

Mr. DISNEY. Is midwifery practiced in the Scandinavian countries to any great extent?

Dr. GRULEE. I am not an obstetrician, sir. I cannot answer you fully on that point, but I know that it is, and they have state midwives there for their rural districts.

The CHAIRMAN. We thank you, Dr. Grulee, for your appearance and for the information you have given this committee.

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

Mrs. BALDWIN. My name is Mrs. Harris T. Baldwin. I am the first vice president of the National League of Women Voters, Washington, D. C.

Mr. Chairman, the National League of Women Voters wishes to express its earnest conviction that provision for maternal and child health is an essential feature of a program for economic security. The league heartily endorses sections 701 and 704 of H. R. 4120 which provide for Federal aid for maternal and child health and for maternal nursing care administered by the Children's Bureau, and for responsible participation in this program by the States.

As many of you gentlemen know, one of the serious economic hazards of family life is the expense incidental to the birth of children. Under the best of conditions, there is the cost of normal medical and nursing care and in many cases someone must be employed to care for the house and family for 2 or 3 weeks.

When things do not go well and the mother or child is ill, and when one or the other dies, there is great additional expense for the husband to meet. These latter hazards can usually be avoided if the mother is given proper prenatal care, if the mother and child have competent medical and nursing care at the time of the birth and during the postnatal period, and if the mother is properly instructed in the care of her child.

Due to the advance in medical science and to the educational program for mothers and fathers carried on since 1900, there has been a great reduction in the infant-mortality rate; that is, in the number of babies who die during the first year of life.

Of even greater economic importance to the individual family is maternal mortality, because of the loss of the wife and mother is as serious and sometimes more serious than the loss of the wage-earner. On maternal mortality there has been some progress, but it has not been so rapid as on infant mortality.

Meanwhile it has been successfully proved that with proper prenatal care, obstetrical service, and postnatal care, the lives of fully half the mothers who now die might be saved. Last year we read the report published by the New York Academy of Medicine which states that nearly 66 percent of the mothers who died in childbirth in New York City in 1930, 1931, and 1932, might have been saved by the application of medical knowledge.

From the economic standpoint, however, illness of the mother and child which does not result in death often is the more serious financial burden to the family. On the effect of the depression on this there is only scattering evidence. However, knowing from experience unrelated to the depression that a large measure of such illness can

be avoided, prevention in this field offers a certain return in reducing the economic hazard of families in the low-income groups.

One of the weaknesses of the maternal-care program to date has been the fact that it has not been possible, except in a few cities, to provide nursing care for women at the time of delivery and during the post-partum period. In certain counties in the United States there is not a single trained nurse resident in the county. The bill before you wisely designates that a portion of the fund be set aside for maternal nursing care, especially in rural communities. This provision will enable doctors to save lives and will greatly increase the mother's chance of a prompt return to health and the baby's chance of making a vigorous start in life.

The National League of Women Voters welcomes the proposal of Federal aid for maternal and child health combined, with participation by the States. We know that the Children's Bureau is equipped to give at once thoroughly competent direction to this 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 over 2 million babies born each year, perhaps no other preventive effort in the economic security program will mean more to so great a number of families.

Mr. Chairman, there are present in this room representatives from seven other women's organizations who do not wish to speak because they know the time is short, but who would very much like to file statements of their belief and their desire to have this section of the Economic Security program enacted into law. May I ask that those statements be filed? They are from the American Association of University Women, the American Home Economics Association, the Council of Women for Home Missions, the National Board of the Y. W. C. A., the National Consumers' League, the National Council of Jewish Women, and the American Nurses' Association.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, they may be inserted in the record.

We thank you, Mrs. Baldwin, for your appearance and for the information you have given the committee.

(Statements referred to are as follows:)

NATIONAL BOARD, YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN
ASSOCIATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
New York, N. Y., January 30, 1935.

HON. ROBERT L. DOUGHTON,
House Office Building, Washington, D. C.

DEAR MR. DOUGHTON: Members of the Young Women's Christian Association have been interested for a long time in the efforts for the reduction of infant and maternal mortality and for improving the health of mothers and babies. 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 the Maternity and Infancy Act has always 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.

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 be carried on.

We are therefore urging the passage of H. R. 4192.

Very truly yours,

Mrs. E. E. DANLY,
*Representing the National Board of the
Young Women's Christian Association.*

AMERICAN NURSES' ASSOCIATION,
New York, January 28, 1935.

The American Nurses' Association, with a membership of 110,000 graduate nurses, has supported Federal legislation for the protection of child and maternal health, since the origin of the Shepherd-Towner Act.

