

March 4, 1999

not have enough money or are behind schedule in performing Y2K conversions. And the story is the same throughout the country in the many cities, counties, towns and territories: time is running out or the money has already ran out.

This bill, which I am introducing today will establish a program that will allow states and territories to apply for funding to initiate Y2K conversions of state computer systems, which distribute federal money for vital welfare programs such as Medicaid, Food Stamps, the supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children, Child Support Enforcement, Child Care and Child Welfare and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. Through the application of Y2K technical assistance funds for these programs, we can insure that the lifeblood of many of the poorest Americans will not be disrupted by the turn of the calendar.

This vital legislation is the house companion bill to the Moynihan-Bennett-Dodd bill (S. 174) as introduced in the Senate. We have modified the original Senate vehicle to insure that the territories and the District of Columbia will not be excluded from this important program—an apparent and accidental oversight of the Senate version. I urge all my colleagues to support this bi-partisan, fiscally responsible and necessary legislation. I would like to thank my colleagues Ms. CHRISTIAN-CHRISTENSEN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ and Mr. FALOMAEVEGA for lending their support as the representatives from the territories of the U.S. Finally, I want to especially thank Representative HORN and Senators MOYNIHAN, BENNETT, and DODD for taking the lead on educating all Americans on the Y2K problem as well as legislating wise solutions to ameliorate its potentially harmful effects.

POUDRE SCHOOL DISTRICT
SUPPORT SERVICES CENTER

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay humble tribute to the people of the Poudre School District Support Services Center in Colorado for their efforts to help the needy during the holidays. I commend the faculty as well as all the students, parents, and individuals who contributed to their benefit. Their selfless dedication has provided warmth, comfort, and happiness to families in Colorado. That the center produced presents for 75 needy boys and girls is testament to the true meaning of the spirit of Christmas and Hanukkah. Let us remember, as these good people have, that the holiday season is one of giving, one of joy, and one of hope. Let their example during the holidays be a beacon to us all throughout the year.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROMPT COMPENSATION ACT

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, all of us have heard from constituents in our districts who are frustrated with the process by which the federal government provides compensation to landowners for the private property it acquires through condemnation proceedings. As you know, federal agencies obtain property for all types of reasons, from community and infrastructure development to environmental concerns. Unfortunately, the problem is that this procedure often takes years to complete. Though legally the property owner may develop their property during this process, realistically they are discouraged from doing so. It is for this reason that I am introducing The Prompt Compensation Act.

Currently, the federal government has two available procedures to obtain private property. The first is "straight condemnation", wherein a federal agency requests that the Justice Department file a "complaint in compensation" with a district court. It is the court's responsibility to ascertain the value of the land, utilizing testimony from the federal agency, the property owners and the appropriate appraisers. Once the court has come to a decision, the federal government has the option of compensating the property owner with the adjudicated price, or moving for a dismissal. The landowner is compensated only if the federal government accepts the adjudicated price. Though the federal government forfeits its interest in the property if it moves for a dismissal, the property owner has been deprived of time, revenue and, in some cases, overall value in their land. It is important to remember that not until a judgment is rendered does the United States obtain title and possession of the property.

The second and more expeditious procedure is commonly referred to as "quick take." This is utilized in instances where waiting for a court decision before taking possession of the property is not acceptable. In this procedure, the United States assumes title of the property immediately, or at any time before judgment, by simply filing a "declaration of taking" along with the complaint in condemnation and depositing with the court an amount of money equal to the estimated value of the land. Normal protocol is then followed, with the court ascertaining the value of the property, and the balance is issued to the landowner.

The Prompt Compensation Act will require the federal government to deposit with the court an amount equal to the estimated value of the land within 90 days or it must forfeit its interest in the property, thus making the "quick take" procedure the only alternative available. The Prompt Compensation Act will make a significant impact in curbing the takings authority of the federal government, while at the same time, strengthening the private property rights of America's landowners. I urge all my colleagues to join me in this important endeavor.

