

**AMENDMENT COMMITTEE PRINT REGARDING
CHANGES IN LAW TO ELIMINATE TO ELIMI-
NATE WASTE, FRAUD, AND ABUSE
OFFERED BY MR. MEEKS OF NEW YORK**

Page 3, at the end of the matter regarding the Department of Housing and Urban Development, insert the following:

We recommend that the Congress eliminate section 12(c) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437j(c)), the public housing community service requirement.

Section 12(c) was enacted in 1998, but due to HUD failure to issue regulations and a one year appropriations Act prohibition against its implementation, it is only taking effect this year. It requires non-elderly, non-disabled public housing residents who are not engaged in full-time work (or exempt from welfare work requirements) to perform eight hours a month of community service, or risk eviction from their apartment.

This requirement is unwise for a number of policy reasons. It is inappropriate for the Committee on Financial Services to have fashioned policies which are outside of their expertise and arguably redundant with welfare policies. It is uniquely discriminatory; no other Federal beneficiaries have their Federal benefits conditioned on community service.

And, from the budgetary point of view of this report, it is wasteful. It is a waste of HUD administrative and salary resources to be used for enforcement of this unwise policy. It is a waste of resources of public housing authorities to have to implement this unwise policy--especially at a time when Congress is not even appropriating sufficient funds to cover core housing operating expenses and is slashing HOPE VI funding. Eliminating the community service requirement would eliminate wasteful government spending, which could be used for other more productive uses.

