

THE THRIVE ACT

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to direct my colleagues to the critical need for adult immunizations and ask that they join me in supporting the Total Health Requires Improved Vaccination Efforts—or THRIVE Act—which Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD and I are introducing today.

Vaccines are one of our great medical achievements. Successful immunization efforts have eradicated small pox and driven rubella from the United States. Mumps, diphtheria, measles, and chicken pox are at record low levels. And thanks to immunization, we're on the brink of eradicating polio across the globe.

Unfortunately, the success of childhood vaccination efforts has largely over-shadowed the need for adult vaccinations. Vaccine-preventable diseases among adults result in 45 thousand unnecessary deaths each year.

I urge my colleagues to support the THRIVE Act which will improve adult immunization efforts and help save lives.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, here we go again. With the economy in shambles, we are here today discussing free trade in the form of CAFTA. My colleagues, if passed, this free trade bill would be a net loss for American workers, for the environment, and for the local workers in Central America as well. So you may ask . . . who wins if CAFTA passes? Simple enough. As has too often been the case with this administration, the folks at the country clubs would win. Yes, the same people who benefit from the Bush administration's tax cut plans for the wealthy . . . the very same people who have been benefiting since President Bush took office back in 2000, all at the expense of our Nation's working people!

CAFTA does not care whether or not you use child labor or forced labor. It does not care whether multinational companies pollute our planet's water and poison our air. This is a treaty that clearly says we do not care how safe the products are that we import, no . . . this trade agreement, just like NAFTA and free trade policies in general, serves just one purpose: To make the richer even richer, while keeping our Nation's workforce at the bottom of the barrel.

Even under the Clinton administration, we were promised more jobs, yet what happened? Millions and millions of American workers found themselves out of work! Workers' lives have been ruined, their families have been torn and uprooted, and in fact, entire agricultural industries like the tomato industry in Florida have suffered. In fact, for the past dec-

ade, Florida vegetable growers, especially tomato and bell pepper farmers, have been nearly put out of business! My State's citrus crop, which is often considered the jewel of Florida's agriculture production, is facing greater and greater pressure from Mexico every day. Indeed, if this trade agreement passes, it could easily drive this important industry right out of business!

I yield back the balance of my time and encourage everyone in this building to cast a vote against this bill, and to vote in favor of America's workers, in favor of our farmers, in favor of the environment, and in favor of what's right for our Nation!

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING SUSAN COLER

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Susan Coler has been recognized with the Morgan County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities 2004 Employee of the Year Award for the enthusiasm and knowledge she brings to the job; and

Whereas, Susan Coler has displayed commitment and sincere dedication to the individuals in the Mary Hammond Programs; and

Whereas, Susan Coler should be commended for her involvement with the 4-H Riding Therapy Program and her contributions to the Morgan County Special Olympics.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Susan Coler for her outstanding accomplishment.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong opposition to the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement and intend to vote against it.

I am proud to be a pro-trade Democrat in Congress and am proud of my record—having supported every free trade agreement since I took office in 1997.

I voted in favor of granting the President Trade Promotion Authority in 2002 and voted against withdrawing from the World Trade Organization in 2000 and again earlier this year.

I am a longtime member, and the current chair of the New Democrat Coalition, a group of members who often support free trade. We see our role as a group of pro-business, pro-defense, and pro-trade leaning members who seek ways to open foreign markets to American goods and services. I also co-chair the Friends of New Zealand Caucus in the House, and hope we may soon see a free trade agreement with New Zealand.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that free trade, when organized properly, benefits our economy. It

can only help to improve our relations with the other countries involved.

In the case of CAFTA, I want to see our Nation maintain close ties with our neighbors in Central America. Our economic security and our national security depend on cooperative relationships with our friends and allies.

However, in pursuing free trade, we must also consider the impact and direct effects the agreements will have on workers—both here and abroad.

And CAFTA fails to provide adequate protection.

It simply does not do enough to invest in basic job training and education for Americans—specifically those Americans who lose their jobs due to trade.

The current budget for Trade Adjustment Assistance is insufficient: the President's 2005 request was \$300 million less than Congress authorized for FY 2004, despite the obvious needs for job training and retraining. What's worse, Mr. Speaker, is that CAFTA does not provide any TAA funds for service workers, who comprise 80 percent of today's American workforce and produce three-quarters of our products. When job training programs go under funded, American workers are at risk.

Furthermore, CAFTA is the first FTA negotiated by the United States with developing countries, some of which have weak labor laws and a history of suppressing the rights of their workers.

We need to do all in our power to ensure that this agreement helps these countries raise their working standards. Unfortunately, the labor chapter requires that each country simply enforce its existing laws. It does nothing to require the DR-CAFTA countries improve their laws to reflect fairness to working people. There are also no safeguards in the agreement to prevent countries from explicitly weakening their labor laws. This "enforce your own laws" standard is a giant step backwards. Under our current trade policy, the Caribbean Basin Initiative allows us to withdraw trade benefits from countries who violate the labor standards of the agreements they have signed. If CAFTA goes into effect, those remedies are wiped out and simply replaced with the "enforce your own laws" standard.

This labor agreement is simply unacceptable.

And finally Mr. Speaker, I feel compelled to say a word about the legislative process here in Congress. I would be remiss if I did not do so.

This Administration has made a habit of regularly excluding Democrats from the table during the negotiation and drafting of all major legislation. We saw this with the energy bill, the Medicare prescription drug bill, and again with CAFTA. We were not consulted at all on this FTA.

We all have valid ideas and concerns worthy of discussion regarding improving international market economies and they need to be fully and fairly debated. That did not happen with CAFTA. We were not engaged. I thought that at some point in the process members of the New Democrat Coalition would be consulted, as we generally support free trade. However, I was wrong. There was no outreach from House leaders or from the President to us.

One would think that after the passage of Trade Promotion Authority in 2002—by a 3 vote margin—a clear signal was sent to the