

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FSC REPEAL AND EXTRA-TERRITORIAL INCOME EXCLUSION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, please submit the following report from the August 14, 2000 edition of Tax Notes into the RECORD.

TAX ANALYSTS SPECIAL REPORT: FOREIGN SALES CORPORATION BENEFICIARIES: A PROFILE

(By Jose Oyola)

A World Trade Organization (WTO) panel concluded in 1999 that the tax benefits of foreign sales corporations (FSC) constitute a prohibited export subsidy. According to the WTO panel, the United States cannot establish a regime of direct taxation and claim that it is entitled to provide an export subsidy because it is necessary to eliminate a disadvantage to exporters created by the U.S. tax system itself. In negotiations during the course of this year, U.S. Treasury representatives presented an alternative tax scheme to the European Union (EU), but it was promptly rejected by EU officials. Negotiations are continuing, and must result in legislative changes by the beginning of FY 2001 to avoid costly sanctions.

In searching for export incentives that meet WTO standards, policymakers already have a wide range of government incentives that enhance the international competitiveness of U.S.-based companies. Some benefits are directly related to exports, like the Export-Import (Ex-Im) Bank loans and guarantees. Other incentives, like the research and experimentation tax credit, strengthen the overall competitiveness of U.S.-based corporations.

This article provides a profile of 250 companies that reported \$1.2 billion in FSC tax benefits in their 1998 filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The article shows, for the first time, how FSC beneficiaries combine several tax benefits and government programs that do not run afoul of WTO standards. The article also presents the contribution to corporate profits from several tax incentives, and the 1991-1998 accumulated FSC tax benefits for 18 large FSC beneficiaries.

PROFILE SUMMARY

The profile of the 250 companies that reported \$1.2 billion FSC tax benefits in 1998 is as follows:

The top 20 percent of the U.S. companies in the sample claimed 87 percent of the FSC tax benefits.

Almost 30 percent of the FSC recipients reported other tax benefits, such as Research & Experimentation (R&E) tax benefits.

The cumulative 1991-1998 FSC benefits of the top 18 FSC beneficiaries were almost \$3.7 billion. FSC benefits represented about 3.4 percent of the net income for this group. One of the top beneficiaries received FSC benefits equal to 10 percent of its net income.

The U.S. government operated other export-promotion programs, mainly through the Department of Agriculture and the Ex-Im Bank. The aircraft industry had almost 45 percent of the Ex-Im Bank loan guarantees outstanding at the end of FY 1999.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE FSC TAX BENEFITS

The distribution of FSC benefits is shown in table 1. The top 20 percent of FSC bene-

ficiaries (ranked by size of reported FSC benefit in 1998) obtained 87 percent of the FSC benefits. The high concentration of FSC benefits in the top 50 companies in the sample is partly caused by the dominant role of large corporations in U.S. exports.

COMBINING FSC BENEFITS WITH OTHER TAX BENEFITS

Seventy-one companies (28 percent of the sample) reported \$1.7 billion in tax benefits from the following sources: \$1.2 billion FSC benefits, \$353 million Research & Experimentation tax benefits, \$123 million in benefits related to exempt investment income, and \$32 million in tax benefits of Puerto Rican operations, as shown in table 2.

Table 3 shows 10 of the top FSC beneficiaries that received multiple tax benefits. The largest company in this group was Boeing Company, which received \$130 million in FSC tax benefits and almost the same amount (\$127 million) in Research & Experimentation tax benefits.

FSC CUMULATIVE BENEFITS IN 1991-1998

Table 4 provides the cumulative 1991-1998 FSC benefits of 18 top FSC beneficiaries. The two largest FSC beneficiaries, General Electric Company and Boeing Company, received almost \$750 million and \$686 million FSC benefits in eight years, respectively. The FSC benefits obtained by Boeing Company were almost 10 percent of its 1991-1998 cumulative net income.

OTHER GOVERNMENT EXPORT INCENTIVES

The U.S. government has 10 agencies that spent almost \$2.0 billion in appropriations for export promotion activities in 1999. Two agencies that provide direct financial support to U.S. exporters, the Ex-Im Bank and the Department of Agriculture, received \$1.5 billion or almost 80 percent of the total federal budget resources spent on export promotion. The Ex-Im Bank, in particular, provides direct loans and loan guarantees against political and commercial risk.

Ex-Im Bank's largest commitments at the end of fiscal year 1999 were in the air transportation industry, with \$15.1 billion or 45 percent of its total outstanding guarantees. Table 5 shows the 1996-1999 annual Ex-Im Bank guarantees linked to aircraft exports of one of the largest FSC beneficiaries, Boeing Company. Government guarantees linked to Boeing exports increased from \$1.1 billion in 1996 to \$5.7 billion in 1999. The guarantees given to Boeing Company increased from 22 percent in 1996 to 78 percent of the annual Ex-Im Bank guarantees in 1999.

CONCLUSION

Many U.S.-based companies already receive a combination of direct tax incentives and export-related benefits, in addition to the FSC tax benefits. Most of the benefits are received by a small number of large corporations that account for most U.S. exports. Policymakers have available a number of tax and other government incentives that meet WTO standards, and that could be expanded to replace the prohibited direct tax subsidy provided by the FSC tax regime.

TABLE 1.—CORPORATIONS RANKED BY SIZE OF FSC BENEFIT

	[Dollars in millions]			
	FSC benefit	Percent	Average benefit	Standard deviation
Top 50 companies	\$1,057.5	86.8	\$21.1	\$30.6
51-100	101.2	8.3	2.0	0.7
101-150	39.2	3.2	0.8	0.2

TABLE 1.—CORPORATIONS RANKED BY SIZE OF FSC BENEFIT—Continued

	[Dollars in millions]			
	FSC benefit	Percent	Average benefit	Standard deviation
151-200	16.0	1.3	0.3	0.1
201-250	5.0	0.4	0.1	0.1
Total 250 corps	1,218.8	100	4.9	\$16.0

Source: Author's calculations based on corporations' financial statements.

TABLE 2.—TAX SAVINGS BY RECIPIENTS OF MULTIPLE TAX BENEFITS

	[Millions]		
Top benefits of firms that reported two or more tax benefits	13 firms out of the top 50 FSC beneficiaries	58 firms out of next 200 FSC beneficiaries	
FSC Benefits	\$1,058	\$161	
R&E Tax Credit	275	78	
Exempt Investment Income	91	32	
Possessions Tax Credit	19	13	
Total	1,442	284	

Source: Author's calculations based on corporations' financial statements.

TABLE 3.—FSC BENEFICIARIES REPORTING SEVERAL TAX BENEFITS

	[Dollars in millions]				
FSC Beneficiaries	FSC exemption benefit	R&E credit benefit	Exempt investment income	Possessions tax credit benefit	Total
Boeing Company	\$130.0	\$127.0	0	0	257.0
Cisco Systems, Inc.	55.3	32.2	36.8	0	124.3
Allied-Signal, Inc.	50.5	0	11.7	0	62.2
PACCAR, Inc.	20.9	0	28.1	0	49.0
Monsanto Company	29.0	3.0	0	16.0	48.0
Guidant Corp.	8.9	6.3	0	2.2	17.4
Cabletron Systems, Inc.	4.7	1.9	3.6	0	10.2
Owens-Illinois, Inc.	3.0	3.1	0	3.0	9.1
Stryker Corp.	3.1	0	0	4.1	7.2
St. Jude Medical, Inc.	5.7	0	0	0.1	5.8
Subtotal	311.1	173.5	80.2	25.4	590.2
240 Other corporations	907.7	179.5	42.5	6.8	1,136.5
Total, 250 corporations ..	1,218.8	353.0	122.7	32.2	1,726.7

Source: Author's calculations based on corporations' financial statements. Note: Owens-Illinois reported a combined \$6 million in FSC and possessions tax benefits.

TABLE 4.—1991-1998 FSC BENEFITS FOR 18 OF THE TOP 50 BENEFICIARIES

	[Dollars in millions]			Ratio of FSC benefit to net income (percent)
	Total FSC tax benefit	Total net income		
General Electric Company	\$746.0	\$47,754.0		1.6
Boeing Company	685.5	6,943.0		9.9
Motorola, Inc.	378.0	6,642.0		5.7
Caterpillar Inc.	312.0	4,443.0		7.0
Allied-Signal Inc.	221.2	4,933.0		4.5
Cisco Systems, Inc.	203.4	4,391.1		4.6
Monsanto Company	172.7	2,668.0		6.5
Archer Daniels Midland Company ..	165.3	4,094.1		4.0
Oracle Systems Corp.	129.8	4,413.2		2.9
Raytheon Company	118.1	5,460.7		2.2
RJR Nabisco, Inc.	95.0	1,664.0		5.7
International Paper Co.	87.0	2,457.0		3.5
Applied Materials, Inc.	86.1	2,169.1		4.0
ConAgra, Inc.	85.8	3,282.5		2.6
Dover Corporation	72.3	2,071.4		3.5
Parker Hannifin Corp.	44.2	1,485.9		3.0
Compumare Corp.	31.1	824.6		3.8
St. Jude Medical, Inc.	20.9	741.7		2.8
Total, 18 FSC beneficiaries ...	3,655.0	106,438.0		3.4

Source: Author's calculations based on corporation's financial statements.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

TABLE 5.—EX-IM BANK GUARANTEES FOR BOEING COMPANY
(Dollars in millions)

Year	Guarantees for Boeing aircraft & parts	Percent of annual Ex-Im Bank guarantees
1996	\$1,154	22
1997	1,779	26
1998	2,541	50
1999	5,651	78

Source: Export-Import Bank of the United States annual reports.

BAGHDAD RESTRAINT

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member highly commends the September 18, 2000, editorial from the Omaha World-Herald about second-guessing President George Bush's decision not to invade Iraq during the Gulf War. The editorial thoughtfully discusses the possible options facing President Bush and the reasons why his final decision was clearly the best option available in a world where perfect solutions do not exist.

[From the Omaha World-Herald, Sept. 18, 2000]

BAGHDAD RESTRAINT REVISITED

The complaint is being voiced in the current campaign that the Bush administration erred during the Gulf War by failing to send a U.S. invasion force into the heart of Iraq to topple Saddam Hussein's regime.

Carrying out an "on to Baghdad" policy in 1991, it's claimed, would have spared the United States the headaches of dealing with Saddam's recalcitrant government over the past nine years. Public Pulse letters recently discussed this topic.

It's wishful thinking, however, to imagine that a U.S. takeover of Iraq would have neatly resolved the situation in the Persian Gulf. Far from bringing calm to the region, a U.S. or United Nations occupation of Iraq would have created new and difficult problems for this country.

A northward drive into Baghdad would have shattered the international coalition that President Bush had delicately assembled to support U.S. military action. The basis for the coalition, and for the United Nations resolutions which gave it legal legitimacy, was a concrete and limited goal; the expulsion of Iraqi forces from a sovereign country, Kuwait. A full-blown invasion of Iraq, perhaps complete with block-by-block fighting in the capital city, would have far exceeded that fundamental war goal.

Public support for Desert Storm was mild at best in many of the Arab and European countries whose governments stood by Bush. Had Bush adopted a topple-Saddam strategy, CNN videotape of American tanks patrolling the streets of Baghdad—a proud Arab city once the site of an Islamic empire—could well have triggered protest throughout the Arab world. It's a good bet, that U.S. occupation would have spurred tender-hearted Europeans to take to the streets to wail anew about the horrors of U.S. "imperialism." The eruption of hostility could have set back U.S. relations overseas for years.

Neither is it pleasant to contemplate what U.S. soldiers would have faced on the ground

in occupying Iraq. Just as British soldiers came under withering assault in Palestine in the 1940s and French occupiers reaped the whirlwind in Algeria in the 1950s, so the U.S. occupation of a volatile Arab country like Iraq could have brought great peril to the men and women of the U.S. military.

Because Iraq lacks strong national cohesion, a U.S. invasion could well have triggered a break-up of the country into three new entities: a Kurdish north, a Sunni center and a Shia south. That radical change in the Middle East equation would have meant a host of new challenges for the United States, ranging from Turkey's anxieties over the new Kurdish state to the likelihood of Iranian manipulations of the newly independent Shias along the Persian Gulf.

The larger point here is that foreign policy issues rarely can be resolved neatly. No matter what action is taken, new problems arise. Consider the 1989 invasion that U.S. forces mounted to topple Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega. Although the operation succeeded in ousting Noriega, Panama has continued to present the United States with new headaches. The U.S. operation restored civilian rule to the country, but that didn't stop Panama's leaders from pointedly rejecting a U.S. request last year to maintain an Air Force base at the Panama Canal. And Panama's stability is now threatened by guerrilla incursions from neighboring Colombia.

