

Financing Administration (HCFA) with the flexibility to investigate the effectiveness of reimbursing home health case managers on a competitively bid basis in certain regions where that would prove appropriate.

The creation of a home health case manager for long-stay patients is endorsed by the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MEDPAC), a Commission appointed by Congress to provide expert advice on Medicare and Medicaid policy. In their March 1998 report to Congress they recommended that such a case manager be adopted for the home health benefit.

Their report states: "Such an assessment would help to minimize the provision of services of marginal clinical value, while ensuring that patients receive appropriate care. Requiring case management of long-term home health users could improve outcomes for individuals with long-term home health needs and at the same time slow the growth of Medicare home health expenditures." (Emphasis added).

There is also a new Massachusetts Medical Society study in which two-thirds of the physicians who participated in the study stated that "on occasion, they thought their patients didn't have enough home health coverage," even as 90% of them said that they routinely prescribe home health. They also expressed concern about "the difficulty of getting information about the condition of patients receiving home care," noting that some information does not reach the doctors until "it's well out of date." A home health case manager would remedy those concerns.

In addition, there are real-life examples of case management systems saving money and improving care. For example, Maryland's Medicaid program has a high cost user initiative which in FY 96 saved the state \$3.30 for each \$1 spent—a savings of 230%. The Health Insurance Association of America also commissioned a study of its member plans and found that rehabilitation/case management programs return an investment of \$30 for every \$1 spent.

History has shown us that simply throwing more money into home health is not the answer for assuring that patients receive appropriate care. Let's use this opportunity to make a real, tangible improvement in the quality of care obtained by Medicare patients and simultaneously save Medicare spending by reducing inappropriate visits. I look forward to working with my colleagues for passage of this important legislation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO HENRY KLEIN FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 1999

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute today to a constituent of mine and a dear friend, Henry Klein. I have known Henry for nearly thirty years and relied heavily on his wisdom and guidance throughout my many years in public service.

I am sometimes called upon to pay homage to one of our great national heroes on the day set aside for their remembrance, and it is always a pleasure to retrace their accomplishments, the obstacles they had to overcome, and the dedication they gave to their chosen areas of endeavor. These public heroes, whether they be in the area of military or civic affairs, or the arts or sciences, are a proud part of our democratic heritage.

But what about those unsung heroes, those citizens we meet in our own communities who are also worthy of special recognition for their dedication to the preservation of our democratic heritage? In all the years that I have known him, Henry Klein has been the exemplar of what a public citizen should be—fair and open-minded, and fearless whenever confronted with injustice or the ugliness of mob violence.

Born in Brooklyn, he graduated from City College in New York, earned his masters degree at Columbia University, and then became a member of the armed forces in World War II, serving first as an educational instructor, helping recruits to better understand the demographic principles for which the free world was fighting, and later serving as a sergeant for three years in the European theater. After his return he did not abandon his interest in teaching the social and economic goals which were needed to ensure America's future.

When he moved upstate to the Town of Rochester in the early seventies, he became active with the Concerned Consumers, an organization promoting social and economic issues affecting Ulster County communities.

No one who knows Henry Klein would ever think of him as a member of a political party. He was an uncommon citizen, seeking rational and just solutions. He did not court controversy but neither did he shirk his responsibility to respond when he encountered it. At town meetings, at public forums, in letters-to-the-editor, and on call-in talks shows, when sometimes wild and exaggerated charges were being hurled back and forth between partisan groups and there was much heat but little illumination, it was Henry who would eventually provide the voice of reason and the enlightenment that was needed.

Mr. Speaker, I feel a deep debt of gratitude to Henry Klein for the role he has played in raising the level discourse on public policy issues through the logic and common sense of his arguments and his unwavering loyalty to high democratic ideals. Without public citizens like Henry, a healthy democratic society could not long survive.

THE SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT RESTORATION ACT

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 1999

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation addressing a serious issue for retired teachers and government employees across America. These public servants, after a lifetime of educating our youth and working for the taxpayers of America, find

that their reward is a significant reduction in their Social Security benefits. It is time to end this penalty and give these retirees the benefits they are due.