It, therefore, reaffirms its position with special relation to the section dealing with this important question in its various aspects as outlined in title VII of bill H. R. 4120, introduced in the House January 17, 1935.

The American Nurses' Association is particularly interested in the proposed extension of child-health and maternity nursing care, especially in rural communities, and also in the plan of cooperation with State agencies concerned with the medical care of crippled children.

Respectfully submitted.

SUSAN C. FRANCIS, *President.*

AMERICAN HOME ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION,
January 30, 1935.

HON. ROBERT L. DOUGHTON,
*Chairman Ways and Means Committee,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR MR. DOUGHTON: The American Home Economics Association, an organization of trained home economists which is seeking to improve the quality of living in the home and community, recognizes the importance of the health of mothers and children to wholesome and normal home life. Because of this the association includes in its legislative program the support of maternity and infancy welfare legislation. Under this item in its legislative program the association, while heartily in sympathy with the provisions in title VII in the economic security bill for aid to crippled children and to child-welfare services in the States is in a position to endorse only that portion of title VII which deals specifically with the cooperation of the Federal Government with State agencies in extending and strengthening services for the health of mothers and children as set forth in sections 701 and 704.

The association urges favorable consideration of these provisions for the welfare of mothers and infants and their inclusion in legislation passed by Congress.

Respectfully submitted.

Mrs. HARRIET R. HOWE,
Vice chairman, Legislative Committee.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN,
Washington, D. C., January 25, 1935.

HON. ROBERT L. DOUGHTON,
*Chairman Ways and Means Committee of the House,
Washington, D. C.*

DEAR SIR: The American Association of University Women appeals for adequate Federal appropriations for carrying on maternal and child-health work in the States by the Children's Bureau in cooperation with the States.

The association has a paid-up membership of 37,034 with 656 branches in the 48 States and in China, Japan, Honolulu, the Philippine Islands, Puerto Rico, and Alaska. It was incorporated in 1899 for the purpose of maintaining standards of education and for practical educational work. Interest in maternal and child health has been of long standing as indicated in its parent education and child-development program, in which many of the members take part. A large per-

centage of the association's members are mothers, teachers, social workers, and women of the professions, which fact gives it an intimate knowledge from different angles of the importance of maternal and child health and of the inability of the States to make adequate provision unaided for the work so much needed to be done.

Particular needs in the States, which are provided for in title VII of H. R. 4120 and which we earnestly support, are investigations and reports, strengthening State and local health services to mothers and children, extension of maternity nursing services in rural areas, and special demonstration and research in maternal care.

The determination annually of allotment of funds in proportion which the number of live births in each State bears to total number of live births in the United States; the provision of funds to match Federal funds, available in States unable because of economic distress to match in full the amounts of Federal funds; and the development of demonstration services of a permanent character in rural and other needy areas or among groups of the population in special need are commended.

Many of the deaths of the 12,885 women recorded in 1933 from causes connected with child bearing were preventable. That this appalling record may not be repeated and that maternal and child-health work may go forward, the Committee on Ways and Means is earnestly urged to give favorable consideration to the provisions in title VII of H. R. 4120.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) GLEN L. SWIGGETT,
Chairman National Committee on Legislation.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN, INC.,
New York City.

The National Council of Jewish Women, a religious and philanthropic organization with 50 sections and more than 40,000 in nearly all the States in the Union has as one of its primary concern the welfare of women and children.

At each of its succeeding conventions it has—

“Resolved, That the National Council of Jewish Women reaffirms its support of infancy and maternity legislation, to provide that the United States shall cooperate with the States in promoting the general health of the rural population (especially) of the United States and the welfare and hygiene of mothers and children.”

We earnestly request the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives its deep, and we hope favorable, considerations.

Respectfully submitted.

HORTENSE B. LANSBURGH,
Official Representative.

Mrs. MARK LANSBURGH,
3111 Idaho Avenue, Washington, D. C.

STATEMENT OF MRS. B. F. LANGWORTHY, REPRESENTING THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

Mrs. LANGWORTHY. My name is Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, president of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, 1201 Sixteenth Street Northwest, Washington, D. C. That is the address of the headquarters. I live in Winnetka, Ill.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee: The National Congress of Parents and Teachers is an organization of a million and a half members with their organized branches in every State except Nevada, and in the Territory of Hawaii and the District of Columbia.

It was organized in 1897 to promote child welfare in home, school, church, and community; to raise the standards of home life; to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children, and to bring into closer relation the home and the school. This explains why we have not discussed or taken action on old-age pensions, unemploy-