

women in the labor force will be growing twice as quickly as men.

A recent study of school-to-work projects found ninety percent of the girls clustered in five traditionally female occupations. My colleagues do not need me to tell them that careers in traditionally female occupations pay far less than careers in science, math, and technology. For example, a data analyst can expect to make \$45,000 a year while a licensed practical nurse makes less than \$25,000 a year. And a kindergarten teacher makes only \$18,044 a year.

In addition, the National Science Foundation reports that the jobs facing workers will require higher skill levels in science, math, and technology than ever before.

The NSF report is verified by a letter I recently received from the American Electronics Association. They wrote to tell me that today the hi-tech industry is facing a critical shortage of skilled workers. And, the future looks even worse. A recent AEA report showed that the number of degrees in computer science, engineering, mathematics and physics have actually declined since 1990.

Quite clearly, there is no way that America can have a technically competent workforce if the majority of students—females—continue not to study science, math and technology.

That is why today I am introducing a bill to help school districts encourage girls to pursue careers in science, math, and technology.

Although my bill is formally titled "Getting Our Girls Ready for the 21st Century Act" it will be known as "Go Girl!"

"Go Girl!" will create a bold new workforce of energized young women in science, math and technology.

"Go Girl!" is modeled on the Trio program, which has successfully encouraged two million low income students, whose parents never attended college, to attend and graduate from college. Similarly, the lack of female role models hamper female interest in studying science, math, and technology.

Girls, and their parents, first, must be able to envision a career in these fields for themselves and their daughters. Then, they need practical advice on what to study and how to achieve the necessary academic requirements.

"Go Girl!" follows girls from the fourth grade, the grade in which girls typically begin to fall behind boys in math and science, through high school.

To encourage girls' interest in math, science and technology in the early grades, girls will participate in events and activities that increase their awareness of careers in these fields, and they will meet female role models.

Older girls will visit college campuses and meet with students and professors in these fields.

"Go Girl!" participants benefit from tutoring and mentoring, including programs using the internet, such as the "design your future program" started by Carol Bartz, the president of Autodesk Software Company.

American school girls are close to fifty percent of america's future workforce. If they turn away from careers in science, math, and technology, we will be short changing our employers and our young women.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in sending a new message to our girls in school—a message that says, "you go, girl!" to a career in science, mathematics and technology.

WAGE AND LABOR RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE AMERICAN TERRITORIES

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak against the ongoing wage and labor rights violations in factories operating in some of our American territories, and I ask that my colleagues join me in creating reforms that will finally ensure that all workplaces that operate under the American flag do so in compliance with federal law. I have been involved for a number of years in an effort to reduce the well-documented exploitation of temporary foreign workers, particularly Asian women, in the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (US/CNMI). In the past few months, I have been troubled to learn that the practice of exploiting temporary workers has now spread to American Samoa.

According to a recent Department of Labor investigation, the Daewoosa factory in the American Samoa employed 251 Vietnamese "guest workers"—more than 90 percent of them women—for nearly two years under conditions of indentured servitude. These workers took on a debt of up to \$8,000 dollars each in order to qualify for what they believed would be good jobs in America, but instead they were constantly paid less than the Samoan minimum wage of only \$2.60 per hour. Sometimes the workers of the Daewoosa factory were not paid at all. Many workers also faced verbal, physical and sexual abuse, including a severe beating that caused one young woman to lose an eye. As a result of these violations, Daewoosa owner Kil Soo Lee now faces charges of forced labor in federal court.

While I applaud the Federal Government for prosecuting this particular violator of labor laws, I believe we must take steps to ensure that these injustices never happen again. I urge my colleagues to read the following article from the Honolulu Star-Bulletin and consider whether they would ever tolerate such conditions and exploitation in their own districts. I also invite my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring legislation to bring all of the U.S. territories into compliance with the federal laws that protect workers throughout the United States.

[From the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, Mar. 31, 2001]

HAWAII SHOULD LEAD FIGHT TO END ABUSE OF WORKERS IN U.S. TERRITORIES

The issue: Allegations that Asian workers were forced to work at an American Samoan garment sweatshop under inhuman conditions have resulted in federal charges here.

Human rights and labor abuses uncovered on the Northern Marianas island of Saipan three years ago embarrassed U.S. garment manufacturers, resulting in lawsuits and federal legislation targeted for the islands north of Guam. Sweatshop conditions as bad if not worse in American Samoa have prompted criminal charges in federal court.

