

month. In fact, of those parents who do talk to their kids about drugs, less than half address inhalant abuse. Why aren't we talking about a substance that starves the brain of oxygen to the point of suffocation? Why aren't we warning our kids that these household products can cause damage to the brain and nervous system? We can't expect a teenager to know the severity of sniffing unless we tell them.

We need to alert parents and kids to the dangers of inhalants. This is the reason Congress named the week of March 21 through March 27 as "National Inhalants and Poisons Awareness Week". It is evident to me that this kind of recognition is imperative to reducing inhalant abuse. We cannot lock up our kids. We cannot keep many items with the potential for abuse out of the world our young people inhabit. What we can and must do is to exercise more responsibility and pay closer attention.

Another substance that is consuming our youth is GHB. If you aren't familiar with this drug, it may be because there is little information available on its fatal effects. In fact, GHB was sold over the counter as a dietary supplement in health food stores until 1990. Today, advocates of GHB believe the drug is harmless and should continue to be sold over the counter. Unfortunately, a person doing research on the drug will find more information supporting the use of GHB rather than reporting the realistic effects of the drug. For this reason, GHB continues to be sold as a recreational drug and perceived as harmless. These perceptions have proved deadly for many.

GHB has become popular at parties known as "Raves". These all-night parties glorify the use of drugs and alcohol. "Ravers" are taking GHB to feel relaxed, to loose their inhibitions, and to increase their sexual libidos. However, the truth is that too much GHB or GHB mixed with other drugs can cause seizures, comas, severe vomiting, and respiratory arrests. In addition, GHB causes amnesia. For this reason, it has been frequently used as a date rape drug. Unknowing victims are slipped GHB and can't remember their attacker the next day.

Since GHB is a newly abused drug, there have been few studies done to illustrate its effects. However, the Drug Abuse Warning Network reports an increase in GHB-related emergency department episodes from 20 in 1992 to 629 in 1996. Among these episodes, 91 percent reported that their reason for using GHB was for recreational purposes. Of that 91 percent, 33 percent claimed they had no idea what GHB would do to them.

Based on what we know, there are no safe levels of use. There are no known ways to predict side effects. And there are no ways to anticipate how GHB will react with other substances. Yet, young people are being told this drug is okay. Well, it isn't. And I don't believe parents want their children self-pre-

scribing any drugs, much less one so dangerous. We have to let kids know that GHB is a serious drug with serious consequences. If we know so little about GHB, we can assume kids know even less. It is imperative that we warn kids of the dangers involved in these substances.

Mr. President, how much time do I have left?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Less than a minute.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask permission to have 5 additional minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BRAZILIAN SOY MEAL PURCHASE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I want to address a family farm issue and I want to take this opportunity to send a clear message to other portions of agriculture that I sense are not supporting the family farmers of America the way they should be, when in reality, the organizations I'm finding fault with are in the very same boat as any family farmer in America. What's even more disturbing to me, some of these really big megapork producers in America refer to themselves as family farms. It's in the title of their organization.

The fact is, Mr. President, family farmers are facing the lowest soybean prices in 23 years. Farmers are currently storing more soybeans on the farm than at any other point in the 1990's. In addition, the American Soybean Association forecasts this year the United States will have a larger number of carry-out stocks than at any other point this decade. Due to the excessive available supply, family farmers marketing soybeans are in a very difficult situation.

Soybean prices will not improve until U.S. reserves are diminished. But, believe it or not, the cooperative that I've referred to, composed of some of the largest livestock integrators in the Nation, are planning to import soybean meal from Brazil. And, of course, this is going to have a very significant negative impact on American soybean producers. But, more important, it is demoralizing to the family farmers of America who are producing soybeans to read reports about other so-called family farmers importing soybean meal from another country.

The cooperative located in the Southeast United States will bring in three foreign shipments totaling 75,000 metric tons of soybean meal. And, by the way, for those of you who don't know agriculture, soybean meal is used as a protein supplement in feed, which when combined with corn and other feed grains helps to prepare the hogs for slaughter and domestic consumption.

