

self-petitioners; prevents changes in abuser's status from undermining victim's petitions; provides for numerous waivers and exceptions to inadmissibility for VAWA eligible applicants; improves access to VAWA for battered immigrant women whose spouse is a member of the armed forces, who are married to bigamists, and/or are the victims of elder abuse; allows for discretionary waivers for good moral character determinations; removes public charge for VAWA applicants; gives VAWA applicants access to work authorization; allows VAWA applicants access to food stamps, housing and legal services; trains judges, immigration officials, armed forces supervisors and police on VAWA immigration provisions.

Subtitle D. Conforming Amendments to the Violence Against Women Act—amends the definitions of underserved in the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act and the Omnibus Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act in order to create consistent use of the term.

**TITLE VII.—Violence Against Women and the Workplace**

Subtitle A. National Clearinghouse on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault and the Workplace Grant—establishes a clearinghouse and resource center to give information and assistance to employers and labor organizations in their efforts to develop and implement responses to assist victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Subtitle B. Victims' Employment Rights—prohibits employers from taking adverse job actions against an employee because they are the victim of violent crime.

Subtitle C. Workplace Violence Against Women Prevention Tax Credit—provides tax credits to businesses implementing workplace safety programs to combat violence against women.

Subtitle D. Battered Women's Employment Protection—ensures eligibility for unemployment compensation to women separated from their jobs due to circumstances directly resulting from domestic violence; requires employers who already provide leave to employees to allow employees to use that leave for the purpose of dealing with domestic violence and its aftermath; allows women to use their family and medical leave or existing leave under State law or a private benefits program to deal with domestic abuse, including going to the doctor for domestic violence injuries, seeking legal remedies, including court appearances, seeking orders of protection or meeting with a lawyer; provides for training of personnel involved in assessing unemployment claims based on domestic violence.

Subtitle E. Education and Training Grants to Promote Responses to Violence Against Women—authorizes grants for developing, testing, presenting and disseminating model programs to provide education and training to individuals who are likely to come in contact with victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in the course of their employment, including campus personnel, justice system professionals (including guardians ad litem, probation, parole and others), mental health professionals, clergy, caseworkers, supervisors, administrators and administrative law judges who are involved in federal and state benefit programs.

Subtitle F. Workers' Compensation—Sense of Congress that worker's compensation benefits should be provided to women that have been injured in the workplace, including full compensation for physical and non-physical injuries, and that women who survive crimes such as rape, domestic violence and sexual assault at work should be able to pursue other legal actions, based on the employers role in the workplace violence.

**TITLE VIII.—Violence Against Women Intervention, Prevention and Educational Research**

Directs the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a multi-agency task force to coordinate research on violence against women; provides grants to support research on causes of violence against women and the effectiveness of education, prevention and intervention programs; provides grants to address gaps in research on violence against women, particularly violence against women in underserved communities and instances where domestic violence is a factor in a divorce/child custody case; mandates a study and report by the U.S. Sentencing Commission on sentences given in crimes of domestic violence; issues grants to conduct research on the experiences of women and girls in the health care, judicial and social services systems who become pregnant as a result of sexual assault; authorizes a study and report on the uniformity of laws among States and their effectiveness in prosecuting rape and sexual assault offenses; directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Attorney General to establish three research centers to develop and coordinate research on violence against women.

**TRIBUTE TO FLORA WALKER**

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 1999*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ms. Flora Walker, Past President of Michigan's American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 25 on the occasion of her retirement.

Flo Walker has served this organization as President with dedication and devotion for the past six years, and will be honored at a retirement tribute on January 29, 1999. While at the helm she has contributed to building a strong and united statewide Council, and forgoing a renewal of solidarity and unity of purpose.

Under Flo Walker's leadership, numerous programs and initiatives were developed which look toward the 21st century. These include streamlining and updating the Arbitration Department; overhauling the entire Council 25's legal operation; adding more Council servicing staff and new computer equipment, and developing a new Web page.

Flo Walker has led the Council in the purchase of an additional building in Flint, the Organizing Annex, and the former Chamber of Commerce Building in Detroit. The Detroit building includes an auditorium, and a radio/television studio.

And the list goes on with the expansion of Council 25's Education Department, offering seminars and workshops for its members, and instituting an annual charitable golf outing to benefit the Mental Health Association. Ms. Walker has also led efforts to increase voter awareness and participation in the electoral process.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our gratitude to Flora Walker for so much that has been accomplished under her presidency, and to wish her good health and happiness for the future.

**INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO AMEND THE COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE, COMPENSATION, AND LIABILITY ACT OF 1980**

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 1999*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA). My bill would restrict the liability of local educational agencies in the clean-up of Superfund sites.

Mr. Speaker, this change makes sense given the fact that hundreds of school boards are affected. In New Jersey alone, 57 school districts have been affected by Superfund's liability reach and have been assessed for liability under Superfund. According to the National School Boards Association, over 200 school districts nationwide have been named as defendants in lawsuits related to Superfund cases.

Most often, school boards dispose of ordinary garbage—papers, pencils, or school lunches. These materials are hardly toxic or hazardous, and in all cases, the waste is disposed of legally. In one case in New Jersey, involving the Gloucester Environmental Management Services Landfill (GEMS), 53 school boards were assessed \$15,000 each, not including additional money associated with legal costs. As a result of the tangled Superfund liability web, these precious dollars in a school's budget were diverted away from educating children and into the Superfund coffers.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I am introducing this legislation today, to exempt school boards from Superfund liability. I believe that my bill will help schools use their money the most effective way possible: in the classrooms.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE RONALD V. DELLUMS FEDERAL BUILDING BILL**

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 1999*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to name the Federal building in Oakland, CA after our distinguished former colleague Ronald V. Dellums.

Ron came to Congress in 1971 with a plan to change the system and improve the Nation. In many ways he accomplished just that. He saved us from many weapons systems that we did not need, could not afford, and probably could not control. And more than any other Member of Congress, he helped to clearly illustrate how an overfed military budget was literally starving our children, our schools, and our communities. He brought the titans of apartheid to their knees and dragged a reluctant American Government along the way. He fought for the civil rights of all Americans.

Ron Dellums was truly a unique Member of Congress. His passion was his fuel, but his