There is no reason to believe that a U.S. occupation of Iraq would have produced long-term results that were any better than those discouraging results in Panama.

George Bush had sound strategic reasons for rejecting a U.S. seizure of Baghdad. He settled on an imperfect solution, but in the real world, imperfect solutions are often the best that can be achieved.

A TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL "TAKING CHARGE OF YOUR TV" WEEK

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to a worthy and important program, which is the National Taking Charge of Your TV Week. This program runs from September 24th through the 29th.

The National PTA, the National Cable Television Association, and Cable in the Classroom have collaborated to develop a program in which parents and teachers mentor their children on how to use the media effectively and watch television responsibly. By providing questionnaires and guidelines, this program helps parents and teachers evaluate and curtail the impact of television violence and commercialism on their children.

The program also provides information on TV ratings, how to monitor your children's television, and general research on the effects of television on children. However, the most important thing this program does is to have the TV temporarily turned off and families brought together.

Thanks to Vice President GORE, this topic has received much attention recently. But, his emphasis on the government as a solution to this problem is misguided. It is going to be through teacher and parental involvement that children learn responsible television watching.

And, it is programs like National Taking Charge of Your TV Week that will make our country stronger and our children safer.

FSC REPEAL AND EXTRA-TERRITORIAL INCOME EXCLUSION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL ARCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. RANGEL, and I are offering these additional remarks on H.R. 4986 to correct a statement included in the Report of the Committee on Ways and Means on H.R. 4986. The explanation of the provision in the Committee Report includes a statement of the Committee's intention regarding the qualification of certain aircraft engines as qualifying foreign trade property under H.R. 4986.

In describing the Committee's intention as to the qualification of an aircraft engine as qualifying foreign trade property, the explanation in the Committee Report describes an engine that is "specifically designed to be separated from the airframe to which it is incorporated without significant damage to either the engine or the airframe." The use of the word "incorporated" in this context is not necessarily correct and was not intended by the Committee; rather, the Committee intended to use the word "attached." As the Committee Report indicates, the Committee specifically intends not to create any inference regarding the treatment of aircraft engines for any purpose other than the specific application of H.R. 4986.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ESSENTIAL RURAL HOSPITAL PRESERVATION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Essential Rural Hospital Preservation Act. This legislation provides a cost-effective means of providing assistance to those small rural hospitals who are struggling with the unintended consequences of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. As those of us who represent rural areas can attest to, rural hospitals are desperately in need of such assistance. According to a survey conducted by Texas CPAs in April of 2000, the operating margin for hospitals outside a Standard Metropolitan Area with under 50 licensed beds pre-BBA was \$26,000,000 while the operating margin post-BBA was negative \$7,900,000. Reimbursement has been reduced by over \$34 million since the BBA, while at the time the average rural hospital has incurred uncompensated and charity charges of \$1.1 million since the changes contained in the Balanced Budget

Act went into effect. Unless action is taken this year to provide assistance for these hospitals, many of them will be forced to close their doors, leaving many rural areas without access to hospital services.

I believe I can speak for all of my colleagues when I say that while none of us want to endanger the Medicare trust fund, we also want to ensure that Medicare reforms do not drive valuable health care providers into bankruptcy. After all, denying Medicare recipients in rural areas access to quality health care breaks the promise the government makes to the American people when it requires them to pay taxes to finance the Medicare trust fund that they will receive quality health care in their golden years.

Therefore, I am pleased to advance this proposal, which was developed by experts in rural health care in my district, which provides help for rural health care without endangering the soundness of the Medicare trust fund. The proposal consists of four simple changes in current Medicare laws for "Essential Service Hospitals." An Essential Service Hospital is defined as a hospital located in a non-Metropolitan Statistical Area with 50 state-licensed beds or less. The specifics of the legislation are:

1. A wage index for Essential Service Hospitals set at 1.0—Essential Service Hospitals receive 26 percent less Medicare Reimbursement than hospitals in MSA area. This places rural areas at disadvantage in competing for high-quality employees with hospitals in urban areas. Setting the wage index at 1.0 will enhance the ability of rural hospitals to attract the best personal and thus ensure residents of rural areas can continue to receive quality health care.

2. Allow Essential Service Hospitals to treat 100 percent of Medicare copay and deductions which become hospital bad debts as an allowable cost—The BBA of 1997 reduced the amount of bad debts incurred because of uncollected Medicare copayments and deductions that hospitals can submit to Medicare for reimbursement as an allowable cost. This places an especially tough burden on Essential Service Hospitals which often have a high percentage of bad debts because they tend to have a high percentage of low-income populations among their clientele.

3. Exempt Essential Service Hospitals from the Outpatient Payment System (PPS)—Since rural hospitals lack the volume necessary to achieve a fair reimbursement rate under PPS, it makes no sense to apply PPS to these hospitals. Exempting Essential Service Hospitals from PPS assures that they will have their reimbursement rate determined by a formula that matches their unique situation.

4. Provides a 20 percent Medicare Disproportionate Share (DSH) payment to Essential Service Hospitals—Since small rural hospitals tend to serve a larger number of low-income persons than the average hospital, they have a particular need for Medicare DSH payments. However, many of these hospitals are not benefiting from the DSH program, this legislation will help ensure these hospitals received the support from Medicare they need to continue providing vital health care to low-income residents of rural areas.

Considering that the BBA of 1997 has resulted in Medicare savings of over \$50 billion more than projected by Congress surely it is not too much to ask that Congress ensure

Medicare patients in rural areas are not denied access to quality health care services because of the unintended consequences of the Balanced Budget Amendment. I therefore call on my colleagues to stand up for rural hospitals by cosponsoring the Essential Rural Hospital Preservation Act.

WILDFIRES IN THE WEST RAISE QUESTION ABOUT ADMINISTRATION ACTIONS

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mr. BEREUTER Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the following editorial from the September 8, 2000, Norfolk Daily News. The editorial questions the Administration's actions restricting the construction of wilderness roads which have allowed preventive measures designed to avoid blazing forest fires.

[From the Norfolk Daily News, Sept. 8, 2000
POETIC JUSTICE IN ACCUSATIONS—CLINTON ADMINISTRATION DESERVES CRITICISM FOR POLICY THAT AIDED FIRES

President Clinton is no more to blame for the wildfires ravaging the West than he is responsible for the nation's economic prosperity. But there is a certain poetic justice in political efforts to portray him and Vice President Al Gore as villains in the frightening destruction of thousands of acres of forest.

Several Western politicians—who, not coincidentally, are Republicans and allies of George W. Bush—have taken particular aim at a sweeping White House executive order preventing the building of large numbers of wilderness roads needed for forest-thinning by the lumber industry. The rationale of the order was that the lumber industry would do critical damage to the forests. But some critics have maintained that, by cutting some smaller trees and removing the underbrush, the industry can help keep forests healthy and prevent small fires from becoming raging blazes.

Vice President Gore, who is constantly lambasting industries in his presidential campaign for supposed instances of greed and chicanery, was an outspoken supporter of the executive order. Judging by the language he used, his thesis seems to be that making profits from trees is a premeditated and soulless insult to nature. A number of experts—and not just Republicans and industry spokesmen—agree, however, that some controlled lumbering activity in these areas can be a blessing to nature.

Mr. Gore's business-bashing rhetoric and other aspects of the Clinton roadless policy suggest it was at least as much an effort to score political points as an effort to protect wilderness. The administration, as a result, seems to have earned the politically motivated accusations being tossed its way during this dreadful summer of fires.

In the end, of course, the fires are mainly a result of a very hot, very dry summer and of unfortunate no-burn federal policies that scarcely made their first appearance when President Clinton was elected.

President Clinton and Vice President Gore simply happen to have been in office when the fires occurred, just as they simply happened to be in office when the end of the Cold War, high-tech productivity and Federal Reserve anti-inflation policies helped create good economic times.

TRIBUTE TO CAVE SPRING NATURE PARK

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Missouri's treasured historical and natural sites as it celebrates its 25th Anniversary. Twenty-two years ago as a Missouri State Representative, I had the privilege to join the members of the Cave Spring Association in creating and preserving the Cave Spring Nature Park as one of our country's celebrated historical sites.

The roots run deep in the area now named the Cave Spring Nature Park. From as far back as pre-pioneer times this site was referred to as the "Osage Trace." This name was attributed to the Indians who occupied the area: the Osage, Sac, Kansa, and Fox tribes. Later the area and its trails were surveyed and soon opened as trading routes to Santa Fe, New Mexico. Under the ownership of Jesse Barnes, this land would become one of the principal campgrounds for pioneer settlers, traders, and wagon trains heading west to discover the new territory. The cave spring was producing up to a million gallons of water a day to replenish the travelers and their horses, as well as creating a lush landscape.

It was this breathtaking landscape that would later attract horseback riders and picnickers including the young Harry Truman and Bess Wallace during their courtship. A picture of the infamous cave at this site would later be featured in a 1945 Life Magazine edition entitled "Truman's Missouri." From 1857 to 1877 the Cave Spring was owned by Harry Truman's grandfather, Solomon Young. Soon the Truman family would build their family farm just on the outskirts of the Cave Spring area, which is today appropriately known as Grandview. In the following years the Cave Spring would be the recognized by the Daughter's of the American Revolution as one of the foremost significant sites along the historic Santa Fe Trail. Unfortunately, over the course of the next few decades the Cave Spring would fall into a period of dormancy and neglect in which the cave itself was in a "lost" state in which its whereabouts were unknown. It was not until the construction of a church that a large sinkhole was created which revealed the cave and subsequently the spring was rediscovered to a new world of appreciation. This brought new exploration and celebration of the Cave Spring and its surroundings. Soon after the rediscovery, the Cave Spring Association was formed to ensure that this site would receive the appreciation it has earned to ensure that its legacy will live on forever. Since 1975 the Cave Spring Nature Park and Historic Site has provided the northwestern Missouri region with a variety of natural and historic opportunities, specializing in enrichment programs for children, young adults, and families. The Association has worked tirelessly to preserve this site and the rich history that it bears.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in saluting the Cave Spring Nature Park and Historic Site and the entire Cave Spring Association for 25 years of service to the Greater Kansas City community.

IN HONOR OF THE 22D ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRAY PANTHERS OF METRO DETROIT

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 22d anniversary of one of Metro Detroit's most active and valuable organizations. For more than two decades, the Gray Panthers of Metro Detroit have been organized with the goal of advancing the causes of aging Americans and social justice for all.

The Gray Panthers were established on a national level in 1970. But it wasn't until 1978 that Lillian Rosinger, inspired by the dedication to social reform of Gray Panthers founder Maggie Kuhn, organized and was elected first convener of the Metro North Gray Panthers.

In the 22 years that followed, the all-volunteer network of grass roots activists has touched the lives of citizens across the tri-county area. They are a diverse combination of both younger and older people dreaming and working together for a better society. They have long championed the idea of a single payer health care system that will cover all Americans, young and old, rich or poor. The Gray Panthers have also taken strong, well-researched positions which support the strengthening of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

True to their founding, the Gray Panthers have vigorously opposed discrimination based on age, sex, and race. They have put their hearts, minds and bodies on the lines in rallies, protest marches and public gatherings nationwide. At the local level, they can be seen rallying in support of locked out newspaper strikers or organizing a "Medicare For All" petition drive. Through their newsletters, website and e-mail action alerts, members have contacted elected officials in support of causes they cherish and in opposition to legislation they deem irresponsible.

Please join me in recognizing the Gray Panthers of Metro Detroit's 22d year as a force for positive social change in the Detroit and its surrounding areas.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DRUG COMPETITION ACT OF 2000

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Drug Competition Act of 2000.

This legislation would correct a grossly anti-competitive abuse by branded and generic drug companies of the generic drug approval process. Only recently have we learned that such companies, which usually operate as fierce competitors to the benefit of American consumers, can strike collusive agreements to trade multimillion dollar payoffs by the brand company for delays in the introduction of lower cost, generic alternatives.

These sweetheart deals have earned the scrutiny of the Federal Trade Commission and the Food and Drug Administration. The FTC recently undertook consent agreements and

enforcement actions against several companies which have engaged in such deals. But more can be done to prevent them from recurring.

I am very pleased to have collaborated with Senator LEAHY of Vermont, the ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, in drafting this legislation. The Drug Competition Act would simply require companies seeking to reach secret, anticompetitive agreements to disclose them to the FTC and FDA. Disclosure of these agreements would enable Federal authorities to ensure that existing antitrust and drug approval laws are enforced to the letter. In sum, American consumers can be protected from anticompetitive abuses by the application of a little "sunshine."

