

get jobs easily, and maybe once a week somebody in there helping them out, somebody like Becky Trudeau or something, where they won't have to go five different places to look for a job, they can just go there and have one place to look.

We feel that it should have a computer room, with Internet access. A lot of people work right after school, and they have to be there around 3:30, including us. And we don't have the time to go after school and work on the computers to get an essay done, so we feel that it should have computers where it will be available for us after work.

We think there should be recreational rooms, including a gym, a game room. Also special events, such as, once a month, a dance or some sort like that. We also think there should be a lounge so that we can relax and watch TV.

Congressman SANDERS: Good. Linh, do you want to begin?

LINH NGUYEN: My name is Linh Nguyen. We would like to ask for continued support in finding out how we should embark on this teen center and after school program. We strongly believe this would make the Old North End a better place for teens, and not only the teens, but the community as a whole. We would, as well, be a model to replicate in the rest of Vermont.

Congressman SANDERS: Thank you very much. Thank you all very much.

REMEMBERING THE FLOOD VICTIMS OF FORT COLLINS AND LARIMER COUNTY, COLORADO

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recall Monday, July 28, 1997 and to describe to the House, one year later, a natural disaster which occurred in Colorado on this date, when an intense storm produced record amounts of rainfall in Fort Collins and unincorporated Larimer County, Colorado. The storm devastated area residents as they watched their homes, schools, and churches roll into the immense current which swept through their city. However, the loss far more costly was that of human life. JoAnn Roth, Rose Marie Rodriguez, Sarah Payne, Estafana Guarneros, and Cindy Schulz died as they attempted to escape the storm. Although this event caused a multitude of pain and sorrow, it also enabled members of our community to reach out to one another as individuals struggled to put the pieces of their lives back in place. As a Member of Congress representing Colorado's Fourth District where citizens worked together to restore their way of life, I hereby commemorate the victory achieved through this widespread community spirit and recall the names of those who perished.

As we reflect on the events of the past year, we recall the words of Luke 8:23-24, ". . . A windstorm swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. They went to him and woke him up, shouting, 'Master, Master, we are perishing!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm."

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4194) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. STARK. Mr. Chairman, today I join with Congressman TIM ROEMER and Congressman DAVE CAMP to take a stand for common sense and fiscal responsibility when it comes to our budget.

When Congress first approved the International Space Station in 1984, the original price tag was \$8 billion. A recent General Accounting Office [GAO] report projects the station's total operating costs at \$95.6 billion. Congress keeps throwing taxpayer dollars into this money pit, and we have no tangible benefits to show for it.

Since its conception in 1984, the station has been redesigned three times. The latest model would accomplish only two of its eight original scientific missions. Furthermore, many of the remaining goals envisioned for the station could be accomplished aboard unmanned satellites or aboard the space shuttle for a small fraction of the cost.

Furthermore, the station's rising costs are a threat to other promising projects. Already, NASA has shifted \$200 million from other programs like space shuttle safety and space education grants to pay for station cost overruns. This year, NASA has requested the authority to shift an additional \$375 million. As the station experiences more cost overruns, the space station budget will literally consume the NASA budget at the expense of proven programs like probes within our solar system, the Space Shuttle, earth sciences, and aeronautics.

Every year we pour billions upon billions of dollars into NASA and the International Space Station at the expense of schoolchildren, the elderly and the infirm. We cannot afford the price of the space station when we have such pressing needs here on planet Earth. If we choose to look to the stars, we must first have our feet planted firmly on the ground.

THE LONG TERM CARE ADVANCEMENT ACT OF 1998

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the aging of the Baby Boom generation has been extensively discussed in Congress and among the American people, with particular attention to the impact on Social Security and Medicare.

What has not been widely discussed, however, is a related but very distinct trend: the rapid expansion of the group of Americans defined by the Bureau of the Census as "the oldest old"—those senior citizens aged 85 and above. Often lost during discussions of the Baby Boom generation is the fact that the fastest growing demographic age group in the United States is the "oldest old."

That is why I am introducing legislation, joined by my colleagues Phil English (PA), Ron Paul (TX), John Ensign (NV), and Chris Shays (CT) to help Americans better prepare themselves and their families for their long term health care needs of the future. The tax breaks contained in this legislation will go a long way towards providing families with peace and security against the massive costs of professionally provided long term care, including nursing home care, home health care, and adult day care services.

I am pleased that this legislation has already secured the support of the 60 Plus Association and the Home Health Assembly of New Jersey. The Health Insurance Association of America (HIAA) has also endorsed the concept behind the bill.

Our Nation will soon be grappling with a long term care crisis unless Congress acts now to prevent it. From 1960 through 1994, the senior citizen population (age 85+) increased by 274 percent. And the number of Americans in the 85+ age cohort is expected to double in size by the year 2020, reaching 7 million. The number of senior citizens between the ages of 75 and 84 will reach nearly 15.5 million by 2020. The sixty four thousand dollar question is: how will we as a nation meet our parents' and grandparents' long-term care need?

This demographic change will put an enormous strain on our nation's fragmented system of long-term care. Already, our Medicaid program has demonstrated its financial shortcomings when providing long-term care services to increasing numbers of the frail elderly. The Medicaid program already spends over \$40 billion on long term care services for senior citizens. These expenditures are projected to double over the next 10 years.

A vital part of any comprehensive response to these trends must be the promotion of private long term care insurance (LTC) for Americans. Although the number of persons insured under LTC policies has nearly doubled between 1992 and 1996, this growth is from a very low base. The fact of the matter is that the overwhelming majority of Americans still do not have any private LTC insurance coverage at all. This needs to change, and soon.

Mr. Speaker, the Long Term Care Advancement Act of 1998 will assist Americans prepare for their future long term care needs. My bill will allow penalty-free withdrawal from IRAs and 401 (k) plans when the funds are used to pay for 'qualified' LTC insurance premiums (as defined by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996).

In addition, a certain portion of the IRA/401 (k) withdrawals used for LTC will be excluded from taxable income. Depending on one's tax bracket, age, and type of policy purchased, the savings on a long term care insurance policy under my bill are considerable, and could range from 15 to 25 percent.

Lastly, the Long Term Care Advancement Act will provide a refundable \$500 tax credit for families caring for a dependent elderly