

Tax Code is used in all fields of business. Large and small businesses take advantage of this provision.

As a former professor, I have taught many students who have benefited from this provision. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation. Hopefully, we can make this valuable deduction permanent. This is the type of legislation we should all be able to support.

IN HONOR OF ROBINSON SECONDARY SCHOOL'S DECA CHAPTER AND THEIR EFFORTS TO PROMOTE ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION AMONG YOUTHS

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 7, 1997*

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the work and dedication of the members of the Distributive Education Clubs of America [DECA] Chapter at Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax, VA. Along with the Washington Regional Transplant Consortium and the Coalition on Organ and Tissue Donation, the Robinson DECA Chapter has launched an educational campaign aimed at each high school across the Nation in an effort to promote organ and tissue donation among young people.

Promoting their national theme "Youth United, For A Second Chance At Life," the Robinson DECA Chapter was one of three groups organizing a rally of nearly 300 high school students, Members and Congress including myself and Senator BYRON DORGAN, organ and tissue recipients, and donor family members for an organ and tissue donation rally at the U.S. Capitol last month. The turnout and mood of the crowd was inspiring, and their presence represented the first giant step towards creating awareness among America's youth about the importance of becoming organ and tissue donors.

Currently, they are nearly 50,000 people on a national register awaiting organ and tissue transplants. Unfortunately, not every person in need of an organ or tissue is able to receive what they must have to survive; one American dies every three hours because of a shortage of donor organs. More than 50 people can be helped by a single donor but each year, 12,000 to 15,000 people die who are medically suitable to be organ and tissue donors. For these crucial reasons, we must focus our local and national efforts on educating young people and their families about the serious need to decide now—rather than wait until it is too late—on whether or not they will commit to becoming an organ and tissue donor. While there are many private sector organizations which promote public awareness of the need for organ donation, I am truly proud of the students of Robinson's DECA Chapter and their unprecedented effort to ignite the compassion and understanding of their peers.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in applauding the members of Robinson's DECA Chapter for their enthusiasm and diligent work in helping each other understand the necessity of deciding to become an organ donor and for aiding their fellow Americans who desperately need all of us to become organ and tissue donors.

THE POSTAL PRIVACY ACT OF 1997

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 7, 1997*

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I have today introduced the Postal Privacy Act of 1997. This legislation is intended to protect the privacy of each U.S. resident who files a change of address notice with the U.S. Postal Service. The bill is identical to a bill that I introduced in the 104th Congress.

Few people are aware that when they tell the Postal Service about an address change, the Postal Service makes the information public through a program called National Change of Address [NCOA]. NCOA has about two dozen licensees—including many large direct mail companies—who receive all new addresses and sell address correction services to mailers. If you give your new address to the Postal Service, it will be distributed to thousands of mailers. People always ask "How did they get my new address?" The answer may be that it came from the Postal Service. People who want their mail forwarded—and who doesn't—have no choice. File a change of address notice and your name and new address will be sold.

NCOA is a reasonable program because it saves the Postal Service and the mailing community money by making everyone more efficient. There are consumer benefits as well. I support NCOA, but it needs one small change. Individuals who file a change of address notice should be given a choice. They should have the option of having their mail forwarded without having their name and address sold to the world of direct mail advertisers and others who traffic in personal information. This is what the Postal Privacy Act will do. It will give people a choice. It will not end the NCOA program.

Who might be concerned about keeping a new address private? Anyone who has fled an abusive spouse does not want the Postal Service giving out a new address. An individual who files a change of address notice on behalf of a deceased relative will not want the new address sold. Imagine sorting through the affairs of a deceased family member only to receive a mound of unwanted mail offering new products and services to that family member from marketers who assume that the person has moved to a new home. Jurors in highly visible trials, public figures, and others may have a special need for privacy as might elderly people who may be more vulnerable to unwanted solicitations.

The bottom line is that everyone should have a choice about how his or her name and address is made available to others. You don't have to have a justification. It should be your decision. The Postal Service should not make this decision for you.

A few years ago, the Postal Service announced that it would provide some protection to individuals who have court orders protecting them against spousal abuse. This was a small step in the right direction, but it was not enough. Only those who have gone to the trouble and expense of obtaining a court order receive protection. Everyone should be entitled to the same option, but without the need for a court order. The Postal Service has demonstrated that it is possible to provide protec-

tion to people selectively. I want to extend the option to everyone.

There is nothing new about giving consumers a choice. The Direct Marketing Association, a trade association for the direct marketing industry, has been a strong supporter of opt-out procedures which give individuals a choice about what type of mail they receive. The association supports its own mail preference service that offers consumers an option. There is no reason why the Postal Service cannot do the same thing.

The Postal Privacy Act of 1997 is based on work done by the Government Operations Committee. Those who seek more information about NCOA should read Give Consumers A Choice: Privacy Implications of U.S. Postal Service National Change of Address Program (House Report 102-1067).

There have been several interesting developments since that 1992 congressional report. In 1996, the General Accounting Office investigated the NCOA program and found that oversight of NCOA licensees by the Postal Service was inadequate to prevent, detect, and correct potential breaches of licensing agreements. The report was prepared at my request, and it showed that the Postal Service's NCOA protections were poorly administered. GAO found weaknesses in the seeding program, in the audit of NCOA licensees, and in the review of licensee advertising. GAO also found that the use by licensees of NCOA data for the purpose of creating a new movers list violates the Privacy Act of 1974. This adds to findings in the Government Operations Committee report that the NCOA program is operating in violation of several laws. The GAO report is titled "U.S. Postal Service: Improved Oversight Needed to Protect Privacy of Address Changes" (GAO/GGD-96-119) (August 1996).

Another new development recently came to light courtesy of the Internet. An organization called Private Citizen recently suggested in an Internet privacy discussion group that there is already a way to stop the Postal Service from selling a new address. The change of address form allows consumers to indicate if a new address is permanent or temporary. If you check the permanent box, your first class mail is forwarded for a year and your new address is sold through the NCOA program. If you check the temporary box and indicate that the move is for 364 days, you will receive the same mail forwarding service, but the Postal Service does not sell addresses when a move is temporary. I verified with the Postal Service that this is correct.

There is even a bonus of sorts for those who check the temporary box. The Postal Service will not honor mailer ancillary service endorsements requesting a new address through an address correction requested endorsement. This is another way that the Postal Service releases new addresses of its customers to anyone who asks. Those who check the temporary box can evade this form of disclosure as well.

The Postal Service's treatment of the addresses of temporary movers suggests two interesting consequences. First, the existing system demonstrates that the Postal Service already can distinguish between addresses that are to be sold and those that are not to be sold. Arguments that giving consumers a choice will be difficult or expensive are false.