

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING OLYMPIC MEDALIST DANNY KASS

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2002

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Danny Kass, a great American Olympian from Hamburg, New Jersey. Danny thrilled America by winning a silver medal in the men's snowboarding halfpipe at the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Danny, the youngest member of the 2002 U.S. Olympic Men's Snowboarding Team, began his career on the slopes of Mountain Creek Ski Resort in Vernon, New Jersey, and continues to hold on to his New Jersey roots. He has made all of us so proud.

Danny's outstanding skill at the age of 19 is truly amazing. His talent was showcased for the entire world in Salt Lake this month. And although we may not all understand the intricacies of scoring the halfpipe competition, I think we can all agree that after watching Danny ride on Monday, February 11th, we knew we had seen a medal-winning performance. Sure enough, Danny was awarded the silver medal as he joined his two American teammates on the podium for a rare American sweep.

The exuberance of our American medalists was contagious. The country felt their excitement that day, and had a glimpse of how it feels to be rewarded for excelling at a sport you love. Danny Kass just couldn't stop smiling and the crowd just couldn't stop cheering.

Although this was not Danny's first win in a snowboarding competition, I'm sure it will be a memorable one for him. Since he began snowboarding in Vernon, New Jersey, and competing on the slopes of Vermont, Danny has claimed titles in several impressive events, such as the Overall Men's U.S. Grand Prix Halfpipe, the X-Games Halfpipe and the U.S. Olympic Halfpipe.

This weekend, we congratulate Danny on the New Jersey slopes where he first learned to snowboard. The Mountain Creek Ski Resort in Vernon will host a "Specialty Sport Pro/Am Halfpipe Jam" to honor Danny.

Through his dedication and pure love of the sport of snowboarding, Danny has earned the Olympic silver medal and the respect of his peers and fellow countrymen.

I urge my Colleagues to extend to Danny Kass warm wishes and congratulations. On behalf of our State of New Jersey, I extend to Danny our thanks for representing us so well in Salt Lake.

INTRODUCTION OF THE KEEPING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SAFE ACT OF 2002

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2002

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the "Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2002" to reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), the Adoption Opportunities program, the Abandoned Infants Act, and the Family Violence Prevention and Treatment Act (FVPSA).

According to recent statistics, almost 3 million reports of possible child maltreatment were made to child welfare agencies in 1999. Approximately 60 percent of these reports were investigated and 826,000 children were estimated to have been victims of abuse or neglect in 1999.

While the overall number represents a continuation of a downward trend since 1993, the long-term trend in child abuse reporting has been one of substantial growth, with the number of maltreatment reports more than quadrupling since 1976. However, it should be noted that increased reporting of abuse and neglect does not necessarily mean an equivalent increase in substantiated cases of abuse and neglect. While the proportion of child maltreatment reports that are substantiated has grown smaller over time, the number of reported child abuse cases is likely higher due to improved surveillance mechanisms. Despite progress made in promoting child abuse awareness and the endless efforts made to prevent child abuse and neglect, much more work is needed.

In addition, family violence continues to be the most common, yet least reported crime in our nation. Approximately 95 percent of family violence victims are women, and it is estimated that every 11 seconds a woman is battered in the United States. It is also estimated that 70 percent of men who abuse their wives also abuse their children, and children from abusive homes are at greater risk of alcohol or drug abuse and juvenile delinquency.

Mr. Speaker, the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2002 continues to provide important federal resources for identifying and addressing the issues of child abuse and neglect and family violence, and to support effective methods of prevention and treatment. It also continues local projects with demonstrated value in eliminating barriers to permanent adoption and addressing the circumstances that often lead to infant abandonment.

This legislation emphasizes the prevention of child abuse and neglect and family violence before it occurs. It promotes partnerships between child protective services and private and community-based organizations to ensure that services are more effectively provided, and supports public education on child abuse

and neglect by strengthening the public's understanding of the role of child protective services and appropriate methods for public reporting of suspected incidents of child maltreatment.

This legislation also fosters cooperation between parents and child protective services workers by requiring case workers to inform parents of the their rights and the allegations made against them. Further, this legislation is designed to improve the training, recruitment and retention of individuals providing services to children and ensures the appropriate supervision of these individuals.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to back this important legislation that supports improved services for children and families.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE "INSIDER STOCK SALES EM- PLOYEE NOTIFICATION ACT"

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2002

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise for the purpose of introducing the "Insider Stock Sales Employee Notification Act," a measure that will require company executives who sell stock to immediately notify the company pension plan officials. The bill would allow all employees to be given early warning in cases where executives begin dumping company stock.

Unfortunately, the Enron and Global Crossing scandals have shown us that employee retirement savings are vulnerable to misconduct and abuse by company officials. In the past few months we have learned that Enron and Global Crossing executives sold millions of dollars worth of company stock while encouraging employees to keep company stock in their retirement accounts, and prohibiting some employees from selling their company matched 401(k) shares.

Employer-sponsor investment rules are rigged against employees. Companies often have one set of rules for executives—which permit windfall profits from sales of stock without restriction—and another for rank-and file employees, whose freedom to rescue their savings by selling company matched stock is often restricted by employers.

Last week, the Wall Street Journal published two shocking stories that further document the inequities that employees endure when companies confront huge losses: loyal employees see their 401(k)'s evaporate while executives continue to pocket vast fortunes. As the Journal reported:

“. . . [T]op executives at many companies, including Enron, Lucent, Global Crossing, Kmart and WorldCom have seemed intent on preserving their lush compensation even as their companies flounder and their employees lost jobs, severance, medical benefits and retirement savings."

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