

Federal facilities are the property of the American people and they should be as open and accessible as possible to them.

5. Methods of intelligence sharing should be strengthened between Federal agencies, state agencies and local officials with respect to data that may be important to the security of a Federal facility. Because threats against federal facilities will in most all cases involve peripheral threats and risk to local jurisdictions, there should be a mechanism to share intelligence data and other cooperative efforts with these officials in a timely manner.

**PEACE CORPS ACT
AUTHORIZATION**

SPEECH OF

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 669) to amend the Peace Corps Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2000 through 2003 to carry out that Act, and for other purposes:

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Chairman, I would like to explain why I joined 89 of my colleagues from both parties in voting against the Peace Corps Reauthorization Act. But first, let me say that I did not vote against this bill because I oppose the noble function that the Peace Corps serves. I have the utmost respect for this program, and for the people who choose to give two years of their lives to help others. Furthermore, I recognize the successes the Peace Corps has had in helping impoverished, struggling communities gain a foothold in the modern world.

I voted against passage of the Peace Corps Reauthorization Act because I don't believe that authorizing a substantial increase in funds for this program is the best use of federal money at this point. This bill will increase funding for the Peace Corps from \$241 million this year to \$365 million in 2003, an increase of 51 percent. Because I recognize the value of the Peace Corps, I would have voted for a measure that reauthorizes the Peace Corps at the existing funding level, or at a level that provides for a small increase to account for inflation. I believe that a major increase in funding for a program such as the Peace Corps is unwise at a time when the federal government continues to cut Medicare funding for rural hospitals and patients and the U.S. Forest Service is unable to protect our nation's federal forests from catastrophic wildfires and destructive beetle infestations.

While the additional Peace Corps authorization is small, relative to other outlays by the federal government, we must be careful to prioritize our spending to direct it toward those programs that benefit Americans who need assistance. Many Members of Congress, as well as the President, have committed themselves to saving Social Security and Medicare. These efforts will require substantial investments, and we must be prudent with our spending now so we can fulfill our obligation to current and future retirees.

I believe that my vote was the right choice in my efforts to help my constituents solve the serious problems they face every day, and I

look forward to continuing to address the needs of Oregonians with my votes in the House of Representatives.

BAUDER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay humble tribute to the students, teachers, and parents of Bauder Elementary School in Colorado for their efforts to help the needy during the holidays. I commend the faculty of Bauder, as well as all the students, parents and individuals who contributed to this special canned food drive. Their selfless dedication has provided warmth, comfort, and happiness to families in Colorado. That the school produced 4,600 cans of food, books, gift certificates, and toys for the benefit of local families is testament to the true meaning of the spirit of Christmas and Hanukkah. Let us remember, as these good people have, that the holiday season is one of giving, one of joy, and one of hope. Let this example during the holidays, be a beacon to us all throughout the year.

**STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE
PORTABILITY PROTECTION ACT
OF 1999**

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Student Health Insurance Portability Protection Act of 1999.

In 1996 we made great strides in passing the Kennedy-Kassebaum Health Insurance Portability Protection Act. However, 14.3 million college students covered by health insurance plans sponsored by their college or university are not covered under last year's health provisions. It is essential for college students to fall under these provisions.

My bill requires college-sponsored health plans to be portable and exclude long pre-existing condition waiting periods. College-sponsored plans will be considered as group plans and allow students to go from college-sponsored plans to work-sponsored plans without loss of coverage due to a pre-existing condition. Students will also be eligible for another school's health plan when transferring from university to university. This bill takes an important step in ensuring health care coverage for our country's college students at no extra cost to the taxpayer.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill and ensuring health care for our Nation's college students. Give them the health care they need to enter the workforce. Do not leave college students out of health care reform.

TRIBUTE TO LEWIS ENTZ

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the career of one of Colorado's leading statesman over the past two decades, state Representative Lewis Entz. In doing so, I would like to honor this individual who, for so many years, has exemplified the notion of public service and civic duty. Now retired from the Colorado House of Representatives, it is clear that Representative Entz's dynamic leadership in the Colorado General Assembly will be greatly missed and difficult to replace.

Elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1982—a seat he would hold until 1998, Representative Entz rose quickly to positions of great influence within the House. In 1989, Representative Entz was named Chairman of the House Local Government committee which he would chair until 1994. While serving in the General Assembly, Representative Entz was best known for his tireless work on natural resource, agricultural and local government issues. I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to work closely with him on many of these and other issues.

The number of honors and distinctions that Representative Entz earned during his years of outstanding service are too numerous to list, and too few to do justice to his contributions to the state of Colorado.

1998 marked the end of Representative Entz's tenure in elected office and the state of Colorado is worse off in his absence. Mr. Speaker, there are few people in Colorado's proud history who have served as selflessly and distinguishedly as did Representative Entz. His career embodied the citizen-legislator ideal and was a model that every official in elected office, including myself, should seek to emulate. The citizens of Colorado owe Representative Entz a debt of gratitude and I wish him well in his well-deserved retirement.

**WE WANT THE BEST FOR OUR
CHILDREN**

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to the issue of school construction. Education is one area we cannot short-change. It has been statistically proven and exhaustively mentioned in this Chamber that children learn better in smaller classes.

It has also been proven that children need access to technology and other resources to be successful. One way to do that is to build areas that are reflective of these technological developments and trends—new schools.

I respect the fact that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle agree that new schools are an important key to education. It is unfortunate that those same people have spent 4 years blocking all significant school modernization initiatives.

The Archer proposal would only give limited assistance to schools and targets the districts that need this assistance the least.