

SAN MATEO COUNTY POLICE CHIEFS' AND SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION ENDORSES H.R. 1428

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 14, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I recently received a letter from Mr. John Stangl, Police Chief of the City of San Mateo, California, and the President of the San Mateo County Police Chiefs' and Sheriff's Association, informing me that "without reservation, the membership of the San Mateo County Police Chiefs' and Sheriff's Association voted to endorse and support H.R. 1428, the David Chetcuti Firearm Modification Act."

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1428, which I introduced earlier this year, would close the existing loophole which permits felons to have access to firearm components which they can use to assemble assault weapons. My legislation is simple and does not require any additional law enforcement effort than currently law requires. Quite simply, this legislation would extend the provisions of existing gun control legislation to those components which criminals can and do use to make assault weapons.

H.R. 1428 is called the David Chetcuti Firearm Modification Act. Mr. Speaker, in honor and in recognition of Officer Chetcuti who was killed one year ago by a felon who legally could not purchase a gun, but who was able to purchase a series of firearm components which he then used to assemble the kind of gun that he could not purchase.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation, and I ask that the letter of Police Chief John Stangl be placed in the RECORD.

SAN MATEO COUNTY POLICE CHIEFS' AND SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION,

San Mateo, CA, May 6, 1999.

Congressman TOM LANTOS,
San Mateo, CA.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN LANTOS: Without reservation, the membership of the San Mateo County Police Chiefs' and Sheriff Association voted to endorse and support H.R. 1428, the David Chetcuti Firearm Modification Act. In its unanimous decision, the association recognized the need to extend firearm laws to gun components and restrict the manner in which they can be acquired.

The use of firearms to resolve conflict or perform an illegal act has become a daily part of our lives. While it can be debated that no amount of legislation will eliminate this tragic reality, it does not make sense to provide an open market for high powered, multi round weapons.

It is obvious that the existing law must be amended to provide the protection to society that was originally intended. We thank you for your efforts and appreciate having the opportunity to work with you.

Respectfully,

JOHN STANGL,

Police Chief, City of San Mateo, President, San Mateo County Police Chiefs' And Sheriff's Association.

HONORING MR. RICHARD LANDIS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 14, 1999

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, It is a great honor for me to rise before my colleagues today and pay tribute to Mr. Richard Landis, of Davison, Michigan, who has received the American Ambulance Association's 1999 "Star of Life" award for his outstanding service as an Emergency Medical Services professional.

The remarkable thing about individuals who serve as emergency medical responders is that they are always on duty. No matter where they are or what they are doing—they may be called upon to assist another person. Their ability to be swift and precise at that moment is of utmost importance; it can be the difference between life or death.

Mr. Landis was in just such a situation while spending a leisurely afternoon at the Silverdome. When another individual also at the Silverdome suffered from a sudden heart attack, Mr. Landis stepped in and saved that individual's life. Due to Mr. Landis's immediate desire to help and his quick thoughts and actions, that cardiac arrest victim is alive today.

This truly amazing event exemplifies the characteristics of Mr. Landis. Not only is he a talented medical professional, but he also brings courage and compassion to his work. His colleagues have noted that they frequently turn to him for advice and support, and they can count on him for his kind and positive attitude.

Since this is Emergency Medical Services week, it is an appropriate time for all of us to think about the valuable role of EMS workers in our communities. I am grateful to have the opportunity to recognize the service that Mr. Landis delivers to communities in my district. His actions are an inspiration for us all and I am proud to represent him in Congress.

WHITE HOUSE FELLOW PROGRAM

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 14, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Michelle Peluso, one of my constituents of New York City, New York for serving as a distinguished 1998–99 White House Fellow.

Established in 1965, the White House Fellowship Program honors outstanding citizens across the United States who demonstrate excellence in community service, leadership, academic initiative and professional achievement. It is the Nation's most prestigious fellowship for public service and leadership development. For more than three decades, White House fellows have been chosen on the merit of remarkable achievement early in their career. Each year, 500–800 applicants compete nationwide for 11–19 fellowships.

