makes it more difficult for working families and laid off workers to make ends meet and avoid debt. Please join me in rejecting this anti-consumer conference report. This conference report is bad for consumers and it should be opposed.

SUPPORT OF MOTION TO GO TO CONFERENCE ON H.R. 3210, TERRORISM RISK PROTECTION ACT

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Motion to Go to Conference.

As a Representative from New York City, I have seen and heard first hand the massive need for such a Federal backstop.

While our nation has plunged into a recession over the past 2 years—the economic conditions of New York City are even more precarious.

For example, between August 2001 to May 2002 while unemployment rates have risen 13 percent in the U.S. they have increased by 20 percent in New York City.

While there are a number of factors for this decline, one is the lack of new construction and building.

This dearth of investment and new construction is due to a lack of financing by banks that will not provide lending to a project that cannot get commercial property and casualty insurance.

Furthermore, for those few businesses that can obtain limited insurance coverage often do not have adequate coverage and are paying drastically higher prices for such limited coverage.

This again saps vital and badly needed resources out of New York's and all of America's economy.

Providing a Federal backstop is good for workers and good for the economy.

Additionally, while in conference, I also hope that the Conferees will give serious consideration to an issue I brought up with Chairman Oxley during Committee mark up—that of providing a backstop to personal lines of property and casualty insurance lines as well.

While personal P&C insurance carriers now claim they can handle any claims for unthinkable terrorist attacks that could effect personal property and casualty holders, such as homeowners, we heard this same thing about commercial lines pre-September 11.

No one can predict the future, and we need to be prepared for anything.

Could personal lines provide for a large-scale attack on a neighborhood using nuclear, biological or chemical terrorism?

We don't know, and that is why I brought this issue up at mark-up and am hopeful for some work on this issue in conference.

Additionally, I am hopeful that the Conferees will work to provide a real backstop and strip out an extra legislative riders such as the damaging tort reforms added by the Republicans leadership to the House bill in the dark of night.

These riders threw a red herring into this debate and slowed Congressional action on this issue—not a lack of trying by the Senate, including Senator Schumer of New York, a leading proponent of backstop legislation.

America needs a Federal backstop for both commercial and personal lines or property and casualty lines and we need to keep such a bill clean for extraneous amendments that are divisive and bad for our economy.

I wish the Conferees well and yield back the balance of my time.

OPPOSING THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT'S PERSECUTION OF FALUN GONG PRACTITIONERS

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, for years, Falun Gong practitioners have been persecuted at the hands of the Chinese government. Tens of thousands of these individuals have been tortured in prisons, labor camps, and mental hospitals for practicing their peaceful form of personal belief. I have been appalled by the stories I have head from Falun Gong members in Michigan of the horrific acts of violence towards Falun Gong practitioners. I believe we must do all we can to stop this persecution.

The United States needs to take a stand against these atrocities, and send the message to the Chinese government that these terrible acts of violence will not be tolerated. We need to urge the Chinese government to release from detention those Falun Gong practitioners who are guilty of nothing less than practicing their faith. We must put an end to these abhorrent human rights abuses.

I am a cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 188, which expresses the sense of Congress that the Government of the People's Republic of China should cease its persecution of Falun Gong practitioners. This measure passed the House overwhelmingly on July 24, 2002. I regret that I was unable to cast a vote on this resolution, as I was detained in my home state of Michigan when the measure came to the House floor. I would have voted ''yes'' on this resolution, and I am glad that the House acted in unity to condemn persecution of the Falun Gong.

CIVIL SERVICE AMENDMENT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY LEGISLATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this amendment. As currently written, H.R. 5005 would needlessly undermine civil service protections for one hundred and seventy thousand federal workers in the new department—both union and non-union.

At a time when we need to attract and retain the best and the brightest to this new department, it makes no sense at all to strip its workers of their most basic civil service protections. What happens to the federal workers who transfer to this department and find that the benefits of civil service are suddenly gone?

For instance, are these dedicated, loyal federal workers simply supposed to accept the fact that they can be fired without even so much as an explanation? Are they supposed to simply accept that their pay has been unceremoniously cut by a third? Is that the message we want to be sending to the rank-and-file preparing to protect the nation at this new department?

We have in place rules and regulations that have worked for decades, rules that were put in place to not only protect workers but also to ward off political patronage and corruption. A Homeland Security Department is not the place to reinstate either.

Mr. Chairman, our civil service protections are good enough for the Defense Department. They are good enough for the CIA, the FBI and virtually everyone else in the Federal government. I fail to see how they are not good enough for the one hundred and seventy thousand workers who will be working in the new Homeland Security Department.

Again, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

H. RES. 443: TO EXPRESS THE SUPPORT OF THE HOUSE FOR PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES TO PREVENT PERPETRATORS OF FRAUD FROM VICTIMIZING SENIOR CITIZENS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about an epidemic. It's not one that you'll read about in a medical book, and unfortunately, it's probably not one that a lot of people know enough about, in general. But, we need to respond to this problem, just as we would if it were a public health situation—by launching a vigorous public awareness campaign.

Let me give some examples of what I'm talking about:

Two individuals pleaded guilty to charges of mail fraud in connection with a scheme soliciting elderly individuals to invest in silver and gold coins. The victims, who were promised a high rate of return on their investments, were coerced into paying 200 to 300 percent more than the coins were worth.

A group defrauded 200 elderly investors nationwide of an estimated $34 million from the offer and sale of fraudulent promissory notes and other fraudulent securities. The majority of the victims were senior citizens who were convinced to liquidate safe retirement accounts and transfer those funds to risky investments.

An independent insurance agent obtained over $508,000 from twelve senior citizens whom he promised a 10 percent return on their money in an investment opportunity. None of the funds were ever invested.

Elderly victims were falsely told that bond companies were in possession of a $25,000 bond in the name of the victims, which they could receive after they paid the bond companies a fee ranging from $100 to $3,000 for ''research'' or ''paperwork.'' None of the victims ever received a valuable bond, but elderly victims sent the bond companies approximately $1.6 million.