are in a position to know the value of nursing service, especially for those far removed from centers where such care is more easily obtained.

Many nursing services formerly operated by State and local health departments, as well as those supported by philanthropic organizations have been discontinued because funds were not available for their support, thus leaving many thousands of mothers and babies without nursing assistance at the most critical period of their existence. We, therefore, trust that the bill will include section VII when reported out by the committee.

Respectfully submitted.

SUSAN C. FRANCIS,
President American Nurses Association.

WOMEN'S HOMEOPATHIC MEDICAL FRATERNITY,
January 28, 1935.

To the Members of the United States Senate Finance Committee:

This is to certify that the Women's Homeopathic Medical Fraternity, which is one of the member organizations of the Women's Joint Congressional Committee, urges the passage of Senate bill 1130, the part of it which refers to maternal and child health. This organization is anxious to preserve freedom of pregnant women and mothers to choose the medical treatment they prefer, but is in accord with the bill in respect to financial and sanitary aid.

JULIA MINERVA GREEN, M. D.,
Delegate, Homeopathic Medical Fraternity.

Senator BARKLEY. I do not know whether this has been put in the record or not, but if not, I think it ought to be included. I would like to know whether there has been any change in the ratio of deaths among children and mothers since the National Government ceased to make this contribution to the infant fund?

Mrs. BALDWIN. Senator Barkley, I cannot give you the exact figures, but I have read just recently that there is a change, and I know the Children's Bureau will be only too glad to give you those figures.

Senator LONERGAN. I would like to ask the witness a question. Has your organization made a survey in each State as to the location of visiting nurses and doctors, in the agricultural territories?

Mrs. BALDWIN. I cannot say that we have made a survey in each case, because we have a State league in only about 39 States at the present time, but we are very conscious of the fact that in many of the rural communities there is a decided lack of not only medical services but nursing services. I remember quite well, in doing nutrition extension work with the Department of Agriculture, of going into rural community after rural community where there was no nurse available at all to the women and children in those communities.

Senator LONERGAN. Well, had the work of your organization disclosed that the States in each case failed to furnish the necessary service?

Mrs. BALDWIN. I could not answer that question, Senator, I am sorry to say.

Senator BARKLEY. Of what State are you a citizen, Mrs. Baldwin?

Mrs. BALDWIN. Well, that is very hard for me to say. I have been a resident of Washington ever since I got out of college.

Senator BARKLEY. Well, that has not been so very long.

Mrs. BALDWIN. You are very kind, Senator, but I am a native of the State of Massachusetts, and if I should vote I would probably vote in the State of New Jersey.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

The next witness is Samuel W. Reyburn, of the National Retail Dry Goods Association of New York City.

STATEMENT OF SAMUEL W. REYBURN, NEW YORK CITY,
NATIONAL RETAIL DRY GOODS ASSOCIATION

Mr. REYBURN. I am also head of the Associated Dry Goods Corporation of New York City and chairman of a committee representing the National Retail Dry Goods Association.

Gentlemen, the retailer is very close to the consumer; therefore, to the average citizen. For some years many retailers have been concerned about this problem. A few months ago they began to study some phases of it quite intensively. The association I represent has 5,478 members. They have members, I think, in every State in the Union.

Senator LONERGAN. Pardon me. What constitutes a membership?

Mr. REYBURN. A store. It might be a corporate, or an individual, or a partnership, but the people operating stores who want the facilities of the organization.

Senator LONERGAN. Thank you.

Mr. REYBURN. They are reasonably large stores in most communities, and stores with more or less modern methods of accounting and training and probably, on the average, the more progressive stores.

They do probably \$3,500,000,000 of business. They must employ six or seven hundred thousand people. Out of their studies came a resolution at their convention in January of this year. We have asked the clerk to place before the Senators a copy of that resolution. While it is short, I would rather not take the time to read it, but I would like to have it printed in the record.

The CHAIRMAN. Those copies are before us. It will be placed in the record.