Ms. Peluso graduated summa cum laude from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, receiving her bachelor's degree in economics. As an undergraduate, she led volunteer programs in West Philadelphia, including a mentoring program, a campus com-

munity service group and a volunteer initiative at the Ronald McDonald House. Ms. Peluso received a master's degree in philosophy, politics and economics from Pembroke College at Oxford. Hired as a management consultant with the Boston Consulting Group in New York, she completed a one-year project to define the next frontier in health care and then traveled worldwide to present her ideas to members of the firm's global health care practice area. She founded A New Generation for Peace, a non-profit group that brought together 350 youths from 50 countries for seminars on global issues. Additionally, Ms. Peluso is a member of the board of directors of Christa House, which builds homes and provides care for end-stage aids patients.

As a White House fellow assigned to the U.S. Department of Labor, Ms. Peluso—has co-managed the Vice-President's summit on 21st Century Skills for 21st century jobs, where she was responsible for leading inter-agency steering committee meetings, writing speeches and working on new policy announcements. She also leads a team that addresses one of Labor Secretary Alexis Herman's top priorities, "out-of-school youth." In that capacity, Ms. Peluso is responsible for coordinating the Department's \$2.5 billion portfolio of programs.

She is also responsible for developing new partnerships and a public awareness campaign for the initiative. Further, Ms. Peluso manages the Secretary's dislocated workers initiative, which is the Secretary's number two priority. Her working involves leading a team of senior program managers, economists and public affairs specialists to ensure effective management of programs, develop new strategies for worker dislocation, and help coordinate grants to communities and businesses affected by dislocations.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in applauding Michelle Peluso for her achievements. I wish to congratulate Ms. Peluso for her distinguished service to White House Fellowship Program.

INTRODUCTION OF AMENDMENT

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 14, 1999

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to report to my colleagues the actions of the House subcommittee on Military Personnel. Today I offered, and the subcommittee endorsed, an amendment that many of my colleagues will recognize as the Harman amendment.

I am proud to continue the good work of my friend and colleague, Congresswoman Jane Harman. Jane was one of my mentors. I am sure my colleagues on the subcommittee will join me in commending Jane's contribution to the quality of life for our military personnel and their families.

My amendment includes the identical language from the Harman amendment. It repeals a provision of the FY 1996 defense bill barring women serving overseas in the U.S. military from using their own funds to obtain legal abortion services in military hospitals. As the ranking woman Democrat on our Committee, I strongly feel that this policy must be overturned.

Women who volunteer to serve in our Armed Forces already give up many freedoms and risk their lives to defend our country. They should not have to sacrifice their privacy, their health, and their basic constitutional rights because of a policy with no valid military purpose.

This is a health care concern. Local facilities in foreign nations are often not equipped to handle procedures, and medical standards may be far lower than those in the United States. Why are we putting our own soldiers at risk?

This is a matter of fairness. Servicewoman and military dependents stationed abroad do not expect special treatment, they only expect the right to receive the same services guaranteed to American women under Roe v. Wade—at their own expense.

My amendment does not allow taxpayer-funded abortions at military hospitals, nor does it compel any doctor who opposes abortion on principle or as a matter of conscience to perform an abortion. My amendment reinstates the same policy that was in effect from 1973 until 1988, and again from 1993 to 1996.

My amendment has strong support from the House. Ninety Members—both Democrats and Republicans—have cosponsored my legislation to change this policy.

My amendment has strong support from health care providers; the American Public Health Association, the American Medical Women's Association, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the Planned Parenthood Federation of America have all indicated their support for this amendment.

And, as you can see from the letter I've provided, my amendment is supported by the Department of Defense. If the professionals who are responsible for our nation's armed services support this policy change, why wouldn't this Committee?

I am pleased that my fellow colleagues on the subcommittee voted to endorse my amendment with bipartisan support. Repealing this unfair prohibition will help keep our soldiers healthy and safe.

PREVENT THE EXPORT OF MILITARILY SIGNIFICANT TECHNOLOGY TO CHINA

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 14, 1999

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced legislation that will prohibit the sale of the Cray SV1 supercomputer to Hong Kong, now a territory of Communist China. The export of this computer threatens our national security, and I urge you to join in cosponsoring this bill.

