

finally return to their homeland. Yet there is more good news on the way. Dr. Lee Teng-hui, President of the Republic of China on Taiwan just announced that Taiwan will provide the Kosovar refugees with \$300 million in aid. This aid includes food and medical care that are urgently required, as well as job training and rehabilitation programs to promote the reconstruction of Kosovo in the long run. We welcome such generosity from the Republic of China, and applaud its contribution to peace and stability in the international community.

Under the dynamic leadership of President Lee Teng-hui, the Republic of China has become a prosperous, full-fledged democracy, and it has demonstrated on numerous occasions its willingness to help the needy. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our appreciation to President Lee and the people of the Republic of China for their generosity to the Kosovar refugees and contributions to the international community.

HONORING JOSE ORLANDO MEJIA,
MD

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Jose Orlando Mejia, the Chief of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and the Director of the Medical Intensive Care Unit at Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Center, and Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine at the State University of New York Health Science Center at Brooklyn.

Board certified in three specialties—Internal Medicine, Pulmonary Medicine, and Critical Care Medicine—Dr. Mejia is an expert in asthma, emphysema, smoking-related illness, and diseases of the lungs, respiratory system and heart.

Graduated from the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo School of Medicine in the Dominican Republic, he has received advanced training through a Pulmonary Medicine Fellowship at the Long Island College Hospital, and a Critical Care Medicine Fellowship at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine Montefiore Hospital.

For nearly twenty years, Dr. Mejia has dedicated his work to caring for the people of our communities. He has taken a holistic approach to care-giving—not only working to heal the patient, but care for the community as well. He is a keen diagnostician and excellent communicator—speaking to patients in both English and Spanish. As such, he can provide a unique type of care—providing a level of comfort and support emotionally while healing people physically.

Dr. Mejia's special interest in asthma is particularly important to the communities I represent in New York's 12th Congressional District, where air pollution is an enormous problem. Due to the traffic and waste-transfer sites that are located throughout Brooklyn, asthma and other respiratory problems are particularly high—especially among children. Dr. Mejia's work addresses these problems in a direct and critical way.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Many times people who make valuable contributions to our communities go unrecognized. I would like to urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Mejia for the work he has done, the people he has helped, and the strength he has given to our communities. Because of his work the 12th Congressional District is a better place, and I thank him and wish him continued success.

TRIBUTE TO BEVERLY GARLAND

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Beverly Garland, who is being honored as 1999 NoHo Citizen of the Year at the 7th Annual NoHo Theatre & Arts Festival. Through the years Ms. Garland has played an invaluable role in helping NoHo emerge as a thriving center of music, dance and theater in what had been a declining section of North Hollywood. As a successful businesswoman and actress, Ms. Garland is the perfect representative for NoHo. The Festival could not have made a more appropriate choice for its citizen of the year.

Much of the world knows Beverly Garland for her role as Fred MacMurray's wife in the long-running television series "My Three Sons," and as Kate Jackson's mother in "The Scarecrow and Mrs. King." That was then. Today she continues to lead a very busy life as a television actress. Her recent movies for TV include "Finding the Way Home" with George C. Scott and "The World's Oldest Living Bridesmaid," with Donna Mills. She has also appeared as a guest star on "Friends," "Ellen" and "Diagnosis Murder," and recently became "engaged" to Grandpa Charles on the popular weekly series "7th Heaven."

With more than 200 television and film roles to her credit, it comes as no surprise that Ms. Garland has received a star in her name on the famous Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Those of us who live in the east San Fernando Valley also know Ms. Garland for her business skills and civic involvement. She and her family own and operate Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn on Vineland Avenue in North Hollywood, a 258-room hotel that recently teamed with Holiday Inn Worldwide. The hotel is not only popular with visitors to the area, but is a central location for community meetings, chamber of commerce events and other important local activities.

Ms. Garland has not at all been hesitant to use her skills as a public speaker to promote the area. She holds the position of Honorary Mayor of North Hollywood and lends her presence at many public functions. She has also served on the California Tourism Corporation Board of Directors and is a member of the Greater Los Angeles Visitors and Convention Bureau.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Beverly Garland, whose devotion to her community, commitment to the arts and dedication to her craft are an inspiration to us all. She has contributed greatly to the rise of NoHo and its emergence as one of the "hot spots" of Los Angeles.

June 10, 1999

RECOGNIZING ROBERT TAYLOR
AND THE FRESNO CHAPTER OF
THE MONTEREY BAY JAGUARS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert Taylor, coach of the Fresno chapter of the Monterey Bay Jaguars, for his outstanding achievements and dedication to the youth of his community. The Monterey Bay Jaguars is a track and field club for children ages six and up.

