

would be entitled to double damages and attorney's fees and costs—similar to relief available under the Family and Medical Leave Act. Finally, Mr. Speaker, the bill includes a common employment law provision making it illegal for a union to retaliate against or coerce anyone exercising his or her consent rights. This applies to all employees—union members and non-members alike—and under the provision, a union may not discriminate against any worker for giving, or not giving, their consent.

This bill is all the more necessary, Mr. Speaker, because there are those in Congress who are pushing campaign finance reform legislation which purports to codify Beck, but which actually represents a step backwards for working men and women.

Section 501 of the Shays/Meehan reform bill, H.R. 417, entitled "Codification of Beck Decision," does nothing of the sort. Section 501 is a sugar-coated placebo that diminishes the Beck decision and does nothing to correct the current injustices in our federal labor law relating to unions' use of their members' hard-earned paychecks. My Committee's many hearings have shown that the current law in this area does not work because it does not adequately protect workers. A close reading of Section 501 shows not only that the provision does not codify Beck, but that it is in fact a step backwards from codifying current law. Section 501 is so favorable to unions that organized labor could not have done a better job drafting it themselves.

First, Section 501 provides absolutely no notice of rights to members of the union—it applies only to non-members. Second, Section 501 redefines the dues payments that may be objected to, by limiting such to "expenditures in connection with a Federal, State, or local election or in connection with efforts to influence legislation unrelated to collective bargaining." This definition not only infers that there may be other types of political expenditures to which workers cannot object—a perversion of Beck—but it also ignores Beck's holding that workers may object to any dues payments for any union activities not directly related to collective bargaining activities. Section 501 would cut back even further on the already illusory rights workers supposedly have today under Beck.

If Congress is truly going to try to deal with the issue of organized labor taking dues money from rank-and-file members laboring under a union security agreement—taking funds without permission and spending it on causes and activities with which the workers disagree—then let us not fool around with Section 501 of the Shays/Meehan bill. Section 501 is a fig leaf that falls woefully short of addressing the problem.

What we have today is a broken system that allows unions to raid workers' wallets, forces workers to resign from the union, requires workers to object—after the fact—to their money being removed from their paycheck, and then requires workers to wait for the union to rebate those funds, if they get around to doing so.

The Worker Paycheck Fairness Act is a proper and reasonable fix that truly implements the spirit of the Supreme Court's Beck decision. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

#### IRS REPLACEMENT ACT

### HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, the Spirit of '76 lives today. Two centuries ago, our forefathers rose up in revolt against an oppressive tyrant under the banner of no taxation without representation. They understood oppressive taxation was a form of tyranny, and they committed themselves to secure liberty against all odds. Who would have thought that we would triumph against that century's superpower, the British Empire. Yet, we all know we beat the odds and achieved the freedom we all enjoy today.

Today, taxpayers have had enough of a system that treats them as criminals, rather than customers. We need to abolish today's tyrant, the Internal Revenue Service, and replace it with a system that treats you—the taxpayer—fairly. Today, 76 Members of Congress are joining together to recreate that spirit and battle against the odds to make this goal a reality. We are introducing legislation that puts the Congress on a path to abolishing the IRS and implementing a more fair, and simple tax system.

The struggle for freedom is never ending. I committed to the people of the 23rd District that I would fight to abolish the IRS as we know it. Today 76 Members of Congress are joining together to keep that commitment and end this modern day tyranny. The Founding Fathers did not allow the long odds to deter them in their struggle for liberty. That Spirit of '76 lives today. My colleagues please join the 76 of us in recreating that spirit and cosponsor the IRS Replacement Act.

#### THE CONSUMER HEALTH AND RESEARCH TECHNOLOGY (CHART) PROTECTION ACT INTRODUCED

### HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Consumer Health And Research Technology (CHART) Protection Act to ensure the confidentiality of medical records.

There is currently no uniform standard to protect the privacy of a patients' medical records. There have been a number of startling examples of the potential effect of this void on the lives of Americans.

For example, The National Law Journal reported in 1994 that a banker who also served on his county's health board cross referenced customer accounts with patient information and subsequently called due the mortgages of anyone suffering from cancer.

Under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), Congress set a schedule for action on this issue. Should Congress fail to enact comprehensive legislation to protect the confidentiality of medical records by August of this year, the Secretary of Health and Human Services will be required to promulgate regulations.

Congress must act before the Secretary steps in.

