

## WHITE HOUSE FELLOW PROGRAM

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**OF NEW YORK  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Friday, May 14, 1999*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Michelle Peluso, one of my constituents of New York City, New York for serving as a distinguished 1998–99 White House Fellow.

Established in 1965, the White House Fellowship Program honors outstanding citizens across the United States who demonstrate excellence in community service, leadership, academic initiative and professional achievement. It is the Nation's most prestigious fellowship for public service and leadership development. For more than three decades, White House fellows have been chosen on the merit of remarkable achievement early in their career. Each year, 500–800 applicants compete nationwide for 11–19 fellowships.

Ms. Peluso graduated summa cum laude from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, receiving her bachelor's degree in economics. As an undergraduate, she led volunteer programs in West Philadelphia, including a mentoring program, a campus community service group and a volunteer initiative at the Ronald McDonald House. Ms. Peluso received a master's degree in philosophy, politics and economics from Pembroke College at Oxford. Hired as a management consultant with the Boston Consulting Group in New York, she completed a one-year project to define the next frontier in health care and then traveled worldwide to present her ideas to members of the firm's global health care practice area. She founded A New Generation for Peace, a non-profit group that brought together 350 youths from 50 countries for seminars on global issues. Additionally, Ms. Peluso is a member of the board of directors of Christa House, which builds homes and provides care for end-stage AIDS patients.

As a White House fellow assigned to the U.S. Department of Labor, Ms. Peluso—has co-managed the Vice-President's summit on 21st Century Skills for 21st century jobs, where she was responsible for leading inter-agency steering committee meetings, writing speeches and working on new policy announcements. She also leads a team that addresses one of Labor Secretary Alexis Herman's top priorities, "out-of-school youth." In that capacity, Ms. Peluso is responsible for coordinating the Department's \$2.5 billion portfolio of programs.

She is also responsible for developing new partnerships and a public awareness campaign for the initiative. Further, Ms. Peluso manages the Secretary's dislocated workers initiative, which is the Secretary's number two priority. Her working involves leading a team of senior program managers, economists and public affairs specialists to ensure effective management of programs, develop new strategies for worker dislocation, and help coordinate grants to communities and businesses affected by dislocations.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in applauding Michelle Peluso for her achievements. I wish to congratulate Ms.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Peluso for her distinguished service to White House Fellowship Program.

## INTRODUCTION OF AMENDMENT

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**OF CALIFORNIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Friday, May 14, 1999*

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to report to my colleagues the actions of the House subcommittee on Military Personnel. Today I offered, and the subcommittee endorsed, an amendment that many of my colleagues will recognize as the Harman amendment.

I am proud to continue the good work of my friend and colleague, Congresswoman Jane Harman. Jane was one of my mentors. I am sure my colleagues on the subcommittee will join me in commending Jane's contribution to the quality of life for our military personnel and their families.

My amendment includes the identical language from the Harman amendment. It repeals a provision of the FY 1996 defense bill barring women serving overseas in the U.S. military from using their own funds to obtain legal abortion services in military hospitals. As the ranking woman Democrat on our Committee, I strongly feel that this policy must be overturned.

Women who volunteer to serve in our Armed Forces already give up many freedoms and risk their lives to defend our country. They should not have to sacrifice their privacy, their health, and their basic constitutional rights because of a policy with no valid military purpose.

This is a health care concern. Local facilities in foreign nations are often not equipped to handle procedures, and medical standards may be far lower than those in the United States. Why are we putting our own soldiers at risk?

This is a matter of fairness. Servicewoman and military dependents stationed abroad do not expect special treatment, they only expect the right to receive the same services guaranteed to American women under Roe v. Wade—at their own expense.

My amendment does not allow taxpayer-funded abortions at military hospitals, nor does it compel any doctor who opposes abortion on principle or as a matter of conscience to perform an abortion. My amendment reinstates the same policy that was in effect from 1973 until 1988, and again from 1993 to 1996.

My amendment has strong support from the House. Ninety Members—both Democrats and Republicans—have cosponsored my legislation to change this policy.

My amendment has strong support from health care providers; the American Public Health Association, the American Medical Women's Association, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the Planned Parenthood Federation of America have all indicated their support for this amendment.

