

My legislation would provide tariff relief on imported DVD machinery and components, thus reducing the cost of production for domestic manufacturers. Competition from Taiwan, Japan, and the European Union is very strong. A recent internal study indicated some overseas competitors are trying to sell their DVD discs in the U.S. as low as 75 cents each, compared to a cost of \$1.61 for domestic production.

Reduced production costs would help the seventeen U.S. producers of DVD discs be more competitive and ensure the continued employment of American workers in those companies. Indeed, duties on the discs produced using DVD manufacturing machines actually are lower than the duties now imposed on DVD manufacturing machines. The proposed legislation would remove such inequitable and inverted tariffs, thereby promoting U.S. jobs and manufacturing of DVDs in the U.S. New DVD products are being released each year. Recordable DVDs will be available in 2001. As U.S. consumers respond to the superior quality of digital sound and images, this legislation will help companies fulfill the demand for digital products and help increase jobs associated with the popularity of this important information technology media.

This legislation also will protect U.S. intellectual property rights. Movie studios have invested heavily in the protection of movie content for DVDs. Keeping production of DVDs in the U.S., rather than in countries that have weaker intellectual property laws and enforcement, will help prevent the mass piracy of software that occurs overseas.

The enactment of this legislation for DVD machinery and components would not injure any domestic producer, and it would ensure the continued growth of jobs and investment in the United States while protecting against the potential loss of valuable intellectual property. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

REMEMBERING THE FIRST
SUCCESSFUL HAND TRANSPLANT

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Ms. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary event that took place in my district, Louisville, Kentucky, one year ago. The horizons of medical possibilities were expanded when an amazing team of doctors performed America's first successful hand transplant at Louisville, Kentucky's Jewish Hospital. I am pleased to report that one year later, everything is going well for the patient and four other hand transplants have taken place around the world. We are moving into a new frontier where transplant medicine's boundless capabilities to heal are no longer restricted to the life threatened, but can also apply to those with mechanical ailments. This giant leap in the application of surgical research reflects the dauntless will of doctors to bring the total health of the individual on par with the available science of today.

Such an outstanding achievement is just one example of what can happen when peo-

ple work together to achieve a common goal. The hand transplant was a joint project of Jewish Hospital, the University of Louisville, and Kleinert and Kutz Associates. This remarkable local partnership is the only one in the country capable of doing a hand transplant. This pioneering accomplishment and other research efforts will have a multiplier effect that can create 1,000 medical jobs in the next five years. But this is just in Louisville, for the effects worldwide are infinite.

We are also reminded to maintain profound respect for those who give. None of this would have happened without the hand, which came from Kentucky Organ Donor Affiliates, the organization that coordinates donation and distribution of body parts in Kentucky, Southern Indiana, and Western Virginia. One person's decision to become an organ and tissue donor can benefit as many as 200 lives. One organ donor can enhance or save the lives of one heart patient, one liver recipient, two lung patients, two kidney patients, one diabetic, two people with impaired vision, three or four burn victims, and over 100 recipients of bone grafts. That is why in February, the House passed a resolution supporting the goals and ideas of National Donor Day. Miracles don't just happen—people make them happen.

As the success of this hand transplant demonstrates, a family's contribution of their loved one's organs can not only save a life, but improve the quality of life for others. I salute all those, doctors and donors alike, whose contributions help patients worry less about the little things in life that most people take for granted.

I am forever impressed by the kinds of medical miracles we can achieve when we support research endeavors in this country. I am honored to have such a fine team of doctors in Louisville and hope that the contribution of Jewish Hospital, the University of Louisville, and the doctors of Kleinert and Kutz can continue to be built upon by others. Their enthusiasm and dedication add to the vitality of the Louisville community and create a can-do attitude for all to follow.

ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION
AWARENESS

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here today to introduce legislation to authorize the organ and tissue donation awareness "semi-postal" stamp.

With 67,000 people on the organ donation waiting list, there is no time to lose in educating the public about the importance of organ and tissue donation.

As a result of strong congressional interest, the U.S. Postal Service issued a 32-cent organ donation commemorative stamp in August 1998, but the postal rate increased to 33 cents just five months later. Even though this commemorative stamp is still available at some post offices, purchasers have to buy a 1-cent stamp to make up the difference in postage, which works to discourage people

from buying and using the organ donation stamp. Despite these difficulties, there are less than 3 million of these stamps remaining from the 50 million that the post office printed.

This time, we are seeking authorization for a "semi-postal" stamp that would sell for up to 25 percent above the value of a first-class stamp with the surplus revenues going to programs to increase organ donor awareness.

The decision to donate an organ is a life-saving decision, but one that is unfortunately not communicated among family members and loved ones. We strongly believe that every effort we make to remind people that this is a decision that should not wait until tragedy strikes, is an effort toward saving lives. Whether it is an organ and tissue donation postage stamp or a box that drivers may mark as they are renewing their drivers' licenses—these all serve to raise attention to the important issue of communicating a decision to become an organ donor with family members and friends before tragedy strikes.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues, Representatives MOAKLEY, THURMAN, and FRANKS, for being original cosponsors of this legislation. I urge you and other Members of this Congress to join with us and cosponsor this very worthwhile measure.

IN SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THOMAS
R. WINTERS ON THE OCCASION
OF HIS FIFTIETH BIRTHDAY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay special tribute to a truly outstanding individual from the state in Ohio. On Sunday, March 12, 2000, Mr. Thomas R. Winters will celebrate his fiftieth birthday. I certainly want to extend my warmest wishes to him on this event.

Tom Winters has attained a long and illustrious career working in all aspects of government and politics in Ohio. Tom served for more than ten years as a top assistant and Chief of Staff to then Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives Vern Riffe. In that time, Tom served as Clerk of the House, Executive Secretary of the House, and Majority Counsel. During his service, Tom worked very closely with members of the Ohio General Assembly and has maintained a strong relationship with current and past members of the Ohio House and Senate.

As President of the Ohio Senate, I had the opportunity to work with Tom first-hand and found him to be talented and helpful in my dealings with Speaker Riffe and the entire Ohio House. Although we were on opposite sides of the political fence, Tom worked aggressively for the benefit of all Ohioans, not just a select few. His commitment to sound public policy and positive legislative accomplishments is well documented and deserves our commendation.

Currently, Tom is a partner in the Columbus office of Vorys, Sater, Seymour, and Pease LLP where he represents governments, businesses, and trade associations on legislative