I am very pleased this bill is being introduced with bipartisan support, and I urge my colleagues to join us in cosponsoring the Drug Competition Act of 2000.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, due to illness, I was not able to vote during consideration of rollcall 46-476. Had I been present, I would have voted: "aye" on rollcall numbers 460-465, 469, 471-472 and 475; "no" on rollcall numbers 466-468, 470, 473-474, and 476.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FOURTH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, it has been 2000 years since our Lord was borne, and for one hundred of those years, his people have been served by the Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church. I wish that prior obligations did not prevent me from joining you as you celebrate this milestone in your impressive new sanctuary.

But I am reminded that Jesus said his church would be built of living stones—of people—who are far more important than any structure, no matter how great and how beautiful it is.

When Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church was founded a century ago by Reverend Willie Carter and Reverend John Bellamy, the church family worshipped under a brush arbor of vine and fig tree leaves. A man of this world would have seen a small group praying under a humble roof of green which would turn brown by winter. But a man of the spirit would have seen God laying living foundation stones for a church that would still be standing and growing 100 years hence.

Like many church bodies, the Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church evolved over time. Originally part of the Mount Canaan Baptist Church, its members formed the New Mount Canaan Baptist Church. In 1905, a plot of land was purchased on Fourth Street, where a small shelter was built and the church body

met in the home of Deacon and Sister B.A. Parker. At this time, it adopted its present name. In 1935, reflecting the growing church body, a new sanctuary was built at the corner of Third Avenue and Fifth Street.

In 1961, Reverend Johnny Flakes Jr. accepted the call to pastor the church and helped lead the church into a bright future.

Under his leadership, the church was renovated in 1966. In 1977, a new two-story education building with a kitchen and banquet hall was built. In 1999, work was finished on your new state of the art sanctuary. More importantly, he was working, with God's grace, to build the real body of the church. Membership is over 3000, and growing, both in numbers and in spirit.

This church is a living demonstration of the power of God to work in men and women's lives. Rev. Flakes, your church has had a glorious first century, and God willing, it will have many more to come. Congratulations.

PARTNERSHIP FOR INTERNATIONAL FOOD RELIEF, H.R. 5224

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the International Food Relief Partnership Act, H.R. 5224, legislation that authorizes the stockpiling and rapid transportation, delivery and distribution of shelf stable pre-packaged foods to needy individuals in foreign countries. This legislation creates a public-private partnerships to leverage the donation of nutritious food by volunteers to needy families around the globe at times of famine, disaster and other critical needs. I am pleased to join the Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, Mr. COMBEST, the distinguished gentleman from Texas, and the Ranking Member of the Committee on Agriculture, the distinguished gentleman from Texas, Mr. STENHOLM, and the distinguished Chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific of the International Relations Committee, the distinguished gentleman from Nebraska, Mr. BE-REUTER, in introducing this important legislation.

There is a gap in the United States' traditional international food relief effort and food reserve program that makes participation by non-profit organizations that want to contribute donated food extremely difficult. The major barrier to these volunteer contributions is the high cost of providing these donated food products to international relief organizations that transport and distribute food overseas. Agri-business efficiently and effectively provides assistance at times of greatest need through international food relief organizations that work through the Agency for International Development (AID). However, non-profits have a much more difficult time reaching international relief organizations to provide food assistance because of the high cost of processing, packaging, maintaining and shipping donated food. Consequently, food donated by non-profits is often delayed from reaching affected populations, or is simply not used for this purpose.

The International Food Relief Partnership Act will fill this gap by providing grant assistance outside the traditional food relief program

to non-profits that should be matched 50 cents on the dollar by funds raised by non-profits. These grant funds will be used by non-profits to ensure that food donated by farmers can be processed, packaged, stored, and transported overseas at the time of need. AID would be responsible for the administration of this program, although funding for it would be made available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food for Peace program.

Non-profits such as Breedlove, Child Life International, and Feed the Starving Children provide direct hunger assistance at times of disaster, famine, or other critical need. Organizations such as these are located throughout the United States. These organizations accept gleaned crops donated by regional farmers, and help transport and distribute this food overseas. Once the donated food is processed, it can be stored for years for use in food emergencies. Donated food reduces the cost of famine and disaster assistance because these products cost only pennies to process and ship and supplement the traditional food basket.

We need to encourage more volunteer efforts from non-profits. The International Food Relief Partnership Act accomplishes this objective by providing a means for non-profits to accept donated food and process it into a product for use in times of disaster, famine, or other critical need.

Through the enactment of this bill we create a new and inexpensive mechanism that provides more food relief for less money. The fifty-percent matching preference included in this legislation also ensures that viable and deserving organizations earn the grant funds that they seek.

I have introduced the "International Food Relief Partnership Act of 2000" today because the time to plan for a food crisis is before it occurs. I look forward to working with my colleagues in supporting the spirit of volunteerism and goodwill by rapidly passing this important legislation.

HONORING PHIL RAMONE

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the incredible philanthropy and achievement of Phil Ramone. On September 24th Mr. Ramone will be awarded the Michael Bolton Charities Lifetime Achievement Award. Michael Bolton Charities, Inc. was established in 1993 to assist children and women at risk from the effects of poverty, homelessness, domestic violence, and physical and sexual abuse. Mr. Ramone's indefatigable generosity has enhanced the lives of countless women and children around the world for over three decades. This honor stands as a testament to Mr. Ramone's selfless acts which reflect his inherent benevolence and vision of life.

Throughout his remarkable career Mr. Ramone has produced award winning works by some of the world's most talented recording artists. His genius embraces all aspects of the entertainment business, working brilliantly in both the technical and creative sides of the industry. Mr. Ramone is one of the recording

industry's most well respected and prolific producers with a resume so vast and encompassing that his peers have deified him as the undisputed "Pope of Pop." Mr. Ramone has produced galas for several U.S. Presidents and has been the driving force behind megastars such as: Frank Sinatra, Billy Joel, Paul Simon, Barbara Streisand, Madonna, B.B. King, Elton John, Gloria Estefan, Jon Secada, Fito Paez, Sinead O'Connor and Paul McCartney to name a few. Phil Ramone is invaluable to the artists he works with, such as Michael Bolton, and is an eight time Grammy Award winner, including Producer of the Year. As Chairman Emeritus of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, he is recognized by his peers as the most transcendent audio technician and stylistic creator in the music industry today. His grasp of technology revolutionized the recording studio with his first use of the Dolby four-track discrete sound system, satellite links, optical surround sound, fiber optic systems, and digital live recording.

In addition to all of these accomplishments and accolades, Mr. Ramone possesses a kindness and humility that make him one of the recording industry's most profound humanitarians. Since his earliest success Mr. Ramone's charitable commitment has helped children living in poverty around the world improve their education and their lives. It is with great respect and appreciation that we acknowledge Mr. Ramone's lifetime charitable achievements and his exemplary character on September 24. I commend Michael Bolton Charities, Inc., for their recognition of Phil Ramone's lifelong contributions to both music and humankind.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing gratitude to Grammy winner Michael Bolton for his steadfast efforts to educate the Congress on the need to assist women and children at risk from the dangerous effects of poverty, domestic violence, homelessness, and physical and sexual abuse. With programs that foster self esteem, leadership skills, job training, and social awareness his charity provides the access and education that underprivileged women and children need for a better life.

Phil Ramone has a positive outlook and steadfast commitment to a better future for all our children when he notes that, "Our kids won't even think about virtual reality—it will be a regular part of their lives. Sometimes it's just so obvious to me, the future. It shows its face to me ever so often and then I say, 'Oh, of course. Why shouldn't we do this . . .' It's like an inner vision that lets you understand that there's something better, more beautiful just ahead." Thank you, Phil Ramone.

HONORING THE 112TH BIRTHDAY OF WORLD WAR I VETERAN JOHN PAINTER

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a happy 112th birthday to Tennessee's oldest surviving World War I veteran, John George Painter of Hermitage Springs. He is also believed to be the nation's oldest surviving veteran.

Born on September 20, 1888, in the Keeling Branch community of Jackson County, Tennessee, Mr. Painter enlisted in the U.S. Army at the age of 29 to fight what was then called the "War to End All Wars".

Mr. Painter saw action in France's Argonne Forest where he hauled ammunition and field guns to the front lines with teams of horses and mules. He was honorably discharged on April 12, 1919, and returned home to Jackson County where he resumed his career as a blacksmith. There he married his childhood sweetheart—the former Gillie Watson—and raised two daughters.

Mr. Painter's courage during that brutal war earned him one of France's highest honors, the Order of the Legion of Honor. Only five other Tennesseans have received the distinguished award.

As we celebrate Mr. Painter's birthday today, I congratulate him for the tremendous contributions he has made to the United States and to the never-ending fight for freedom.

NAUGATUCK VALLEY TOWNS

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to the attention of the U.S. House of Representatives the noteworthy accomplishments of the lower Naugatuck Valley towns located in my congressional district in Connecticut. After being chosen as a finalist in the National Civic League's All-American City competition in 1999, the Naugatuck Valley's 2000 delegation sharpened its presentation and on June 3, 2000, was awarded the League's highest honor, that of an All-American City.

The Naugatuck Valley is comprised of seven municipalities: Ansonia, Becon Falls, Derby, Naugatuck, Oxford, Seymour and Shelton. Delegates from each community traveled together to Louisville, Kentucky to compete for recognition as an All-American City. Started in 1894 by President Theodore Roosevelt and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis, this award recognizes municipalities and regions where governments, citizens, businesses and volunteer organizations work together to address important local problems.

Moving beyond its background as an old industrial area, the Valley's entry in the competition highlighted the region's recent initiatives to address its needs. The delegation presented a 10-minute skit touting the region's Alliance for Growth, a nonprofit development corporation that has attracted business to the Valley and has created jobs for its residents. The judges were also told about Project Co-N-N-E-C-T, an organization founded to assess the Valley's economic health. The skit recounted the achievements of the Valley in an effort to rebuild the local Boys and Girls Club after its destruction by a fire eight years ago. In that effort, the seven communities came together to raise \$4.5 million to obtain and renovate an old factory site for the youth organization.

What most set the Naugatuck Valley apart from the other entrants was its sense of community and family. Valley residents have a long history of supporting each other and

working together to achieve a common goal—as evidenced by their win in Louisville. As only the second Connecticut locality ever to win the award, the delegation and residents of the Naugatuck Valley have demonstrated to the state of Connecticut and, indeed, the rest of the United States, that a dream of excellence can be achieved through hard work and dedication.

The residents and delegates from the seven towns of the lower Naugatuck Valley should rightly feel immense satisfaction at this most significant accomplishment. As one of only ten regions or cities in the country to win the All-American City award this year, they have become part of an elite group of citizens whose concern for—and pride in—their community has enabled great deeds to be accomplished.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and the rest of my colleagues join me in offering our sincere congratulations to the residents of the “Mighty” Naugatuck Valley of Connecticut for a job well done, and for setting an example for communities around our nation to follow.

RECENT ACTION ON “GOLDEN RICE” OFFERS GREAT PROMISE

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the following editorial from the August 18, 2000, Omaha World-Herald. The editorial expresses support for recent actions which will make the newly developed “golden rice” more widely available worldwide. This rice, which has been generally engineered to contain more beta carotene, holds the potential to dramatically improve lives by helping to combat malnutrition and blindness among Vitamin A-deficient children throughout the world.

A LAUDABLE GIFT OF LIFE AND SIGHT

A lot of people, especially outside the United States, aren't buying genetically modified crops. All right then: What if somebody gave them away?

Well, somebody has—“somebody” being Monsanto Co.

It was a development so stunning that probably no novelist would ever incorporate it in a plot—too far-fetched. But Monsanto announced that it would be granting royalty-free licenses worldwide via the Internet for its newly developed “golden rice.” It has been modified so that it's enriched in beta carotene, which the body converts to Vitamin A. (Licenses for other modified rices will similarly be cost-free, but golden rice is by far the star of the show.)

If this offer is widely taken up, the effect is likely to be dramatic. Worldwide, more than a million Vitamin-A deficient children die every year: 300,000 or so go blind.

We'd like to think Monsanto's generosity might inspire imitators among other holders of patents on such superfoods. First of all, there's the obvious prospect of making a better life for a lot of children in the Third World. Additionally, modified crops are getting a bum rap as being unsafe or unhealthy—“ Frankenfoods,” in the unfortunate popular jargon. Maybe moves like Monsanto's will help dispel such thinking.

That latter point is, in fact, Monsanto's stated purpose. The argument can therefore be made that the chemical and agricultural

giant is merely acting in its own long-term self-interest.

