

raw egg pasteurization equipment is available to egg producers, there are other common sense steps to protect against food borne illnesses.

One step is in a bill introduced by my friend, New Jersey Congressman Frank Pallone together with a number of other co-sponsors earlier this year. The bill, known as the National Uniform Food Safety Labeling Act, requires warning labels on raw or soft cooked eggs, unpasteurized juice, and fish. These foods could be harmful to as much as 30% of the population consisting of children, the elderly, pregnant women and persons with weakened immune systems such as AIDS patients.

Senator Durbin (D-IL), recognizing the gravity of the problem of food borne illnesses, introduced his bill, The Safe Food Act, to address this problem. It would replace the current fragmented federal food safety system with a single, independent agency to oversee all federal food safety activities.

With all the risks facing us, eating eggs should not be one of them. The CDC calls salmonella food poisoning from raw or soft cooked eggs "epidemic," the USDA says that salmonella costs the U.S. economy up to \$2.3 billion annually. A story related by Congressman Pallone before the House of Representatives concerning Lynn Nowak, his personal friend and constituent, describes how Lynn became ill from food poisoning while pregnant. This resulted in severe health complications for her unborn daughter, Julia. Although modern antibiotics cured Lynn, her daughter was left scarred.

Until such time as pasteurization is required, I urge that the Congress take the simple step of supporting the egg carton warning label language proposed by Secretary Shalala which states, "Eggs may contain harmful bacteria known to cause serious illness, especially in children, the elderly and persons with weakened immune systems. For your protection, keep eggs refrigerated, cook eggs until yolks are firm, and cook foods containing eggs thoroughly."

Hopefully this warning label could help reduce the possibility of one more death or illness like Lynn's from ever occurring again. It is unconscionable to sit still and not support this right to consumer awareness.

There many stories to tell, but Lynn and Julia's compelled me to speak out on this critical issue. The human and economic costs of food poisoning are simply too great to stand by and do nothing.

Not every tragedy can be prevented, but those that can be should be stopped.

Food safety should be looked upon by our government as a priority issue.

Peter W. Rodino, Jr.

HONORING MILWAUKEE PRINCIPAL
DIANE NEICHERIL

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to acknowledge and commend Diane Neicheril, known in our community as the "woman on a mission." For 14 years Ms. Neicheril's mission has been serving as the principal of the Clarke Street School in Milwaukee, setting high expectations of her students and teachers, and holding even higher standards for herself.

I have known Diane Neicheril for many years, well enough to understand how her dogged determination to achieve goals affects others. The teachers and students at the Clarke School all hold her in high esteem and acknowledge that Diane Neicheril provided inspiration for them to strive for excellence.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel proclaimed that the Clarke Street School, "might be the most successful school in the Milwaukee Public Schools system." Its students scored 10 percentage points above the statewide average and more than 30 percentage points above the Milwaukee average on reading proficiency tests.

This accomplishment is made all the more remarkable given the many challenges facing the Clarke Street School in past years. Working far longer hours than expected of her, Ms. Neicheril fought to keep her students away from the scourge of drugs and violence that lay just beyond the schoolyard fence.

Ms. Neicheril will be sorely missed at the Clarke Street School, but I have no doubt that she will continue to be an integral part of the Milwaukee community and that her legacy will continue to inspire educators and citizens in our city and beyond.

FOREST SERVICE FEES

HON. MERRILL COOK

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will direct the Forest Service to set fees in a fair, honest manner for forest lots on which families and individuals have built cabins for seasonal recreation. A companion bill is being introduced in the Senate by Senators CRAIG and THOMAS.

The Forest Service recreation residence program is the oldest of the formal undertakings by Congress to provide American families with rustic settings for leisure and for physical and emotional renewal. Authorized in 1915 under the Term permit Act, more than 15,000 of these forest cabins remain today, providing generation after generation of families and their friends a respite from urban living and an opportunity to regularly reconnect with nature.

Approximately 20 years ago, the Forest Service saw the need to modernize the regulations under which the cabin program is administered. Acknowledging that the competition for access and use of forest resources has increased dramatically since 1915, both the cabin owners and the agency wanted a formal understanding about the rights and obligations of using and maintaining these structures.

New rules that resulted nearly a decade later reaffirmed the cabins as a valid recreational use of forest land. At the same time, the new policy reflected numerous limitations on use that are felt to be appropriate in order keep areas of the forest where cabins are located open for recreational use by other forest visitors. Commercial use of the cabins is prohibited, as is year-round occupancy by the owner. Owners are restricted in the size,

shape, paint color and presence of other structures or installations on the cabin lot. The only portion of a lot that is controlled by the cabin owner is that portion of the lot that directly underlies the footprint of the cabin itself.

