

Manufacturing jobs seem to be heading out of Michigan to Mexico in droves. Recently, a refrigerator manufacturer, Electrolux, announced it is closing its doors and relocating to Mexico, costing us another 2,700 Michigan jobs. And just yesterday, Johnson Controls Inc., an automotive supplier in Holland, Michigan, announced its plans to move almost 900 jobs to Mexico.

We all know the problem, but what about a solution? We need to fix our international tax law that gives incentives to companies for shipping jobs overseas through tax credits and tax deferrals.

We need to fully fund programs like the Manufacturing Extension Partnership that has successfully helped small manufacturers to modernize and stay competitive in the global marketplace. This program is essential to rural economic growth. But the Administration has proposed cutting it by 60 percent. That makes no sense when this country is hemorrhaging jobs.

For example, I know that MEP has directly helped a number of companies in my district including Jacquart Fabric Products with 100 workers in Ironwood.

Last year, my Democratic colleagues from Michigan and I proposed the H.E.L.P. initiative to assist in turning the economy around and getting people back to work. H.E.L.P. focuses on employee healthcare and pension issues, as well as leveling the international playing field, and supporting partnerships with states, businesses, and employees which promote research and development.

In many of the communities in my district, hospitals and schools are among the largest employers. We need to keep hospitals open, and attract health care providers. We need to provide our rural schools with much needed tools such as broadband access and Internet classes. We need to attract small businesses. And we need to expand services for our seniors and veterans.

Unfortunately, I don't believe that the current budget proposals recently passed by the House and Senate are going to help get the 8 million jobless in our country back to work. We have a lot of work to do to jump start the economy.

I am glad the voices of our rural communities are being heard today. I look forward to hearing your recommendations on how to best address the problem of job loss in rural America.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF NICHOLAS P. DINAPOLI, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nicholas DiNapoli on the occasion of his 80th birthday. The son of Thomas "Pete"

DiNapoli and Jeanette DiNapoli, Nick DiNapoli was born on April 6th, 1924, in Roslyn Heights, New York. He and his sister Tina attended Roslyn Public Schools and Nick was graduated from Roslyn High School in 1942.

From 1942 until 1953, Nick was an active member of the Roslyn Highlands Volunteer Fire Department and from 1943 until 1946 he served his country in the United States Army Air Corps, 4th Air Force, where he attained the rank of Corporal.

On September 5th, 1948, after returning from his service in World War II, Nick married Adeline Abbondandolo, also of Roslyn Heights, at St. Mary's Church where as a child he had been an altar boy. The newly married couple lived on Carlyle Place in Roslyn Heights until, on an especially proud day in 1953, they moved into the house they had built at 52 Coventry Avenue in Albertson.

It was around this time that Nicholas DiNapoli began working for the New York Telephone Company, where he rose from splicer's helper to splicer in 1948 and was eventually promoted to foreman in 1969. He served as Maintenance Supervisor, Auditor and Acting Manager before retiring in 1985 with 40 years of proud service.

Nick's children, Thomas Peter, born in 1954, and James, born in 1955, have been a constant source of pride. When his sons were growing up, Nick participated in many of their activities and became involved as an adult leader in the Albertson Little League and Troop 481 of the Boy Scouts of America. He attended ball games as well as camping and fishing trips with his sons and their friends. Tom is now the Assemblyman from the 16th Assembly District and James is the Deputy Chief of the Department of Public Safety for the New York State Courts. Some of Nick's fondest memories are of Tom's first election to the State Legislature in 1986 and of James' wedding to his wife Rachel in 1993.

Today Nick enjoys golfing, fishing and travel and he walks regularly to stay healthy. The joys of his life, however are his two grandchildren, Victoria Adeline, 9, and Nicholas James, 6. Though his beloved wife Adeline, passed away in 1991, Nick is lucky to have found a close companion in Kay Menschling. He is a member of St. Aiden's Roman Catholic Church in Williston Park and a member of American Legion Post 144. He has been a Legionnaire for over 50 years. Nick is also an Exempt and Honorary Member of the Roslyn Highlands Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Nicholas DiNapoli all the best on the occasion of his 80th birthday and in recognition of his many years of service to the community, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me celebrating his outstanding life.

CHILDREN'S EXPRESS LANE TO HEALTH COVERAGE ACT

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to invite my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 4031, the Children's Express Lane to Health Coverage Act. This bipartisan measure, authored by Senator RICHARD LUGAR and I, will help States' efforts to enroll income-eligible children in the States Children's Health Insurance Program, commonly referred to as SCHIP.

As you know, despite gains in recent years, nearly 9 million children in the United States remain uninsured. Of those, nearly 7 million children are eligible for public health insurance coverage.

H.R. 4031, the Children's Express Lane to Health Coverage Act, builds on our successful legislation in the 106th Congress that provides States with the option of using the National School Lunch Program and the Women's Infants Children Program (WIC) to identify uninsured children eligible for benefits under the SCHIP and Medicaid programs.

Many States have used this cost-saving option successfully in promoting the well-being of income-eligible children.

While existing law allows children to be income-eligible for WIC based on their enrollment in the Medicaid program, the law does not give States adequate flexibility to make an income determination of eligibility for the Medicaid or SCHIP program based on an uninsured child's enrollment in WIC or another public program.

The Children's Express Lane to Health Coverage Act will give States the option of establishing that their Medicaid or SCHIP financial eligibility rules are satisfied when a family presents proof that their child is already enrolled in another program with comparable income guidelines.

Mr. Chairman, the public is well served when Federal means-tested public programs are able to improve administrative efficiency and coordination, as well as reduce unnecessary bureaucracy.

Moreover, uninsured children are well served when their enrollment in a nutrition-based or other means-tested program serves as a gateway to health coverage.

My colleagues, money alone will not solve America's health care challenges. We must maximize our existing resources by being more creative and aggressive in our outreach efforts and making it easier for families to tap into these benefits. We all know that children who do not get routine, preventative health care will not reach their full potential. We simply cannot afford to put our children at that disadvantage.

I urge you to become a cosponsor of this commonsense, bipartisan legislation.