Nothing wrong with that. If this act and perhaps others like it can break that logjam of opinion, the company or companies that help bring it about deserve to benefit. But in the here and now, it was an impressive example of a giant company being a good corporate citizen of the world. The folks at Monsanto who made the decision have a right to be proud.

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2000

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, education has always been a key to opportunity in America. Historically Black Colleges and Universities [HBCUs] were created as early as 1837 to provide African-Americans access to higher education. America's HBCUs have provided a crucial avenue to educational and economic advancement for African-American youth for more than 150 years.

The best opportunities for personal and professional success will go to those who are well educated. Our Nation's HBCUs have assisted African-American and other students in achieving their educational goals and reaching their full potential, while keeping tuition costs affordable. The vast majority of African-Americans with bachelor's degrees in engineering, computer science, life science, business, and mathematics have graduated from one of the 105 Historically Black Colleges and Universities. These graduates, numbering 300,000 African-Americans, make up the majority of our Nation's African-American military officers, physicians, Federal judges, elected officials, and business executives. The distinguished faculty members at HBCUs serve as role models and mentors, challenging students to reach their full potential.

I am proud to have one of these universities in the congressional district that I represent. Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, founded on October 3, 1887, in Tallahassee, Florida, as the State Normal College for Colored Students, began classes with 15 students and 2 instructors. Since then, it has become an institution of higher learning, striving toward even greater heights of academic excellence. Today, Florida A&M University is one of nine 4-year, public, co-educational and fully accredited institution of higher learning in Florida's State University System, and excellence remains its goal.

For more than 100 years, Florida A&M University has served the citizens of the State of Florida and the Nation through its provision of preeminent educational programs. By serving the African-American community, HBCUs, like FAMU, serve all Americans. These institutions embody many of our most deeply cherished values—equality, diversity, opportunity, and hard work. FAMU is a source of great pride and a symbol of economic, social, and political growth in the community and the Nation. Preparing talented young men and women to succeed in every sector of our economy, FAMU, “Florida's Opportunity University,” is committed to meeting the challenges and needs of future generations.

As education and diversity become increasingly important in the 21st century, graduates of HBCUs will continue to be at the vanguard of America's progress. I would like to commend Florida A&M University for its commitment to educational opportunity, outstanding performance, and invaluable contributions to the people of Florida.

DIGNITY FOR THE TERMINALLY ILL ACT OF 2000

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Dignity for the Terminally Ill Act of 2000. The bill clarifies an ambiguity in Federal law which allows the Health Care Financing Administration [HCFA] to cut off Medicare funding to hospice patients after 6 months of treatment. The scope of this problem was detailed in a recent Wall Street Journal report which revealed that in early February 1997, several Hospice patients received letters from HCFA saying they were under investigation for Medicare fraud simply because they had lived longer than current Federal guidelines allow for reimbursement. In other words, HCFA officials were more concerned about being reimbursed than they were about caring for these dying patients.

It seems strange that HCFA would begin cracking down on its 6-month rule given the fact that, for years, Medicare officials have encouraged the hospice industry to grow, primarily because it is less costly to care for the terminally ill at home than it is to treat these patients in a nursing home or hospital.

Unfortunately, it seems the rise in hospice care during the 1990s brought about an increase in fraud and abuse of the Medicare system, which in turn sparked a misguided crackdown on terminally ill patients.

HCFA officials discovered roughly \$83 million in such abuse and began pushing their intermediaries to crack down on the problem. In 1997, the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services warned HCFA officials to do a better job enforcing their 6-month reimbursement guideline. While HCFA's plans may have been well-intentioned, its intermediaries' attempt to enforce the rule was disastrous. For example, the Wall Street Journal reported that UGS, a subsidiary of Blue Cross Blue Shield in Wisconsin and a Medicare intermediary, sent letters to five terminally ill patients which declared that they were not eligible for Medicare hospice and, adding insult to injury, requested these patients to pay \$450,000 for the care they received.

Outrage from several hospices and Federal legislators has led to a small change in HCFA's aggressive crackdown on its 6-month rule. Last week, HCFA's administrator, Nancy Ann Min DeParle, wrote to thousands of hospices to explain that there has been a “disturbing misperception” about HCFA's efforts to enforce its 6-month regulation. However, she never specifically declared that reimbursement for care of hospice patients will continue for as long as they receive treatment. She only offered to create a “voluntary” case-by-case review of patients who remain in hospice care longer than 6 months.

Regardless of Administrator DeParle's change in position, we must clarify the law so that there is no question about HCFA's responsibility to provide care for the terminally ill. It is the right and moral thing to do. More importantly, it will let hospice patients live out their final days in dignity. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor my bill and I submit the Wall Street Journal article of June 5th to be printed in the RECORD.

TRIBUTE TO ADELE HALL

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional leader and friend to our Kansas City community and our country. Adele Hall is being honored as the 2000 Woman of the Year by the Central Exchange, an organization of which she is a founding member. Adele Hall has an extensive history of helping children and families in Kansas City and across our Nation. She has shown outstanding dedication as a philanthropist and representative of gender concerns for equality in the workplace and society.

Adele Hall is considered by many in Kansas City as a lifelong friend to our community. Her civic pursuits have led her to hold positions in an outstanding number of Kansas City and national philanthropic organizations. She has served as Chair of many boards including Children's Mercy Hospital, the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, the Partnership for Children, and the former Crippled Children's Nursery School, now Children's Therapeutic Learning Center. Nationally, she has served as a board member for the Trust Fund of the Library of Congress, the George Bush Presidential Library Center, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Salvation Army. Currently, she is serving as Co-Chairman of a \$175 million capital campaign for the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. She is the Vice-Chairman of the United Negro College Fund and the Youth Corps of America.

As a founding member of one of Kansas City's most reputable women's organizations, the Central Exchange, she has worked tirelessly to promote the advancement of women in all sectors of society. For the past 20 years the Central Exchange has worked to bring people of diverse backgrounds together to encourage the personal and professional growth of women. Today the Central Exchange boasts nearly 900 members from all over the Kansas City metropolitan area. The astounding membership can be attributed to what members of the Central Exchange value the most, creating opportunities to meet and learn from other women. This is an extremely difficult goal when many women are busy with work and family responsibilities. Adele Hall's various roles and achievements throughout the history of the Central Exchange have demonstrated that she has succeeded in fulfilling her dream of increasing the visibility and effectiveness of Kansas City's women.

Adele Hall's personal and professional record exhibits her spirit of commitment to others. Her entire life has exemplified the core values that we all strive for: commitment to the community, to family and to the innate desire

to truly make a difference in the lives of others. Her devotion is an example to us all. I am honored to acknowledge Adele Hall for her successful efforts to promote equity and opportunity for women and children. I know that she is joined in receiving this award by her husband, Don, and their entire family. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Central Exchange 2000 Woman of the Year, Adele Hall.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2000

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a man who has served as one of the most determined and effective advocates for America's hard working families in the United States Senate. Senator DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN was first elected to the Senate in 1976, and has served the people of New York as well as the entire country with commitment, leadership and integrity. As the Ranking Member on the Senate Finance Committee, he has pioneered for new initiatives to feed our nation's poor, to provide critical welfare and job training services to families in need, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality health care. Senator MOYNIHAN has been particularly committed to an issue I know well: AIDS.

As many of my colleagues know, since the moment I first stepped foot in Washington, I have fought for increased funding for critical HIV and AIDS education, treatment and research programs. I have also worked to expand our current programs to areas that are still in need of our help. Africa, India, the Caribbean, and Central and Eastern Europe in particular need our help and Senator MOYNIHAN has heard this call to action.

Senator MOYNIHAN introduced S. 2032 to amend the Foreign Assistance Act to address mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Africa, Asia and Latin America. At the same time, I introduced H.R. 4665 to initiate a \$10 million pilot project in Africa and India to reduce and prevent mother-to-child HIV/AIDS transmission. I am extremely pleased that H.R. 3519, the Global AIDS and Tuberculosis Relief Act of 2000, was signed into law by the President on August 19 and included much of the language and intent of my International Mother-to-Child HIV/AIDS Prevention Bill. With this legislation, we can commit \$25 million to this cause.

Worldwide, 1,800 infants become infected with HIV each day. The total number of births to HIV-infected pregnant women each year in developing countries is 3.2 million. HIV/AIDS has doubled infant mortality in poor countries most heavily affected by the epidemic. We have hit a critical point where we must take action in the world's epicenter of HIV infection. We must act now if we ever hope to end this epidemic once and for all.

I thank Senator MOYNIHAN for his leadership on this serious public health issue and on so many issues affecting our women and children.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF JOHN C. MURPHY

HON. RICK LAZIO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a man who has been dedicated to housing and community development issues for over 25 years. John Murphy is the Executive Director of the National Association of County Community and Economic Development. He has worked with my Housing and Community Opportunity Subcommittee on a number of programs.

The efforts of John Murphy have allowed counties around the country to build affordable housing, to provide seriously needed infrastructure, to alleviate homelessness, and to build senior support centers that allow our elderly citizens to remain in their own homes. He has worked endlessly to support vital public services that build stronger neighborhoods and help children grow up in safe communities.

The American dream is to own a home, an impossible dream for far too many people in our country. Mr. Murphy has helped make that dream a reality for tens of thousands of American families by helping numerous organizations maintain critically needed federal programs such as the Community Development Block Grant program, the HOME Investment Partnership Program and the Low Income Tax Credit Program. In addition, he has created opportunities to share information and ideas about housing programs that make the dream of homeownership possible for working class families all across our country.

Mr. Murphy has worked tirelessly to help communities find unique solutions to their housing and community development needs. At the same time, his efforts with Congress, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the National Association of Counties, and many other organizations are well recognized.

Again, I would like to commend John Murphy for a job well done and extend my best wishes for his continued success.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE STUDENT CONGRESSIONAL TOWN MEETING

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the outstanding work done by participants in my Student Congressional Town Meeting held this summer. These participants were part of a group of high school students from around Vermont who testified about the concerns they have as teenagers, and about what they would like to see the government do regarding these concerns.

I submit the following statements into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, as I believe that the views of these young persons will benefit my colleagues.

RAMI FAOUR AND PAT GRIFFIN REGARDING THE LEGAL DRINKING AGE

Rami Faour: Representative Sanders, and other distinguished guests, we are here to

speaking about lowering the drinking age to help alleviate the problem with teen drinking. We understand that there are a large number of people between the ages of 18 and 20 who drink regardless of the law, and many of them even binge drink. Even though the legal drinking age is 21, many teens are able to purchase alcohol to consume on their own. 18 to 20 year olds can pay taxes, adopt a child, be drafted into the military, hold firearms, but they are not allowed to touch alcohol. This is an illogical inconsistency and infringement of civil rights on this age group. They are legal adults in every other respect and ironically not a lot of these legal adults who drink illegally increase the alcohol use and abuse it is meant to reduce.

Alcohol has become a forbidden fruit for teens. Drinking is more exciting when it is illegal than when it is legal. So many people go out and get drunk simply because they know they should not be drinking at all. Just look at our American history, we saw prohibition backfire. Instead of stopping it, it glorified it and we had increased alcohol. We see teens following that pattern.

Pat Griffin: The solution to this topic is a realistic drinking age combined with education of teens about drinking. There is no reason that an 18-year-old cannot drink as responsibly or even more responsibly than a 24-year-old. The level of maturity between these two ages are about the same. The solution is to educate young youths in how to drink responsibly for the first step but current alcohol education in high school, and in college set up on how to drink responsibly and ending with the message "Do not drink because you would be too young." First we need to educate teens, then we need to trust them. If we treat them like children, they will act like children. If you treat them as responsible adults, they will act maturely. With these steps we see many different changes of attitudes and behavior of young adults.

We wish to thank you for your time to educate young adults in how to drink responsibly and then let them drink responsibly. Thank you.

KYLE ROSE, ERIN GOVER AND KIM KLEIN
REGARDING TEEN CENTERS

Erin Gover: Good morning. My name is Erin Gover and today I will be speaking on the topic of funding of teen centers throughout Vermont.

For years society has been asking why teens turn to alcohol and drugs. So far we have concluded that the solution to this issue is positive alternatives. Well, teen centers are positive alternatives. Yet, out of all the towns in Vermont, Colchester is one of the only ones that does not have one. Yet, for three years organizations like the Colchester Growth Group have founded buildings, got the community's support and fundraised the money for a teen center, but to no avail. In its place is a gas station, a quicky mart, or even a bar. I do not know about you, but I would rather have my child going to a teen center where he or she can hang out with his friends, get help on homework, or just have a good time rather than hanging out at a bar.

