

TRIBUTE TO THE SALFORD HILLS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2003

Mr. HOFFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Salford Hills Elementary School of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary on May 20, 2003.

Since it was created out of five one-room schoolhouses in 1953, Salford Hills Elementary School has been constantly growing. Its teachers and staff have done a remarkable job of molding students into outstanding citizens in the community. In 1993, the school was named as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the United States Department of Education, the highest honor that a school can receive.

Salford Hills Elementary School provides an excellent educational environment in which students are encouraged to achieve and develop responsibility for their own educations through hard work and reflection. Salford Hills Elementary prides itself on ensuring that all students receive the positive support and attention that they need to learn and achieve.

I commend Salford Hills Elementary School on its 50 years of service to its students and to the greater Montgomery County community.

JOBS AND GROWTH
RECONCILIATION TAX ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, for the past 2½ years the Bush administration, with help from a Republican majority in Congress, has pursued a policy of shifting this country's tax burden from corporate giants and their super-wealthy friends onto average Americans. Each tax cut proposed had a minimum of relief for families that masked huge breaks for the favored few.

The results of earlier such cuts are in: 2,200,000 jobs lost and a downward spiraling economy. This administration has had the worst private-sector job growth performance of the 14 administrations since World War II. Besides the current occupant, no White House except that of the second Eisenhower term lost jobs.

Now as concern for the economy rises, the President has again proposed huge cuts for a narrow few, with small cuts for families sprinkled in for "cover." Given the past failure of this approach, and the seemingly endless bleeding of jobs from our economy, the Bush tax cut plan has been re-titled the "Jobs and Economic Growth" Plan. Let's pray it doesn't repeat the damage done by the last initiative.

By mentioning the word jobs with every breath and having the media breathlessly repeat such pronouncements, the President believes people will think the problem is being addressed. He claims his plan will create 1.4 million jobs. Unfortunately for him, and us, Alan Greenspan of the Fed disagrees, as

does the former Presidential Economic Advisory Council member and now Director of the Congressional Budget Office. Neither would or could tout this *de ja vu*, his father called it *vo doo*, economic policy.

There is a better way to respond to the obvious needs of America's families; a previously tried and successful path that would address the painful situations too many are now experiencing. The President and Congress can provide help, and do so without raising taxes.

We must, however, forego those tax cuts that the President is trying to direct almost exclusively to the already extremely well-off, i.e., the reduction of taxes on Corporate dividends. It's not too much to ask. At every other juncture when this nation has met simultaneous foreign and domestic challenges, we have asked for, and received, shared sacrifices. This circumstance calls for the same response.

With common sense, fairness and decency as our guide, we can implement a plan far less costly than the President's that actually will create over a million jobs this year alone, and grow the economy. Taking this course will not saddle our children with hundreds of billion or trillions of dollars in debt, as would the President's plan.

We should forego the President's special tax favors, and instead:

Provide a decent extension of unemployment insurance benefits for those still out of work and those expected to lose their jobs in the coming months.

Provide states with funds to avoid their cuts in local aid that are resulting in teacher, fire and police lay offs and losses of other critical services. Also, by providing assistance with a larger federal share of Medicaid to stop plans to end coverage for thousands.

Fulfill the federal government's promises to states and local governments to fund homeland security, road and bridge repair and construction, disability education and 'No Child Left Behind' mandates, and with one-time assistance to help those hurt most by unemployment and a stagnant economy.

Focus any tax relief on families that work—not just those benefiting from "coupon clipping" and toward small business incentives for new investments and jobs actually created in 2003.

Finally, as the World Trade Organization forces the United States to end its tax subsidies to Corporations that manufacture overseas, we should defeat the Republican effort to repackage that same idea and stop policies that move jobs off-shore.

Stopping the economic slide and easing workers' and small business' pain in this economy is entirely possible if we do the sensible, fair things.

It is ironic that those looking to give money primarily to the very well-off expect to spend billions building Iraqi schools and roads, providing health care for Iraqi citizens, and rebuilding that country, but somehow lack the will and common sense to build America and help its struggling families. We are morally obligated to assist in Iraq, where so much devastation was caused. Still, I believe we are morally bound—and guided by fair play and common sense—to do the right thing for our citizens and economy as well.

It is my hope that the Senate will refocus attention on the needs of the American people and craft a Jobs and Growth Act worthy of its name.

MINOR USE AND MINOR SPECIES
ANIMAL HEALTH ACT OF 2003
(MUMS)

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2003

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to bring attention to a problem faced by livestock and food animal producers, animal and pet owners, zoo and wildlife biologists, and the animals themselves, which unfortunately goes largely unnoticed except by those who are directly affected.

