

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING EUGENE N. BALL UPON  
HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 4, 2002*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Mr. Eugene N. Ball, upon his retirement from the Pentagon Federal Credit Union after nearly 25 years of distinguished and dedicated service.

Mr. Ball was born and raised in Waterloo, IA. He served for 20 years in the United States Army in various command and staff assignments including as a Transportation Corp officer. Following his retirement from the Army's active service in 1963, Ball went to work as Chief of Finance in the Department of the Army. In 1967 he joined the Department of Defense, Per Diem Travel and Transportation Allowance Committee. Fifteen years later, in February 1982, he was detailed to the office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Logistics and Material Management), with the responsibility of organizing and leading an Interagency Team to implement changes in Federal travel policies and practices, as directed by the President.

Ball has been active in the Credit Union movement for over a quarter century. He was first elected to the Board of Directors of Pentagon Federal Credit Union in 1975, and subsequently served as Secretary from 1977–1978, Vice President from 1978–1982, and President since 1982. During his tenure on the Board he has been Chairman of the Marketing and Education, and Nominating Committees.

In June 1984, under Ball's direction, the Pentagon Federal Credit Union formed three holding companies to provide management information, software, and insurance services.

Based on his leadership at the credit union, contributions to other credit unions and credit union organizations, professional development and education, and community service, Mr. Ball was awarded the DEF 1999 Director of the Year honor by CUES. He is revered as a remarkable leader by his colleagues, and is renowned for his dedication to teamwork.

Mr. Ball is also known by all of his Credit Union colleagues for his generosity. From dressing up as Santa Claus for the credit union's Christmas party to serving on the board of several prominent organizations, Mr. Ball is involved in nearly all Credit Union activities, as he is in his Northern Virginia community. He is very active in his church at all levels, serving as chairman of the board of trustees and leading Sunday school discussions. He is a member, and past President, of the Advisory Council for the Lupus Foundation of Greater Washington and has served as president of the National Cherry Blossom Festival. These, along with his many other acts of selflessness, both for the Pentagon Federal Credit Union and for his community, make Ball worthy of his title amongst those who know him, "A Role Model of Humanity."

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I wish the very best to Mr. Ball as he is recognized for service to his community and to the Pentagon Federal Credit Union. During his twenty-five years of service, he certainly has earned his recognition, and I call upon all of my colleagues to join me in applauding his tenure.

THE CHILD SUPPORT  
REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2002

**HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 4, 2002*

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today I am offering a bill to modify the way in which penalties are imposed on states that are attempting to comply with child support system computer automation requirements.

Child support automation penalties provided an effective and necessary impetus for my home state of California to make important changes in their child support program. But, now these penalties have become an obstacle to meeting the objectives of the revamped system and should be modified.

The Child Support Reinvestment Act would do two important things. First, it would change the base year that the penalty is calculated on. This would remove the disincentive for states to increase investments in their child support program because these increases would no longer be reflected in the calculation of the penalty. Second, the bill would allow increasing amounts of these penalties to be re-invested in the child support program if the state increases spending by specified percentages.

My bill is supported by the National Women's Law Center and the Center for Law and Social Policy. In addition, ACES, the Association for Children for Enforcement Support, and the California Chapter of the National Organization for Women is supporting this legislation. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include the letters of support from these organizations in the record.

California has made significant strides and is on target to have a fully automated child support system in 2005. They have also invested considerable money in improving collections and customer service. Last year, California collected \$2 billion in child support, sending two-thirds of this money directly to families. This progress, however, is being jeopardized by ongoing and increasing federal penalties. Unfortunately, it is the children in families who receive child support that suffer. My bill would correct this problem.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN  
FOR ENFORCEMENT OF SUPPORT, INC.,  
*Toledo, OH, June 4, 2002.*

Hon. ROBERT MATSUI,  
*Rayburn House Office Building,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MATSUI: The Association for Children of Support (ACES) would like to offer its support for your proposed

modifications to the current calculation of child support automation penalties. Your legislation, the Child Support Reinvestment Act of 2002, would remove the disincentive to states, like California, to invest additional dollars in their child support system. The penalties imposed on the child support program in California were necessary and provided the encouragement needed by the state to change the system. We believe that California's significant progress, increasing collection rates, and improved customer service warrant reasonable changes in the child support computer automation statute. Particularly, we support your bill, because it would change the way penalties are calculated by redefining the penalty base to avoid penalizing the state for their increased investment in the child support program. We also support the provision that would permit the re-investment of a portion of the penalties in the child support system.

ACES believes that it is mothers and children who ultimately suffer if the bill is not enacted. Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,  
GERALDINE JENSEN,  
*President, Association for Children for*  
*Enforcement of Support.*

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN,  
*Sacramento, CA, May 14, 2002.*

Hon. WILLIAM M. THOMAS,  
*Chair, House Ways and Means Committee,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESS MEMBER THOMAS: The California National Organization for Women (CANOW) urges you to help alleviate a situation which, if left unmitigated, will lead to injury of thousands of California's families. We are asking for your help in easing the penalties imposed upon California because of missed deadlines on child support automation.

The penalties imposed upon the child support program in California were necessary and acted as a catalyst for change in the system. In 1999, California's child support system faced a major reform. Since the change, policies in the state are innovative and collections are on the rise. Customer service efforts have improved tenfold and greater efforts to reduce automation problems have resulted in record high collections in some counties. These heroic efforts were made in response to the public scrutiny of state child support policies and procedures. Public scrutiny of the system resulted directly from imposition of federal penalties. Therefore, the penalties served their purpose and change has resulted.

Now that California has revamped its child support system and is spending nearly \$1 billion to automate, child support penalties are becoming obstructive. Because of the penalty structure, the state is being penalized for spending more money to improve child support. Instead, we need the penalty system to be flexible—at least allowing penalties to serve the purpose of motivating positive change rather than imposing punishment just because it was observed and although it no longer makes sense.

If we allow the penalty structure to remain as is, we will see a loss of these newly gained services. The new child support department will lose too many resources as money from the program is siphoned to pay penalties. Mothers and children will be the ultimate

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