To compensate for these teens founded Club 242 located under Memorial Auditorium in downtown Burlington. Club 242 is a place where high school bands can play, get their start, and other high schoolers can come watch, have a good time, and just hang out. And there is absolutely no alcohol, no drugs and no smoking, a positive alternative you might say. Yet funding is currently being taken away from Club 242. Why? This leaves Burlington and Colchester with about three alternatives: shopping, movies and drugs.

And it is the City of Burlington and the Town of Colchester that are making this decision, not the teens.

It is also your decision. As our representative, I believe you should make it your goal to not only make all of your fellow congressmen aware of the need for funding, but also to use your influence to pass a bill making it possibly a requirement for each town to have a teen center, a positive alternative. You should make yourself aware of these teen centers and make sure funding is not taken

The youth of Vermont have worked on this for years and continue to rally the support of the community. We are trying, but it is now your turn to help. And remember, actions speak louder than words.

Kim Klein: 90 percent of the reason why children go out and cause trouble is because there is not really anything for them to do. I mean there are parks and stuff like that, but most children will either go out and hand out in front of stores or stuff like that and go to parties, because there is nothing constructive for them to do. And as Erin said, Club 242, being a musician and playing in high school bands, it is hard for us to get anywhere. I mean, we played there, but to be able to play in other towns and stuff, there aren't places for us to do that because they are all bars.

MATT PLUNKETT AND RYAN ESBJERG
REGARDING TEEN DRINKING AND DRIVING

Matthew Plunkett: Congressman Sanders, eight young people die a day in alcohol-related crashes. During a typical weekend and average of one teenager dies each hour in a car crash; nearly 50 percent of those crashes involve alcohol. Alcohol is the number one drug problem among young people. This is a serious problem not only here in Vermont, but also across the nation. Drunk driving causes many deaths each year and many of us have suffered from the loss of friends and family who have died because of bad decisions involving alcohol and vehicles. When we look at the statistics on a national level, they may not seem very high but there is still a problem and more needs to be done, but then there is never enough that can be done until the problem ceases to exist.

We feel there should be more programs helping inform young drivers in training of the risks of how much more of a chance they have of getting in an accident while intoxicated. In our opinion there should be more funding or there should be funding for a program that states some of the evils involved in alcohol-related crashes.

Ryan Esbjerg: These vehicles should not be overlooked. They are an educational resource that could be placed on display in private locations or driver's education classes can view the crash first-hand. Once young people see the results of one of these crashes, it might prevent them from making the same mistake as others. The viewing of the wreckage of cars in which people have died makes an impression that no film or lecture can match.

We keep track of history for a reason, to learn from mistakes and the mistake of drinking and driving is repeated too often. The accidents do not just affect the family of the driver or the passenger, they affect the whole community. We are urging you to extend the education of this subject, help save lives in any way that is possible, because you never know when it is your family member or your best friend you could read about in the newspaper.

Thank you for your time.

FRIEDMAN BAG COMPANY CELEBRATES OVER 70 YEARS OF OPERATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate the Friedman Bag Company for over 70 years of continuous operation in my congressional district and to highlight its leadership as a responsible corporate citizen.

In 1927, four Russian immigrant brothers started a small bag manufacturing company in the heart of Los Angeles. Sam, Saul, Harry and Morris Friedman fled Imperial Russia with their family in search of freedom, settling temporarily in Mexico until they were granted permission to enter the United States. Over the years, Friedman Bag Company grew almost as quickly as the city around it.

In many ways, the founding and growth of Friedman Bag Company personifies our nation's immigrant experience. The company was born from an immigrant family's dream to provide their children with a better life. The Friedmans succeeded, eventually becoming one of the largest suppliers of textile and polyethylene bags in the West. Their bags were primarily used for agriculture products such as Idaho potatoes, walnuts and other crops such as carrots and lettuce from the Central Valley of California.

But like many manufacturing companies in the United States, fierce competition from lower cost producers, in countries like China, eventually threatened the survival of Friedman Bag Company. To endure, the company needed to change and adapt to the new economy, and the successful effort was led by two sons of the founding members.

Friedman Bag Company desperately needed to invest money in new equipment. Company workers were still sewing burlap and mesh bags by hand. Morale and sales were suffering. Having never taken on debt financing in its history, the company embarked on a somewhat radical and risky venture to make sure it could remain competitive. Working with a financial institution that recognized its special history as a family business, and overcoming internal and external challenges, Friedman Bag Company secured the resources to continue its operations in the 33rd Congressional District.

Friedman Bag Company also worked with the Mayor and City Council to consolidate operations, ultimately bringing more jobs to Los Angeles. An article which appeared in the Los Angeles Times on May 26, 1999 and documents this important success story follows these remarks.

Today, Friedman Bag Company employs more than 250 people, with operations in Idaho, Washington and Oregon. The company's morale has soared as its future prospects have brightened. Friedman Bag Company is now firmly-positioned so a third generation of the Friedman family can continue the dream started by their family's ancestors.

I am proud of Friedman Bag Company's long tenure in southeast Los Angeles. Their efforts to modernize and adapt to an ever-changing economy in order to stay competitive are to be commended. Many men and women in my congressional district have worked at

Friedman Bag Company, supporting their families and contributing to our community. I congratulate Friedman Bag Company for over 70 years of success which has epitomized the contributions to America made by our immigrant community, and I wish them many more years of successful operation to come. I submit the following article into the RECORD.

[From the Los Angeles Times, May 26, 1999]

WHEN DEBT PROVES TO BE BEST ANSWER

(By Cyndia Zwahlen)

Long debt-free Friedman Bag Co. turned to bank loans when it didn't have the money to cover shareholder buyouts and upgraded technology.

Pressure from more than 30 family shareholders to sell Friedman Bag Co., against the wishes of company management, was threatening to destroy the value of the closely held Los Angeles company founded by three brothers in 1927.

The far-flung shareholders, only one of whom worked at the company, wanted to cash out their shares. Management, including two sons of the founders, was desperate to invest the money in equipment needed to bring the company into the 21st century. Company workers were still sewing burlap and mesh bags for the agricultural industry by hand. Printing presses were slow and inefficient. Morale and sales were suffering.

"It was like a tug of war," said Harvey Friedman, chief executive and son of one of the retired founders. As the debate intensified, rumors that the company was going out of business began to fly.

Friedman Bag didn't have the money to cover shareholder buy-outs and new technology. The shareholders weren't interested in a note—a written promise to pay them in the future. And sale of the company's real estate wasn't an option because of the huge tax bill that would result, Friedman said.

For the first time in more than four decades, the company was forced to consider going outside for financing.

It's a classic dilemma for a family business. The conflicting demands on company funds of growth or expansion and shareholders buyouts or dissolutions can push the most debt-averse company to seek outside money, particularly if buyout funding isn't covered by insurance or some other previous arrangement. Perhaps it's the founder who wants to cash out, or an owner dies and there are estate problems. Or an owner without an heir interested in the business may want to sell the company to the employees through an employee stock ownership plan.

"Growth, liquidity, unexpected dissolutions that can disrupt the business are needs for financing," said Alfred E. Osborne, director of the Price Center for Entrepreneurial Studies at UCLA.

A business typically has two options when it comes to outside money—taking on debt through a bank loan or selling a stake in the company to an equity investor.

Friedman Bag, like most family businesses, chose debt, unwilling to deal with additional shareholders and their demands. The company polled its industry contacts for potential lenders. After being debt-free for decades, it found itself being wooed by more than 20 banks. Friedman and his managers decided on Imperial Bank in Los Angeles for several reasons. They got a speedy response and a loan package that covered their needs: an equipment line of credit, a term loan to buy out the shareholders and an asset-based line of credit to pay for growth. The bank's enthusiasm for the company's prospects sealed the deal.

"When you borrow money, you want to feel like the bank is excited about your new ven-

ture and not that they are doing you a big favor," Friedman said.

All things being equal, he'd just as soon lend to a family business, said Imperial Bank Executive Vice President Duke Chenoweth, who grew up in a family with a business.

"A family will generally put everything they have on the line to uphold the integrity of that family business and the family name," he said. In addition to a potentially deeper level of commitment than an absentee owner or a group of professional managers, a successful family business often has a built-in successor, important for management continuity, Chenoweth said. And if worse comes to worse, often the retired founder can be relied upon for emergency guidance or deep pockets.

Bank debt isn't right for every family business, of course. A company has to be able to generate enough cash flow to repay the debt, which naturally limits how much money a company can borrow.

Although it's not as common for a family business, an outside equity investor can also provide needed cash. The downside is that most equity investors are institutional investors who typically expect a return on their investment within three to five years. That's not practical for many family businesses.

"It would be a mistake to say private equity has no place in family business, but it would only be under specific circumstances where the family is willing to provide a liquidity event," said Jourdi de Werd, a managing director and co-founder of investment bankers Greif & Co. of Los Angeles, one of several corporate sponsors of the Family Business Program at USC.

A family that is contemplating a transition to more institutional ownership or a founder that wants to take capital out of the business might turn to an outside equity investor, said de Werd, who also

Friedman offered several tips for family businesses thinking about outside financing.

He echoed the advice of several bankers when he suggested family businesses limit the number of family members working at the company. Bankers worried about the toll of inflated salaries. Friedman was more concerned about a company's need for broad skills and the potential impact on the family itself.

"Success is a blend of family members and outsiders," he said. "If there is too much family, then you have a lot of internal problems that are brought home."

In addition to good-quality management, what else are bankers looking for? Organized and complete financial statements, according to Henry Walker, senior vice president at Farmers & Merchants Bank in Long Beach. The quality of your record keeping is a reflection of how you manage your business, he said.

Assessing management and financial strength is a two-way street, Walker said. Is the lender you are considering strong enough to weather an economic downturn without jeopardizing your loan?

"It's a long-term relationship you're looking for, and you shouldn't lose track of that because of a point [of interest] here or there," he said.

Planning company strategy before seeking outside money is also important, Friedman said. Friedman Bag invested in an intensive total quality management program and months of planning before it landed its bank loan. When the money arrived, the equipment purchases and a move into a new facility were completed within just three to four months of the shareholder buyout in early January. This week the new eight-color press goes online with triple the capacity of its predecessor and a setup time of 45 min-

utes compared with the five hours if used to take.

Friedman Bag Co. has come a long way from its modest beginnings collecting, sorting and reselling burlap bags used on farms in the 1920s. Today it employs more than 250 people and has operations in Idaho, Washington and Oregon. It supplies packaging and equipment to the agricultural industry and sandbags to the U.S. military, among others.

Employee morale has soared along with the company's new prospects. The third generation, including Friedman's son, a company vice president, has a future to look forward to, according to Friedman.

"We are a totally different company today," he said. "A new Friedman Bag Co. was born on Jan 5, 1999."

A POWERFUL MESSAGE ON PRAYER IN SCHOOL

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, one of the most troubling aspects of contemporary life is the continuing assault on values and morals. Nowhere is that effort more apparent than the determined drive to eliminate any voluntary prayer in our schools or at school events, such as athletic games. Recently, a distinguished citizen of my community spoke out on this subject. Jody McCloud is the principal of Roane County High School and has been for 11 years. He has spent 24 years as a professional educator. His comments summarize the situation about as well as anyone can. I am privileged to place them into the RECORD of the U.S. House of Representatives and urge everyone to read them carefully and pay heed. Here is what Mr. McCloud said.

It has always been the custom at Roane County High School football games to say a prayer and play the National Anthem to honor God and Country. Due to a recent ruling by the Supreme Court, I am told that saying a prayer is a violation of Federal Case Law.

As I understand the law at this time, I can use this public facility to approve of sexual perversion and call it an alternate lifestyle, and if someone is offended, that's OK.

I can use it to condone sexual promiscuity by dispensing condoms and calling it safe sex. If someone is offended, that's OK.

I can even use this public facility to present the merits of killing an unborn baby as a viable means of birth control. If someone is offended, no problem.

I can designate a school day as Earth Day and involves students in activities to religiously worship and praise the goddess, mother earth, and call it ecology.

I can use literature, videos and presentations in the classroom that depict people with strong, traditional, Christian convictions as simple minded and ignorant and call it enlightenment.

However, if anyone uses this facility to honor God and ask Him to bless this event with safety and good sportsmanship, federal case law is violated.

This appears to be at best, inconsistent and at worst, diabolical. Apparently, we are to be tolerant of everything and anyone except God and His commandments.

Nevertheless, as a school principal, I frequently ask staff and students to abide by rules with which they do not necessarily

agree. For me to do otherwise would be at best, inconsistent and at worst hypocritical. I suffer from that affliction enough unintentionally. I certainly do not need to add an intentional transgression.

For this reason, I shall, "Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's," and refrain from praying at this time. However, if you feel inspired to honor, praise and thank God, and ask Him in the name of Jesus to bless this event, please feel free to do so. As far as I know, that's not against the law—yet.