We need to strike an effective balance between preventing the disclosure of sensitive information and ensuring health care providers have the information they need to treat individuals and make payments. The CHART Protection Act is an effort to achieve such an equilibrium.

The CHART Protection Act safeguards the confidentiality of medical records while protecting legitimate uses. The legislation sets out the inappropriate uses of medical information. These prohibitions relate specifically to individually identifiable information.

This is an important departure from the approach taken by other bills which seek to restrict the use of health information unless specifically authorized for disclosure.

The CHART Protection Act creates a "one-step" authorization process for the use of individually identifiable information by providing for authorization up front, while allowing individuals to revoke their authorization at any time for health research purposes.

Most other proposals create a "two-step" authorization process in which treatment, billing and health care operations are covered by one authorization, while all other uses are subject to a separate authorization, including use of information for research purposes. This approach has been the source of much controversy and is likely to damage our ability to enhance medical knowledge and improve patient care.

In addition, the CHART Protection Act allows patients to inspect, copy and where appropriate, amend their medical records.

Finally, the bill imposes stiff criminal and civil penalties for inappropriate disclosures of individually identifiable information and creates a powerful incentive to anonymize data.

We need to achieve a balance between a person's legitimate expectation of privacy and the right of a business to know what it is paying for.

It is my hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will recognize the necessity of passing a uniform and comprehensive confidentiality law which would serve to balance the interests of patients, health care providers, data processors, law enforcement agencies and researchers.

#### DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

### HON. TOM DELAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) held its 108th Continental Congress this past April 19th. The DAR is committed to preserving the memory of our Founding Fathers who achieved independence for America and instituted our constitutional form of government. The members of the DAR passed the following commemorative and resolutions as part of their recent Continental Congress and I submit them for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

## COMMEMORATIVE—GEORGE WASHINGTON

In commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the death of George Washington in 1799, it is appropriate to remember his words and deeds that still define and guide our country. George Washington said, "To be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace."

The Father of our Country surveyed the wilderness; was an officer in the Virginia militia during the French and Indian War; owned a profitable plantation on the Potomac with its trading schooners; was Commander-in-Chief of the Patriot forces in the American Revolution; helped create our nation as President of the Constitutional Convention; then became the first President of the United States of America.

In an address to Congress in 1793 he said, "There is a rank due to the United States among Nations, which will be withheld, if not absolutely lost, by the reputation of weakness. If we desire to avoid insult, we must be able to repel it: if we desire to secure peace, one of the most powerful instruments of our rising prosperity, it must be known that we are at all times ready for war."

George Washington was indeed "first in war, first in peace, first in the hearts of his countrymen."

## EMERGENCY RESOLUTION—KOSOVO

Whereas, The President of the United States of America has authorized the use of air strikes in Yugoslavia due to the crisis in Kosovo without a clear mandate from the Congress of the United States of America, thus violating Article I, Section 8, Clauses 11,12,13 of the Constitution of the United States of America.

Whereas, This action of the member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is without clearly defined goals, objectives, and disclosures of the cost of maintaining an uncertain peace with no discernible conclusion in an ethnically divided nation; and

Whereas, The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution have always supported the Armed Forces of the United States of America and will continue to do so; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution express grave concern over the continuing expansion of United States involvement in the Balkans which places American lives in jeopardy in the absence of the constitutionally required action of Congress.

## A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE

Whereas, The armed forces have shrunk about 40 percent in force structure and troop levels since 1989, resulting in an over-tasked military decreased to pre-Pearl Harbor levels and, defense spending, when adjusted for inflation, has dropped since its 1985 peak from \$424.5 billion to the Presidential request of \$267.2 billion for FY 2000;

Whereas, Insufficient funds for defense have led to cannibalization of spare parts from some aircraft to keep others flying, eligibility of military families for food stamps, inadequate housing, unreliable and inadequate health care, diminished training standards, and frequent deployments of questionable value which have weakened family units and the entire military establishment; and

Whereas, The morale of the military rests upon the support and respect of the people, and the security of the nation rests upon a force that is adequately funded and appropriately engaged; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution support increased pay and benefits for the military, defense appropriations sufficient to assure the military has the equipment to perform its duty to this country; and respect on the part of elected and appointed officials to avoid using the military inappropriately as pawns to manipulate foreign policy, and acknowledge their status as sons and daughters serving the nation.