There currently exists a severe shortage of approved animal drugs for use in minor animal species. These minor animal species include animals other than cattle, horses, chickens, turkeys, dogs, and cats. In addition, there also exists a similar shortage of drugs and medicines for major animal species for diseases that occur infrequently or which occur in limited geographic areas. Due to the lack of availability of these minor use drugs, millions of animals go either untreated or treatment is delayed. This results not only in unnecessary animal physical and human emotional suffering but may threaten human health as well.

Without access to these necessary pharmaceutical tools, farmers and ranchers also suffer. A diseased animal left untreated can quickly spread disease throughout an entire herd of its fellow species. The result is economic hardship to farmers and ranchers who are already struggling to make their operations' cash flow. For example, the sheep industry lost nearly \$42 million worth of livestock alone in 2002. The industry estimates that if it had access to effective drugs to treat disease, production costs for their animals would be cut by 15 percent. In addition, feedlot deaths would be cut by up to 2 percent. Perhaps that seems like an insignificant loss, but it translates into \$8 million in revenue to the industry.

The catfish industry is by far the largest livestock industry in my home state of Mississippi. It provides jobs for ten of thousands of Mississippians and is a key component of my state's economy. The industry attributes \$60 million per year in losses to diseases for which drugs are not available. Of the entire food and ornamental fish industry, only 6 drugs are approved and available for treating the hundreds of aquaculture diseases which affect it. The losses associated with the lack of necessary pharmaceutical tools can be crippling to anyone involved in the industry.

Because of limited market opportunities, low returns, and enormous capital investment required, it is generally not economically feasible for drug manufacturers to pursue research and development, and then approval, for drugs used in treating minor species and infrequent conditions and diseases. Mr. Speaker, with a number of our colleagues from both sides of the aisle who recognize the urgency of this matter, Mr. JOHN and I are today introducing legislation to help mitigate the shortage of minor species drugs. The Minor Use and Minor Species Animal Health Act of 2003 will provide manufacturers the opportunity to develop and approve minor use drugs which are vitally needed by a plethora of animal industries.

Our legislation incorporates the major proposals of the Food and Drug Administration's

(FDA) Center for Veterinary Medicine to increase the availability of drugs for minor animal species and rare diseases in all animals. The Animal Drug Availability Act of 1996 required the FDA to provide Congress with a report, describing administrative and legislative proposals to improve and enhance the animal drug approval process for minor uses and minor species of new animal drugs. This report by FDA, delivered to Congress in December 1998, laid out nine proposals. Eight of FDA's proposals required statutory changes. The bill my colleagues and I are introducing today reflects the changes called for in FDA's minor species/minor use report while maintaining and ensuring public health.

The MUMS legislation outlines two new ways to lawfully market new animal drugs:

(1) It establishes a conditional approval mechanism for new animal drugs for minor uses and minor species. Conditionally approved new animal drugs must meet the same safety requirements as new animal drugs approved under Section 512 in that a 'reasonable expectation of effectiveness' as opposed to 'substantial evidence of effectiveness' must be demonstrated. If conditional approval is granted by the Food and Drug Administration, the approval will be effective for one year and renewable for a maximum of four additional years. This process will allow drug sponsors to recapture some development costs through marketing the product prior to full, unconditional approval.

(2) MUMS establishes an index of legally marketed unapproved new animal drugs for non-food minor species. The index will provide a mechanism to lawfully market minor species drugs for which there is unlikely to be sufficient financial incentives to seek full or conditional approvals. If the FDA determines that a new drug is eligible for an index listing, it will be included in the index if benefits outweigh perceived risks. Additionally, the harm caused by the absence of an approved or conditionally approved drug will be taken into account when making this determination. An independent expert panel will be largely responsible for determining whether or not the drug may be allowed to be included in the index.

None of the provisions outlined in the Minor Use and Minor Species Animal Health Act will weaken the FDA's responsibilities of ensuring the safety of animal drugs to the public. The FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine currently evaluates new animal drug products prior to approval and use. The rigorous review and testing process provides consumers with the confidence that animal drugs are safe for animals and consumers of products derived from those animals. Currently, FDA guidelines include requirements to prevent harmful residues and evaluations to examine the potential for the selection of resistant pathogens. Any animal drug considered for approval under this legislation will be subject to the same requirements.

