

The budget cutting efforts we are experiencing are aimed at reducing the deficit.

The deficit is being driven by rising health care costs.

When we put money into WIC, we save money in Medicaid.

The equation is simple.

Those who have a genuine interest in deficit reduction can help achieve that goal by investing in WIC.

The WIC Program embraces the unborn; provides nurturing and care; is devoted to maternal health; helps ensure life at birth; and promotes the growth and development of millions of our children.

And, it saves us money.

WIC works. Let us keep it working.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE CHECK CASHING ACT

(Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana asked and was given permission to extend his remarks at this point in the RECORD.)

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise with great concern for our consumers. Today, I rise to introduce the Check Cashing Act of 1995.

The check cashing industry is growing by leaps and bounds, charging excessive rates in some instances, with no one to watch out for consumers. Mr. Speaker, this industry has more than doubled to a multibillion-dollar business in the past 8 years. In 1993 it was estimated that more than 150 million checks were cashed by check cashing outlets with a face value totaling more than \$45 billion.

My bill only asks that States develop a system to license or register check cashing outlets and that financial institutions cash Government checks. Today, too many of our constituents are paying up to 20 percent of the face value of a check to get their money. This is absurd and uncalled for.

Mr. Speaker, we must work to give our communities every opportunity to improve themselves. With many banks denying consumers check cashing capability and check cashing outlets preying on them our Nation's financial services opportunities are bleak for many low-to moderate-income Americans.

Mr. Speaker, today a head of a household that earns a \$300 pay check is subject to spending up to 20 percent, \$60 of that check, just to gain access to the hard earned dollars. This \$60 is taking away from food for children, rent for a roof over a families head, and transportation to and from work. This is unacceptable and must be stopped.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation and my efforts to provide equal opportunities to all communities.

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FOR 1992 AND 1993—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURTON of Indiana) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States, which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Commerce.

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with the requirements of section 657 of the Department of Energy Organization Act (Public Law 95-91; 42 U.S.C. 7267), I transmit herewith the 13th Annual Report of the Department of Energy, which covers the years 1992 and 1993.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *March 1, 1995.*

#### REPORT ON NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY OF THE UNITED STATES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States, which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on National Security.

*To the Congress of the United States:*

As required by section 603 of the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986, I am transmitting a report on the National Security Strategy of the United States.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *February 28, 1995.*

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 1993—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States, which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with section 308 of Public Law 97-449 (49 U.S.C. 308(a)), I transmit herewith the Twenty-seventh Annual Report of the Department of Transportation, which covers fiscal year 1993.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *March 1, 1995.*

#### REGULATORY REFORM AND RELIEF ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 100 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 926.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 926) to promote regulatory flexibility and enhance public participation in Federal agency rulemaking, and for other purposes, with Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska in the chair.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GEKAS] will be recognized for 30 minutes, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. CONYERS] will be recognized for 30 minutes, the gentlewoman from Kansas [Mrs. MEYERS] will be recognized for 15 minutes, and the gentleman from New York [Mr. LA-FALCE] will be recognized for 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GEKAS].

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, we have good news for our country here today, because we are going to be considering a bill that will go a long way when enacted to bring about job creation and wage enhancement.

Mr. Chairman, for too long, burdensome and complex rules coming out of Washington have strangled small business, have been a drag on free enterprise, have been a drag on job creation, have been a drag on wage creation, have been a drag on the economy. Today what we are about here today is a first step to slay that dragon, to bring about sanity in the rulemaking process of the national bureaucracy, of the Federal bureaucracy.

How do we go about accomplishing that? Well, a bold attempt was made in 1980 during the administration of President Jimmy Carter when there was passed a Regulatory Flexibility Act. That did bring about at least a sense of more involvement by the small business community in the rulemaking process that so adversely had affected it previously.

We are here to say today that even that bold attempt that started in 1980 has not fulfilled the promise that it was expected by the small business community to lift the burden of regulations from their shoulders so that they can venture out into new enterprises and create more jobs. Rather, the reverse took place. There was even more of a vivid flurry of regulations and burdens that came down on their shoulders.

Mr. Chairman, we here today in title I of this particular bill will deal directly with small business. We are targeting small business. We are going to be embracing small business to give them more input into what transpires in the rulemaking process. That in itself would be worth the whole effort of what we do here today, but we go farther. We do something that is so exquisite for the small businessperson, that we have a great, good feeling about it.

We are for the first time providing by law, if this bill is enacted, judicial review. That means that where the previous act, the one I just alluded to from the Jimmy Carter era, prohibited judicial review, we go the other way and overtly provide for judicial review.