

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, on September 21, the U.S. Department of Commerce issued its regular report on the U.S. trade deficit for the month of July. It should be no surprise to many of my colleagues in this chamber that the deficit has risen again. It has, in fact, grown to \$25.2 billion, a 2.4 percent increase from June.

The U.S. deficit set new records with Japan, China, and Western Europe. Foreign products flood our shores, an there's nothing being done. In 1998, the U.S. trade deficits with China and Taiwan accounted for nearly one-third of the total U.S. trade deficit. The deficit with China alone skyrocketed from \$3.5 billion in 1988 to nearly \$60 billion in 1998, and Taiwan is consistently one of our top ten deficit trading partners.

Nobody seems to notice or care about this problem. Foreign trade becomes a larger and larger portion of our economy. Exports plus imports represent over twenty percent of the U.S. gross domestic product. We ignore it at our own peril. Most economists argue that the trade deficits do not matter. I strongly disagree. Even Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, said, "unless reversed, our growing international imbalances are apt to create significant problems for our economy."

Consequently, huge bilateral trade deficits means lost trading opportunities and ultimately means lost American jobs. While rosy unemployment figures hide the fact that over the last year 422,000 Americans lost good-paying manufacturing job to workers overseas, families continue to labor to make ends meet in low-paying service sector jobs.

While I recognize the fact that the U.S. Trade Representative has done much to improve market access, I strongly believe we can still make significant gains. Consider we have one of the largest markets in the world. Every nation wants to sell their product to us, and we must more effectively utilize this leverage. It comes down to a simple proposition. If foreign nations don't let us fairly sell American products in their markets, we shouldn't let them sell their products in America. We're only asking for what is fair. We're only asking for a level playing field, and we're not even getting that.

This is a real problem, and I submit that with most problems, there is usually a simple solution.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon the U.S. Trade Representative to step up efforts to tear down those tariff and non-tariff trade barriers that impede American exports to those nation, especially China and Taiwan. By opening up those huge consumer markets to American products, we can do so much for American workers. Open up those markets, level the playing field, increase American exports, and create American jobs. It's as simple as that.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

GENERAL FEDERATION OF
WOMEN'S CLUBS ANNIVERSARY**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the 75th Anniversary of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) of Luzerne County. The GFWC will celebrate this milestone at a breakfast meeting on Saturday, October 9, 1999. I am pleased and proud to have been asked to participate in this event.

Since 1924, the GFWC has been a community-based, volunteer organization representing women of all ages. Early records show meetings held in two parts, the Board of Directors and a Presidents Meeting, which involved club presidents from all over the county in attendance. The purpose of the organization was to bring together the officers of all area women's clubs and consolidate various volunteer programs and projects. The Luzerne County GFWC currently consists of fourteen volunteer clubs representing almost 600 women of all ages.

Many worthy causes have benefited from the GFWC's efforts throughout the years. Federation Day, held in conjunction with Boscov's Department store, has brought thousands of dollars to area social service agencies. In the early 1980s, the GFWC donated almost \$40,000 to the Domestic Violence Service Center to aid a shelter for battered women and children. Other GFWC projects have included supporting Drug Free School Zones signs for all area schools and universities, rooms for terminally ill patients at Hospice St. John, hearing aids for Wyoming Valley Children's Association, a van for Catherine McCauley Center, wishes for terminally ill children under the Make A Wish Foundation, a rescue boat for the Luzerne County Sheriff's Office, and a beautiful new marquee for the Kirby Center.

The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Luzerne County is affiliated with the national GFWC in Washington, D.C. and the Pennsylvania GFWC. Consisting of six departments—arts, conservation, education, home life, international affairs, and public affairs—the Federation's structure helps it address the needs of the community and respond to calls for help. Nationally, some twenty-seven million volunteer hours and more than \$56 million have been donated to volunteer projects since 1996. Locally, the GFWC proudly joins in this massive volunteer effort each and every year. This year, the local club joins in the effort to assist our libraries, turning its volunteer resources to the America's Promise program to "keep our library doors open."

Mr. Speaker, the Luzerne County GFWC is an essential element in the high quality of life we enjoy in Northeastern Pennsylvania. These dedicated women take time out of their busy lives to touch the lives of thousands of others. I am proud to join with the community on this milestone anniversary in thanking the General Federation of Women's Clubs and its fourteen affiliates for 75 years of good work and community service. Northeastern Pennsylvania is

October 6, 1999

truly richer through the hard work of these dedicated individuals.

RECOGNITION OF JEANNIE I.
ROSOFF'S 30 YEARS OF COMMIT-
MENT TO WOMEN'S REPRODUC-
TIVE HEALTH AND FREEDOM**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeannie I. Rosoff, President of the Alan Guttmacher Institute, who will be retiring after 31 years of service, 20 of them as AGI's president. AGI, under Jeannie's leadership, has been an invaluable partner in working to protect and promote reproductive health and freedom.

During the years I served as Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Health and the Environment, and since, I have relied heavily on AGI's timely, relevant and reliable research and on its politically astute staff, all guided by Jeannie, to help advance us towards our mutual goal. Among the many programs that fell under my subcommittee's jurisdiction were Title X of the Public Health Service Act—the national family planning program—and Medicaid. As a result, the subcommittee became a focal point for legislative activity relating to reproductive health policy. During the time my tenure has overlapped with Jeannie's, we have made numerous efforts—some of them successful—to pass legislation reauthorizing Title X without debilitating amendments. We have fought off the squeal rule—a requirement that minors could only obtain contraceptive services with prior parental consent—and defended against the gag rule, which would have prohibited doctors at Title X clinics from providing women full information about their pregnancy options and prevented women from being able to give informed consent to their medical care. We have resisted repeated attempts by family planning opponents to dissolve Title X's categorical structure and to fold family planning services into a block grant to the states. We have fought against the countless legislative attacks on access to safe abortion services for indigent women, especially affecting those eligible for Medicaid. Finally, we have tried to promote a national approach to health care reform, which would have recognized comprehensive reproductive health care as an integral and legitimate part.

Many of these battles, both pro-active and reactive, will certainly continue in the years to come. I intend to continue to advocate for rational and compassionate federal policies on reproductive health and rights, and I know Jeannie will too, even if it is not in her official capacity anymore. After all, Jeannie was here in Washington in 1968, spearheading the effort to gain federal recognition of the important role of the national government in ensuring access to reproductive health services for all people. She advocated especially on behalf of those least able to advocate for themselves: poor women, young women and those otherwise disadvantaged. Indeed, she may well be considered the "mother" of title X, as she was