## MISSILE DEFENSE VS. ABM RESTRICTIONS

Whereas, The United States is aware that Russia has thousands of Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) and that China reportedly has 13 nuclear missiles targeted on our cities, the Congressionally commissioned Rumsfeld Report, named for the Commission's chairman, a former Secretary of Defense, recently revealed the risk of a surprise attack by terrorist or Third World countries, of which 25-30 are seeking or acquiring ballistic missiles that could be launched from land, sea or air, carrying chemical, biological or nuclear warheads;

Whereas, Since President Reagan called for the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) in 1983, the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution has given it full support, recognizing that we have no defense against even one missile (which could kill millions), but not realizing that the Anti Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM)—signed with the now non-existing Soviet Union—prohibits the development, testing and deployment of space-based,\* air-based or mobile ground-based ABM systems; and

Whereas, The public should not be lulled into a false sense of security now that Congress has overwhelmingly passed a missile defense act—twice refused consideration last year by the Senate—because, as reported by the Wall Street Journal, the Administration has assured Russia that none of our ground-based interceptors would be capable of intercepting even an accidentally launched multiple warhead; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, while reminding the public of our ever present vulnerability to Russia and Chinese nuclear missile attacks, alert the public to the Rumsfeld Report that details the imminent dangers of potential surprise attack posed by 25 to 30 terrorist or Third World countries, employing chemical, biological or nuclear missiles; consider the ABM Treaty defunct, as is the other signatory, the USSR; and promote immediate development and deployment of space-based and air-based missile defense.

\*Space-based missiles are much more accurate and less expensive.

## BEWARE OF CHINA

Whereas, The communist Chinese have not only secured important nuclear technology through spying but have also influenced American elections, foreign policies, trade policies and strategic interests of this country through millions of dollars in political contributions; and the Chinese have received satellite technology, nuclear technology, a continuation of their most favored nation status and a weakening of our support for Taiwan which we had pledged in the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979;

Whereas, Every technology business allowed to operate in China must give China the secrets of its technology, and China has used both sensitive technological material from private and United States governmental sources and its trade status to enhance its military capacity with missiles

which can now target the United States and our troops in Japan, Korea, and Okinawa with nuclear warheads; and

Whereas, Communist China's military is benefiting by its annual trade surplus with the United States of about \$40 billion, produced by a 35% tariff on United States goods going to China and a low 2% tariff on Chinese products imported to the United States; while Taiwan, a democratic country, which imports almost twice as much from the United States as mainland China, should be given more consideration as its loss would be a severe military and economic blow to our country; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution recognize that a foreign power has invaded our electoral process and undermined our national security and support the following:

1. Enforcement of laws forbidding foreign campaign contributions,

2. Establishment of a more thorough screening of personnel to prevent Chinese spies from stealing our high technology,

3. Withdrawal of the most favored nation status in trade for China which has resulted in our large trade deficit with them,

4. Reaffirmation of our support of Taiwan, a democratic country, which we pledged in the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979,

5. Prohibition of any further export of high technology material to China.

## PANAMA CANAL—AN IMMINENT CATASTROPHE

Whereas, The Isthmus of Panama, one of the most strategic parts of the globe and vital to American security, is the location of many valuable United States military installations representing billions of dollars of investments which are due to be vacated by the end of 1999 unless there is a renegotiation of the terms of our treaty with Panama;

Whereas, The present government of Panama, in violation of the neutrality provisions of the 1978 treaty between the United States and Panama, has already leased the Atlantic and Pacific ports at each end of the Panama Canal to a Chinese shipping company and plans to turn over the United States land installations to them as well, thus enabling China to terrorize all of North and South America with missiles; and

Whereas, The right of transiting the Canal, crucial to the United States military efforts in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the Gulf War, could be denied to the United States in a military emergency, necessitating a two-week, 8,000 mile trip around the tip of South America; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution support re-negotiation of the United States Treaty with Panama before its expiration on December 31, 1999, in order to retain our military bases there, to preserve our rights of transit through the canal, and to prevent the establishment of Chinese missile bases in Panama from which China could strike all of North and South America with missiles.