The Minor Use and Minor Species Animal Health Act is supported by the Food and Drug Administration, the American Farm Bureau Federation, the Animal Health Institute, the American Veterinary Medical Association, and virtually every organization representing all genres of minor animal species. Mr. Speaker, this is vital legislation which is needed now. This Act will alleviate much animal suffering, it will promote the health of minor animal spe-

cies while protecting and promoting human health, it will benefit pets and promote the emotional security of their owners, benefit various endangered species of aquatic animals, and will reduce economic risks and hardships to farmers and ranchers.

This is common-sense legislation which will benefit millions of Americans from farmers and ranchers to pet owners and wildlife biologists, in addition to the animals themselves. I call on all my colleagues in the House to support the Minor Use and Minor Species Animal Health Act of 2003.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID J. ROBERTS
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS MARQUETTE COUNTY CLERK

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2003

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work and achievements of David Roberts, who since 1986 has served the people of Marquette County, Michigan, as Marquette County Clerk.

Dave Roberts is taking a well-earned retirement from public service after more than seventeen years of conscientious and devoted work for the people of Marquette County.

Those of us in government office know that public officials at the local level are on the true front lines of government service. Even if the County Clerk is not the person who created a law, engineered a road fix or streamlined a County budget, he or she is the face that most members of the public know and turn to when they have questions, complaints or, less often, compliments. The County Clerk is also the person that other elected officials look to for answers about County government issues.

Dave Roberts, as County Clerk has the lives of County residents in his keeping, in the form of public records such as birth, marriage, death and real estate filings. He acts as clerk of the County Board and, in Marquette County, as clerk of the circuit court.

Dave held this hot seat in Marquette County government with great dedication, composure and his ever present sense of humor. He filled his Clerk's responsibilities in a highly capable fashion, always keeping at the forefront his concern for others. Dave's way of dealing with people, whether they came to the Clerk's office on the warpath, or with a simple question, will be a great example and legacy for his successor. He leaves big shoes to fill.

Dave Roberts is a native of the Marquette area and graduated in 1965 from Negaunee high school. He earned his bachelor's degree from Northern Michigan University in 1974 and then worked toward a master's degree in creative writing. He also worked for Cleveland-Cliffs, Inc. for twelve years before being appointed County Clerk in 1985 following the retirement of previous clerk Henry A. Skewis.

Dave served as president of the Michigan Association of County Clerks in 1995 and 1996. He was active in that association during his years as Marquette County Clerk, and in 2000 received the well-deserved honor of being named Michigan County Clerk of the Year by his fellow association members.

Congratulations also are due to Dave's wife Patricia and their four children, Sheri, Debi,

Andrew and Jessica, who have supported Dave in his work and at home over the years. Pat herself is a big part of the community and has been a corrections officer at the Marquette Branch Prison for 18 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dave Roberts on his accomplishments and service as Marquette County Clerk, and to join me in wishing him great success in his writing, his travel, and even in improving his golf game—three things that he said he intends to spend some time on in retirement.

I hope that Marquette County has not seen the last of his contributions to civic life as well.

TO HONOR MAYOR GEORGE VAN DUSEN ON HIS 60TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2003

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend and colleague, the Mayor of Skokie, Illinois, George Van Dusen on his 60th birthday. Mayor Van Dusen has faithfully served the people of the Village of Skokie since 1984, first in the role of Trustee, and since 1999 as Mayor. Over the last several years, I have had the distinct pleasure of working with him on behalf of the people of Skokie.

During his tenure as Mayor, Skokie has been recognized for excellence in education and public services. Skokie's Niles North High School was recently cited as one of the country's best high schools by both Newsweek and U.S. News & World Report magazine. In 2002, the Village was awarded the Governor's Hometown Award for municipal excellence and received an "All American City" finalist distinction from the National Civic League. Skokie is the first town in the United States to have nationally accredited Fire, Police and Public Works Departments.

I am proud of Mayor Van Dusen and the Village of Skokie for all of their impressive accomplishments. I know there will be more achievements and milestones for the Village of Skokie to celebrate in the time to come. I look forward to joining Mayor Van Dusen to mark those meaningful dates as well.

HELP SHED LIGHT ON INTERNATIONAL WIRE TRANSFERS

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2003

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "International Money Transfer Disclosure Act of 2003," a bill to require disclosures involving international money wire transactions.

Immigrants throughout the United States work hard, save money and send billions of dollars to relatives living in foreign countries. The money sent home helps finance basic needs ranging from food and medicine to education and new homes. Unfortunately, customers wiring money abroad are often losing millions of dollars to undisclosed "currency