worked with the following people: Louis Slay, Director Supervisor U.S. Dept. of Justice; Anthony Sporanza, Special Agent FBI; Mike Cizmar, Special Agent FBI; Pete Proach, Special Agent FBI; Wally Sines, Special Agent FBI; and Dennis Direnzo, Agent BCI & I.

(3) During the heretofore written time period FBI Special Agent Mike Cizmar related the following to me:
(a) Congressman Jim Traficant was the FBI’s number one target across the United States because he beat them in a Federal Court in Cleveland, Ohio in 1983 and that he was an embarrassment to the FBI.
(b) The FBI investigated Jim Traficant from the time he was the Mahoning County Sheriff and that the FBI was going to get him one way or another.
(c) When you go to Quantico, Virginia there is one special class you take and that’s on getting Jim Traficant.
(d) If I got Jim Traficant, they would build a monument for me in Washington, D.C.
(e) FBI Special Agent Anthony Sporanza also made statements in support of the heretofore written.
(f) Within the heretofore written time period FBI Special Agent Mike Cizmar asked me to kill Girard, Ohio Police Detective Anthony Zuppo.

Further Affiant Sayeth Naught.

TRIBUTE TO WESLEY RHODES
HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 9, 2000

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I want to honor Wesley Rhodes of Pineview, GA. Wesley was named a National Award Winner in Science. This special award recognizes fewer than ten percent of all American high school students. Wesley was recommended for the award by teachers for his outstanding academic performance in science, interest and aptitude, leadership qualities, responsibility, enthusiasm, motivation to learn and improve, citizenship, attitude and cooperative spirit, and dependability. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Wesley for his achievements in science and for his exemplary leadership at Fullington Academy. He is an exceptional student and for his exemplary leadership at Fullington Academy. He is an exceptional student and for his exemplary leadership at Fullington Academy. He is an exceptional student and for his exemplary leadership at Fullington Academy. He is an exceptional student and for his exemplary leadership at Fullington Academy.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 8, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4579) making ap-

propiations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Service, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Chairman, reducing fraud and abuse in Medicare has been identified by the Majority Leader as a major initiative. The Budget Committee has a Medicare Fraud Task Force to look into ways to reduce Medicare fraud. The Ways and Means and Commerce Committees have held hearings on reducing Medicare fraud.

And yet, this bill would actually reduce already appropriated funds for fighting fraud and abuse in Medicare by $50 million. These funds were appropriated in advance when the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) was enacted in 1996 and intended to fight Medicare fraud. This program has returned $17 for every dollar invested in it. Because of our fraud-fighting efforts, we have experienced the lowest growth in Medicare spending ever.

Obviously, the Appropriations Committee disagrees with the Majority Leader and other Committee Chairmen who want to reduce Medicare fraud. Instead, the Committee would reduce our anti-fraud efforts. Evidently, the Committee feels that there is not enough fraud in Medicare, so let’s grow it.

Second, Mr. Chairman, the General Accounting Office and others have issued numerous reports recently about the alarming abuses and poor quality of care of senior citizens in nursing homes—the care of our mothers and fathers and our constituents. GAO said that one in four nursing homes actually harm our senior citizens or place them in danger of being harmed. The GAO recommended stronger enforcement of quality standards.

In Northern California, only 6 percent of nursing homes were found by State inspectors to be in full or substantial compliance with requirements.

The President proposed additional funding to support a Nursing Home Initiative for enforcing nursing home standards more strictly. Yet this bill would eliminate the funding for this Nursing Home Initiative.

Obviously, the Appropriations Committee simply does not care what happens to our senior citizens in nursing homes.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support the DeLauro amendment to restore funds for lighting Medicare fraud and for the Nursing Home Initiative.

Mr. Chairman, I submit into the RECORD a letter sent to me by the National Citizens’ Coalition for Nursing Home Reform.

