

issues. Because its population is sparse, however, its representation in Lansing is meager in numbers.

Spokesmen for this region must stand taller and speak more eloquently than their downstate counterparts. Mike served on the important Appropriations Committee in the Michigan House and, like Dominic J. Jacobetti before him, was an outstanding spokesman for the region.

Mike brought a profound understanding of the region with him when he went to Lansing. He was born in his district, was schooled there, and became an iron mine worker, eventually becoming president of a Steelworkers local. Like the red dust that coats the clothing of miners, Mike carried the innate strength, pride and independence of Upper Michigan residents to his job as a state representative.

There have been many important issues affording us an opportunity to work together. The round of military base closures under the BRAC Commission in the early 1990s affected a base in the Upper Peninsula, in the heart of what would become Mike's district. Fighting to revive this economic heart of the Upper Peninsula has been one of our major efforts and concerns.

Today, we face the problem of illegal imports of steel—raw materials and finished projects—which have jeopardized the health of the U.S. steel industry. These illegally dumped products affect the entire industry, beginning with the very mines where Mike has worked. We are again joined in an important economic battle, this time to protect jobs and our vital national steel industry, from mining to final rolling of finished steel.

I wish Mike and his wife Sandra the best in his post-legislative career. He has my deep respect and friendship. The people of Michigan were well-served by Mike Prusi. They will miss him. I will miss him.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DR. THOMAS E. STARZL IN THE FIELD OF ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary career of Dr. Thomas E. Starzl, the pioneer in the field of organ transplantation, who turned seventy-five years old on March 11, 2001.

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of Dr. Starzl's first liver transplant in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Thirty transplants were performed in that year in 1981, which provided for the foundation for a liver transplant program at the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Health System (UPMC) that would become the largest in the world.

Dr. Starzl earned his bachelor's degree in biology at Westminster College in Missouri and his medical degree at Northwestern University. Following postgraduate work at Johns Hopkins University, surgical fellowships, and residencies, Dr. Starzl served on the faculty at Northwestern University for four years before transferring to the University of Colorado School of Medicine. It was there that Dr. Starzl

made history by performing the world's first human liver transplant in 1963 and the first successful liver transplant in 1967.

While continuing to perform kidney and liver transplants, Dr. Starzl focused his work to develop ways to suppress the body's immune system to prevent organ rejection. In 1981, Dr. Starzl joined the University of Pittsburgh's School of Medicine as a professor of surgery. It was there that he utilized his new anti-rejection drug cyclosporine, which propelled transplantation from an experimental procedure to an accepted form of treatment.

Under Dr. Starzl's unmatched leadership, the transplant program at the University of Pittsburgh grew into the largest and most active program in the world. To date, more than 11,300 total transplants have been performed through this program with approximately 6,000 of those being liver transplants.

Dr. Starzl retired from clinical and surgical service in 1991 but continues to make important strides in the field of transplantation and transplant immunology. In addition, Dr. Starzl continues to share his knowledge of expertise in this field by remaining active as a professor.

Dr. Starzl has had a tremendous impact and influence in the field of transplantation. He has received 21 honorary doctorates and more than 175 awards and honors, including most recently the 2001 King Faisal International Prize for Medicine.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Dr. Thomas E. Starzl, the Father of Transplantation. Through his commitment to furthering the capabilities of modern medical science, Dr. Starzl has not only saved countless lives, but he has helped establish the world-class reputations that western Pennsylvania, the University of Pittsburgh, and the UPMC Health System all share in the field of medicine.

INTRODUCING THE CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Child Protection Services Improvement Act.

This bill provides education loan forgiveness for child welfare workers who have been with an agency for at least 2 years. In addition, the bill provides States with \$500 million in matching grants over 5 years to improve the quality of their child welfare workers. States can use these matching grants: to improve child welfare workers' wages, increase the number of child welfare workers, reduce the turnover and vacancy rate of child welfare agencies, increase education and training of child welfare workers, attract and retain qualified candidates and coordinate services with other agencies. These dollars can also go to private welfare agencies at the States' discretion.

The timing of this bill could not be better for 568,000 children in our foster care system, who have suffered from abuse and neglect. A recent joint survey by the Child Welfare League of America, the American Public Human Services Association and the Alliance for Children and Families reported that Child

Welfare agencies are facing a workforce crisis. The study reported that: The average staff turnover for child welfare caseworkers in public agencies is 19.9 percent and 40 percent for private child welfare agencies in a year. The average percentage of vacant positions in public agencies is 7.4 percent and 27 percent for private agencies in a year. 46.2 percent of State child welfare workers left their job because of low salaries and 82.1 percent reported that they left their job because the workload was too high or demanding. 47.9 percent of private child welfare workers left their job because salaries were too low and 38.6 percent that they left their job because the workload was too high or demanding. Almost half of these agencies, both public and private, report difficulty in finding and retaining qualified candidates.

These problems can have horrific consequences for the children who are the most vulnerable in our society. Going beyond the numbers, I am sure that many of my fellow members have looked in their local newspapers and heard of a case where a child was killed because of abuse and neglect. After suffering from abuse and neglect, Child Protection Services in States is the last line of defense in protecting these children. If these agencies falter, many of these children pay the price and sometimes that price is their life.

The Child Welfare League of America, Alliance for children and Families, the National Association of Social Workers and the Catholic Charities of America have endorsed this bill.

Please join with us in supporting the Child Protection Services Improvement Act and provide much needed financial resources to our child welfare workforce to protect the most vulnerable children in our society.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE GIBBS

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Steve Gibbs, a dear friend and community leader who will be recognized on April 21, 2001 by the FreeStore/FoodBank for 26 years of service with the organization.

The FreeStore/FoodBank was founded in Cincinnati in 1971. Steve has been a vital part of the organization as President and CEO nearly since its inception 30 years ago. Thanks to his dedication and hard work, the FreeStore/FoodBank has blossomed from a small, one-man operation into a thriving enterprise that literally has helped millions of people throughout Cincinnati, northern Kentucky and southeastern Indiana.

The mission of the FreeStore/FoodBank is "to provide food, products and services for those in need, and to further their self-reliance." As one of the largest foodbanks in Ohio, it helps to feed nearly 300,000 people in our area each year. It also provides clothes and housing and employment assistance to the needy, and fills the pantry shelves of over 550 agencies, soup kitchens and shelters with donated food. Last year, it distributed close to 9 million pounds of donated and salvaged food, valued at more than \$22 million.

Also serving as President of the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks, Steve's