

The birth of the beluga is a milestone for the Shedd because the Oceanarium was built for the purpose of breeding marine mammals. The knowledge gained from the birth will provide Shedd staff with a better understanding of belugas and in turn that information will be used to help educate the public and contribute to the conservation of wild populations.

The birth of the beluga also is significant to the general beluga population as the National Marine Fisheries Service plans to list the beluga whales in Alaska's Cook Inlet as a depleted population. The 1998 Cook Inlet beluga census, counted 347. In 1994, about 675 belugas were counted; it is believed that 1,000 whales were in the inlet in 1980.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the John G. Shedd Aquarium on the successful birth and continued health of Immiayuk's beluga calf.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE SMALL BUSINESS TELECOMMUTING ACT

##### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 18, 1999*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Small Business Telecommuting Act, a bill designed to raise awareness about telecommuting among small business employers and to encourage employers to offer telecommuting options to their employees.

In many areas of this country urban sprawl and traffic congestion are growing at alarming rates. Telecommuting surely is part of the answer to reducing traffic congestion and air pollution.

Mr. Speaker, telecommuting has many positive bi-products to which I would like to draw my colleagues' attention.

Traffic congestion: telecommuting could reduce peak commuter traffic, thereby reducing traffic congestion and air pollution.

Family wellness: telecommuting benefits the health of our communities by giving workers more time to spend with their families.

Employee productivity: studies have shown that telecommuting increases both employee productivity and morale, which in turn helps the business bottom line.

This legislation will direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to conduct a pilot program to raise awareness about telecommuting among small business employers. Telecommuting is quickly becoming a standard business practice. High-tech industries have employed telecommuting with great success for many years. In addition, the Federal Government has embraced telecommuting as well. This legislation will encourage and aid our nation's small business owners to embrace telecommuting.

Telecommuting in the small business community is a critically important tool, because it would allow small employers to retain valued employees with irreplaceable skills and institutional memory when their lives no longer allow them to be in the office daily.

Mr. Speaker, all around us we see remarkable strides being made in the use of technology to improve our quality of life and allow us to work more efficiently. I believe the Small Business Telecommuting Act will allow our na-

tion's small business owners to also reap the benefits of these technological strides.

#### H.R. 2, THE STUDENTS RESULTS ACT

##### HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 18, 1999*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, on October 21, 1999, the U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed H.R. 2, the Students Results Act, which reauthorized funding for Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Title I provides funding to local education agencies to help educationally disadvantaged children learn the core subjects, like math and reading, and authorizes other programs to assist low-achieving students. Last revised by the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994, Title I is the largest federal elementary and secondary education grant program.

In general terms, H.R. 2 was a good bill. It provided a billion dollar increase in Title I funding, focused on holding Title I students to the same high academic standards as all students, targeted funds to the poorest communities, and it improved accountability measures. In addition H.R. 2 addressed the quality of instruction in Title I classrooms by requiring certification for all teachers and strengthening professional development opportunities.

Unfortunately, H.R. 2 also included the "Parental Notification and Consent for English Language Learners" provision. In my opinion, the "Parental Notification and Consent" language in H.R. 2 was unfair at best and discriminatory at worst. The provision would at minimum have an unjust and disproportionate impact on limited English proficient (LEP) students, of which over 70% are Hispanic.

Schools provide LEP children the necessary language support services to ensure high academic standards in addition to developing their ability to speak, read and write English. However, the proposed "Parental Notification and Consent" requirements would unjustly prohibit schools from providing services until parents provide consent or until the school meets the mandatory requirement to build a written record of attempting to obtain parental consent.

While I do not presume to know why each of those who voted against H.R. 2 did so, I believe that in the case of the Democrats, that decision was based, at least in part, on concerns regarding the "Parental Notification and Consent" provision. It was apparent to me, and likely to others, that this provision potentially violates Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which guarantees access to equal educational opportunities for LEP students.

As a parent, I must stress that I fully support and encourage enhanced parental involvement in schools and increased parental participation in their children's education. Nevertheless, I am convinced that this legislation, in its ill-advised attempt to include parental consent as part of Title I, will instead result in discriminatory practices and in limited resources being focused on bureaucratic requirements rather than on educational programs.

I did not easily arrive at my decision to oppose H.R. 2 and to make a statement regard-

ing its potentially discriminatory effect on a limited group of students. In the end though, I could not vote to validate legislation that would result in isolating LEP students for different treatment than is applied to any other group of students, while denying access for millions to important Title I educational services.

#### HONORING MEGAN CHARLOP

##### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 18, 1999*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Megan Charlop, who has been chosen as a Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leader for 1999. Each year, the Community Health Leadership Program honors ten individuals who overcome tremendous odds to expand access to health care and social services to underserved populations in their communities. This year, the program has selected Ms. Charlop for her work as the Director of the Montefiore Medical Center Lead Poisoning Prevention Project in the Bronx.

While working as a housing organizer in the 1970's Megan unwittingly exposed herself and her fetus to lead dust and became poisoned. In the early 1980's, she organized a building in deteriorating condition where the children had become lead poisoned. As a result of these experiences Megan founded the Lead Poisoning Prevention Project in 1983.

As Director of the Project, Megan has diligently advocated for resources to create the Lead Safe House, which provides transitional housing for lead poisoned children and their families while their homes are undergoing abatement. Megan also co-founded the New York City Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning, bringing together environmentalists, labor groups, social service and health providers, and parents to tackle the issues related to lead poisoning prevention. Her work with lead poisoning prevention in New York City has become a model for the nation.

And her work does not stop there. Recently, Megan has launched community health initiatives for other environmentally triggered diseases such as asthma and mercury using the model she developed for lead prevention.

Mr. Speaker, I am thrilled to recognize Megan Charlop as a 1999 Community Health Leader and I commend her for tremendous efforts to improve the health of her community and for her true leadership in the fight against lead poisoning.

#### TRIBUTE TO CHRIS WEAVER

##### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 18, 1999*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I now rise to pay tribute to the life of a friend and great civic leader, Chris Weaver. Sadly, the world lost Chris earlier this month when he died of an apparent heart attack. While mourning the passing of this great American, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the esteemed life of this great American.