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUMI
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 9, 2000

Mr. MATSUMI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to join with Congressman CLAY SHAW, the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Social Security, to introduce legislation regarding fees owed to attorneys who represent Social Security disability claimants. This bill would require the Social Security Administration to pay the attorney fees it owes in a timely fashion or else grant those attorneys an exemption from the administrative assessment that SSA charges in exchange for handling such fees.

Under current law, when an attorney successfully represents a Social Security disability claimant and that claimant is entitled to past-due benefits, SSA retains a portion of those past-due benefits in order to pay the attorney for the services he or she provided. Specifically, SSA withholds and certifies for direct payment to the claimant’s attorney an amount equal to the lesser of 25 percent of the past-due benefits or the fee that SSA had previously authorized the attorney to charge his or her client. (Fees authorized by SSA may not exceed 25 percent of past-due benefits or $4,000, whichever is lower).

As a result of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Act of 1999 (P.L. 106-170), SSA is now required to impose an administrative assessment of 6.3 percent on all such fee payments to attorneys. Some maintain that this 6.3 percent assessment is necessary to cover the costs that SSA incurs in withholding and processing the fee payments. If this is indeed the case and the 6.3 percent assessment is simply compensation for services rendered, then it is unreasonable to expect SSA to withhold and certify for direct payment to attorneys 25 percent of the past-due benefits whenever the attorney fees exceed the administrative assessment.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3761, the Ticket to Work Access Act of 1999, which would provide a fix to this problem by repealing the 6.3 percent assessment.
that SSA will process fee payments to attorneys in a timely fashion.

The legislation we are introducing today simply seeks to put that reasonable expectation into law. H.R. xxxx would prohibit the Social Security Administration from charging attorneys the 6.3 percent assessment unless the attorney is represented by an attorney and her fee for payment within 30 days of the award of past-due benefits to his or her client. Without this common-sense legislation, SSA would be permitted to charge the 6.3 percent assessment without regard to how long the agency takes to process attorneys’ fee payments.

As necessary as this legislation may be, it is not all that is required of this and future Congresses. We in Congress must also remain vigilant and ensure that the new administrative assessment imposed by the Work Incentives Improvement Act does not deter attorneys from representing disability claimants. Given the complexities of the disability determination process, if claimants are unable to secure professional legal representation, the results could be disastrous.

Claimants without professional legal representation appear to be far less likely to receive the benefits to which they are entitled. For example, in 1998, 57.6 percent of claimants represented by an attorney, but only 35.7 percent of those without one, were awarded benefits at the hearing level.

As mandated by the Work Incentives Improvement Act, the General Accounting Office will examine the impact of this new administrative assessment upon claimants’ access to legal representation. If the GAO finds that the assessment does impair claimants’ access, I fully expect that, consistent with the conference agreement on the Work Incentives Improvement Act, Congress will revisit this issue once more.

In closing, I look forward to working with Chairman Shaw on this piece of legislation in the same bipartisan manner that characterized our successful efforts last fall on the Work Incentives Improvement Act and again this spring on the repeal of the Social Security retirement earnings test. With this sort of collaboration, I am certain that we can pass this bill as well, thereby creating incentives for SSA to improve its procedures for making payments to attorneys and ensuring that disability claimants have qualified and reliable attorneys to whom they can turn for assistance.

MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION 20TH ANNIVERSARY
HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 9, 2000