I reported to you that they will be bringing in 75,000 metric tons of soybean meal on three different foreign shipments. It takes approximately 52 bushels of soybeans to produce one

metric ton of soybean meal. This means that U.S. soybean producers are losing an opportunity to market nearly 4 million bushels of soybeans to these six producers of hogs who are part of this cooperative.

With the current crisis in the agriculture community, it's an understatement to say that this purchase has not been well-received by soybean producers. It has already been my impression that when times are tough on the farm, the agriculture community, both farm and non-farm, pitches in to help each other. From individual barn raisings to emergency hay lifts, family farmers stick together to help each other. Now, with soybeans under \$5 a bushel, and that's a 23-year low, I would hope that this was one of those times when the ag community would come together in the face of adversity.

Maybe I'm wrong, or maybe the livestock integrators which make up the cooperative in question don't understand the impact of their actions. One of the entities involved in the cooperative holds itself out to be a family farm organization. Well, if it's really a family farm, this is the perfect time to show its true colors and support American family farmers.

Mr. President, if the entities within this cooperative buying group want to be considered as family farmers, they should support the family farmers, and I'm speaking specifically about Murphys' Family Farms, Carroll Foods, Prestage, Smithfield Foods, Goldsboro Farms, and NashJohnson and Sons Farms. These are the members of this cooperative that are buying soybean meal from Brazil when we have this oversupply in our own country.

Now, as I indicated to you, family farmers generally help family farmers. And I have never once complained in America as a matter of public policy about something being too big. These are obviously very big producers of pork in the United States. I have no resentment that they are successful. But some of these operations feed some of their livestock in my State of Iowa. We are the number-one soybean-producing State. It seems to me that whether the feed in question that's coming from Brazil is used in North Carolina or used in Iowa, it still is wrong to do this to the people that you consider your neighbors in each of these States. I would like to have all these farmers get their heart into American family farm agriculture or get their rear-end out.

I urge this cooperative to reassess its position and consider the plight of the family farmer. Place American farmers' long-term interests above what may only be a short-term gain and obviously a very bad public relations stunt for each of you. I yield the floor.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RED TAPE REDUCTION ACT

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, during the past recess, the third anniversary of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act, better known as the Red Tape Reduction Act, passed on March 29 with little notice or fanfare.

Let me suggest that while the Red Tape Reduction Act is hardly a household word, it is well worth commemorating, and it is extremely important to the small businesses in America who are oppressed by excessive Government regulation and unthinking regulation imposing unnecessary burdens on them.

I ask unanimous consent to print in the RECORD letters of support that speak to the importance of this law to our Nation's small businesses.

There being no objection, the letters were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF
INDEPENDENT BUSINESS,
Washington, DC, April 19, 1999.

Hon. KIT BOND,
Chairman, Committee on Small Business, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BOND: On behalf of the 600,000 small business owners of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), I am writing to join you in commemorating the third anniversary of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act.

For close to 30 years, NFIB has worked with Congress to secure meaningful regulatory reform for small business. In 1980, the groundwork was laid by the Regulatory Flexibility Act that requires agencies to measure the impact of their regulations on small businesses.

Together, with you and other leaders in Congress, we worked hard to address recommendations from the 1995 White House Conference on Small Business. In 1996, many of those recommendations were enacted as part of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act. This "Red Tape Reduction Act" gave teeth to the Regulatory Flexibility Act by making agency decisions under the Act judicially reviewable and adding even more small business safeguards to the rulemaking and enforcement functions of government agencies.

Since passage of the Red Tape Reduction Act, NFIB has been committed to ensuring successful implementation of the law. Our small business members have testified on regulatory enforcement before Regulatory Fairness Boards across the country. NFIB members also have participated in panels convened by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to assist in the development of regulatory proposals. Additionally, we have worked closely with small business trade groups and the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy to ensure that agencies consider the impact on small business prior to regulatory action.

Small business has benefitted from passage of the Red Tape Reduction Act. For 3 years, small business has been guaranteed a "seat

at the table" when government agencies make regulatory decisions. However, more needs to be done. Small businesses with 20 to 49 employees continue to spend, on average, 19 cents out of every dollar on regulatory costs. The very smallest businesses, with 1 to 4 employees, spend almost twice as much per employee on regulatory costs than larger businesses.