SAFER AMERICA FOR EVERYONE'S CHILDREN ACT (SAFE CHILDREN ACT), H.R. 5218

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 5218, the Safer America for Everyone's Children Act, or SAFE Children Act. The SAFE Children Act is a nine point program which will reward those States and communities who work to keep guns out of the hands of children, promote opportunities for students, and support programs which keep our kids off the streets and away from drugs. By supporting communities who take the initiative to combat school violence, we are allowing parents and educators to work together to make the decisions which will effectively help our children and provide an appropriate and common sense solution.

The SAFE Children Act creates new SAFE communities and SAFE States block grants which can be used to supplement, expand, or enforce programs which combat school violence. To be eligible for the new grants, "SAFE communities" will have to offer a biannual gun buyback program, provide working programs to create safe and drug-free schools, and offer after-school programs, which focus on the social, physical, emotional, moral, or cognitive well being of students. "SAFE States" will have to enact legislation to require individuals to be 21 years old to purchase a handgun, require safety locks to be sold with firearms at the time of sale, and create a public-private partnership to support or organizations and municipalities who promote safe schools and gun safety.

Furthermore, the Safe Children Act creates a school counseling demonstration program to award grants to schools to establish or expand school psychological counseling programs, offering individual schools the opportunity and funding necessary to have on-site or on-contract child psychologists to assist troubled students. Additionally, the measure promotes the safety of law enforcement personnel by prohibiting the importation of large capacity ammunition feeding devices and exempts qualified law enforcement officers and retired officers from state laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed firearms.

Mr. Speaker, since the tragedy at Columbine High School, I have been meeting with parents, teachers, students, and law enforcement officials, to discuss the root of the problems in our nation's schools and find a resolution. The Safe Children Act is an important first step, because it promotes and supports community initiative and inclusion.

It is obvious that no one solution exists for solving the increase in school shootings, but it

is imperative that we all dedicate ourselves to working together within our families and communities to stop the violence among our youth. The real solution to combating school violence will not be found in the halls of Congress, rather in our schools, homes, and communities throughout our nation. The Safe Children Act will reward those communities which work together to provide a safer America for everyone's children.

H.R. 5218

A BILL

To provide grant funds to units of local government that comply with certain requirements and to amend certain Federal firearms laws.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Safer America for Everyone's Children (SAFE Children) Act."

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2002 to carry out titles I, II, and IV.

TITLE I—SAFE COMMUNITIES

SEC. 101. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.

The Attorney General is authorized to provide grants to units of local government that comply with the requirements of section 102(a).

SEC. 102. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this title, a unit of local government shall have in effect, for a period of not less than 1 year, the following programs:

(1) GUN BUYBACK.—A program under which—

(A) the unit of local government offers to purchase any semiautomatic firearm for \$100, and to purchase any other firearm for \$50;

(B) the offer is renewed not less frequently than every 6 months; and

(C) the unit of local government transmits to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, with respect to each 6-month period during which the program is in effect, a report on the volume and types of firearms obtained through the program during the period.

(2) SCHOOL VIOLENCE INITIATIVES.—School violence initiatives that implement comprehensive strategies to ensure a learning environment at school that is safe and drug-free.

(3) OPPORTUNITIES DURING NON-SCHOOL HOURS.—Activities to meet the child care needs of parents during non-school hours, including before- and after-school, weekends, holidays, and vacation periods. Such activities shall be designed to focus on the social, physical, emotional moral, or cognitive well being of students and may include leadership development, character training, delinquency prevention, sports and recreation, arts, tutoring, academic enrichment, or other activities to meet the needs of the local community.

(b) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Attorney General shall give priority to applications from eligible units of local government that have the highest number of children aged 5 through 17 and highest rate of violent crime.

(c) FEDERAL SHARE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal share of the cost of expanding a program described in subsection (a) may not exceed 80 percent.

(2) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal share of a grant under this title shall be 20 percent of the cost of expanding the activi-

ties described in subsection (a) and may be in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated (including the provision of equipment, services, or facilities) from State or local sources.

SEC. 103. USES OF FUNDS.

A unit of local government that receives a grant award under this title may use funds received to expand programs described in section 102(a).

SEC. 104. REPORTS.

(a) LOCAL REPORTS.—Each unit of local government that receives a grant award under this title shall submit an annual report to the Attorney General regarding the effectiveness of the programs expanded through such award.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Attorney General shall compile the results of reports submitted under subsection 9a) and submit such information on an annual basis to the appropriate committees of Congress.

SEC. 105. DEFINITION.

For purposes of this title and title II, the term "unit of local government means a county, municipality, town, township, village, parish, borough, Indian tribe, or other general purpose political subdivision of a State.

TITLE II—SAFE STATES

SEC. 201. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.

The Attorney General is authorized to provide grants to States that comply with the requirements of section 202(a).

SEC. 202. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this title, a State shall have in effect laws which—

(1) impose criminal penalties on a person who purchases a handgun in the State if the person has not attained 21 years of age;

(2) require each person who is licensed under section 923 of title 18, United States Code, to sell a secure gun storage or safety device (as defined in section 921(a)(34) of such title) with each firearm sold by the person; and

(3) create a public-private partnership to support organizations and units of local governments that promote safe schools and gun safety.

(b) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Attorney General shall give priority to applications from eligible States that have the highest number of children aged 5 through 17 and the highest rate of violent crime.

(c) FEDERAL SHARE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal share of the cost of carrying out a program described in subsection (a) may not exceed 80 percent.

(2) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal share of a grant under this title shall be 20 percent of the cost of carrying out the activities described in subsection (a) and may be in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated (including the provision of equipment, services, or facilities), from State sources.

SEC. 203. USES OF FUNDS.

A State that receives a grant award under this title may use funds received to enforce programs described in section 202(a).

SEC. 204. REPORTS.

(a) LOCAL REPORTS.—Each State that receives a grant award under this title shall submit an annual report to the Attorney General regarding the effectiveness of the program implemented with such award.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Attorney General shall compile the results of reports submitted under subsection (a) and submit such information on an annual basis to the appropriate committees of Congress.

TITLE III—FEDERAL FIREARMS LAWS

Subtitle A—Ban on Importation of Large Capacity Ammunition Feeding Devices

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the "Juvenile Assault Weapon Loophole Closure Act".

SEC. 302. BAN ON IMPORTING LARGE CAPACITY AMMUNITION FEEDING DEVICES.

Section 922(w) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking “(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2)” and inserting “(1)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B);”

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “(2) Paragraph (1)” and inserting “(B) Subparagraph (A);”

(3) by inserting before paragraph (3) the following:

“(2) It shall be unlawful for any person to import a large capacity ammunition feeding device.”; and

(4) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by striking “(1)” each place it appears and inserting “(1)(A);” and

(B) by striking “(2)” and inserting “(1)(B)”.

SEC. 303. DEFINITION OF LARGE CAPACITY AMMUNITION FEEDING DEVICE.

Section 921(a)(31) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “manufactured after the date of enactment of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994.

Subtitle B—Community Protection Act

SEC. 311. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Community Protection Act”.

SEC. 312. EXEMPTION OF QUALIFIED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS FROM STATE LAWS PROHIBITING THE CARRYING OF CONCEALED FIREARMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 926A the following:

“§ 926B. Carrying of concealed firearms by qualified law enforcement officers

“(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of the law of any State or any political subdivision thereof, an individual who is a qualified law enforcement officer and who is carrying the identification required by subsection (d) may carry a concealed firearm that has been shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce, subject to subsection (b).

“(b) This section shall not be construed to supersede or limit the laws of any State that—

“(1) permit private persons or entities to prohibit or restrict the possession of concealed firearms on their property; or

“(2) prohibit or restrict the possession of firearms on any State or local government property, installation, building, base, or park.

“(c) As used in this section, the term ‘qualified law enforcement officer means an employee of a governmental agency who—

“(1) is authorized by law to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of, or the incarceration of any person for, any violation of law, and has statutory powers of arrest;

“(2) is authorized by the agency to carry a firearm;

“(3) is not the subject of any disciplinary action by the agency; and

“(4) meets standards, if any, established by the agency which require the employee to regularly qualify in the use of a firearm.

“(d) The identification required by this subsection is the official badge and photographic identification issued by the governmental agency for which the individual is employed as a law enforcement officer.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 926A the following:

“926B. Carrying of concealed firearms by qualified law enforcement officers.

SEC. 313. EXEMPTION OF QUALIFIED RETIRED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS FROM STATE LAWS PROHIBITING THE CARRYING OF CONCEALED FIREARMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, is further amended by inserting after section 926B the following:

“§ 926C. Carrying of concealed firearms by qualified retired law enforcement officers

“(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of the law of any State or any political subdivision thereof, an individual who is a qualified retired law enforcement officer and who is carrying the identification required by subsection (d) may carry a concealed firearm that has been

“(b) This section shall not be construed to supersede or limit the laws of any State that—

“(1) permit private persons or entities to prohibit or restrict the possession of concealed firearms on their property; or

“(2) prohibit or restrict the possession of firearms on any State or local government property, installation, building, base, or park.

“(c) As used in this section, the term ‘qualified retired law enforcement officer means an individual who—

“(1) retired in good standing from service with a public agency as a law enforcement officer, other than for reasons of mental instability;

“(2) before such retirement, was authorized by law to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of, or the incarceration of any person for, any violation of law, and had statutory powers of arrest;

“(3)(A) before such retirement, was regularly employed as a law enforcement officer for an aggregate of 5 years or more; or

“(B) retired from service with such agency, after completing any applicable probationary period of such service, due to a service-connected disability, as determined by such agency;

“(4) has a nonforfeitable right to benefits under the retirement plan of the agency;

“(5) during the most recent 12-month period or, if the agency requires active duty officers to do so with lesser frequency than every 12 months, during such most recent period as the agency requires with respect to active duty officers, has completed, at the expense of the individual, a program approved by the State for training or qualification in the use of firearms; and

“(6) is not prohibited by Federal law from receiving a firearm.

“(d) The identification required by this subsection is photographic identification issued by the State in which the agency for which the individual was employed as a law enforcement officer is located.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for such chapter is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 926B the following:

926C. Carrying of concealed firearms by qualified retired law enforcement officers.

TITLE IV—SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELING

SEC. 401. SCHOOL COUNSELING DEMONSTRATION

(a) COUNSELING DEMONSTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants or enter into contracts under this section to establish or expand elementary and secondary school counseling programs.

(2) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give special

consideration to applications describing programs that—

(A) demonstrate the greatest need for new or additional counseling services among the children in the schools served by the applicant;

(B) propose the most promising and innovative approaches for initiating or expanding school psychological counseling; and

(C) show the greatest potential for replication and dissemination.

(3) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall ensure an equitable geographic distribution among the regions of the United States and among urban, suburban and rural areas.

(4) DURATION.—A grant under this section shall be awarded for a period not to exceed three years.

(5) MAXIMUM GRANT.—A grant under this section shall not exceed \$400,000 for any fiscal year.

(b) APPLICATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each local educational agency desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each application for a grant under this section shall—

(A) describe the school population to be targeted by the program, the particular personal, social, emotional, and behavioral needs of such population, and the current school psychological counseling resources available for meeting such needs;

(B) describe the activities, services, and training to be provided by the program and the specific approaches to be used to meet the needs described in subparagraph (A);

(C) describe the methods to be used to evaluate the outcomes and effectiveness of the program;

(D) describe the collaborative efforts to be undertaken with institutions of higher education, businesses, labor organizations, community groups, social service agencies, and other public or private entities to enhance the program and promote school-linked services integration;

(E) describe collaborative efforts with institutions of higher education which specifically seek to enhance or improve graduate programs specializing in the preparation of school psychologists;

(F) document that the applicant has the personnel qualified to develop, implement, and administer the program;

(G) describe how any diverse cultural populations, if applicable, would be served through the program;

(H) assure that the funds made available under this part for any fiscal year will be used to supplement and, to the extent practicable, increase the level of funds that would otherwise be available from non-Federal sources for the program described in the application, and in no case supplant such funds from non-Federal sources; and

(I) assure that the applicant will appoint an advisory board composed of parents, school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, other pupil services personnel, teachers, school administrators, and community leaders to advise the local educational agency on the design and implementation of the program.

(c) USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Grant funds this section shall be used to initiate or expand school psychological counseling programs that comply with the requirements in paragraph (2).