The question of an appropriate fee to be paid for the opportunity of constructing and maintaining a cabin in the woods was also addressed at that time. Although the agency's policies for administration of the cabin program have, overall, held up well over time, the portion dealing with periodic redetermination of fees proved in the last few years to be a failure.

As the results of actual reappraisals on the ground began reaching my office in 1997, it became clear that the Forest Service was out of alignment in determining fees for the cabin owners.

At the Pettit Lake tract in Idaho's Sawtooth National Recreation Area, the new base fees skyrocketed into alarming five-digit amounts so high that a single annual fee was nearly enough money to buy raw land outside the forest and construct a cabin. Many cabin users in my district faced increases of several hundred percent.

At the request of the chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture in 1998, the cabin owners named a coalition of leaders of their various national and state cabin owner associations to examine the methodology being used by the Forest Service to determine fees.

It was learned that the Forest Service, contrary to their own policy, was appraising and affixing value to the lots being provided to cabin owners as if this land was fully developed, legally subdivided, fee simple residential land not a highly regulated lease.

I urge each of my colleagues to be in contact with cabin owners in their state during the congressional recess.

There are more than 15,000 families out there who fear that the long tradition of cabin-based forest recreation is nearing an end because the fees have made the program unaffordable for all but the wealthy. I along with the American Land Rights Association and the National Forest Homeowners welcome your whole-hearted support and your co-sponsorship of this important legislation. Protect these cabin owners from bureaucratic zealots. Don't let the Forest Service tax Americans out of their log cabins.

NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK

HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Chemistry Week. I rise on this occasion to recognize the thousands of American Chemical Society members who are volunteering their time this week—not only across the nation, but around the world as well—to teach all of us about the exciting ways that chemistry and chemical engineering benefit our country and improve our everyday lives.

This is the 12th year that the American Chemical Society has led the celebration of National Chemistry Week. And I'm especially

excited that in my home district, the 23rd District of New York, volunteer chemists and chemical engineers of the American Chemical Society's Norwich Section will host an open house for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders Chenango County schools. There they will teach practical chemistry using a full range of hands-on activities, so they can see and explore and learn for themselves how chemistry works. Last year, the Norwich Section won national recognition for its Chemistry Week event, which was attended by 250 people from all over Chenango County.

This year National Chemistry Week culminates a 52-country International Chemistry Celebration that featured "A Global Salute to Polymers." In the United States alone, no less than 51 companies, 10 universities, 2 museums, and 17 individual scientists were saluted for the innovative products they created that have changed our lives.

During National Chemistry Week members of the American Chemical Society will conduct events in communities around the country along the theme "Celebrating Polymers." For instance, kids will be asked to carry out activities using sodium poly-acrylate, a widely used absorbent with applications ranging from horticulture to construction to disposable diapers. After seeing how poly-acrylate works, students will be challenged to think up other ways it can be applied to other real-life problems. More activities using sodium polyacrylate are available in the fall issues of the ACS student magazines *WonderScience* and *Chem-Matters*.

Mr. Speaker, our ability to improve the quality of our lives, make educated decisions in an increasingly technological world, and compete successfully in the global economy depends critically upon our understanding of sciences like chemistry.

So please join me and the 160,000 chemists, chemical engineers, and allied professionals of the American Chemical Society in highlighting the fact that every single aspect of our lives is in some way a result of chemistry in action.

DECEPTIVE MAIL PREVENTION
AND ENFORCEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 9, 1999

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to bring forward S. 335 with the provisions of the House passed deceptive sweepstakes mailing bill, H.R. 170, and would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Subcommittee on the Postal Service for the interest they showed in moving this important legislation, particularly our ranking member, the gentlemen from Pennsylvania, Mr. FATTAH, for his input in making this legislation stronger and of wider appeal to those affected by its provisions. By taking this action today, we help to ensure enactment of this important legislation in 1999.

On behalf of our full committee chairman, Mr. BURTON, I must also note that S. 335 in-

cludes additional provisions that, it is my understanding, that the other body has agreed to include in the bill. Incorporated in the bill is H.R. 807, which passed the House under suspension of the rules by voice vote on March 16, 1999, after being introduced on February 23 by our Civil Service Subcommittee chairman, Mr. SCARBOROUGH of Florida, with eight original cosponsors, including the committee's ranking member, Mr. WAXMAN of California.