Your observance of the Red Tape Reduction Act's anniversary is timely. Congressional oversight on agency compliance with the Act is needed now more than ever. Small business, the employer of over one-half of the private workforce, is in danger if we rest on our laurels. There continues to be obstacles in the way of American small business' economic potential: high taxes, excessive regulations, rising health-care costs, and frivolous lawsuits.

We commend your leadership in ushering the Red Tape Reduction Act through Congress and to the President for signature 3 years ago. Your continued focus on the needs of small business is honorable, and we remain committed to helping you address the challenges faced by small and independent businesses, in America.

Sincerely,

DAN DANNER,
Vice President.

SMALL BUSINESS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,
Washington, DC, March 24, 1999.

Hon. KIT BOND,
Chairman, Committee on Small Business, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On behalf of the Small Business Legislative Council (SBLC) I would like to congratulate you on the third anniversary of your "red tape reduction" law, the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA). Personally, I believe it is one of the most important small business laws of all time. We cannot say thank you enough.

Only now is everybody, including the agencies, beginning to fully appreciate the value of SBREFA. We must continue the momentum created by SBREFA. At your recent roundtable, we offered several suggestions on how we can make a good thing better, such as including the IRS under the Review Panel provisions.

The SBLC is a permanent, independent coalition of eighty trade and professional associations that share a common commitment to the future of small business. Our members represent the interests of small businesses in such diverse economic sectors as manufacturing, retailing, distribution, professional and technical services, construction, transportation, tourism and agriculture. For your information, a list of our members is enclosed.

You have built a small business record to be proud of. SBREFA is an important cornerstone. As you know, we are avid supporters of your efforts. As always, we look forward to working with you on behalf of small business. Congratulations!

Sincerely,

JOHN C. SATAGAJ,
President and General Counsel.

MEMBERS OF SMALL BUSINESS LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL

- ACIL
- Air Conditioning Contractors of America
- Alliance for Affordable Services
- Alliance for American Innovation
- Alliance of Independent Store Owners and Professionals
- American Animal Hospital Association
- American Association of Equine Practitioners
- American Bus Association
- American Consulting Engineers Council

- American Machine Tool Distributors Association
- American Nursery and Landscape Association
- American Road & Transportation Builders Association
- American Society of Interior Designers
- American Society of Travel Agents, Inc.
- American Subcontractors Association
- American Textile Machinery Association
- American Trucking Associations, Inc.
- Architectural Precast Association
- Associated Equipment Distributors
- Associated Landscape Contractors of America
- Association of Small Business Development Centers
- Association of Sales and Marketing Companies
- Automotive Recyclers Association
- Automotive Service Association
- Bowling Proprietors Association of America
- Building Service Contractors Association International
- Business Advertising Council
- CBA
- Council of Fleet Specialists
- Council of Growing Companies
- Direct Selling Association
- Electronics Representatives Association
- Florists' Transworld Delivery Association
- Health Industry Representatives Association
- Helicopter Association International
- Independent Bankers Association of America
- Independent Medical Distributors Association
- International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses
- International Formalwear Association
- International Franchise Association
- Machinery Dealers National Association
- Mail Advertising Service Association
- Manufacturers Agents for the Food Service Industry
- Manufacturers Agents National Association
- Manufacturers Representatives of America, Inc.
- National Association for the Self-Employed
- National Association of Home Builders
- National Association of Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors
- National Association of Realtors
- National Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds
- National Association of Small Business Investment Companies
- National Association of the Remodeling Industry
- National Chimney Sweep Guild
- National Community Pharmacists Association
- National Electrical Contractors Association
- National Electrical Manufacturers Representatives Association
- National Funeral Directors Association, Inc.
- National Lumber & Building Material Dealers Association
- National Moving and Storage Association
- National Ornamental & Miscellaneous Metals Association
- National Paperbox Association
- National Society of Accountants
- National Tooling and Machining Association
- National Tour Association
- National Wood Flooring Association
- Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telephone Companies
- Petroleum Marketers Association of America
- Printing Industries of America, Inc.
- Professional Lawn Care Association of America
- Promotional Products Association International
- The Retailer's Bakery Association
- Saturation Mailers Coalition
- Small Business Council of America, Inc.