Mr. Speaker, H.R. 743 makes necessary changes to existing Social Security law to ensure the protection of recipients and the Social Security system. The provisions included in this bill aim to promote the accountability of the Social Security program by closing the present government pension offset (GPO) loophole. I feel that the clarifying corrections addressed in this bill will result in the improvement of the Social Security program.

THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH FAIRNESS ACT OF 2003

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD
OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the support of several of my colleagues on the Workforce Protections Subcommittee to introduce legislation designed to correct matters of fundamental unfairness in the area of workplace safety and health. Our goal is to address situations where employers, and especially small employers, are being denied fundamental fairness and/or equitable results in their efforts to defend themselves against citations issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, OSHA, for alleged violations with which, in good faith, they take genuine issue.

This matter of fundamental fairness is achieved through several key amendments to the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. These amendments address situations where an employer must defend against heavy-handed or arbitrary enforcement of health and safety laws. This measure is especially targeted to help small employers who do not have the means to defend themselves against the substantial resources and formidable power of the Federal Government.

With this in mind, Mr. Speaker, the amendments we propose are designed to level the playing field so that these employers are: (1) Not deprived of their day in court due to legal technicalities; (2) not forced into settlement when they believe OSHA is wrong, just because it is the most cost-effective option available; (3) aware of the legal standards under which they will be judged; and (4) extended legal consideration for their unique situations and good-faith efforts to comply with the law.

Each reform in this proposed legislation is designed to make what I believe is a narrow, precise, and sensible adjustment for an omission regrettably not caught by Congress at the time of original passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. In my mind, Mr. Speaker, all of the provisions in this legislation lend themselves to bipartisan support, and I ask each of my colleagues to support this proposal.

A CELEBRATION OF YOUTH
IN HONOR OF FRANCES DANE SMITH

HON. NICK SMITH
OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the birth and life of my grandchild, Frances Smith, born on November 4, 1998. My wife, Bonnie, and I join with Frances’ other grandparents, Neville and Jennifer Montefith from Kitchener, ON, in celebrating this young life.

Three days after Frances was born, John Glenn returned from his second trip into space at the age of 78. Medical futurists predict that a person born in 1998 may very well live to an age of 110 or even 120 years old.

The system of free enterprise in our country makes it possible for Frances Smith, and all our children and grandchildren, to make dreams a reality.

As we stand in this chamber each day we must remember the potential of our youth and the strength of the free enterprise system. Those two things, bonded together, will continue the tradition of prosperity we have so long enjoyed.

It is my hope that Frances Smith, the daughter of Brad and Diane, will never forget the achievements possible through the free enterprise system that can take us much further than John Glenn ever dreamed we could go.

REVISED COST ESTIMATE FOR H.R. 21, THE UNLAWFUL INTERNET GAMBLING FUNDING PROHIBITION ACT

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY
OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am submitting a revised cost estimate from the Congressional Budget Office for H.R. 21, the Unlawful Internet Gambling Funding Prohibition Act. This revised estimate, dated April 2, 2003, describes the private-sector mandate that would be imposed by the legislation. The CBO’s estimate of its impact on the Federal budget and on State and local governments is unchanged.

The original estimate was included in the Committee’s report on H.R. 21 (H. Rept. 108–51, Part I) and was dated March 27, 2003.


Hon. Michael G. Oxley,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Chairman: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed revised cost estimate for H.R. 21, the Unlawful Internet Gambling Funding Prohibition Act. This cost estimate supersedes the previous estimate. The cost estimate provided to the Committee on March 27, 2003, did not identify or describe the private-sector mandate that would be imposed by H.R. 21. Our estimate of the bill’s impact on the federal budget and on State and local governments is unchanged.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contacts are Mark Hadley (for federal costs), and Cecil McPherson (for state and local costs).

Sincerely,

Douglas Holtz-Eakin,
Director.

Enclosure.

H.R. 21—Unlawful Internet Gambling Funding Prohibition Act

Summary: H.R. 21 would prohibit gambling businesses from accepting credit cards,