In February of this year, a contract was awarded to supply the Hong Kong Observatory with the fastest computer the territory has ever seen. The Cray SV1 supercomputer runs at the speed of 21,000 million theoretical operations a second. If the battlefield and simulation capability of the system were to fall into the wrong hands, it could seriously undermine our national security. This should trigger a "red flag" for dual-use militarily significant technology transfers.

To think that China would use this computer for scientific purposes only is pure folly. Last month, a Hong Kong company went before local courts for allegedly "selling a supercomputer to a Chinese advanced weapons institute." A separate Hong Kong company is also facing charges that it imported strategic commodities without a license. It diverted a dual-use computer to a mainland military research institute.

Officials from the departments of Defense, Commerce, Energy and State have raised objections to the sale of the Cray SV1, yet the export is still under consideration by the Clinton Administration. I urge all of my colleagues to please join in co-sponsoring my bill by contacting my office.

RECOGNIZING THE SUCCESS OF THE SEVENTH ANNUAL "STAMP OUT HUNGER" FOOD DRIVE IN NASHUA

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 14, 1999

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday I had the opportunity to participate in the National Association of Letter Carriers annual food drive in my district. The seventh national "Stamp Out Hunger" event was sponsored by the National Association of Letter Carriers and was held in 10,000 cities throughout the United States. One of these cities was Nashua, New Hampshire, where myself and Postal Carrier Doug Mercier traveled throughout his Postal Route #26 collecting donated, non-perishable food items. Although I was only along the route for a little less than two hours, I was absolutely amazed by the amount of generosity that was shown by the dozens of individuals who donated food. Not only did many people donate food, but some selflessly donated more than one item. The impact of this event was obvious to me when I found out that the residents of Nashua had succeeded in donating more than 36,000 pounds of food. That is 18 tons of donated food collected in one city, in one day!

Needless to say, I was extremely impressed with the effort, organization, and effectiveness of the National Association of Letter Carriers food drive in Nashua and its success throughout the country. I would like to commend the National Association of Letter Carriers and the United States Postal Service for their commitment to collecting food for the hungry and lending a helping hand to those who need it most. The food that was collected will help feed nearly 30 million needy people throughout the country. It is initiatives like this food drive that encourage people to participate in their community and assist those in need. I would encourage all of my colleagues, if they have not already done so, to participate in the national Stamp Out Hunger food drive next year. I know that I am already looking forward to participating again and I am greatly encouraged by the generosity and goodwill that I witnessed this past weekend.

REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S PRESIDENT
LEE TENG-HUI'S THIRD ANNI-
VERSARY IN OFFICE

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 14, 1999

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, three years ago, voters in Taiwan rejected communist China's attempts at military intimidation and handed a landslide victory to Mr. Lee Teng-hui in an election that completed Taiwan's transition to a full-fledged democracy. Now, in 1999, President Lee has continued to make strides toward full democracy and is seeking to reduce tensions in the Taiwan Strait. He has repeatedly urged leaders on the communist mainland to discuss reunification issues under the premises of the need for democracy for all Chinese people. He has also shown leadership in helping neighboring Asian countries find solutions for the regional financial crisis.

On the eve of President Lee Teng-hui's third anniversary in office, I wish President Lee continued success. His election three years ago was the first time a Chinese society had democratically elected its leader. The election represents a victory for the people of Taiwan in their commendable development of full democracy.

Congratulations to the Republic of China on Taiwan.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 14, 1999

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I was honored by the American Red Cross in Buffalo, New York, and therefore was unable to cast my vote on the motion to instruct conferees (rollcall No. 130) regarding H.R. 1141, a bill making emergency supplementary appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" in support of this motion.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WORKING UNINSURED TAX EQUITY ACT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 14, 1999

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to share with you some ideas that both Representative ROGAN and I have about how to begin addressing the issue of the uninsured.

Many of us are stymied by the health care paradox of a booming economy. Our economy is booming. Unfortunately, parallel to this economic growth is the growing number of uninsured. There are now almost 44 million uninsured people in this country—an increase of more than 5 million since 1993.

Today, we are introducing legislation to help stop the increase by targeting a 30% health insurance tax credit to the working uninsured. To qualify for our partially refundable credit,