(2) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—Each program assisted under this section shall—

(A) be comprehensive in addressing the personal, social, and emotional well being of all students;

(B) use a developmental, preventive approach to psychological counseling;

(C) increase the range, availability, quantity, and quality of psychological counseling

(D) expand psychological counseling services only through qualified school psychologists;

(E) use innovative approaches to increase children's understanding of peer and family relationships, work and self, decision-making, academic and career planning, or to improve social functioning;

(F) provide psychological counseling services that are well-balanced among classroom group and small group counseling, individual counseling, and consultation with parents, teachers, administrators, and other pupil services personnel;

(G) include inservice training for school psychologists;

(H) involve parents of participating students in the design, implementation, and evaluation of psychological counseling program;

(I) involve collaborative efforts with institutions of higher education, businesses, labor organizations, community groups, social service agencies, or other public or private entities to enhance the program and promote school-linked services integration; and

(J) evaluate annually the effectiveness and outcomes of the psychological counseling services and activities assisted under this section.

(3) REPORT.—The Secretary shall issue a report evaluating the programs assisted pursuant to each grant under this subsection at the end of each grant period in accordance with section 1, but in no case later than January 30, 2004.

(4) DISSEMINATION.—The Secretary shall make the programs assisted under this section available for dissemination, either through the National Diffusion Network or other appropriate means.

(5) LIMIT ON ADMINISTRATION.—Not more than five percent of the amounts made available under this section in any fiscal year shall be used for administrative costs to carry out this section.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

(1) the term "school psychologist" means an individual who—

(A) possesses a minimum of 60 graduate semester hours in school psychology from an institution of higher education and has completed 1,200 clock hours in a supervised school psychology internship, of which 600 hours shall be in the school setting;

(B) possesses State licensure or certification in the State in which the individual works; or

(C) in the absence of such State licensure or certification, possesses national certification by the National School Psychology Certification Board;

(2) the terms "elementary school", "local educational agency", and "secondary school" have the same meanings given such terms in section 14101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8801); and

(3) the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Education.

FRANK R. LAUTENBERG POST
OFFICE AND COURTHOUSE

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2000

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to honor Senator FRANK R. LAUTENBERG, as a co-sponsor of H.R. 4975, designating the post office and courthouse located at 2 Federal Square in Newark, New Jersey, as the Frank R. Lautenberg Post Office and Courthouse.

I can think of few individuals who have done so much for New Jersey to earn such an honor.

Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG is the personification of the American Dream. He was born to poor, hard-working immigrants in Paterson, New Jersey. It did not say Senator on his birth certificate. He had to work for everything he got.

FRANK LAUTENBERG enlisted in the U.S. Army where he served proudly in Europe during World War II. And thanks to the G.I. Bill, he received an education and used it to build a company from scratch.

That company, ADP, is now the largest payroll company in the world, and employs 33,000 people.

FRANK LAUTENBERG unselfishly used his success to help others. He has been one of the United States Senate's most tireless advocates for improving the health of all our families. The list of his accomplishments is both distinguished and long.

He has been one of the most strident advocates in taking on the tobacco companies to help our children. He was the leader in outlawing smoking on commercial flights.

He authored the nation's first Right to Know environmental legislation.

He established 21 as the national legal drinking age, reducing drunk driving deaths.

He helped to write Superfund, and the Clean Air and Safe Drinking Water Acts . . . And so much more.

It is impossible to find any piece of major legislation that improves public health that does not have FRANK LAUTENBERG's fingerprints on it.

And as the capstone of his career, as the ranking member of the Senate Budget Committee, he co-authored the Balanced Budget Agreement of 1997 that has helped produce the first balanced budget in a generation, and perpetuates an unprecedented era of prosperity.

On a personal note, FRANK LAUTENBERG has always been there for me when I needed him, as a friend and a leader of the New Jersey delegation.

That is why I am honored to be there for FRANK LAUTENBERG. I hope everyone will join me in thanking him for his public service and granting this honor.

IN RECOGNITION OF GARDEN CITY
PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT RES-
CUE SQUAD

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the outstanding work by the Garden City Park Fire Department Rescue Squad on its golden anniversary.

Over the past fifty years, the Garden City Park Fire Department Rescue Squad responded to more than 30,000 emergency calls. This all-volunteer staff, which spends countless hours training to improve their skills, have made a significant difference in the lives of countless Long Islanders.

Come rain, sun, snow, or hail, these talented men and women brave the elements applying their skills and saving lives. It is often a job that does not get the recognition it deserves because many people take their service for granted. But make no mistake, these men and women are often the difference between life and death. Always the first on the scene of an accident, they apply their skills in a professional manner and do an outstanding job treating accident victims.

I, along with those treated by these dedicated men and women, applaud your dedication and service. Residents across Long Island owe you our gratitude and thanks.

ESSENTIAL AND CRITICAL HOSPITAL PRESERVATION ACT OF 2000

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Essential and Critical Hospital Preservation Act of 2000.

This bill improves previous legislation I have introduced in the 106th Congress by targeting relief to similar regions of the country like Northeastern Pennsylvania. Hospitals in these regions have a disproportionate number of elderly patients and have, therefore, been more greatly affected by the drastic cuts made in Medicare from the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. Furthermore, in these regions, the formula for Medicare as applied to those hospitals returns them an insufficient payment to meet their basic costs.

This bill is designed to assist economically distressed hospitals in regions where the combination of managed care, Medicare, and commercial payments changes have threatened to destroy the entire health care delivery infrastructure. It applies only to hospitals which have more than 40 percent of its patients on Medicare and receive the rural reimbursement rate despite being located in a Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Mr. Speaker, the hospitals in my region of Pennsylvania are in deep distress. Many of them are in severe economic difficulty. My proposal would give hospitals in regions of the country like Northeastern Pennsylvania a minimum of a 5-year, 10-percent increase in Medicare payments while they work through

the development of long-range economic recovery programs. It also requires the hospitals to devise a coordinated economic recovery program with the assistance of the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Mr. Speaker, in a time when the future of Medicare is under strict scrutiny, we must today continue to provide the basic essential care under the Medicare program that are intended some 35 years ago. I urge all Members of Congress to review this critical legislation in the remainder of the 106th Congress and work to enact it into law.

HONORING MELVIN PAGE

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, in some ways Melvin Page and his colleagues in honor and arms may be the bravest Americans. They fought a long and difficult war against a brutal and ferocious enemy. But—unlike the brave Americans who fought all our other wars—Melvin Page and his fellow Vietnam veterans had to fight a war that not all Americans supported. Even if Melvin Page and his comrades were “the bravest of the brave”—and they were—the civilian leadership that got us into Vietnam badly failed the men and women it sent there. Those leaders never gave our brave soldiers the unconditional backing and the clear goals needed to win. But, despite all those impediments, Melvin Page and the others who fought in that conflict can always hold their heads proudly and high because of the extreme sacrifices they made in defense of freedom.

That’s why I was especially honored to take part in Melvin Page Day in Harriman, TN, in the Third District on Saturday, September 9, 2000. When you look at the story of Melvin Page’s brave service, it’s hard to imagine anyone who could more deserve the honors he received from his fellow citizens. Melvin served in the United States Army from 1967 to 1969 when the Vietnam War was at its height. He showed his true courage and suffered enormously during a battle in which he and 43 other men were ambushed by over 1,000 North Vietnamese Army soldiers. In an attempt to save as many of his comrades as possible, Sgt. Page called in napalm air strikes on his own position. He was hit three times by rifle shots, struck by a grenade and was grievously burned. He was one of the very few people in his command to survive the attack. Rescuers arrived just in time to save his life; and in fact, Melvin Page was so badly injured that the recovery team thought that he had died and placed him in a body bag. It was only when his hand moved that the rescuers realized that he was alive.

He had to undergo numerous operations and extensive rehabilitation to recover from the severe burns and other injuries he suffered. After Melvin Page left the Army, he became a letter carrier with the U.S. Postal Service back home in Harriman, where he has worked faithfully for 30 years.

Melvin Page’s heroism and sacrifice has been recognized by the numerous medals and awards he has received, including the Bronze Star with V Device, three Purple Hearts, Two

Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, Good Conduct, National Defense Service, U.S. Vietnam Service, Vietnam Campaign, Combat Infantryman Badge, Parachute Jump Badge, Ranger Tab and Expert Marksman badge for pistol, rifle, and machine gun.

But, as impressive as this list is, it cannot begin to convey the heroism and sacrifice that marked Melvin Page’s Army service. Mr. Page, as you complete 33 years of loyal and dedicated services to the United States in war and peace, please accept the congratulations, best wishes and heartfelt thanks of a grateful nation.

OCHSNER FOUNDATION HOSPITAL

HON. DAVID VITTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 25, the Ochsner Foundation Hospital will open a spectacular new addition. This \$46 million facility will provide 140 square feet of space over three floors. The first floor will include a world-class emergency and trauma center; the second floor will be home to 10 new operating rooms with the most advanced equipment; and the third floor will include 32 new intensive care unit patient rooms. By placing these improved facilities in new construction, operations of the existing facility are not threatened.

These improvements will improve the quality of care of patients at Ochsner. They also will provide a better learning environment for the more than 200 medical residents that study each year at Ochsner.

The Ochsner Foundation Hospital, at its present location since 1954, is accredited with commendation by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations, an achievement which places the hospital above 87% of all hospitals in the U.S. The hospital admits over 18,000 patients each year for a total of more than 97,000 patient days. The average length of stay at Ochsner is 4.9 days. In addition, each year 30,000 individuals are treated on an emergency outpatient basis.

Known for surgical expertise with nearly 12,000 surgery cases handled each year, the hospital is also known for its pediatric, cancer, cardiology, and orthopedic programs. The Ochsner Multi-Organ Transplantation Center performs transplantation surgeries for most major solid organ systems and ranks as the fifth largest heart transplantation program in the country.

Ochsner has provided generations of patients from the New Orleans area and from throughout the world with quality medical care. This new addition will permit them to continue providing the highest quality of medical care for future generations.

TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND BERTRAM G. BENNETT, JR.

HON. JOSE E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding individual who

has devoted his life to serving others, Reverend Bertram G. Bennett, Jr. He will be honored by the Wardens, Vestry and People of Saint David’s Episcopal Church on Sunday, September 17, 2000 for 20 years of ministry at Saint David’s.

Reverend Bertram G. Bennett, Jr., was born in New York City on September 23, 1951 and has been Priest-in-Charge of St. David’s Episcopal Church in the Bronx since 1980. He received a B.A. in Behavioral Science from Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina and a Master of Divinity from the General Theological Seminary in New York City and was ordained Deacon in 1977 and Priest in 1978.

Fr. Bennett strongly upholds the Diocese of New York’s mission statement of “effective church presence in poor communities.” Born and raised in Harlem and carrying out his ministry in the South Bronx, Fr. Bennett is very much aware of the problems that afflict such communities.

Serving on a number of committees and boards, Fr. Bennett is well-known and respected in the Diocese, the parish and the community. He has served on the Diocesan Council and on several Diocesan committees. He is currently the Chair of the South Bronx Interparish Council, and in that capacity stresses the importance of the parishes meeting on a regular basis and sharing information and resources. Fr. Bennett is also on the Board of Episcopal Social Services, an organization that assists people of all ages throughout the Diocese.

Under Fr. Bennett’s encouragement, St. David’s has been a member of South Bronx Churches (SBC) since its beginning in 1987. SBC is an ecumenical broad-based organization of the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), involved with problems the communities in the South Bronx face regarding housing, illegal drugs, education, health, and employment. As Chair of the Housing Task Force of the South Bronx Churches, Fr. Bennett has been instrumental in the development of affordable homes in the South Bronx. He is also Chair of the Board of the Senior Housing Development. The accomplishments result from the hard work and motivation of Fr. Bennett whose steadfast perseverance is an inspiration to his parishioners.

Important to Fr. Bennett’s ministry is his involvement with youth work in the church and community. He has served as Chair of the Board of Bronx Youth Ministry and has recently been appointed to serve on the School Chancellor’s Interfaith Advisory Council. St. David’s After School Program and Summer Day Camp are vital community programs that offer supervised and structured activities for the youngsters. In recent years, Fr. Bennett has encouraged the men of the Parish to meet on a regular basis with the young men of the community for prayer and fellowship during the week.

Before coming to St. David’s, Fr. Bennett served in churches in the Bronx and Manhattan. As a parish priest, he places a high priority on making pastoral calls, visiting the sick and shut-ins, and counseling. Many times he has been able to assist members of the church and community through court appearances and intervention with the Department of Social Services, and giving support to parents dealing with school authorities.

Among the church and community organizations that have honored Fr. Bennett for his

ministry are the Boys of Yesteryear, the Bronx Council, Bronx Youth Ministry, and the New York City Council of Churches.

Fr. Bennett is a devoted family man, as is evident to those who have met his wife, Ledda, their children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Reverend Bertram G. Bennett, Jr., for his remarkable career of serving the community and bringing hope to the many individuals he has touched.