Retirees drawing a benefit from a private pension fund do not have their Social Security benefits reduced. Why should we do this to civil servants? We should be encouraging able and intelligent people to teach our children and work for the government, not discouraging them by slashing their retirement benefits. We must bring equity to the Social Security benefits of private sector and public sector retirees.

This legislation, the Social Security Benefit Restoration Act, will bring this equity to retirement benefits. This bill will simply eliminate the public sector benefit penalty enacted in 1983 and allow all civil servants to draw full Social Security benefits.

I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this legislation. For every retired government employee and retired teacher in your district experiencing reduced Social Security benefits, I urge your support for this bill.

MANDATES INFORMATION ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 10, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 350) to improve congressional deliberation on proposed Federal private sector mandates, and for other purposes.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, the Waxman amendment to H.R. 350 would provide equal protection under the law.

If we can protect the private sector, surely we can take the same step to protect the public welfare.

H.R. 350 is dejavu all over again—it is the same tired "Contract with America" attempt to lessen the burden of federal mandates on private business. It would provide a procedural advantage to legislation where costs of more than \$100 million might be imposed by Congress on the private sector. Under this procedure, a point of order could be raised on any bill the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) determines would cost the private sector more than \$100 million a year. The point of order could trigger a 20-minute debate and vote on the cost of the legislation.

Who saves and who pays under this plan?

Protection of public health and safety and the environment would seem the logical answer and, yet, H.R. 350 defies logic. Remember, in this Congress the financial interests of business outweigh protection of the public good.

As an example: what if legislation on environmental compliance for a business cost \$100 million or more? The legislation would be subject to a point of order and debate. But, if it were defeated, the public would suffer, in effect repealing federal environmental protection.

Why would we give this type of advantage to business at the expense of the public? Why

would Congress put the interests of business over protection of the public good?

The American Lung Association states, "This legislation will create new procedural hurdles on legislation designed to safeguard public health and the environment." The Association cites as examples legislation to regulate tobacco or clean air that might be defeated as a result of this procedural protection.

The Waxman amendment would provide equal footing to legislation that might weaken or repeal mandates on the private sector which protect the public's health and safety, or the environment. It would open the debate and require a vote to provide the balance needed to afford protection of the public interest, along with the protection of business interests. The Waxman amendment would require the CBO to identify whether or not a bill contains any such provisions that might threaten existing environmental law and protection of the public. A point of order could be raised, providing an opportunity for debate and a vote where members would be held accountable for their position.

Over the past four years, we have experienced repeated attempts to attach anti-environment "riders" to critical legislation. There has been a concerted plan by the Majority to weaken or repeal the environmental progress of the past two decades. In most cases, debate has been closed and votes have not resulted on these individual measures which have threatened our forests, drinking water and clean air. The Waxman amendment would provide the same procedural obstacle to anti-environmental legislation as proposed to protect business under H.R. 350. It would give Congress an opportunity to open the debate on issues with health and environmental consequences.

H.R. 350 asks us to think twice about imposing a burden on the private sector and think not once about the consequences for the rest of society.

Think again—support the Waxman amendment—vote "yes" to protect the public health and our environment.

IN HONOR OF LITHUANIA'S
INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, as Co-chair of the Baltic Caucus I am particularly honored to commemorate the 81st anniversary of the restoration of Lithuania's independence together with the 746th anniversary of the establishment of the Lithuanian kingdom.

Lithuania is rich in history. This country has continually been occupied by regimes which exploited its natural resources and its people. However, the seed of democracy continued to grow within the Lithuanian people. In 1990, after four decades of suppression, Lithuania finally achieved freedom and re-established the independent Lithuanian state.

This hard-fought victory for independence and democracy stands as a testament to the courage, endurance and strength of the Lith-

uanian people. I am honored today as we commemorate not only the original declaration of Lithuanian independence, but the ongoing sacrifices which these people endured to secure their freedom. The Lithuanian struggle stands as a symbol of the need to fight repression and unjust domination throughout the world.