## TERRORISTS TARGET AMERICANS

Whereas, Although Americans are cognizant of major terrorist attacks such as the World Trade Center, the Marines in Beirut and the American Embassies in Africa, they are complacently unaware that 35 percent of all terrorist attacks worldwide last year were against Americans and that the Secretary of the Army has said, "It's not 'if' but 'when' a weapon of mass destruction will be used in this country";

Whereas, Also known is the holy jihad proclaimed by radical Arabs from many of the

Middle East countries stockpiling chemical and biological germ substances with the professed aim to kill Americans, and that 1,500 to 2,000 known terrorists are living in the United States, yet we have no international anti-terrorist policy that is either consistent, effective, understood by the world or that frightens terrorist nations; and

Whereas, Terrorists with a cyberspace attack could create an electronic Pearl Harbor, cutting off electricity, shutting down 911 systems and all telephone networks, disabling police and military communication, shutting down the infrastructure of the country, thus creating chaos and paralyzing the country; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That, The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, while cultivating the good will of moderate Arabs, support a pro-active approach to international terrorism using surrogates when possible, moving to affect terrorist training centers of governments that allow such activity, and taking appropriate action about known terrorists in the United States.

#### THE UNITED STATES—A REPUBLIC

Whereas, America's heritage is grounded in a deep faith in God, rooted in freedom, and protected by a written Constitution in which our Founding Fathers were careful to give us a Republic in which the rights of a minority are protected by law from the will of the majority;

Whereas, Many Americans have no concept of the meaning of a "democracy in a republic," resulting in a misconception of our constitutional form of government, the heritage from which it is derived, and the dangers inherent in a pure democracy; and

Whereas, Our Republic is endangered today by the indifference of millions of Americans to their duties and responsibilities, and by the many who place blind faith in the authority of the Federal Government and their growing reliance on the government's ability to provide; our Republic will not long endure as long as people accept and encourage the growth of coercive government, allow the Supreme Court to make law by judicial fiat, Congress to pass unconstitutional laws, and the Executive to issue unrestrained Executive Orders which circumvent the Constitution; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution remind all members that a sovereign America lies in the preservation of our great Republic under the rule of law; and the key to that lies with the education and awareness of all of our citizens to the imminent dangers facing this nation unless persons are elected to office who will uphold and preserve the Constitution of the United States of America.

#### ABOLISH NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR AMERICAN HISTORY

Whereas, The Goals 2000 Education America Act became law March 1994, stressing world class standards for teaching eight subjects including "development of internationally competitive standards in American History"; this act was financed by monies from the National Endowment of the Humanities and the Office of Education, yet these national history standards are in violation of the Tenth Amendment of the United States Constitution;

Whereas, Existing National Standards minimize teaching state and regional histories, including western expansion, but emphasize national social history while deemphasizing the role of political, military, and economic history and leaders for the periods of colonization, the American Revolution, and the

development, and implementation of the United States Constitution; and

Whereas, While National Standards next mention the military conflicts from the Mexican War through World War II, they do not provide curriculum or resources as patterns for the study of contemporary America, yet they continue to emphasize the social history over politics, economics, and military policy and leaders; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution oppose continuation of the use of the National Standards for United States History in America's public, private and parochial schools because of the distorted emphasis on social history.

#### SAFEGUARD THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY

Whereas, One of the greatest threats to personal liberty today is the growth of the surveillance state, where it is possible to build a file on every United States citizen via immense databases, containing detailed records on health status and treatment, job status, driving records, financial, credit, and banking transactions; and now government is demanding the right to read e-mails and computer files, listen to phone conversations and track the location of cell phone calls;

Whereas, Increasing citizen database collection with further encroachments into personal privacy have already been launched by the governmental proposal of a personal health ID number to track each person's medical records, collection of DNA data from citizen detainment, expansion of FBI phone surveillance without additional court authorization (roving wiretaps) and the requirement of Social Security numbers on drivers' licenses beginning October 2000; and

Whereas, In order to counteract the progression of government intrusion, such as the temporarily withdrawn Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) "Know Your Customer" regulation, recently proposed legislation would forbid the use of Social Security numbers for unrelated purposes, prohibit government agencies from using the same numeric identifier or assigning ID numbers to investigate or monitor transactions between private parties and prevent the withholding of federal funds to states which choose not to impose federal identifiers; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution oppose the establishment of federal and private databases with the creation of numeric identifiers designed to track our activities, view these efforts as an intrusion of privacy which is incompatible with a limited, constitutional Republic, and support efforts to curtail further federal encroachment into the private lives of our citizens.