The two cases suggest that U.S. territories in the Pacific have been vulnerable to such abuses far more than had been assumed. Reform legislation that failed in the last Congress should be rejuvenated and broadened to include all U.S. possessions.

About 14,000 workers, mostly young women, from China, the Philippines, Bangladesh and Thailand were lured by promises of good wages to pay fees of up to \$10,000 to enter the labor force in the Northern Marianas. In 1998, federal lawsuits accused 32 contractors on Saipan of beatings, forced abortions and rat-infested quarters in essentially a prison environment surrounded by barbed-wire and armed guards.

Major clothing retailers in the United States that had bought garments sewn on Saipan settled lawsuits by agreeing to establish a \$1.25 million fund to finance monitoring, compensate workers and create a public education program.

Senator Akaka last year won Senate approval of a bill to extend U.S. immigration and minimum-wage laws to the Marianas and allow "Made in the USA" labels only on garments on which more than half the work had been done by American citizens. The measure died in the House.

More recently, a Labor Department investigation has uncovered similar abuses in American Samoa, with work and living conditions so horrid that some garment workers, mostly women from Vietnam, looked like "walking skeletons."

Similar to the situation on Saipan, up to 250 workers had borrowed \$2,000 to \$7,000 each to acquire their jobs and fly from Vietnam or China to Saipan. Investigators found frequent violations of the Samoan minimum wage (\$2.60 an hour) and numerous abuses, including the beating of workers and withholding of meals as a form of punishment.

Daewoosa, a Korean-owned clothing manufacturer that had made apparel for J.C. Penney Co., closed the plant in January. A judge in Samoa placed Daewoosa under receivership after it failed to pay \$600,000 in back wages and fines resulting from the Labor Department investigation.

Penney had canceled contracts with the factory immediately after learning of the abuses. Daewoosa owner Kil Soo Lee now faces charges of involuntary servitude and forced labor in federal court in Honolulu.

While the semiautonomous status of U.S. territories in the Pacific may vary, the conditions that were found on Saipan and Samoa should be condoned on none of them. As leaders of the U.S. community in the Pacific, Hawaii's congressional delegation should promote legislation to end these human-rights abuses.

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER JOHN FRISTACHI

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding Naval Officer, Commander John C.P. Fristachi, who served with distinction and dedication for almost three years for the Secretary of the Navy and Chief of Naval Operations under the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (FM&C) as a Principle Assistant in the Appropriations Matters Office. It is a privilege for me to recognize his many outstanding achievements and commend him for the superb service he has provided to the Department of the Navy, the Congress, and our great Nation as a whole.

During his tenure in the Appropriations Matters Office, which began in April of 1998, Commander Fristachi has provided members

of the House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Defense as well as our professional and associate staffs with timely and accurate support regarding Navy plans, programs and budget decisions. His valuable contributions have enabled the Defense Subcommittee and the Department of the Navy to strengthen its close working relationship and to ensure the most modern, well-trained and well-equipped naval forces attainable for the defense of our nation.

Mr. Speaker, John Fristachi and his wife Betsy have made many sacrifices during his naval career. His distinguished service has exemplified honor, courage and commitment. As they depart the Appropriations Matters Office to embark on yet another great Navy adventure in the service of a grateful nation, I call upon my colleagues to wish them both every success and the traditional Navy send-off "fair winds and following seas."

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATORS
WEEK

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in Honor of National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. Each year, the second week of April is dedicated to the men and women who serve as public safety telecommunicators.

Telecommunicators are civilians across this country who provide the vital link between the public and emergency service responders, be they police, fire or EMS. They provide the radio, telephone, computer and other communication services that save lives and keep our communities safe and secure. Too often, the importance of this job and the contribution these individuals make go unnoticed.

Today, I would like to recognize and thank the telecommunicators who serve the 20th District of Illinois. They are: Karen Giese, Lora Furlong, Michelle Tarvin, Teri Roado, Nancy Pohlman, Sarah Richey, DeAnna Fare, Lora C. Furlong, Robert I. Castens, Lillian I. Rutherford, Tammy S. Giacomelli, and Sherri M. Deeder.

Mr. Speaker. I extend my deepest appreciation to these and all telecommunicators for talking distressed callers through CPR, calming hysterical crime victims, and making the difficult decisions using limited information to save lives and reduce property damage on a daily basis.

STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT
PROTECTION ACT

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Structured Settlement Protection Act. This legislation protects the Congressional policy underlying structured settlements and brings a final resolution to the issue known as "factoring" of structured settlement payments.