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SOCIAL SECURITY GUARANTEE INITIATIVE

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as we debate our respective positions on Social Security, let us be mindful of a critical issue facing senior citizens—the prohibitively high cost of prescription drugs. Medicare is the main source of health care for the elderly, yet it does not cover the cost of most prescription drugs.

Many senior citizens live on a limited, fixed income. The cost of prescription drugs is an important issue because senior citizens are more likely to suffer from chronic long-term illnesses, such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and Alzheimer's disease which require medication.

Although prescription drugs are covered by most private insurance, thirty-seven percent of senior citizens do not have their own prescription drug coverage. The average senior citizen takes several medications a day (up to 30 prescriptions a year) and many of them pay for their own medications out of pocket.

Senior citizens who cannot afford their medication may not fill them or may not take the proper dosages which can endanger their lives. Seniors who do not take their medication risk living in pain, being hospitalized, or even death.

The cost of prescription drugs directly affects the health and welfare of the elderly. We cannot force our senior citizens to make a choice between buying food and buying their medication. This should not be choice between life and death. We must offer plans to reform the Medicare program that protect the interests of our seniors.

IN HONOR OF MOORPARK HIGH
SCHOOL

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Moorpark High School, which, for the second consecutive year, will represent Ventura County in the Academic Decathlon California state finals on March 12.

These 16 students are representative of the best and brightest our country has to offer. I say that without exaggeration. Moorpark High School's A Team is rated second-best in the country—quite a feat for a relatively small high school. And their coaches, head coach Larry Jones and assistant coach Michelle Bergman, are examples of what is right in our educational system today. Their dedication is to be applauded.

Moorpark High School fielded two teams to compete in the Ventura County Academic Decathlon against the best and brightest from other country high schools on Feb. 6. At the end of the day, Moorpark High's two teams bested all the rest, coming in first and second.

Now they are readying themselves to take on last year's state champion—El Camino High School, which is the only school rated higher than Moorpark in the nation.

Unfortunately, because of contest rules, only Moorpark's A team will be able to compete in the state contest, even though the B team is rated higher than many of the other contestants. But rather than dwell on the unfortunate, the B team members are rallying their A team peers. These teen-agers are taking nothing for granted. For several weeks, the academic achievers have been studying at school until 10 p.m., then hitting a coffee shop or a student's home to study some more.

The fine students representing the A team are: Valerie Lake, Mitul Patel, Ari Shaw, Arturo Barragan, Alexandra Dove, Rebecca Wershba, John Ellis and Nick Lange. The B team is represented by Shanna Gibbs, Tiffany Chou, Jennifer Lawrence, Shaun Berry, Tara Hernandez, James Marlier, Charles Pomerantz and Jason Sweitzer.

On a personal note, let me add that Ari Shaw served as an intern in my office last year. The time he spent here apparently was positive: He won a gold medal during the contest for a speech on his experiences.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Moorpark High School Academic Decathlon Teams for their achievements to date, and in wishing the A team great success in the state championships.

PRESTON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay humble tribute to the students, teachers and parents of Preston Junior High School in Colorado for their efforts to help the needy during the holidays. I commend the facility of the school as well as all the students, parents and individuals who contributed to their special canned food drive. Their selfless dedication has provided warmth, comfort and happiness to families in Colorado. That the school produced so much for Santa Cops for the benefit of the needy is testament to the true meaning of the spirit of Christmas and Hanukkah. Let us remember, as these good people have, that the holiday season is one of giving, one of joy, and one of hope. Let the school's example during the holidays be a beacon to us all throughout the year.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN B. ANTHONY
IN CELEBRATION OF HER BIRTHDAY

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, February 15th was set aside as President's Day, a day to honor the high office and those individuals

who have been given the honor by their fellow citizens to hold it. And indeed, many who have held the office rank among our nation's greatest leaders.

But February 15th also marked the 179th birthday of another of our country's greatest leaders, one who never held high office, but nonetheless changed our nation's history through her relentless protests of inequality. That leader is Susan B. Anthony.

