

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DRUNK DRIVING PREVENTION ACT

HON. BILL K. BREWSTER

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 30, 1995

Mr. BREWSTER. Mr. Speaker, the last decade has witnessed great strides in the battle against drunk driving. The facts speak for themselves: Alcohol-related traffic fatalities in 1993 were 21 percent below the 1990 level. The original drunk driving target for the year 2000 set by the Federal Government was met and exceeded by 19 percent in 1992, and the number of teenage drunk drivers involved in fatal accidents in down 62 percent since 1982.

The reduction in drunk driving is due to an effective comprehensive approach combining sound laws, strict enforcement, even-handed adjudication, education, and treatment. To continue to address the problem and prevent the abuse of beverage alcohol products we must continue a two-pronged effort that ensures strict and consistent law enforcement for those who break the law and education concerning the responsible consumption of beverage alcohol products.

While recognizing that there is certainly still much to be done, the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States [DISCUS], a leader in the beverage alcohol industry and a proponent of responsible initiatives to combat drunk driving, has developed a model State law, the Drunk Driving Prevention Act. The strong provisions contained in this model State legislation will deter and penalize those who drive while under the influence. DISCUS is to be commended for its exemplary effort to build a working partnership at the Federal, State and local community levels in an effort to enact passage of this measure. The Drunk Driving Prevention Act will help ensure that progress continues in the fight to stop alcohol-related fatalities on our Nation's highways.

The following is a synopsis of the act's provisions:

Alcohol and drug education for drivers: Every first-time applicant for a driver's license would complete a mandatory course of instruction that provides alcohol and drug education concerning the effects of consumption of beverage alcohol products; the use of illegal, prescription and nonprescription drugs; the ability to operate a motor vehicle, and the financial and legal consequences of driving while under the influence. The driver's license test would also include written questions on these issues.

Open container: Drivers and passengers would be prohibited from carrying or possessing any beverage alcohol product in the passenger area, except in the original container with the seal unbroken. Partially filled containers must be stored in the trunk or lacking a trunk, in the compartment area least accessible to the driver. This provision does not apply to passengers in chartered buses, taxis,

limousines for hire, or motor vehicles with a contract driver.

Administrative license revocation: Administrative license revocation for drivers who refuse to submit to the State's implied consent chemical testing, or who are arrested for the violation of the State's driving while under the influence law prior to court appearance. This provides for the arresting officer to physically take possession of the offender's driver's license and issue a temporary license with a notice of revocation. The driver would then have 15 days to request a hearing. If no hearing was requested, immediate revocation would take effect. Upon the expiration of the revocation period, the party would be eligible to apply for another driver's license upon payment of all applicable fees. It would be unlawful for the individual to drive while his/her license is revoked and for any person to knowingly permit his/her motor vehicle to be driven by an individual with a revoked license.

Tough laws against underage drinking: Administrative license revocation penalties for minors who drive with any measurable and detectable alcohol concentration, or who illegally purchase or possess beverage alcohol products. A minor may not enter premises licensed for the retail sale of beverage alcohol for the purpose of purchasing, being served, or having delivered to him/her any beverage alcohol product. A minor may not consume beverage alcohol on premises licensed for the retail sale of beverage alcohol, may not purchase, attempt to purchase, or have another purchase for him/her any beverage alcohol product, and may not misrepresent or misstate his/her age, or the age of any person, for the purpose of purchasing or having served or delivered to him/her any beverage alcohol product.

Mandatory alcohol and drug testing of drivers involved in fatal motor vehicle accidents: Chemical testing is required of every driver involved in an accident resulting in loss of human life where there exists probable cause to believe that the driver is guilty of violating the State's driving while under the influence law. It would also require the establishment and maintenance of a database of the number of fatal motor vehicle accidents that are alcohol-related with the percentage of alcohol concentration involved, and/or drug-related involvement and list the class of drugs so found and their amount.

Mr. Speaker, there are no easy answers or quick remedies to drunk driving. What is evident, however, is this country would greatly benefit from a cooperative partnership between the U.S. Government, the beverage alcohol industry, and the American public. Let us set aside any differences in our quest for a common goal. We must recognize personal responsibility as the first step toward the ultimate end to drunk driving. Drunk driving is everyone's problem, the solution must be as well.

MURLI DEORA, INDIAN M.P.,
ELECTED PRESIDENT OF PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 30, 1995

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week Parliamentarians for Global Action unanimously elected Murl Deora as its international president. Parliamentarians for Global Action is an association of more than 1,000 legislators from more than 80 countries who are committed to solving global problems in a spirit of cooperation that transcends national and ideological boundaries.

Murli Deora's election to this position marks the first time a parliamentarian from Asia has been voted to head this prestigious organization. It also is a recognition of Murli's many years as a staunch advocate of a strong relationship between the United States and India. Murli has been a key leader in promoting United States-Indo ties while he served as a Member of Parliament representing the financial center of Bombay. Murli has worked diligently both in his capacity as a Member of Parliament and as the chairman of the Congress Party in Bombay to make certain that the economic bonds between the United States and India grow stronger every year. He has offered invaluable advice and assistance to me and many other Members of Congress who share his vision of a vibrant Indo-United States relationship.

Mr. Speaker, India is the world's largest democracy. The United States is not only India's friend and ally, but also its largest trading partner. Therefore, I believe it is entirely appropriate for my colleagues and I to join together in congratulating Murli on this high honor which he so richly deserves. As we move toward the beginning of the 21st century I am certain that the Congress can continue to look to Murli for guidance and leadership as the relationship between the United States and India grows even stronger. He will be a dynamic president of Parliamentarians for Global Action at a time when his creative leadership and expansive vision will be utilized to the fullest. I know every member of this body joins me in wishing him continued success as he undertakes this important new responsibility.

TRIBUTE TO ED MADIGAN

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES W. STENHOLM

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 1995

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the

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