

The Veterans Sexual Trauma Act also makes reservists and National Guard members eligible for care.

It also ensures that health professionals—not VA administrators—make determinations about eligibility for care and guarantees that all appropriate medical care is made available to any eligible veteran.

Finally, it mandates that the VA aggressively promote the availability of this vital service and assure that veterans are aware of these counseling and care programs.

This is not a complicated bill, nor is it an expensive bill.

It is however, a vital bill.

Each year, more and more women make the decision to dedicate a portion of their lives to serving our Nation.

The increasing enlistment of females is a trend that should make our Nation proud—but we should be ashamed when any soldier faces sexual assault or harassment.

When Americans enlist in the military they make a promise to dedicate their lives to serving our Nation.

This legislation helps America keep its promise to our veterans—its promise to provide all necessary health care.

Care and counseling for victims of sexual abuse and trauma should be a basic and fundamental part of the health care services the VA makes available to our veterans. Today, it is not.

This legislation accomplishes this important goal. I urge all of my colleagues to support it and push for its quick passage.

SMALL BUSINESS JOB OPPORTUNITY ACT

HON. ELIZABETH FURSE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will promote investment in small business by cutting the tax on capital gains that are reinvested in American small businesses. By doing so, this bill will create jobs. I repeat—the only capital gains relief is for small business—where their profit is invested in companies doing business in America. That means jobs for Americans in America. Increasing the amount of capital available to American businesses will be extremely beneficial to our long-term economy.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and need extra capital to expand and compete in the increasingly international marketplace. In Oregon, over 95 percent of businesses earn less than five million dollars per year in gross receipts. These small businesses are the core to Oregon's success in trade in the Pacific Rim. In fact, many of my colleagues are surprised to learn that Japan is Oregon's largest trading partner. Most importantly, Oregon small businesses provide job opportunities for Oregon's working families.

During the debate over the capital gains tax cuts, Congress should embrace this bill as an opportunity to provide support to the small business community and benefit America's working families. Traditionally, capital gains tax cuts have been viewed as a tool for the wealthy, but by targeting investments in small

business we are providing job opportunities for working families. Many middle-income Americans realize some type of capital gain and this is an opportunity for them to reinvest that gain in their community and help provide jobs for their neighbors.

The Pacific Northwest International Trade Association and Oregon Bankers Association have joined me in supporting this bill. Following are their letters of endorsement. I urge all my colleagues to support this important legislation.

OREGON BANKERS ASSOCIATION,
INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY BANKS OF
OREGON,

Salem, OR, July 21, 1997.

Hon. ELIZABETH FURSE,

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN FURSE: The Oregon Bankers Association wholeheartedly endorses your proposed "Capital gains small business reinvestment exemption". We shall support its passage in every way possible.

As we have previously discussed, Oregon has a large number of small businesses. As a matter-of-fact, most of our new job potential is in the small business sector.

We must create incentives and remove roadblocks to insure growth in this very key area of our economy.

Your proposal could be extremely valuable to the emerging Oregon small businesses and small businesses nationwide.

Sincerely,

FRANK E. BRAUNER,
President.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST INTERNATIONAL
TRADE ASSOCIATION, ONE WORLD
TRADE CENTER,

Portland, OR, July 21, 1997.

Hon. ELIZABETH FURSE,

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Re: Capital Gains Exemption for Small Business Reinvestment Act

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN FURSE: PNITA commends you for introducing this bill which has our enthusiastic support. As a small business state we believe this legislation will help to encourage small businesses in general and specifically provide a greater opportunity for investment by people who own and operate small businesses.

We ask that your staff keep us informed as this bill is assigned to committee so that PNITA members may do whatever is necessary to insure its timely passage.

Again, we appreciate your continued support of the small business community. We know that your bill will help small businesses nationwide as the similar Oregon law has helped Oregon companies.

Sincerely,

STEVEN W. NEWMAN,
Executive Director.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMALL BUSINESS JOB OPPORTUNITY ACT

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague, Representative ELIZABETH FURSE, in introducing legislation that will provide targeted capital gains tax relief to small business owners. Our bill would reward small business owners who reinvest their profits in American small businesses, and would demonstrate our national commitment to the health and welfare of our nation's entrepreneurs.

In the state of Oregon, small businesses are a crucial part of the growing economy. In fact, more than 95 percent of businesses in the state earn less than \$5 million a year. These growing businesses are providing quality jobs and economic opportunity for working families across our state. But this experience is not unique to Oregon. Small businesses across this country are providing the new jobs and economic growth that are driving our strong economy.

As Congress continues to work toward balancing the budget and providing tax relief, it is essential that we maximize the benefit of tax reductions by targeting them to the people who need them most. This bill does just that by encouraging reinvestment in small business and creating a climate for continued growth and job creation.

I am also pleased that the Oregon Bankers Association and the Pacific Northwest International Trade Association have joined us in support of the legislation. I urge my colleagues to join us in support of this important small business legislation.

IN HONOR OF QUEENS SURFACE CORPORATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a respectful tribute to Queens Surface Corporation, a company with an outstanding reputation of service in Queens, on the 60th anniversary of its founding. Now the largest privately owned transit company in New York City, Queens Surface plays an important role in the community of its headquarters in College Point, Queens.

Queens Surface Corporation has given significant amounts of financial support to the College Point community by helping such organizations as the College Point Ambulance Corp., the College Point Sports Association, the College Point Security Patrol, the College Point Little League and the College Point Athletic Club. The company has also given donations to the Poppenhusen Institute, Saint Mary's Foundation for Children, the American Diabetes Association, the American Lung Association, the American Cancer Society and Memorial Sloan Kettering.

For its service to and support for the community, Queens Surface Corporation has been awarded hundreds of awards and citations from cultural, religious and educational institutions. Since 1988, when the current owners, Robert and Myra Burke, bought the company, Queens Surface Corporation has continued to drive at community service, garnering 14 awards from a wide array of organizations.

Mr. Burke also gives his personal time to the community, serving on the board for Saint Patrick's Home for the Aged and Infirm, and holding positions as President of the Bus Association of New York State and Secretary/Treasurer of the Mass Transit Operations of New York. Most recently, Mr. Burke was the Grand Marshal of the 1997 College Point Memorial Day Parade.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise with me in this tribute to Robert and Myra Burke's company, Queens Surface Corporation, as it celebrates its 60th anniversary. I am honored to have in my district, a company which services over 80,000 riders daily while continuously contributing to its Queens community. Thank you