to the rich mixture of cultures and heritages that can only be found in the United States. I find strength and pride in this diversity, not fear and anxiety.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 2202 is, without a doubt, a bill that is bad for America. The Chrysler-Berman-Brownback amendment removes some, but not all, of the draconian measures in the legislation. I urge my colleagues to support the amendment and oppose final passage of the bill.

NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 1996

HON. RICK LAZIO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 1996

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to come to this floor today to introduce the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996.

This is the most important piece of legislation this body has ever considered with regard to Indian housing. This bill heralds a new era in the relations between Congress and Indian tribes, one marked by mutual respect, consensus, and accountability on all sides.

Indian communities suffer from some of the worst housing conditions in the country, a situation we will no longer tolerate. New partnerships between the Federal and tribal governments and the private sector will give local Indian communities the tools they need—and have been asking for—to build a better life for themselves and their members.

Indian housing programs began in the early 1960's as a result of memorandums between the Public Housing Administration, the predecessor to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Department of Interior. Housing on Indian reservations was considered just a derivation of public housing, the same as you would find in Seattle, or Miami, or in the town of Isilp, N.Y. Indian housing is not public housing. This bill recognizes that fact and creates a single, flexible block grant to tribes or their tribally designated housing entity to provide housing assistance.

Because of the unique government-to-government relationship between Indian tribes and the American Government, as well as the value of having local communities solve local problems. Indian housing authorities should have greater flexibility in providing assistance to their members.

Tribal governments and housing authorities should also have the ability and responsibility to strategically plan their own communities' development, focusing on the long-term health of the community and the results of their work, not over burdened by excessive regulation. Providing the maximum amount of flexibility in the use of housing dollars, within strict accountability standards, is not only a further affirmation of the self-determination of tribes, it allows for innovation and local problem-solving capabilities that are crucial to the success of any community-based strategy.

Involving private markets and private real estate entities must be a part of a successful strategy to improve economic conditions in Indian country. Simply put, we need more bang for our buck if we hope to address the needs of Indian communities in a meaningful way.

The formula-driven block grant allows us to implement a new affordable housing loan guarantee, based on the very successful section 108 loan guarantee for Community Development Block Grant funds. Under this new model, tribes can borrow capital from existing financial organizations and markets to expand the number of new units that can be constructed. This helps alleviate the serious need for new housing units in Indian country and at the same time lets private capital and investors take up the slack where Federal funding cannot, decreasing the dependence on direct subsidies.

While discussion and debate are underway on other legislative initiatives such as NAFSO, the Native American Financial Services Organization, we can take steps now to ensure public dollars going to tribes for housing can be used to leverage private dollars.

The bill also lengthens leases on trust-held land to 40 years. While it may not seem important, it is crucial to the secondary mortgage market to have lease terms long enough to support a 30-year mortgage. This kind of involvement by the private sector—supporting homeownership—is precisely the kind of efforts this Congress must support and it's one of the reasons this bill is so important to Indian country. Fannie Mae is just beginning to become involved in Indian country through the purchase of section 184 loans; Freddie Mac is poised to do the same. I believe this provision will give them added incentive to increase their presence in Indian communities.

I would like to thank my colleagues, Mr. BEREUTER, the distinguished vice-chairman of the Housing Subcommittee, my good friend Mr. HAYWORTH, and our colleague from the other side of the aisle, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Their efforts are much appreciated and I look forward to their continued input on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, this is only the beginning. As the bill moves forward, we expect to receive even more input from people who benefit from and run housing programs and, most importantly, to consult with tribal leaders. I am confident that the administration and the other body will support this bill and I look forward to working with them to make sure we can have the best possible legislation.

HONORING FBI AGENT CHARLES L. REED

HON. JON D. FOX

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 1996

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a hero in the war on drugs from my home district in Montgomery County, PA.

Recently, FBI special agent Charles L. Reed was laid to rest after giving his life to free our community from the yoke of drug abuse. Thousands of State troopers, police officers from throughout the region, park rangers, and transit police joined the friends, family, and colleagues to thank agent Reed, offer condolences from a grateful community to his family, and bid farewell to an exemplary public servant.

The outpouring of grief for this fallen hero was tremendous in a community which knew the benefit of the good work he did on behalf of the people. Hundreds of FBI agents, their badges draped in black, filled the parking lot of the church in tribute to their fallen comrade who was killed recently in a shootout with a drug dealer.

Six young pallbearers, all relatives of agent Reed, carried his body to its rest with the mournful wail of bagpipes in the background. That languished sound of the bagpipes reflected the mood of the entire Delaware Valley community over the death of this 45-year-old hero. The pain reflected on the faces of agent Reed's wife and three young sons was etched in the spirit of our entire community. For a great man died in defense of his community, locked in a mortal struggle against the specter of drugs which has ravaged this Nation for so long.

Agent Reed was not just a dedicated law enforcer, he was a devoted, loving, and proud husband, father, and friend who loved his community so much he was willing to risk his life in its service.

At the funeral, Gerald Loke who worked with agent Reed for 12 years at the FBI office in Lansdale, Montgomery County said: ''The FBI gave Chuck the title of special agent. Today, I want to give him the title of special husband, special father, and special friend.''

FBI Director Louis Freeh recounted a story agent Reed often told about a Vermont milkman he knew growing up. The milkman's hands were deformed by his work, but he continued the job he loved. Agent Reed often compared his passion for FBI work to the milkman's. He even named his youngest son, Kelley, 17, after the milkman.

Director Freeh told agent Reed's three sons, Joshua, 21, Todd, 18, and Kelley that they should remember their father as a hero. His wife, Susan, became a source of strength for his bereaved colleagues, knowing the impact this loss would have on them. Her courage matched his own.

Mr. Speaker, the tragic impact of drugs on this Nation is never made more clear than when a community loses one of its own. The children who become hooked and die with an overdose in their veins; the innocent bystanders who lose their lives as a result of the crime which follows this plague. These are the people agent Charles Reed died for. These are the tragedies he worked so hard to prevent. In the end, the war on drugs would claim another soldier. But despite his death, his message lives on in the dedication of his coworkers, in the love of his wife, in the future of his children, and in the appreciation of a community clothed in grief.

I rise today to honor agent Charles L. Reed—a hero to his community, a role model to his coworkers, and martyr in the war on drugs. May we never again lose such a man to this insidious tragedy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BROCK SANDERS

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Brock