I commend the people of Lithuania for their vigilance through the many difficult years. There is much cause to celebrate in Lithuanian communities everywhere. Lithuanian Independence Day in Cleveland will be celebrated with a ceremony and arts programs at our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

I urge my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 81st anniversary of Lithuanian Independence.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE AND
TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT
OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 1999

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 435, the "Miscellaneous Trade and Technical Corrections Act of 1999". This bill is one of the most closely scrutinized pieces of legislation that ever comes to the House floor. Numerous agencies review its provisions to make sure the duty suspensions it contains do not prejudice any domestic producers of a good. This pre-legislative scrutiny is the main reason similar omnibus trade bills pass the Congress and are signed by the President without controversy.

This legislation is intended to reduce consumers' cost of important products. These include cancer-fighting drugs and organic substances that can substitute for other chemicals which are more harmful to the environment. I am the sponsor of several of the duty suspension provisions in this bill, including Resmethrin, used in an environmentally sensitive home and garden pesticide that controls flying and crawling insects. In addition, I sponsored a duty suspension for Diclofop-methyl, a herbicide for wheat and barley. Unlike many other herbicides, Diclofop-methyl does not need to be tilled into the soil, which promotes soil conservation.

Thidiazuron is another useful chemical included in this legislation. It is a defoliant that causes green bolls to drop to the ground enabling cotton pickers to harvest clean white cotton with a green stain that reduces the value of the crop. It also shed immature bolls which are often the host sites for boll weevil infestation, a major threat to cotton production. Again, it is environmentally superior to other cotton defoliants because it requires less active ingredient than other chemicals to provide the same result. AgrEvo, the Delaware company that manufactures the defoliant, packages it in a water soluble bag in order to reduce exposure of the chemical to the skin of farmers and farm workers who apply it.

Also included in a duty suspension for Deltamethrin, an environmentally safer pes-

ticide used to kill fire ants, fleas, roaches, and ticks. Without these duty suspensions, not only would products cost more, but foreign producers of the product who do not have to pay tariffs on their ingredients would have an advantage over American producers. That means hundreds of fewer jobs for Delawareans and thousands of other U.S. citizens.

In order to make cancer-fighting drugs more affordable, promote a cleaner environment, and protect American jobs, I encourage every Member to support this bill and move it quickly to the Oval office for President Clinton's signature.

RECOGNIZING DALY JOSEPH
"CAT" DOUCET

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 1999

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Sheriff Daly Joseph Doucet, affectionately known to those in Louisiana as the "Cat," who was recently inducted into the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame.

First elected Sheriff of St. Landry Parish in 1936, Cat Doucet quickly earned admiration and respect as the top law enforcement officer in the area. He would go on to serve 20 years in this office—the longest in the rich history of this parish. On January 30, 1999, he was recognized for this service with his induction into the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame. A letter from the selection committee would go on to explain this high honor to Mr. Doucet's family in the following manner: "The statewide selection committee bases its selection on the impact that an individual has had on the politics of Louisiana; a distinction for which your Father certainly qualifies for."

Mr. Speaker, in a state where colorful and savvy politicians are probably the highest density per square mile than any where in the land, Cat Doucet will indeed be remembered as a legend. He will long be remembered for his gifted political skills and remarkable zest for campaigning. One story that I would like to briefly share with you I believe illustrates this legendary talent.

Upon one of his re-election bids, Sheriff Doucet came up with the clever idea to place a P.A. speaker on a crop duster and paid a pilot to fly the crop duster around the various farms of St. Landry Parish the weekend before the election. The pilot, yelling "Vote for Cat Doucet for Sheriff," hit almost every farmer that clear day. The following weekend a massive turnout was reported for the election and a young reporter was anxious to know why so many citizens turned out to support the legendary Sheriff. The reporter quickly grabbed a farmer exiting the voting booth and asked him point blank, "Sir, could you explain what appears to be a massive turn out for Sheriff Doucet?" The farmer replied to the reporter: "Well sir, all I can tell you is this. I was working in the sugar cane fields last weekend and all of a sudden I saw the clouds open up and voice from the sky say 'vote for Cat Doucet for Sheriff' and I said to myself, anybody that can get God to come down and campaign for you,