

and the need for contract legislation between patients and medical providers. Health care providers should be free to combine their efforts to negotiate effectively with HMOs and insurance companies without running afoul of federal anti-trust laws—or being subject to regulation by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). Congress should also remove all federally-imposed roadblocks to making pharmaceuticals available to physicians and patients. Government regulations are a major reason why many Americans find it difficult to afford prescription medicines. It is time to end the days when Americans suffer because the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) prevented them from getting access to medicines that were available and affordable in other parts of the world!

The most important thing Congress can do is to get market forces operating immediately by making Medical Savings Accounts (MSAs) generously available to everyone desiring one. Patient motivation to save and shop would be a major force to reduce cost, as physicians would once again negotiate fees downward with patients—unlike today where the government reimbursement is never too high and hospital and MD bills are always at maximum levels allowed. MSAs would help satisfy the American's people's desire to control their own health care and provide incentives for consumers to take more responsibility for their care.

There is nothing wrong with charity hospitals and possibly the churches once again providing care for the needy rather than through government paid programs which only maximizes costs. States can continue to introduce competition by allowing various trained individuals to provide the services that once were only provided by licensed MDs. We don't have to continue down the path of socialized medical care, especially in America where free markets have provided so much for so many. We should have more faith in freedom and more fear of the politician and bureaucrat who think all can be made well by simply passing a Patient's Bill of Rights.

CONGRATULATING PROFESSOR  
KAY KAUFMAN SHELEMAY

**HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 7, 1999*

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Professor Kay Kaufman Shelemay. Yesterday, Professor Shelemay was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress; a position she had long sought and no doubt deserved.

Professor Shelemay is profoundly accomplished in the arts. Most of her life has been dedicated to the study and education of music and ethnomusicology. The distinguished author of several publications reflecting the relationship between ethnicity and music, Professor Shelemay has recently served as president of the Society for Ethnomusicology. On two occasions, she has served as a fellow for the National Endowment for Humanities. She was also chairwoman of the Fromm Music Foundation, and she has taught music at several prestigious universities including Harvard, Columbia, and NYU.

Professor Shelemay began her association with AFC as a panelist during 1987 and 1988 in the midst of her burgeoning career. Her involvement with the AFC has spanned over a decade, hence, overseeing operations at the American Folklife Center will come easily for her.

With her background, experience, and passion for ethnomusicology and the folk arts, I am certain Professor Shelemay will be a valuable addition to AFC's Board of Trustees as it pursues programs in the areas of multicultural education, preservation of national archives, and documentation of American Folklife and music.

I wish Professor Shelemay the best of luck in her new role at the American Folklife Center.

RECOGNITION OF OPPORTUNITY,  
INC.: AN ORGANIZATION THAT  
LIVES UP TO ITS NAME

**HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 7, 1999*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to recognize Opportunity, Inc., an outstanding organization located in Highland Park, Illinois. This is truly a remarkable enterprise and a magnificent example of the initiative needed to help people move welfare to work and a better life.

Opportunity, Inc. is a unique, not-for-profit contract manufacturer of single-use medical products that has been registered with the FDA since 1977, and that employs persons with developmental physical and/or emotional disabilities. Founded in 1976 by local construction executive John Cornell, who still serves as an Emeritus member of the Board of Directors, the company will hold its annual "Handicapable Leadership" Award Dinner in Chicago on Tuesday, October 16, 1999. The keynote speaker will be Ted Kennedy, Jr., a nationally known spokesperson and a leading advocate for the civil rights of people with disabilities.

The company's mission is twofold: (1) to provide a mainstream plant environment in which Handicapable people can work and earn a paycheck as well as the dignity that comes from being employed productively on a full-time basis; and (2) to provide its private sector customers with the best possible quality, price and service.

As everyone understands, budget constraints compel us to look for ways to effectively address important needs without government subsidies, and Opportunity, Inc. is leading the way in this regard. A model of community response and innovation, the company demonstrates how competitive and productive handicapable employees can be. Opportunity, Inc. built and continues to operate the nation's only not-for-profit, certified class 100,000 "clean rooms" for medical and surgical packaging.

When I visited Opportunity, Inc., however, I learned that its business success, while impressive, pales in significance to the positive contributions it has made to its employees' lives. I experienced firsthand how proud, dedicated and competitive they are. As one man said to me, "Congressman, all we need is a

fair chance to compete. That's what we get there at Opportunity and just look at the results!" Clearly, Opportunity, Inc. is an organization that lives up to its name.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent a congressional district that includes enterprises of this caliber. It is my pleasure to salute the employees, management and directors of Opportunity, Inc., and the Grand Marshall of Ceremonies John Cortesi on the occasion of their annual dinner, and to extend my personal congratulations to Sage Products and Allegiance Healthcare, who are the recipient of this year's Handicapable Leadership Award.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2606,  
FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT  
FINANCING, AND RELATED PRO-  
GRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT,  
2000

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROBERT WEXLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 5, 1999*

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Foreign Operations conference report.

America loses when we fail to properly fund our foreign operations budget. The report we are considering is almost \$2 billion below the level requested by President Clinton and \$1 billion below last year's budget.

Without adequate funding for our international affairs operations, we will not be equipped to protect the security and the prosperity of Americans at home and abroad, and we risk losing our status as the world's remaining superpower.

American foreign policy should not embrace the short-sighted views of isolationists. Instead, we should meet the myriad of challenges facing the global community. America is at its best when we promote our values abroad by supporting struggling democracies and their efforts to make the transition to market economies.

Mr. Speaker, this conference report provides no Wye Aid funding which we promised our partners in the Middle East. It fails to provide adequate funding for emerging democracies in Africa and fails to assist our neighbors in the Western Hemisphere. It also ignores the needs of Asian countries recovering from financial devastation.

But the greatest disgrace of this conference report is our failure to lend a helping hand to the world's children. The children of Sierra Leone, for example, who have suffered the violent amputation of their limbs, sexual abuse, displacement from their homes, and the ravaging to their innocence and youth, lose yet again when we cut our foreign aid and humanitarian assistance. Programs to provide them food and medical intervention and to return them to their homes and neighborhoods can never succeed. And yet, what greater humanitarian purpose can our foreign policy serve than to bring prosthetic arms and hands to babies whose entire lives lie ahead of them?

I urge my colleagues to join me today and defeat this poorly funded conference report. America's front line of foreign policy should not be shortchanged.