

collection of funds, the government has only allocated \$5 million to educate the public about the transition, which is less than 0.03 percent of the \$19 billion in revenue from the auction. The results have been as obvious as they have been preventable. A December 2007 survey by Consumer Reports found that 36 percent of respondents were completely unaware of the transition. How can we tell our constituents that we did everything we could when we spent next to nothing on educating them about the transition?

Instead the Bush Administration has privatized the outreach aspect of the transition, relying on private industry to inform viewers. The results have led to a jumble of different messages from different industries, all looking to benefit from the transition. There are examples of public service announcements supposedly made to inform consumers about the transition instead being thinly veiled advertisements for their own products.

The problems do not stop there. With only a 90 day window to buy converter boxes before their coupons expire, many rural customers are finding that many stores either do not carry any converter boxes or they are not carrying a pass through capable converter box that the customer will need in order to get all of their channels. These customers should not be penalized because of where they live.

Madam Speaker, this bill is an important step but it is only a step. We must do more to ensure that when Americans wake up on February 17th 2009, they are not left in the dark.

NATIONAL HIGHWAY BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION AND INSPECTION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3999) to amend title 23, United States Code, to improve the safety of Federal-aid highway bridges, to strengthen bridge inspection standards and processes, to increase investment in the reconstruction of structurally deficient bridges on the National Highway System, and for other purposes:

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 3999, the National Highway Bridge Reconstruction and Inspection Act.

In February, I joined experts from the Delaware Department of Transportation for a tour of some of the most heavily traveled roads and bridges in Delaware. I have often heard Delaware referred to as "The East Coast's Main Street"—and it is true. In fact, during our tour, we visited construction sites where men and women were working diligently on important highway, infrastructure, and bridge projects that are utilized by an estimated 230,000 vehicles every day.

Over the next 50 years, the United States is projected to add 150 million new residents, representing a 50 percent increase over our present population. This population surge will put a greater strain on our transportation system—particularly at key chokepoints in dense areas like the northeast corridor. And last Au-

gust, the tragic Minneapolis bridge collapse, which killed 13 and injured 145, underscored the serious safety implications of this dramatic increase in highway users when combined with severely aging infrastructure.

Clearly, this situation will continue to deteriorate unless we act soon. For this reason, I support passage of H.R. 3999 and I believe it is vital that we identify and prioritize funding to repair structurally deficient bridges to ensure the safety of all travelers. I also feel strongly that the Federal Government must allow States the appropriate flexibility to allocate these resources as efficiently as possible. I am hopeful that we will make progress in improving these provisions and reducing burdensome spending requirements when this legislation goes to conference with the U.S. Senate.

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 3221, the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Act of 2008. I salute Chairman FRANK, Chairman RANGEL and Senator DODD for their leadership and their efforts to pass this crucial legislation at a time when American families desperately need our help.

Families across the country are hurting. They're being squeezed by the price of oil, rising food costs, higher education costs and now the struggle to hold onto their homes. For most Americans their main asset is their home. That's why it is critical to end the foreclosure crisis which is fundamental to the recovery of our economy.

My home State of California has been affected as badly as any State in our country. Foreclosures in the Bay area are at a 20-year high, and in Santa Clara County foreclosures are up 512 percent from a year ago. These troubling figures must change and that's why I support this legislation.

H.R. 3221 aims to bolster American homeownership by helping families across the country facing foreclosure keep their homes. It also takes steps to ensure that homeowners do not face foreclosures in the future. Affordable mortgage loan opportunities for families and seniors are expanded through the modernization of the Federal Housing Administration, with FHA loan limits raised to create affordable mortgage loans for moderately priced homes. A permanent Affordable Housing Trust Fund is also created in this bill which will fund building projects throughout the Nation to increase the stock of affordable housing in both urban and rural areas. Tax credits for first time homebuyers and low income homeowners are also included in this legislation and all of these items are accomplished without creating any new burdens to the taxpayer.

The bill provides a new and substantially strengthened regulator to oversee Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Federal Home Loan Banks. It gives stand-in authority to the Treasury Department in case the Government Sponsored Entities, such as Fannie Mae, re-

quire temporary federal financial intervention without placing any new risk on the American taxpayer. This is not a bailout. Taxpayers will be the first in line to be paid back before any shareholders are. Restrictions have been placed on the stock gains for shareholders and on compensation for the executives of the Government Sponsored Entities until taxpayers are fully reimbursed.

I'm proud to support this bill and I urge a "yes" vote on the underlying legislation.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE "PREVENTION OF EQUINE CRUELTY ACT OF 2008"

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the "Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act of 2008," along with Representatives BURTON, RAHALL, WALTER JONES, MORAN, CHABOT, GRIJALVA, BOBBY SCOTT, CHRISTOPHER SMITH, SCHAKOWSKY, WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, NADLER and SUTTON. This bill criminalizes the possession, sale and transport of horses in interstate or foreign commerce for the purpose of slaughter for human consumption. I thank the bipartisan coalition of Representatives who have joined me in introducing this important legislation.

Horses have played an important role in the development of our country. They still fill the role of workhorses, racehorses, rodeo horses and pets. Unlike cattle and other livestock, horses in this country have never been raised as a human food source.

The United States does not have a single plant where horses are slaughtered for human consumption, but such slaughterhouses operate across our borders in Mexico and Canada. Horses are bought at auctions within the United States and then transported to these foreign slaughterhouses for hours in packed and hot trailers without water, food or rest. The slaughter process that awaits these horses in many of the foreign plants is cruel and barbaric, and exists beyond the reach of United States law.

The only way to prevent horses from suffering this fate is to stop the sale and transport of horses to these foreign slaughterhouses before they leave the United States. This bill will do that.

Again, I thank the bipartisan coalition of Representatives who have joined me in introducing this important legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and to thank the men and women of the Bureau for their dedicated service to the American people. Over the last century, the FBI has been