

present law, gain from the sale of virtually every capital asset—except horses—qualifies for capital gain treatment once it has been held for one year. The holding period for horses, however, is two years. We think this unfair to an important industry.

There is no reason to treat horses differently than other capital assets. The horse industry provides sport, recreation and entertainment for millions. This industry has an economic impact on the U.S. economy of \$112 billion and supports 1.4 million jobs. It pays \$1.9 billion in taxes to all levels of government. In my state of Illinois the horse industry has an economic impact of \$3.8 billion and supports 50,000 jobs. However, the racing and breeding industry has struggled over recent years because of the proliferation of various gaming venues. As a result, race tracks have not been able to pay purses large enough to cover the expense of racing a horse. Making the capital gains holding shorter will give some help to these owners who are suffering because purses are too low.

This provision was apparently put in the tax code in 1969 as an anti-tax shelter provision. Since then there have been numerous changes in the tax laws, in particular the passive loss limitations, which have eliminated virtually all so-called "tax shelters." This tax provision has discriminated against Illinoisans and others for long enough. Whatever the rationale was for making the holding period for horses different, it has outlived its usefulness.

It is time to change the tax laws in this area. I welcome other members to join us in this effort by cosponsoring this important legislation.

#### EXPANDING CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE COVERAGE

### HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 17, 1999*

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, one out of every seven children is growing up without health insurance. These 11.6 million children—including 76,000 in my home state of Minnesota—are less likely to get preventive care to keep them healthy, or see a doctor when they get sick. This lack of health insurance coverage can have lasting effects. For example, children whose ear infections go undiagnosed and untreated can suffer from permanent hearing loss.

Sadly there are signs that the prognosis for the health of America's children is getting worse. The percentage of children covered by private insurance has declined from 71.5% in 1990 to 67% in 1997. Additionally, premium costs for family coverage are on the rise, placing health insurance beyond the reach of an increasing number of working families.

It is time for all of us to commit to solving this problem. Today, I am introducing two bills that would move us in the direction of a comprehensive solution.

First, I am introducing the Children's Health Coverage Improvement Act of 1999. This legislation would make children's-only policies widely available at group rates to employees who are already covered by a group policy.

Federally regulated self-insured health plans would be required to offer these policies as one of the options available to covered employees.

Many low-income working families simply cannot find room in the family budget to pay the increasingly large premiums for family policies. Moreover, many financially-strapped single parents cannot afford to pay family premiums designed to cover two adults plus children. Kids-only policies could provide an answer for these hard-working and hard-pressed families.

This legislation is sensitive to employers' concerns that they cannot assume further insurance costs. Instead of requiring an employer to shoulder a specified portion of insurance costs, this bill allows the dynamics of the group insurance market to create affordable children's-only policies for the dependents of group health plan beneficiaries.

I am also introducing a second bill to enhance the well-being of federal employees' children. This legislation would allow enrollees in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) to purchase an employee and children-only benefit option at a lower cost than current family coverage options.

My bill would help those federal employees who, because of cost, defer purchasing family health coverage. The bill authorizes the Office of Personnel Management to offer group-rated employee and children only coverage to enrollees of the FEHBP.

There is a real need for a health insurance product that better addresses the needs of low-income and non-traditional families than family policies that are currently available. Group-rated employee and children-only policies would help meet this unfilled need.

Shoring up the decline in employer-sponsored health care is one way to help get kids insured. America's 11,600,000 uninsured children need help. It's time for all of us—in the private and public sector—to pitch in and make sure they get it.

#### IN HONOR OF DEAN PAUL O'CONNOR

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 17, 1999*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Dean of the Faculty of Law of the University of Dublin, National University of Ireland, The Honorable Paul O'Connor. Dean O'Connor is the guest of honor at the twentieth annual Donahue & Scanlon St. Patrick's Day Party.

Dean O'Connor received primary and post-graduate degrees in law at University College Dublin, the largest law school in Ireland, before qualifying at the Irish Bar in 1976. He was then awarded a fellowship to study at the University of Pennsylvania where he graduated with a Masters in 1978. After practicing briefly in Philadelphia, he returned to his alma mater to take up his first teaching post. Dean O'Connor specializes in the subjects of Criminal Law, Evidence, and Family Law, and he is widely published in each of these areas. In

1986, he resumed his academic acquaintance with the United States as a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Michigan where he studied comparative matrimonial property regimes.

Dean O'Connor has guest lectured in Europe, the United States and Australia. He is a board member of both the Irish Centre for Commercial Law Studies, and the leading Irish law journal, *The Irish Jurist*. He is also currently a member of the Solicitors profession's Future of the Legal Profession Committee.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring the accomplishments of Dean Paul O'Connor.

#### HONORING "MR. HOMES ASSOCIATION"

### HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 17, 1999*

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with sadness to remember and honor a legendary person from my district, Mr. Harry Brandel, Jr. Mr. Brandel died last week after a long fight with cancer.

He was known as "Mr. Homes Association" because he led the Palos Verdes Homes Association for more than three decades. He relinquished this position only when forced to by poor health.

Under Harry's leadership, the community established strict development standards, helping to preserve its extraordinary beauty, low density, and high quality residential ambience. Harry leaves behind a legacy of beauty and protection that will outlast many generations.

Harry also left his footprint on the city's political life. He was known as a skilled politician, brokering consensus on many controversial development issues. He could do this with his low-key approach and his ability to be friends with his adversaries. This past January, Harry was honored by the city council as the community's longest serving public official. From one public official to another, it is a fitting remembrance, and one to which we should all aspire.

#### DIRECT CHECK FOR EDUCATION ACT

### HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 17, 1999*

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, when I talk with parents, teachers principals and school administrators throughout Southern Missouri, it becomes very clear that much needs to be done to strengthen our local school systems. Aging facilities, increasing class sizes, and tight funding are placing a tremendous strain on the quality of education available for our children. And no two school districts are alike in their specific needs. Whether it's building new classrooms, repairing a hole in the gymnasium roof, hiring more teachers, or acquiring new computers or test books, only the parents, educators, and locally elected school