In introducing this legislation, I am joined by my colleague Mr. STARK and by a broad bipar-

tisan group of our colleagues from the Ways and Means Committee, including Mr. HOUGHTON and Mr. COYNE, the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member respectively of the Oversight Subcommittee which held a hearing on the structured settlement factoring issue in the last Congress. There are a total of 19 Ways and Means co-sponsors of this important legislation.

I am a long-time supporter of the use of structured settlements to compensate victims of physical injuries. Structured settlements constitute a private sector funding alternative to taxpayer-financed programs to meet the ongoing, long-term medical and living needs of seriously-injured victims and their families. Structured settlements enable these injured people to live with dignity, free of reliance on government. For these reasons, Congress adopted special tax rules to encourage the use of structured settlements to provide long-term financial security to injured victims and their families.

The Structured Settlement Protection Act that I am introducing today addresses concerns which have been raised over the "factoring" of structured settlement payments, in which factoring or settlement purchase companies buy up part or all of the structured settlement recipient's future payments for cash. My legislation is part of a single overall package of complementary Federal and State legislation that has been agreed upon by the structured settlement industry and the factoring industry to resolve these concerns.

Under the Structured Settlement Protection Act, the States are given the consumer protection role. The Act relies upon a State court review process to govern a proposed factoring transaction to ensure that the structured settlement serves the purpose Congress intended—providing long-term financial security for the injured victim and the victim's family—while enabling the victim to get access to future payments should the court determine that such access is in the best interests of the victim, taking into account the welfare and support of the victim's dependents, and does not contravene other applicable statutes and existing court orders.

The complementary State model legislation agreed to by the structured settlement and factoring industries specifies the process for State court review. Legislation similar to the State model has now been enacted in 19 States and is being actively considered in some 20 other States during the current State legislative cycle.

The Structured Settlement Protection Act protects the Congressional policy underlying structured settlements by providing the threat of an excise tax sanction to ensure compliance with State regulation in light of the multi-State nature of the factoring business, as well as resolving Federal tax uncertainties which factoring has created for the other parties to the structured settlement.

The Structured Settlement Protection Act is similar to legislation that I introduced in the last Congress along with Mr. STARK and a similarly broad bipartisan group of our colleagues from the Ways and Means Committee.

This legislation has been agreed to by the National Structured Settlements Trade Association (NSSTA) on behalf of the structured settlement industry and the National Association of Settlement Purchasers (NASP) on be-

half of the factoring industry. In light of the joint support of the structured settlement industry and the factoring industry, I believe that this legislation should be non-controversial. In addition, the identical version of the legislation last year was scored by the Joint Tax Committee as being essentially revenue neutral.

The agreement of the two sides to the provisions of the Structured Settlement Protection Act provides us with a critical opportunity to put the structured settlement factoring issue to rest at long last. We should avail ourselves of that opportunity while it is at hand. Accordingly, I strongly urge the enactment of this important legislation as soon as possible.

ARC OF DALLAS

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and congratulate the Arc of Dallas for its efforts in improving the quality of life of persons with mental retardation and related developmental conditions. The Arc of Dallas will celebrate its 50th anniversary this year and deserves to be recognized for its accomplishments in my district.

The Arc of Dallas formed when a small group of concerned parents met in 1951 to discuss their children's educational needs. This small group was the beginning of an organization that grew into the largest mentally handicapped advocacy group in the Dallas area. Today, there are chapters of the Arc across the United States. While the Arc of Dallas remains connected to the national office, it also works independently to reach the goals of the Dallas community.

The Arc of Dallas works diligently to accomplish its goals and has produced impressive results. Presently, one person in every 10 families in the Dallas area, about 60,000 individuals, has some form of mental retardation and thousands more have related conditions. It is no surprise that in 2000, the Arc of Dallas directly helped nearly 26,000 people. This organization truly makes a difference to the lives of many constituents in my district.

An example of the great success of this advocacy group is its day-camp program. Last year was the first year to offer a spring and summer day-camp program for children ages 5 to 21. It made a difference in the lives of 140 children last year. This year, the day-camp program will run for 11 weeks and will offer fun summer activities for nearly 220 children such as field trips, crafts, computer centers and outdoor activities. Programs like these truly demonstrate the success of the Arc of Dallas.

Once again, I am very proud to see the honorable work being accomplished in my district. The Arc of Dallas has made a difference in so many peoples' lives in the 50 years of their existence. The difference they are making is immeasurable. I know my colleagues will join me in saluting the Arc of Dallas and chapters across the Nation.