#### EXECUTIVE ORDERS ENFORCE UNRATIFIED UN TREATIES

Whereas, the President of the United States, who has issued more than 270 Executive Orders, marked the 50th Anniversary of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights by signing Executive Order 13107 establishing a federal agency empowered to "implement UN human rights treaties to which the United States is now or may become a party in the future";

Whereas, The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which jeopardizes property rights and binds us to enact legislation to prove "adequate food, clothing and housing" for everyone in the world, is among unratified human rights treaties that would be activated although it has been rejected by eight former United States Presidents; and

Whereas, Among other such unratified human rights treaties are the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, replacing family authority with governmental dictates, and the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, requiring implementation of the feminists' agenda in regard to social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, "family education" and even revision of textbooks, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, recognizing that the President of the United States by Executive Order has ignored the constitutional requirement that Senate ratify treaties, and has empowered the implementation of both existing and as yet unwritten human rights treaties, even though present treaties would nullify our Constitutional rights, and impose dictatorial power over almost all aspects of our lives, urge opposition to Executive Orders which circumvent the Constitution or conflict with its balance of power requirements.

#### CORPORATE AMERICA AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

Whereas, Multinational corporations view the entire world as a single market; business conducted on the internet is not subject to national regulation; and the growth of global economy requires global governments which, a senior economist at the World Bank describes as "governance without government," a public function wielded by bodies with no public accountability which threatens the economic national sovereignty of all nations;

Whereas, The Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) is an agency of the Federal Government, financially unaccountable to the public, that encourages American investments in developing countries by adding \$2 in government guaranteed notes for every invested dollar, thus giving multinational corporations profits if the investment is a success while the United States tax payers cover any loss; and

Whereas, The United Nations (UN) is starting a new Third World economic development effort in partnership with multinational corporations, some of which have been accused of human rights or environmental abuses, by considering the creation of a logo incorporating the UN name that corporate sponsors could use, providing them with a powerful tool in many underdeveloped countries and an endorsement that would allow sponsoring companies to forge critical government relationships allowing them to undertake future projects not under the watchful eye of the UN; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution recognize that "global governance" requires constant vigilance to preserve our national sovereignty, realize that multinational corporations negotiate with and form working relationships with foreign governments, and oppose the use of our tax dollars as foreign investment guarantees.

#### MAKING SOCIAL SECURITY WORK

Whereas, The real "Contract with America" is Social Security which the United States government has failed to honor in recent years by transferring money from the Social Security Trust Fund to balance the budget thus creating a misleading surplus; Social Security is the single largest item in the federal budget, accounting for 20 percent of all spending and over 70 percent of American families now pay more in Social Security taxes than they do in federal income taxes;

Whereas, Congress has legislated the Social Security Administration to reduce benefits to 11,000,000 recipients born between 1917 and 1926, to reduce Social Security benefits in half to recipients who have earned another government pension, and to pay benefits to senior citizens who have not contributed to the system; and

Whereas, When the Baby Boomers begin to reach the age 65 in 2010, the Social Security System will pay only 65-75% of the current benefits, due to the increasing numbers of recipients growing from the present 40,000,000 to an estimated 80,000,000; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution favor fulfilling the obligation to those who have paid into the Social Security system and oppose the practice of factoring Social Security funds into the federal budget.

REAFFIRMATIONS

1. Injustice for all—World court—(1998)  
*Resolved*, That the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution oppose any efforts to surrender our nation's sovereignty to the United Nations by establishing the International Criminal Court, a world tribunal that will override the United States Constitution, the American legal system, and our inherent rights.

2. The American Heritage Rivers initiative (AHR)—(1998)

*Resolved*, That the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution oppose the American Heritage Rivers Initiative, a maneuver by the Executive Branch to thwart the powers reserved to Congress regarding regulation of navigable waters, to curb jurisdiction of states over land use planning as well as to restrict water rights, local zoning and individual property rights.

3. Census 2000: Support full enumeration versus sampling—(1998)

*Resolved*, That the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution support the Constitutional requirement of full enumeration of the Census 2000 including all American citizens residing abroad, which will provide important and necessary information to the United States Government and its people.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NEED FOR RECONCILIATION AND HEALING AND RECOMMENDING A CALL FOR DAYS OF PRAYER

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROBIN HAYES**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, last weekend I was going through my father's personal items. He passed away in November. I found this Bible tucked away in a drawer. On the front is inscribed "May this comfort and protect you." Inside it reads, "Commander in Chief, I take pleasure in commending the reading of the Bible to all who served in the Armed Forces of the United States Throughout the centuries men of many faiths and diverse origins have found in the sacred book words of wisdom, counsel, and inspiration. It is the foundation of strength, and now as always an aid in attaining the highest aspirations of the human soul." Franklin Roosevelt.