Taylor, a Fresno parole officer, devotes his time twice a week, between February and July, to his "star athletes." He started with about 15 athletes from Bethune Elementary school in Fresno, where he was a tutor. The chapter now has more than 40 athletes from Fresno County. Taylor recruited co-workers and parents to help him run the growing program. Despite what some may think, this is not an "inner-city" group of kids. "We have a mixture," Taylor says. "Most of these kids are on the honor roll. Some of those kids down there have some money. But I don't want it to be like they're the rich kids. These kids are talented."

Indeed they are. Most of Taylor's kids had not participated until this year, but have won a combined 700 awards at the state and national levels since February. Taylor's secret to this success is a regimen of discipline and mental stability. Taylor designed a program that teaches the children the fundamental aspects of the sport and puts them through a college level workout twice per week. Taylor says he believes all of his athletes can compete in college and beyond and boasts about their speed. "I've got a gold mine here," Taylor says. "They're the all-star team."

Mr. Speaker, I rise, with great pleasure, to recognize Robert Taylor and his team of "all-stars." It is evident by the dedication of both coaches and athletes that there is a mutual respect, and genuine concern for the positive development of the community. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Fresno chapter of the Monterey Bay Jaguars for many more years of continued success.

INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE
DECREASES OPPORTUNITIES FOR
OUR NATION'S YOUTH

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I highly recommend Bruce Bartlett's "Minimum Wage Hikes Help Politicians, Not the Poor", which recently appeared in The Wall Street Journal, to all of my colleagues. Mr. Bartlett's article provides an excellent overview of the evidence that an increase in the federally-mandated minimum wage reduces teenage employment. Since those shut out of entry-level work are unlikely to obtain higher-paying jobs in the future, an

increase in the minimum wage reduces employment opportunities for millions of Americans. This point was also highlighted by Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan in testimony before the Senate in January when he pointed out that "All the evidence that I've seen suggests that the people who are the most needy of getting on the lower rungs of the ladder of our income scales, develop skills, getting the training, are unable to earn the minimum wage. As a consequence, they cannot get started. And I think we have to be very careful about thinking that we can somehow raise standards of living by mandating an increase in the minimum wage rate." I hope all of my colleagues will carefully consider how increasing the minimum wage decreases opportunities for our nation's youth and refrain from reducing economic opportunity for those at the bottom of the economic ladder by raising the minimum wage.

Bruce Bartlett is senior fellow at the NCPA. He was Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Policy in the Treasury Department from 1988 to 1993, and Senior Policy Analyst at the White House from 1987 to 1988. He is an expert commentator on taxes and economic policy, the author of two books and, a syndicated columnist. His articles have appeared in many papers including *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times*. He regularly appears on national television and radio programs.

MINIMUM WAGE HIKES HELP POLITICIANS, NOT THE POOR

(By Bruce Bartlett)

It now appears likely that the Republican Congress will soon raise the minimum wage for the second time in three years. In 1996 the minimum increased to the present \$5.15 an hour from \$4.25; the increase now being considered would bring the figure up to \$6.15 by 2002. This is bad news, for as many as 436,000 jobs may disappear as a result of the increase.

During the last debate, two arguments were advanced in favor of raising the minimum wage. The first claimed that the minimum wage had fallen sharply in real (inflation-adjusted) terms since the previous increase in 1991. But with inflation having all but vanished in the 19 months since the last increase, this argument does not hold true today.

The second argument, based almost exclusively on a 1995 study by economists David Card and Alan Krueger, was that raising the minimum wage actually reduced unemployment. Since then, however, virtually every study done on the subject has confirmed longstanding research showing that raising the minimum wage invariably has a negative impact on employment, particularly among teenagers and minorities.

The federal minimum wage was first enacted in 1938, but applied only to the small minority of workers who were engaged in interstate commerce. The first data we have on teenage unemployment are from 1948. From then until a significant expansion of the minimum wage in 1956, teenage unemployment was quite low by today's standards and was actually lower for blacks than whites. Between 1948 and 1955 unemployment averaged 11.3% for black teenage males and 11.6% for whites.

Beginning in 1956, when the minimum wage rose from 75 cents to \$1, unemployment rates between the two groups began to diverge. By 1960, the unemployment rate for black teen-

age males was up to 22.7%, while the white rate stood at 14.6%.

Despite such evidence, supporters continued to push for ever higher and more inclusive minimum-wage rates, which were raised almost yearly between 1961 and 1981. At each point the unemployment rate for black teenagers tended to ratchet higher. By 1981, the unemployment rate for black teenage males averaged 40.7%—four times its early 1950s level, when the minimum wage was much lower and its coverage less extensive. That year, the federally-mandated Minimum Wage Study Commission concluded that each 10% rise in the minimum wage reduces teenage employment by between 1% and 3%.