H.R. 807, included as Title II of S. 335, provides retirement portability for certain Federal Reserve Board employees who take jobs in the executive branch. It will allow those employees who participate in the Board's FERS-like retirement plan to obtain FERS credit for their Federal Reserve years when they transfer to another federal agency. The Federal Reserve already provides such reciprocity for employees who transfer to the Federal Reserve from other federal agencies. Without this correction, former Board employees would receive smaller annuities upon retirement than they otherwise should.

This title will also correct an inequity in current law that prevents certain Federal Reserve employees from withdrawing their funds from their Thrift Savings Plan accounts. Finally, one section in this title is critically important to the men and women who have served our nation in the armed services. It clarifies the Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998 to ensure that veterans will receive the benefits that Congress intended when it passed that act last year.

Title III includes H.R. 3187, a bill introduced by Representative KEN CALVERT, that would amend the 1949 Federal Property and Administrative Services Act to continue the authority allowing no-cost conveyances of surplus Federal property to State and local governments for law enforcement and emergency response purposes.

Under the Federal Property Act, State and local governments or eligible nonprofit entities can obtain surplus property, at no cost, for several authorized public purpose programs. These programs include education, public health, correctional facilities, and public airports. A bill that became law in the 105th Congress, introduced by Representative CALVERT, added law enforcement and emergency management response purposes to this list. Prior to its enactment, however, Mr. CALVERT's bill was amended to include a December 31, 1999 sunset date for these new public purpose categories.

Three properties have been conveyed to local governments, under these authorities. There are more than 22 pending State and local government application nationwide. These new conveyance categories have been invaluable for local governments who are enhancing their law enforcement, and fire and rescue training efforts. These new authorities have allowed for an excellent reuse of surplus Federal property.

H.R. 3187 provides that during the extension, the General Services Administration may not convey surplus Federal property at no cost for law enforcement and emergency response purposes. However, the General Services Administration could at least accept, consider, and approve applications for transfer during this extension. Additionally, prior to December

31, 1999, the General Services Administration can convey surplus property at no cost, for law enforcement and emergency response purposes, to qualifying State and local government entities.

In regard to S. 335 itself, Mr. Speaker, the testimony from the General Accounting Office at the subcommittee's August 4 hearing summed it up well: when it comes to deceptive mail, which includes sweepstakes and other kinds of mailed material, "Consumers' Problems Appear Substantial." We are all concerned by the way some sweepstakes mailings entice consumers, particularly senior citizens, into making unwanted purchases under the mistaken impression that this will enhance their chances of winning a major prize.

As I have stated previously, sweepstakes, themselves, are not evil. They are an effective marketing tool that are accessed by willing and often highly satisfied millions. But experience teaches us, where the laws fall short, the dishonest will flock and honest people will suffer. Now is the time to correct these shortfalls.

S. 335, as amended with the language of the House passed H.R. 170, was carefully developed with our ranking member, Mr. FATTAH, and the bill's original author, the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. LOBIONDO. Keeping with H.R. 170's objective of ensuring honesty in sweepstakes mailings, the amended language incorporates and responds to the extensive testimony submitted at the hearing conducted by the Subcommittee on the Postal Service, and was agreed to by the House under suspension of the rules on November 2.

The gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. LOBIONDO is to be commended for championing the necessary changes to our nation's postal laws in this area, and I deeply appreciate the assistance of the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. FATTAH. In fact, the language before us today reflects the input of other Members who also introduced bills, including the gentleman from California, Mr. ROGAN, and the gentleman from Florida, Mr. MCCOLLUM, authors of H.R. 237 and H.R. 2678 respectively. This language is also based upon Senator SUSAN COLLINS' comprehensive, bipartisan sweepstakes mailing legislation, which passed in the other body, by a 93-0 vote on August 2. Mr. Speaker, you can see we have drawn from many sources to craft what I believe is a reasonably balanced and effective piece of legislation.

S. 335, as amended, would establish strong consumer protections to prevent a number of types of deceptive mailings. It would impose various requirements on sweepstakes mailings, skill contests, facsimile checks, and mailings made to look like government documents. It would establish strong financial penalties, provide the Postal Service with additional authority to investigate and stop deceptive mailings, and preserve the ability of states to impose stricter requirements on such mailings.

I should note that in adopting H.R. 170, the House made changes to the notification system required by those sending skill contests or sweepstakes mailings. The House increased the number of days after which a name must be removed from such mailings lists from 35 to 60 days due to concerns raised by nonprofit mailers in the House hearing; the nonprofit