Susan B. Anthony is often remembered for her pioneering work in the cause of equal rights for women. Her fierce opposition to slavery was a natural counterpart to her struggle for women's rights. But as she fought to widen society's guarantee of equal rights to include women, she also sought to widen this guarantee for others, including unborn children.

As we mark her anniversary, let us honor Susan B. Anthony's endeavors which established a legacy for posterity. When she died in 1904 only four states granted suffrage to women. Fourteen years later the nineteenth amendment granted universal suffrage. Let us continue her work toward a more equal and just society.

PROTECTING YOUTH AT WORK:
HEALTH, SAFETY AND DEVELOPMENT
OF WORKING CHILDREN
AND ADOLESCENTS IN THE
UNITED STATES

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, every five days a young person is killed on the job in this country. Every 40 seconds a child is injured on the job. The occupational injury rate for children and teens is more than twice as high than it is for adults. These statistics are totally unacceptable for a civilized, advanced society like ours. On the eve of the 21st Century, this situation is a national disgrace and it is totally unacceptable.

We must ensure that our children are safer at work. Education and healthy development are of primary importance during childhood and adolescence. Working should develop a young person's character, not burden them with potentially lifelong ailments. Work should help students excel in school, prepare them for a productive life and encourage their healthy development.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the alarming problems associated with child labor. I ask that a summary of an important study recently released by the Board on Children, Youth, and Families of the National Research Council and the Institute of Medicine entitled "Protecting Youth at Work" be placed in the RECORD. The National Research Council is the nonprofit arm of the National Academy of Sciences and Engineering. The report was presented to Members of Congress and their staffs last week at a briefing sponsored by our esteemed colleague, Representative MARTIN MEEHAN.

Mr. Speaker, "Protecting Youth at Work" is the product of a blue-ribbon panel of experts selected to represent a broad range of exper-

tise in areas relating to child development, including adolescent social and biological development, public agency programs and practice, law, economics, sociology, psychology, occupational medicine and rural health programs. The committee laid down four general guiding principles for protecting youth at work. First, education and development are of primary importance during the formative years of childhood and adolescence and although work can contribute to these goals, it should never be undertaken in ways that compromise education or development. Second, the formative and malleable nature of childhood and adolescence requires a higher standard of protection for young workers than that accorded to adult workers. Third, businesses that employ young workers assume a higher level of social obligation which should be reflected in the expectations of society as well as in public policy. And finally, everyone under 18 years of age has the right to be protected from hazardous work, excessive work hours, and unsafe or unhealthy work environments, regardless of size of the enterprise in which he or she is employed, his or her relationship to the employer, or the sector of the economy in which the enterprise operates.

"Protecting Youth at Work" urges Congress to authorize the US Department of Labor to limit the hours that 16- and 17-year-olds can work (limits already exist for children under the age of 16), eliminate child labor exemptions and exceptions in our labor laws which do not protect children working in the agricultural sector, and allocate more resources to reducing and eliminating the startling disparity of injuries and deaths among workers under the age of 18 as compared to that of adults.

Mr. Speaker, our child labor laws should take into account changes in the modern workforce. For example, working during the school year has become much more commonplace among America's youth over the past decades—fewer than 5% of students held school-year jobs before 1950. In the 1990's, half of 16- and 17-year-olds work during the school year and 80% of all students have a job at some point during the school year while they are in high school. "Protecting Youth at Work" found that more children are working more hours than ever before in our nation's history.

Mr. Speaker, more and more American children don't have enough time or energy to devote to their studies. While a job can promote self-esteem and teach discipline, working excessive hours takes too much away from school—academic performance can suffer and so does participation in extracurricular activities. "Protecting Youth at Work" found that young people who work more than twenty hours end up sacrificing sleep and exercise, and spend less time with their families, in addition to shortchanging their homework. Just look at the facts. The amount of teenage work is higher in the United States than in any other country in the industrialized world. Educators say that is part of the reason why American students lag behind their foreign counterparts. As policy makers, it is time for us to carefully weigh the benefits of a job against the toll excessive or unsafe work can take on a child's academic performance and healthy development.