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize and join in the celebration of the Make-A-Wish Foundation’s 20th Anniversary. In its twentieth year, the Make-A-Wish Foundation is a non-profit organization that fulfills the wishes of children fighting life-threatening illnesses. This organization provides personal life-changing experience to children, under the age of 18, who may not have the rest of their lives to seek opportunity. Born out of a wish made by a seven-year-old fighting leukemia in Arizona, the Make-A-Wish Foundation has grown to 80 chapters in the United States and 20 international affiliates on five continents and is the largest wish granting foundation in the world. In its twenty years of existence, the Make-A-Wish Foundation has granted wishes to over 66,000 children worldwide. The Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Mid-Atlantic, Inc., in particular, helps to serve children in my district as well as other children throughout the entire state of Maryland.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation has granted wishes to children as simple as trips to Disney World and other amusement parks to meeting their favorite entertainer or role model. One young man from my district had his wish fulfilled when he met South African leader and political figure Nelson Mandela. He remarked that there was no better way to learn about blacks and whites living together in peace than to learn firsthand about the life of someone so oppressed yet as unbroken as Mr. Mandela.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation gives children that are fighting life-threatening illnesses a positive break from a world of doctors, hospitals, and medicine. I salute the Make-A-Wish Foundation’s volunteers and supporters who work to make wishes come true not only in Baltimore City and Baltimore County, but literally all over the world. Congratulations on 20 years of making wishes come true.

HONORING ANITA HINOJOSA OSA
HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 9, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a South Texas educator, Anita Hinojosa, who will retire in July after 31 years in vocational and adult education. Anita helped make Corpus Christi a better place by virtue of her lifetime commitment to education.

After working as a home economics teacher after graduating from Texas A&M University at Kingsville, and as a consultant, Anita became the Vocational Education Coordinator while also working as an adjunct Professor of Occupational Education at Corpus Christi State University.

In 1990, she became the Career and Technology Education Director for the Corpus Christi Independent School District, the position she will soon leave to enjoy retirement. During the course of her work here, she has supervised some of the most important programs available at CCISD, those programs that work with those who need special training because of their age or special circumstances.

Anita currently oversees the following programs: Adult Basic Education; Alternative High School Center; Summer Training and Education Program (STEP); Pregnancy, Education, and Parenting; Guidance and Counseling; Instructional Technology; and several at-risk programs.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending a special patriot, one who spent a lifetime in pursuit of education and teaching, Anita Hinojosa.

HONORING JUStIN “JAY” CAUFIELD
HON. HOWARD P. “BUCK” McKEON
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 9, 2000

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a very special man. He is a friend, a community leader, and an exceptional educator. His dedication, competence and responsible attitude exemplify all that is right with America’s public school system.

For more than twenty-five years, Justin “Jay” Caufield has served as a Principal in the Saugus Union School District. He has been a very active member in the community and in the school district.

Prior to entering the field of education, Mr. Caufield served four years in the U.S. Army in Special Forces. Mr. Caufield is highly respected by his peers, teaching staff and parents. As a teacher and principal in the Saugus School District, Jay Caufield has touched the lives and made a difference for thousands of students.

For the past 17 years, Mr. Caufield has served as the Principal at Emblem Elementary School. As a result of his fine leadership and commitment to excellence, Emblem has earned both State and National recognition. In 1995, Emblem achieved the status of a California Distinguished School. In 1996, the school received recognition from the California School Board Association by earning the Golden Bell award for its highly regarded TEAMs program. In 1997, Emblem Elementary School received the highest possible recognition by being named a National Blue Ribbon School. Under Mr. Caufield’s direction, Emblem has continued to excel and uphold its high academic standards.

HONORING EDWARD WEISS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 9, 2000

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, public service, when performed wisely and well, is the most noble of callings. Today I honor a man who has been in public service and who performed in just those ways. Edward Weiss is retiring from the United States Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, after 30 years of service.

In his many capacities with the Department, Ed has received outstanding performance ratings from every United States Attorney General under whom he has served since 1981. He is well known for his ability to prepare and litigate cases. He also coordinated the Criminal Alien Program for the New Jersey District. Ed received his BA degree from Syracuse University and graduated from Brooklyn Law School. He and his wife Susan have two daughters; Robin, in a pre-doctorate program in Religion at Hebrew University, and Karen, studying law at George Washington University. Ed is retiring to follow his other passions, hiking and traveling. He is a dedicated professional of who we can all be proud. I join his many friends in wishing him and his family many happy years in his retirement.