

private employers. Instead, the Department of Labor is authorized under Executive Order 12196 to conduct inspections of agency workplaces "when the Secretary [of Labor] determines necessary if an agency does not have occupational safety and health committees; or in response to reports of unsafe or unhealthful working conditions, upon request of occupational safety and health committees . . . ; or, in the case of a report of an imminent danger, when such a committee has not responded to an employee who has alleged to it that the agency has not adequately responded to a report." In such cases, the Department of Labor is required to follow up its inspection with a report to the head of the agency. In addition, under the executive order, the Secretary of Labor submits an annual report to the President on each federal agency's workplace safety and health performance. However, neither the Department of Labor nor the state agencies which enforce OSHA requirements in 23 states have the legal authority to require the Postal Service to comply with OSHA requirements, or to issue citations or penalties against the Postal Service for violations of OSHA requirements.

As my colleagues may know, I have been working for some time on much needed reforms of the workers compensation system for federal employees, known as the Federal Employees Compensation Act, or FECA, which is also the workers compensation program which covers Postal Service employees. The present program is expensive, has not been updated for years, continues to be afflicted by cases of fraud and abuse, and in many cases discourages employees' return to work. Measured by either total compensation costs or number of claims, Postal Service employees comprise one of the largest components of FECA.

During a hearing held on the FECA program on March 24 by the Workforce Protections Subcommittee, a representative of the American Postal Workers Union claimed that "[in] our experience, the federal government's workplace safety and health program remains inadequate and deficient, and this is where the greatest savings could and should be achieved in the costs associated with workers injured on the job in the line of duty."

While I certainly do not share the view that the only problem with the FECA program is the lack of effort by the Postal Service or federal agencies generally to seriously address workplace hazards in order to prevent workplace injuries, it does seem to me reasonable and appropriate to provide assurance that in addressing FECA we are not ignoring the issue of workplace safety. Nor does it seem unreasonable to me that the Postal Service, which increasing competes directly with private companies, should do so "on a level playing field" with regard to OSHA regulation and enforcement.

So for both of these reasons I am introducing legislation to treat the Postal Service the same as private employers for purposes of the Occupational Safety and Health Act. Under the bill, the Postal Service would be subject to inspection, citation, and penalty by OSHA and approved state OSHA programs. I invite my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation, and I look forward to working with my colleagues in order to pass this legislation during this Congress.

W. STANLEY GARNER HONORED

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of the House of Representatives and the American people the celebration of an individual in Connecticut's 5th Congressional District to be held this Saturday, April 25th, and the many accomplishments of Mr. W. Stanley Garner of New Fairfield, Connecticut. Family, friends and associates of Mr. Garner will gather at the new Fairfield Senior Center to honor him for his personal contributions to the Public Library and the community at large.

Born in New Fairfield on January 9, 1923, Mr. Garner involved himself in community affairs as a young man, and was an avid user of the New Fairfield Free Public Library when it was simply a corner room in the small town hall building before World War II. In 1967, Mr. Garner became Trustee of that library and served in that capacity for more than 20 years, a longer continuous tenure than anyone else.

During these twenty plus years, and since, Mr. Garner has been at the forefront of all the Library's construction projects and was primarily responsible for the establishment of the town's Children's Library. He served on the Building Committee for the present Town Library, built in 1975, as well as on the Building Committees for the addition to the New Fairfield Middle School, the Fire House and the town Police Station.

Mr. Garner's reputation as a builder in the area is outstanding, having been responsible for the construction of hundreds of homes in the area, as well as several public facilities including the Parish House of St. Edward's Church and its adjacent Sullivan Home. He was also a long time member of the Board of Directors of the Union Savings Bank in New Fairfield.

Throughout his life, Mr. Garner has given a level of public service that few achieve. He continues to serve today as an example of the type of service and dedication that all of us should follow. Despite his level of involvement, however, Mr. Garner has never allowed his outside activities to overshadow the importance of his family. This October 28th, Stan and Aileen Pulver Garner will celebrate their 48th wedding anniversary with their two sons.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Connecticut's 5th Congressional District, and this House, I want to congratulate Mr. Stanley Garner on this life-long achievements and thank him for his service and dedication to New Fairfield, its institutions and citizens.

RECOGNIZING COLORADO'S FRONT RANGE CONTINUUM OF CARE

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a citizen coalition known as Colorado's Northern Front Range Continuum of Care, whom I recently met with in my Fort Collins office to learn of their assessment

of the community's need for affordable housing, transitional housing, group homes and homeless services. The Continuum of Care is comprised of over 125 individuals representing various community organizations including Alternatives to Violence, American Red Cross, Catholic Charities-Northern, House of Neighborly Service, WIRS, A Woman's Place, Weld Food Bank, Greeley Interfaith, Right to Read, Cities of Greeley, Loveland, and Fort Collins, Neighbor to Neighbor, Fort Collins Authority, Larimer County Mental Health, Larimer County Department of Human Services, Loveland Housing Authority, Crossroads Safehouse, Crossroads Ministry, Colorado Division of Housing, Ft. Lupton Housing Authority, Greeley Housing Authority, Greeley Transitional House, United Way of Weld County, Greeley Area Habitat for Humanity, CARE Housing, and Funding Partners.

Continuum of Care was formed for the purpose of inventorying existing local resources in the community, and to identify gaps in housing and service delivery for special populations. The assessments were achieved through the participation of these representatives who developed this analysis bringing their particular community experiences to the table.

The following facts were established concerning the value of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit:

H.R. 2900 would increase the Low-Income Housing Tax Credits to \$1.75 per capita and index the cap to inflation.

The current cap is severely limiting the state's capacity to help the thousands of lower wage families from renting decent, safe and affordable housing.

In 1996, Colorado was allocated \$4.5 million in housing tax credits but the demand far exceeded this allocation with requests totaling \$15.3 million.

The Low-Income Tax Credit is a federal tax credit to investors for ten years for up to 9% of their cost of constructing or rehabilitating apartments dedicated to lower-wage working families at restricted rents.

Since 1987, the housing tax credit has helped develop over 7,692 units of affordable housing in 40 counties in Colorado.

During that same time period in Larimer and Weld Counties, funds totaling \$4,525,677 were allocated, providing 1,183 new housing units.

Facts were also presented in support of Private Activity Bonds:

H.R. 979 increases the Private Activity Bond (PAB) cap from \$50 to \$75 per capita and index the cap to inflation.

This legislation will stimulate job creation, the production of affordable housing, industrial development, environmental cleanup and higher education in Colorado.

Currently the cap is the greater of \$50 per capita or \$150 million per state per year. This computes to about \$200 million annually in Colorado.

Annually, this cap is used-up completely. Demand exceeds supply by four-to-one.

In the last two years, over \$414 million of private activity bond authority yielded a significant positive economic impact for Colorado.

Over \$336 million in tax exempt bond financing for affordable housing for our bluecollar work force funded new home ownership and rental opportunities.

\$41 million of financing for industrial development (manufacturing facilities) and agricultural loans.