A SUCCESSFUL PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the important contributions made by ADT Security Services, Inc., a security headquarters in my district in Boca Raton, Florida, to the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC).

The NCPC is a private non-profit organization which has been working tirelessly to make our country safer from crime. The most prominent of their programs is the "McGruff the Crime Dog" public service advertising campaign, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Many of us are familiar with its "Take a Bite out of Crime" slogan. Some of their other valuable activities include providing technical assistance to communities, coordinating community demonstration projects, and producing award-winning publications for distribution to law enforcement, schools, and community organizations.

ADT has sponsored activities of the NCPC since 1985, and ADT's supported has allowed the NCPC to develop and distribute the National Crime Prevention Survey and the annual October Crime Prevention Month kit. To celebrate McGruff's 20th anniversary, the NCPC also began a tour of the country to recognize those communities which have had significant reductions in crime as a result of coordinated prevention efforts. This tour is only possible as a result of ADT's support.

Mr. Speaker, when corporations such as ADT give of their resources to improve communities, the results pay enormous dividends in the quality of life all Americans enjoy.

I would like to express my best wishes for continued success to the partnership of ADT and the NCPC, as well as my pride to represent a company, such as ADT, in the House of Representatives.

VICTIMS OF CIVIL WAR: THE REFUGEES OF COLOMBIA AND PERU

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, I chaired a Congressional Human Rights Caucus briefing on "Victims of Civil War: The Refugees of Colombia and Peru." I would hereby like to share the agenda and my opening statement at the hearing with the House for my colleagues' information.

CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS—VICTIMS OF CIVIL WAR: THE REFUGEES OF COLOMBIA AND PERU, SEPTEMBER 20, 2000, 10-11:30 AM

Summary: Pursuant to the request of Congressional Diaz-Balart (R-FL), the Congressional Human Rights Caucus convened on September 20, 2000 at 10 AM to examine the causes and ramifications of the Andean refugee crisis and to review U.S. policy in response to this crisis. Caucus Chairmen John Edward Porter (R-IL) and Tom Lantos (D-CA) appointed Congressman Diaz-Balart (R-FL) to chair the briefing. The briefing concluded at 11:45 AM.

WITNESSES

Panel I: (1) Ms. Dawn T. Calabria, External Relations, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; (2) Mr. Julian Hoyos, political asylee from Colombia; and (3) Mr. Jorge Vallejos, refugee/journalist from Peru.

Panel II: (1) Ms. Nina Serafino, Congressional Research Service (CRS) specialist on Colombia; (2) Ms. Maureen Taft Morales, (CRS) specialist on Peru; (3) Andrew Miller, Acting Advocacy Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, Amnesty International USA; and (4) Elisa Massimino, Washington, DC Director, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights.

OPENING STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART, CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS, BRIEFING ON THE VICTIMS OF CIVIL WAR IN COLOMBIA AND PERU, SEPTEMBER 20, 2000

Welcome to today's Congressional Human Rights Caucus briefing on the Andean refugees—victims of civil war in Colombia and Peru. I would first like to thank my colleagues, Congressman JOHN PORTER and TOM LANTOS and their able staffs for supporting me in convening the caucus to address this critical issue. Secondly, I would like to thank my colleagues who are present with us today. Finally I would like to extend my deep appreciation to our witnesses for their participation today and their personal investment of time and, in some cases, travel to help illuminate this issue.

I have become progressively more interested in this issue in the last few years as I have observed Colombian and Peruvian refugees seeking safe haven in South Florida. Since their arrival during the last two decades, they have enriched South Florida with their talent and their spirit of enterprise. In the last few years, my district office has experienced a great increase in the number of visits from Colombian and Peruvian families. In talking with them about their struggle for freedom and peace, I have learned about their journey and how they have sacrificed greatly to protect their children and loved ones from those who would terrorize them in pursuit of territorial, political, or monetary greed. I have pledged to these families that I will do everything I possibly can to assist them in their effort to remain as residents en route to becoming citizens of the United States.

I should mention that I will use the term refugee in its inclusive meaning to include those who seek humanitarian protection both before and after entering the United States. Therefore, I include those who seek asylum when they are fortunate enough to escape their persecutors and reach the United States.

A few points should be noted to provide context to the issue before us. Colombia continues to be engulfed in an intensifying civil war that is no longer confined to rural communities. Moreover, it now affects all regions and social strata of Colombian society. Bogota, the nation's capital, is now daily

beset with guerrilla atrocities. Unemployment levels exceeded a staggering 20% in 1999 and on average there were seven kidnappings per day—2,548 per year.

On August 1, 1999 the Miami Herald Editorial Board noted, "During the terror campaign of the late 1980's and early 1990's, narco cartels bombed malls and jetliners, randomly killing innocent civilians en masse." Today, the Herald, the Washington Times, Washington Post and other national newspapers report escalating murders, kidnappings for ransom, and other atrocities committed against civilians and foreigners—increasingly more Americans (executives, journalists, professors, and tourists) are becoming victims.

Peru experienced equally severe destruction in the 1980's and 1990's at the hands of the Sendero Luminoso (the Shining Path). According to Amnesty International's Annual Report for 1990, in October of 1990 alone, the Marxist-terrorist organization killed 350 people. We will hear more from our panels about the grave conflict in Peru and how it forced thousands from their homes.

As many here recall, in the 1980's and 1990's these severe Marxist-guerrilla atrocities in Colombia and Peru caused thousands of refugees to flee their countries and seek safe haven in the United States and elsewhere in North America. The Colombians and Peruvians pursued asylum claims, but most were obstructed for relief. For example, according to the INS between 1989 and 1997, the cumulative approval rate for Colombians was 15.8% and for Peruvians 24.8%—well below similarly beleaguered countries such as Liberia (45.2%) Ethiopia (50.3%) and Burma (54.8%).

I have received letters from constituents and interested individuals that are bitterly painful to read because they depict savage brutality, intimidation, and terror, all as means to deprive non-combatants of political freedom, land, personal property, and worst of all their human dignity. One man's father was killed by the Marxist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), after repeated beatings and the murder of cattle workers, to confiscate the family's land and other assets. Another letter was from a woman who was involved in grass roots political activity on behalf of the assassinated Presidential candidate Luis Carlos Galan in 1988. She was assaulted, subjected to death threats, and forced to live in hiding and apart from her mother and children for months at a time. A bomb exploded near her home followed by a phone call that threatened her telling her that the next time it would be her home that was bombed. The door to her house was regularly spray painted with the letters "FARC".

What we will hear today will only provide a brief glimpse of the continuous suffering that the refugees have experienced everyday for years. They have lost loved ones in the conflict. They have been separated from family for years. They have been unable to attend funerals of parents and siblings. The physical and mental anguish of these communities deserve our consideration.

A nation's strength must be measured not only by its economic or military might, but by the degree in which it helps its neighboring allies. Colombia is a mere three and one-half hours flight from Miami—about the distance between Washington, DC and Denver, Colorado.

It is my hope that this Congress will look at the record of this meeting today and use it to help craft foreign and immigration policies that work to extend relief to the hard-working and law-abiding Peruvian and Colombian families. I have a proposal (The Andean Adjustment Act, HR 2741), which I will discuss later, to begin this effort and I will

continue to work toward its adoption. Thank you. We will now here from Ms. Calabria on behalf of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IMMIGRANT HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Immigrant Health and Safety Act. I hope my Colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation designed to correct a very serious consequence of major immigration reform legislation that was passed into law in 1996.

Prior to 1996, relief from deportation was possible for long-term immigrants of good moral character who had community ties in the U.S., if deportation would prove a cruel hardship for themselves or their families. No more than 4,000 such grants are permitted each year—and only to long-term, non-criminal immigrants with family and community ties in the U.S.

In 1996, Congress severely limited this kind of relief. Even a cruel hardship to an individual—such as an extreme medical condition—cannot prevent that individual's deportation. Now only a showing that someone's deportation will result in extreme and unusual hardship to his/her immediate relative who is a legal permanent resident or U.S. citizen can prevent deportation.

In other words, current law permits removal of long-term immigrants even if it would mean extreme medical hardship, disability, or even death. Immigrants who suffer from eminently treatable conditions in the United States could be subjected to suffering or perhaps death if forced to leave. They are also forced to leave their loved ones behind and sever ties with communities they have been a part of for years.

Historically, humanitarianism and family unity have been principal policies underpinning U.S. immigration law. For a small group of immigrants, current law threatens individual lives, community integrity, and the well being of immigrant families. Our bill would allow the Attorney General discretion to cancel their removal from the U.S. if she determined their cases had merit. The bill would not increase the number of grants of relief available each year beyond the 4,000 already permitted in current law, but would remove an undue burden of the 1996 law on a small group of immigrants who have lived in the U.S. for many years.

Again, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and pass it as swiftly as possible.

HOME HEALTH OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SHOULD BE COVERED BY MEDICARE

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to co-sponsor an important

bill related to the Medicare Home Health benefit. I recently introduced H.R. 4874, the Medicare Occupational Therapy Coverage Eligibility Act of 2000. This bill would amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for eligibility for coverage of home health services under the Medicare Program on the basis of a need for occupational therapy.

Occupational therapy is regarded as a full rehabilitation benefit under Medicare in every post-acute benefit except home health. This is a historical problem that should have been corrected when occupational therapy was included as a free-standing benefit in 1987. This correction is long overdue. It will provide beneficiaries immediate access to occupational therapy—a service targeted toward increasing self-sufficiency and function in the home—if they need it as part of their home health care plan. Physicians will be able to prescribe occupational therapy immediately without the requirement that nursing or another service be provided first. Additionally, home health agencies will have more flexibility in designing care plans based on clinical appropriateness and not on an outmoded Medicare requirement.

Occupational therapy is focused on helping individuals become more independent. That is why I believe that the inclusion of occupational therapy coverage by Medicare in the home health benefit will actually decrease the dependence of individuals on home health services. This bill will help seniors to lead better, more independent lives. I urge my colleagues to support putting occupational therapy on an equal footing as a rehabilitation benefit in home health, just as it is in rehabilitation hospitals and skilled nursing facilities.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 21, 2000 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 22

10 a.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To hold hearings to examine the status of policing reforms in Northern Ireland as envisioned by the Good Friday Agreement.
2172 Rayburn Building

SEPTEMBER 25

1 p.m.

Judiciary
Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee
To hold oversight hearings on the USDA's administrative procedures regarding the Packers and Stockyards Act.
SD-226

SEPTEMBER 26

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the Legislative recommendation of the American Legion.
345 Cannon Building

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings on S. 1763, to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to reauthorize the Office of Ombudsman of the Environmental Protection Agency; S. 1915, to enhance the services provided by the Environmental Protection Agency to small communities that are attempting to comply with national, State, and local environmental regulations; S. 2296, to provide grants for special environmental assistance for the regulation of communities and habitat (SEARCH) to small communities; and S. 2800, to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish an integrated environmental reporting system.
SD-406

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold oversight hearings on the activities of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (AMTRAK).
SR-253

Judiciary

To hold oversight hearings to examine the Wen Ho Lee case.
SD-226

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold oversight hearings to examine the current outlook for supply of heating and transportation fuels this winter.
SD-366

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine biotechnology and consumer confidence of food.
SD-430

10:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine U.S. foreign policy at the end of the current administration.
SD-419

2:30 p.m.

Finance

Social Security and Family Policy Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine IRS collection of child support payments.
SD-215

Energy and Natural Resources

Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee

To hold hearings on S. 3044, to establish the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area in the State of Arizona; S. 3052, to designate wilderness areas and a cooperative management and protection area in the vicinity of Steens Mountain in Harney County, Oregon;

and S. 3039, to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell a Forest Service administrative site occupied by the Rocky Mountain Research Station located in Boise, Idaho, and use the proceeds derived from the sale to purchase interests in a multiagency research and education facility to be constructed by the University of Idaho.
SD-366

Judiciary

Criminal Justice Oversight Subcommittee

To hold oversight hearings to examine the United States Sentencing Commission.
SD-226

SEPTEMBER 27

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the status of U.S. military readiness.
SH-216

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings on S. 2052, to establish a demonstration project to authorize the integration and coordination of Federal funding dedicated to community, business, and the economic development of Native American communities.
SR-485

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the marketing of violence to children.
SR-253

2:15 p.m.

Environment and Public Works

Clean Air, Wetlands, Private Property, and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for programs of the Clean Air Act.
SD-406

2:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
S-116, Capitol

SEPTEMBER 28

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To resume hearings on United States policy towards Iraq.
SH-216

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the Department of Commerce trade missions and political activities.
SR-253