The next page: "Our prayers are constantly with you, thanking God daily for your joy and faith in him. Heartfelt love, Mother."

We have heard the question today, "what right does the government have imposing its values on us." What right did President Roosevelt have sending my father off to war with this bible more 50 years ago. The president is a leader, Congress is a leader, we need to lead by example by turning to our faith.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF AKRON

**HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of the Village of Akron in Erie County, New York.

Since Jonathan Russell first cleared enough forest to build a frame house and general store, the village of Akron has established itself as a proud community to live and work in. Their strong industrial base, solid work ethic, and rich heritage has helped Akron live up to its name, which means "high place."

Besides a tremendous pride in their community, the residents of Akron have shown an equally impressive love of their country—serving when called whenever our freedom or liberty was threatened. Among the sons and daughters of Akron who have proudly served their nation was General Ely S. Parker, who helped write the terms of the surrender at Appomattox during the Civil War.

From an outstanding commitment to education through the Akron Central School, to the growth of such employers as the well-known Perry's Ice Cream Company to a vibrant business district and strong spirit of community, the village of Akron has enjoyed a tremendous 150 years of history.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the birth of our Nation this weekend, on Sunday, July 4, 1999, residents and local officials of Akron will gather in Russell Park in the village to celebrate their sesquicentennial and the rich and proud history of their community. I ask, Mr. Speaker, that this House of Representatives join me in extending to the citizens of Akron, past, present, and future, our sincerest best wishes and heartiest congratulations on their 150th Anniversary.

CAREGIVERS ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1999

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join with Mr. MARKEY in introducing this important bill. Each day, millions of families struggle as they care for their loved ones who suffer from chronic and debilitating diseases. Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, Down's syndrome, and the ravages of old age make many people dependent on others for their basic care.

Many Americans depend on long-term health care due to a chronic illness or a permanent disability. For example, as many as four million of the nation's elderly currently suffer Alzheimer's disease. Unless someone finds a cure for this condition, the numbers are sure to grow. Within the next 20 to 30 years, there may well be over 14 million persons with this terrible disease that slowly destroys the brain. According to recent surveys, over 50 percent of persons with Alzheimer's disease continue to live with a relative or spouse who sees to their day-to-day care. This personal care may last for many years and represents the equivalent of a full-time job.

We are currently working on a comprehensive bill that will broaden the scope of services families and patients can use to meet their long-term care needs. In the interim we offer this modest first step.

Specifically, this bill provides a \$1,000 tax credit for caregivers similar to the one described by the President in his State of the Union address. Unlike the President's proposal our tax credit is completely refundable and makes no distinction between care for an adult or a child.

If the credit is not refundable, it will be of little or no use to many of the families most in need of caregiver help. The following table illustrates the consequences as simple tax credit that is not refundable. A single individual who makes less than \$7,050 will receive no benefit. That same person would have to make \$13,717 to receive the full \$1,000 of assistance. Similarly, an elderly couple would need a combined annual income of \$21,067 to realize the entire tax credit.

Filing status	Minimum income required to receive portion of tax credit	Income required to receive full tax credit
Single .....	\$7,050	\$13,717
Head of Household With One dependent ..	11,850	18,571
Married Joint Filers .....	12,700	19,367
Elderly Single Filer .....	8,100	14,767
Elderly Married Joint Filers .....	14,400	21,067

The consequence of a simple tax credit is that those people who most need assistance will be the least likely to obtain the intended support. To be honest, \$1,000 is not that much money for long-term care, but it does provide a family with modest relief that they can use as they see fit. That is why we have structured the bill to ensure that those who most need the support will receive the refund.

Another important distinction between our proposal and the President's is the treatment of children with long-term care needs. The President's proposal would limit the tax credit to \$500 for children with long term care needs. We do not agree with this policy. The long-term care needs of a disabled child are just as expensive and emotionally distressing as they are for an adult.

Our bill also has a broader definition of individuals with long-term care needs. The President's proposal includes individuals who require assistance to perform activities of daily living (bathing, dressing, eating, continence, toileting, and transferring in and out of a bed or chair). This is a good start but may not include people with severe mental health disabilities or developmental disabilities who cannot live independently. Our bill does help the caregivers of these people.