

military alliances with the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau. Such military alliances could threaten the security of our nation. Between 1918 and 1941, foreign powers did occupy these islands. And as history will recall, many World War II battles were fought in the islands fortified and occupied by Japan. The Compact prevents this from happening again.

In the Compact, the U.S. government promised to assist Micronesians in exchange for their continued sacrifices. The U.S. agreed to foster economic development and help these countries become self-sufficient.

This same treaty allows Micronesians to freely migrate to the U.S. According to the 2000 Census, 115,247 Micronesians are living in the U.S. Most Micronesians do not become citizens, yet they become members of our communities. They are here legally. They pay taxes, attend our schools, and join our military. They work with and for us. Nevertheless, the federal government denies Medicaid health care benefits to noncitizens and lawful non-immigrants.

My bill, H.R. 5067, will give Micronesian children and pregnant women legally residing in the U.S. access to Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). Micronesians should be covered because it is in the interest of our nation to improve the public's health, which includes basic health care for poor children and pregnant women regardless of their nationality or citizenship status.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 5067 and help the U.S. fulfill its commitment to our neighbors and coworkers from Micronesia. They made sacrifices to ensure the security of our nation. It is time for our nation to fulfill its promises.

FAITH UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to bear witness to the 100th Anniversary of the Faith United Methodist Church in Dickinson, Texas. This extraordinary religious community traces its roots back more than a century to the establishment of the Warren Chapel in the town of Dickinson in 1901. Six years later, the Methodist community in League City founded their own chapel in 1907. These two communities, separated by a mere seven miles shared both the trials and the joys of life together and in June of 1967, the two congregations merged to form the Faith United Methodist Church.

On September 7, this community will commemorate its Centennial with the unveiling of a Texas historical marker celebrating 100 years of faith and community. I ask you to join me in recognizing this remarkable congregation's faith and sense of community that has passed the test of time and remains a shining example of America's strength and unity.

PROTECT CONSUMERS' RIGHT TO
TAKE COMPANIES TO COURT
WHEN DISAGREEMENTS ARISE

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Consumer Fairness Act of 2002," a bill to address arbitration clauses that are unilaterally imposed on consumers as unfair and deceptive trade practices and prohibit their use in consumer transactions.

Increasingly, companies such as banks and credit card companies, computer makers, insurance firms and car dealers are requiring customers to waive their right to sue when a disagreement occurs. Furthermore, these mandatory arbitration clauses are usually not clearly disclosed in agreements and contracts.

Requiring consumers, as a mandatory condition of providing a service or selling a good, to waive his or her right to pursue a grievance through the United States justice system is problematic for several reasons.

Arbitration can cost more than pursuing a case in court, with fees that often run into the thousands of dollars.

Arbitration limits the evidence that can be used.

Arbitration usually does not allow for appeals.

To address these problems, this Act would prohibit companies from using clauses in contracts and sales agreements that require consumers to agree, in advance, to submit any disagreements to arbitrators. Such clauses ban consumers from suing a company and participating in class action lawsuits. This legislation protects consumers' right to sue and clarifies that consumers can choose to resolve their disputes with companies through arbitration.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this much-needed legislation for all consumers in America.

RECOGNIZING McQUADE
CHILDREN'S SERVICES

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize McQuade Children's Services, located in New Windsor, NY, for its dedicated service to special needs children of the Hudson Valley. On Sunday, July 21, McQuade Children's services celebrates its 140th birthday.

McQuade's service to Hudson Valley residents dates back to 1862, when it was founded as a home for orphaned or abandoned children. Established by the Newburgh Union Female Guardian Society as the "Home for the Friendless," it was renamed in 1945 to commemorate the life of Dr. Milton Ash McQuade.

Dr. McQuade was an ear, nose and throat specialist who himself was abandoned at a church doorstep as a baby and raised by the Reverend McQuade and his wife. Dr. McQuade emigrated from Canada to Newburgh, NY in 1914 to establish a medical prac-

tice and throughout the years, supported the Home and provided free medical care to the children. Upon his death in 1928, Dr. McQuade dedicated much of his estate to the Home, enabling it to continue to provide services throughout difficult times such as the Great Depression.

Today, McQuade Children's Services provides quality care in a variety of settings to 300 children and their families. Its mission, however, has remained one of providing an accepting, nurturing environment for children. Putting "Children First" is not just a pledge taken annually by staff, but a philosophy that is truly internalized by all those who help McQuade's succeed.

The services available to children are vast and varied, ranging from therapeutic residential care to special education. McQuade's facilities and programs include: a boys and girls Residential Treatment Center, the Kaplan School for special education, Diagnostic Assessment Centers, and community programs focused on family counseling and independent living skills. Teaching responsibility and imparting values to children, McQuade's staff works tirelessly to provide social, academic, physical and spiritual growth.

McQuade's numerous success stories are a testament to its importance to the Hudson Valley community. The McQuade staff and volunteers share an unparalleled commitment to improving the lives of children in need. Once again, I commend McQuade Children's Services for providing quality care to children for well over a century and I look forward to celebrating their 140th anniversary this coming Sunday, July 21, 2002.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1854) making appropriations for the legislative branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, the United States government has a history of leasing lands belonging to Indian tribes and individual Indians. The government has been receiving grazing, timber and mineral royalties from the lease of these lands—royalties that the government was supposed to hold in trust for the rightful owners of the lands.

Unfortunately, the United States government has admitted that it mismanaged these trust funds for decades and lost the money of our nation's first peoples. Federal courts have ruled that the government owes Indians an historical accounting of all Indian trust funds going back to the date the funds were deposited.

This bill includes provisions to restrict the ability of the Federal government to provide an accounting of Indian trust funds. The bill even presumes that all trust fund records prior to 1985 were correct. These provisions defy court decisions and have no place in an appropriations bill.