And, as you can see from the letter I've provided, my amendment is supported by the Department of Defense. If the professionals who are responsible for our nation's armed serv-

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ices support this policy change, why wouldn't this Committee?

I am pleased that my fellow colleagues on the subcommittee voted to endorse my amendment with bipartisan support. Repealing this unfair prohibition will help keep our soldiers healthy and safe.

## PREVENT THE EXPORT OF MILITARILY SIGNIFICANT TECHNOLOGY TO CHINA

**HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY**OF NEW YORK  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Friday, May 14, 1999*

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced legislation that will prohibit the sale of the Cray SV1 supercomputer to Hong Kong, now a territory of Communist China. The export of this computer threatens our national security, and I urge you to join in co-sponsoring this bill.

In February of this year, a contract was awarded to supply the Hong Kong Observatory with the fastest computer the territory has ever seen. The Cray SV1 supercomputer runs at the speed of 21,000 million theoretical operations a second. If the battlefield and simulation capability of the system were to fall into the wrong hands, it could seriously undermine our national security. This should trigger a "red flag" for dual-use militarily significant technology transfers.

To think that China would use this computer for scientific purposes only is pure folly. Last month, a Hong Kong company went before local courts for allegedly "selling a supercomputer to a Chinese advanced weapons institute." A separate Hong Kong company is also facing charges that it imported strategic commodities without a license. It diverted a dual-use computer to a mainland military research institute.

Officials from the departments of Defense, Commerce, Energy and State have raised objections to the sale of the Cray SV1, yet the export is still under consideration by the Clinton Administration. I urge all of my colleagues to please join in co-sponsoring my bill by contacting my office.

## RECOGNIZING THE SUCCESS OF THE SEVENTH ANNUAL "STAMP OUT HUNGER" FOOD DRIVE IN NASHUA

**HON. CHARLES F. BASS**OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Friday, May 14, 1999*

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday I had the opportunity to participate in the National Association of Letter Carriers annual food drive in my district. The seventh national "Stamp Out Hunger" event was sponsored by the National Association of Letter Carriers and was held in 10,000 cities throughout the United States. One of these cities was Nashua, New Hampshire, where myself and Postal Carrier Doug Mercier traveled throughout his

Postal Route #26 collecting donated, non-perishable food items. Although I was only along the route for a little less than two hours, I was absolutely amazed by the amount of generosity that was shown by the dozens of individuals who donated food. Not only did many people donate food, but some selflessly donated more than one item. The impact of this event was obvious to me when I found out that the residents of Nashua had succeeded in donating more than 36,000 pounds of food. That is 18 tons of donated food collected in one city, in one day!

Needless to say, I was extremely impressed with the effort, organization, and effectiveness of the National Association of Letter Carriers food drive in Nashua and its success throughout the country. I would like to commend the National Association of Letter Carriers and the United States Postal Service for their commitment to collecting food for the hungry and lending a helping hand to those who need it most. The food that was collected will help feed nearly 30 million needy people throughout the country. It is initiatives like this food drive that encourage people to participate in their community and assist those in need. I would encourage all of my colleagues, if they have not already done so, to participate in the national Stamp Out Hunger food drive next year. I know that I am already looking forward to participating again and I am greatly encouraged by the generosity and goodwill that I witnessed this past weekend.

REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S PRESIDENT  
LEE TENG-HUI'S THIRD ANNI-  
VERSARY IN OFFICE

**HON. DANA ROHRBACHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 14, 1999*

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, three years ago, voters in Taiwan rejected communist China's attempts at military intimidation and handed a landslide victory to Mr. Lee Teng-hui in an election that completed Taiwan's transition to a full-fledged democracy. Now, in 1999, President Lee has continued to make strides toward full democracy and is seeking to reduce tensions in the Taiwan Strait. He has repeatedly urged leaders on the communist mainland to discuss reunification issues under the premises of the need for democracy for all Chinese people. He has also shown leadership in helping neighboring Asian countries find solutions for the regional financial crisis.

On the eve of President Lee Teng-hui's third anniversary in office, I wish President Lee continued success. His election three years ago was the first time a Chinese society had democratically elected its leader. The election represents a victory for the people of Taiwan in their commendable development of full democracy.

Congratulations to the Republic of China on Taiwan.

**EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS**

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. JACK QUINN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 14, 1999*

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I was honored by the American Red Cross in Buffalo, New York, and therefore was unable to cast my vote on the motion to instruct conferees (rollcall No. 130) regarding H.R. 1141, a bill making emergency supplementary appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" in support of this motion.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE WORKING  
UNINSURED TAX EQUITY ACT**

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 14, 1999*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to share with you some ideas that both Representative ROGAN and I have about how to begin addressing the issue of the uninsured.

Many of us are stymied by the health care paradox of a booming economy. Our economy is booming. Unfortunately, parallel to this economic growth is the growing number of uninsured. There are now almost 44 million uninsured people in this country—an increase of more than 5 million since 1993.

Today, we are introducing legislation to help stop the increase by targeting a 30% health insurance tax credit to the working uninsured. To qualify for our partially refundable credit, taxpayers must not currently be offered health insurance through their employer and they must have an individual income below \$30,000/yr or a joint income of less than \$50,000/yr. To ease administration, these income limits have been designed to match those of traditional IRAs.

When the General Accounting Office evaluated a similar proposal last June, it found that almost 36 million individuals without employer-based coverage—roughly 75% of the uninsured—would be eligible for the full credit on the basis of their adjusted gross income. Additionally, under our proposal, the self-employed would have the opportunity to choose between our proposed credit or the 60% deduction allowed by current law.

The benefits of this proposal are not only that it provides a tax benefit for those who need it most, it also would encourage health care consumers to be cost-conscious when choosing their health insurance loans so that they could maximize the value of the credit.

As you consider our proposal, keep in mind three questions: (1) who the uninsured are, (2) how has the tax code impacted health insurance in this country, and (3) most importantly, what can the 106th Congress realistically do to address this important social policy issue.

First, who are the uninsured? Contrary to what many people might think, roughly 75% of the uninsured work full or part-time. The remaining 25% are split evenly between those who are unemployed and those who are not in the labor force.

There isn't enough time today to talk at length about the demographics of the working uninsured. If we did, we'd find that most of them are age 18-34, that a disproportionate number of them are minority, that working poor parents are twice as likely to be uninsured as poor parents who are unemployed, and that the highest rate of uninsurance impacts pre-seniors between the age of 62-64.

Second, how has the tax code impacted health insurance in this country? Since WW II, America has relied on employers to provide health insurance and has rewarded them accordingly through the tax code. But, a growing number of workers lack employer-based insurance which policy-makers once took for granted.

Let me give a practical example of how the working uninsured fall through the cracks of our current employer based system. If you make \$6.50 an hour your after tax income is \$11,500. If you tried to purchase an average health insurance plan it would cost you about \$3000. It is obvious that if the working poor are going to get health insurance we are going to have to come up with a way to help them.

I think we should all find it unacceptable for a person who works full time in this country not to be able to afford health insurance.

Third question, how do we in the 106th Congress address the issue of the working uninsured?

As you all know, I am a strong believer in universal health insurance and that the most efficient way of providing it is through a single payer financing system. A system that would lift the prohibitive burden of health insurance administration from employers and replace it with a public premium that shares responsibility throughout society.

But, if there is a way for us to guarantee universal coverage without single payer—through a plan based on tax credits, Clinton-care, or Medicare for all—I am willing to look at the proposal, as long as the plan guarantees access to quality care that's affordable. My bottom line is quality care at an affordable price.

Unfortunately, just because something is efficient—such as a single payer system—doesn't always mean that it will pass anytime soon. The reality is that the political climate to have an honest debate about universal coverage was destroyed by partisan bickering in 1994.

As a policymaker, the next question for me then becomes, what can we do in the near term to help folks who need health insurance today.

The tax code is a good place to look. After all it is the foundation of our employer-based health insurance system.

For a number of years now, this issue for me has been about simple tax fairness. As many may know, Congress recently made matters worse by passing legislation to allow the self-employed to deduct 100 percent of the cost of health insurance from their taxes. Since 1995, I have attempted to equalize the tax treatment of health insurance benefits by offering amendments on the House floor and in the Ways and Means Committee, and by introducing H.R. 539 in the last Congress.

My rallying cry—which I am glad to see is starting to take hold—has been the rhetorical