Subsequent research, based on the effects of the previous two minimum-wage increases, continues to confirm this estimate. A study of the 1990-91 increases, which raised the rate by 27%, found that it reduced overall teenage employment by 7.3% and black teenage employment by 10%. Similarly, a study of the 1996 increases found a decline in employment of between 2% and 6% for each 10% increase in the minimum wage.

In a study published by the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, economist Kenneth Couch translated these percentages into raw numbers. At the low end of the range, at least 90,000 teenage jobs were lost in 1996 and another 63,000 jobs lost in 1997. At the higher end, job losses may have equaled 268,000 in 1996 and 189,000 in 1997. He estimates that a \$1 rise in the minimum wage will further reduce teenage employment by between 145,000 and 436,000 jobs.

The fact is that the vast bulk of economic research demonstrates that the minimum wage has extremely harmful effects on the very people it is designed to aid—the poor:

The minimum wage unambiguously reduces employment. The September 1998 issue of the *Journal of Economic Literature*, an official publication of the American Economic Association, contains a survey of labor economists on the employment effects of the minimum wage. When asked to estimate the impact of raising the minimum wage, the average effect was estimated at minus 0.21%, meaning that a 10% rise in the minimum wage will reduce overall youth employment by 2.1%. This puts to rest any notion that economists have changed their view that in general higher minimum wages reduce employment.

Increases in the minimum wage have a disproportionate impact on teenagers and the poor. The minus 2.1% figure cited above is an overall impact. For those currently earning less than the new minimum wage, the impact is much greater. For example, prior to the 1996 increase, 74.4% of workers between the ages of 16 and 24 already earned more than \$5.15, and 4.3% were legally exempt from the minimum wage law. Thus the employment losses were concentrated among the 21.3% of workers making the minimum wage or slightly more. When one attributes total employment losses entirely to this group, it turns out that the employment loss figure is minus 1%, according to economists David Neumark, Mark Schweitzer and William Wascher. This means a 10% rise in the minimum wage reduces employment among this group by 10%.

Increases in the minimum wage add almost nothing to the incomes of poor families. There are two reasons for this. First, employment losses reduce the incomes of some workers more than the higher minimum wage increases the incomes of others. Second, the vast bulk of those affected by the minimum wage, especially teenagers, live in

families that are not poor. Thus a study by economists Richard Burkhauser and Martha Harrison found that 80% of the net benefits of the last minimum-wage increase went to families well above the poverty level; almost half went to those with incomes more than three times the poverty level. (The poverty level is about \$17,000 for a family of four.)

The minimum wage reduces education and training and increases long-term unemployment for low-skilled adults. Messrs. Neumark and Wascher found that higher minimum wages cause employers to reduce on-the-job training. They also found that higher minimum wages encourage more teenagers to drop out of school, lured into the labor force by wages that to them seem high. These teenagers often displace low-skilled adults, who frequently become semipermanently unemployed. Lacking skills and education, these teenagers pay a price for the minimum wage in the form of lower incomes over their entire lifetimes.

A raise in the minimum wage has always been an easy sell in Washington. But whatever the political realities may be, it's still a bad idea.

VALLEY HOSPITAL IN RIDGEWOOD, NEW JERSEY IS A LOCAL SPONSOR OF THE 12TH ANNUAL CANCER SURVIVORS DAY

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my thanks to Valley Hospital in Ridgewood, New Jersey, for being a local sponsor of the 12th annual National Cancer Survivors Day. This event helps those stricken with this tragic disease find hope, and emphasizes the progress medical science has made in fighting cancer. The organizers possess the understanding and sensitivity that help support the patients and families faced with this challenge.

This event, dedicated to curing and surviving cancer, has very poignant relevance to my own family. We lost our son, Todd, to leukemia in 1976 at the age of 17. At that time, bone marrow transplants and other techniques that offered hope were only in their experimental stages. Since then, many advances have been made that have spared thousands of other parents the heartbreak we faced. This is why a commemoration of National Cancer Survivors Day serves such a meaningful purpose for all who, like our family, have faced the trauma of this disease.

This year, National Cancer Survivors Day will be celebrated for the 10th time at Valley Hospital. About 200 people are expected to attend the ceremony, including leading oncologists and patients who have faced cancer and survived to tell their stories.

But Valley Hospital's involvement in fighting cancer goes far beyond speeches or ceremonies. Valley is a regional leader in the oncology field, treating more cancer patients than all other hospitals in Bergen and Passaic counties combined. A full range of oncology services are available, including a special program in pediatric oncology and endoscopic ultrasound technology. Valley's affiliation with Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center and the