

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "Nursing Home Public Information Act of 1997".

**SEC. 2. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.**

(a) The Secretary shall publicly disseminate, through whatever means the Secretary determines appropriate, information compiled in databases maintained by or available to the Secretary concerning final adverse actions against and quality of care in nursing facilities.

(b) The Secretary shall determine the scope of the information disseminated under this section, but shall include—

(1) the name (and history of name changes), address, phone number, tax identification number, chairman of the board or director, and licensing State or other governmental entity, of each nursing facility involved in a final adverse action;

(2) the basis and sanction or remedy of each final adverse action;

(3) information about quality of care in nursing facilities, including information collected through the standard surveys conducted pursuant to section 1919 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r); and

(4) any information that would be helpful to consumers purchasing care or services in nursing facilities.

(c) In disseminating information under this section, the Secretary shall ensure that the privacy of individuals receiving, or who have received, care or services in nursing facilities is appropriately protected.

(d) The Secretary shall determine the appropriate format and means to disseminate information under this section, but shall consider—

(2) a toll-free telephone hotline;

(2) a public website; and

(3) a printed manual or pamphlet.

(e) The Secretary shall update the information disseminated under this section not less than monthly.

**SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

(For purposes of this section—

(1) the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health and Human Services;

(2) the term "nursing facility" has the same meaning provided such term in section 1919 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r);

(3) the term "final adverse action" includes—

(A) civil judgments against a nursing facility in Federal or State court related to fraud, abuse, or improper billing;

(B) Federal or State criminal convictions related to fraud, abuse, or improper billing;

(C) actions by Federal or State agencies responsible for the licensing or certification of nursing facilities, including—

(i) formal or official actions, such as revocation or suspension of a license (and the length of any such suspension), reprimand, censure, or probation; or

(ii) any other loss of license or the right to apply for, or renew, a license of the nursing facility, whether by operation of law, voluntary surrender, non-renewability, or otherwise;

(D) exclusion from participation in Federal or State health care programs (as defined in sections 1128B(f) and 1128(h) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320a-7b(f); 1230a-7(h)); and

(E) any other adjudicated actions or decisions that the Secretary shall establish by regulation.

(4) the term "tax identification" has the meaning provided such term in section 7701(a)(41)).

**SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Act shall take effect not more than 2 years after the date of its enactment.

TRIBUTE TO STUYVESANT TOWN  
AND PETER COOPER VILLAGE

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 3, 1997*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute of the 50th anniversary of Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village, two large apartment complexes in the Borough of Manhattan, in the city of New York. On August 21, 1997, the owners, residents, and neighbors celebrated the 50th anniversary of the historic public-private partnership which created thousands of spacious apartments for reasonable rents.

Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village deserve honor here today as an outstanding example of private housing developed in the public good. In 1943, Frederick Ecker, chairman of Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., worked with the city government to rebuild a run-down section of New York known as the Gas House District. He committed resources to build a large housing development, in exchange for property tax incentives. All 3,000 families who lived in the area were first rehoused by Metropolitan Life in an extensive and successful relocation program. The first families moved into Stuyvesant Town on August 1, 1947 and by June 1, 1949 all apartments were rented.

Today, Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village together house 11,000 New York families. The Stuyvesant Town apartment buildings occupy 75 acres and comprise 89 apartment buildings, stretching from East 14th to East 20th Streets and from First Avenue to Avenue C in Manhattan. Peter Cooper Village is located between East 20th and East 23d Streets and also from First Avenue to Avenue C. The complexes have their own security force, supervised play and sports for children, a senior's lounge, annual flea market, holiday celebrations, among other amenities. A very unique quality of these complexes is their park-like setting—between the many buildings are trees, flowers, grass, and a centrally located fountain to give respite from the stresses of city life, just steps away outside the complex.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honor of the historic partnership which has housed thousands of families, generation after generation, for 50 highly successful years. Congratulations to the residents of Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village and to all at Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. who have contributed to the ongoing success of these historic apartment buildings.

TRIBUTE TO SELECTMAN JOSEPH  
R. LEFEBVRE, JR.

**HON. JOHN W. OLVER**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 3, 1997*

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished public service career of Mr. Joseph R. Lefebvre, Jr.

Joseph Lefebvre is currently a member of the board of selectmen of Adams, MA, one of my Berkshire County towns. He has served with distinction on the board since 1985.

Mr. Lefebvre has been contributing to Adams in numerous roles his entire adult life. In addition to being a town meeting member and holding the position of custodian of the Adams Library for over two decades each, Joseph Lefebvre has served as a member of the Housing Authority, Cemetery Commission, Board of Appeals, and even as a Constable—all during the 1970's and 1980's. His commitment to public service undoubtedly touched the lives of nearly every citizen in his community.

Mr. Speaker, on August 24, 1997, the town of Adams honored Joseph with an appreciation banquet. I have represented Berkshire County since 1991, and I want to add my name to the long list of citizens and officials who have paused to say, thank you, to Joseph Lefebvre for everything he has done over the years.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE MUST HAVE AUTHORITY TO RECALL TAINTED FOOD

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 3, 1997*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, the recent recall of 25 million pounds of beef has caused deep concern in the minds of many Americans about the safety of the Nation's food supply. The largest recall of meat in U.S. history has awakened new fears in consumers who are increasingly skeptical about food safety.

America's food supply is the safest in the world. But it is not safe enough.

Mr. Speaker, in January 1998, new meat safety rules will go into effect which will replace the old sniff and poke method used by meat inspectors. The new system will require closer scrutiny by the meat processors and USDA inspectors and will require the use of new high-technology machinery by meat processors which will test meat for bacterial contamination.

Mr. Speaker, meat processors should not wait until they are legally bound to comply with these new regulations. Americans have come to expect the cleanest, safest food on the planet. Intense effort must be made to make the clean, safe food supply even cleaner and safer. Rigorous scientific checks at key points in the processing of meat must be implemented immediately to restore the public's confidence in our Nation's food supply.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, under current law the U.S. Department of Agriculture cannot compel a recall of tainted food. It can only ask producers to recall products voluntarily or it can withhold its inspection seal and the meat cannot be sold in the United States. But what about meat that has already reached the consumer?

Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman recently announced that he will ask Congress for the authority to recall tainted food. I strongly support this recommendation and I urge all my colleagues to work swiftly to enact this legislation. The time has come to restore public confidence in our Government's ability to ensure a safe food supply. We must give the Federal Government the power to compel a recall of tainted or potentially tainted food.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place in the Record a recent editorial which appeared in