

take airline security out of the hands of the private contractors who failed so miserably to protect us.

H.R. 3150 also will ensure that all baggage is screened for weapons and explosives, cockpit doors are reinforced, airport workers are properly screened and trained, and more air marshals are stationed on our flights. Unfortunately, the bill also requires all security screeners to be U.S. citizens. Legal permanent residents serve in the armed forces, fly airplanes, work as flight attendants, and repair airplanes. Qualified legal residents should be allowed to serve as screeners too.

Mr. Chairman, our sadness is renewed by the new tragedy in New York. But now we can travel to our Thanksgiving destinations with a greater sense of security, give thanks for the loved ones gathered safely around us.

AFGHAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN
RELIEF ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this important bill.

Over the past few months, I have come to the House Floor to emphasize the suffering conditions Afghan women have been forced to endure over the past 5 years and have urged the world to recognize the need to restore the rights of all people in Afghanistan.

Thanks to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and to the strong voices in the administration, the plight of Afghan women has been highlighted and addressed in the past weeks.

We have all learned that under the oppressive Taliban regime:

All schooling was forbidden to girls over the age of eight.

The women's university was shut down.

Women were restricted access to medical care.

But with today's bill, we will reverse the tragedies suffered by so many. This bill, introduced and supported by women, ensures that women and children living in Afghanistan will receive the proper education and health care they desperately need and deserve.

In addition to restoring these basic rights, it is essential that women be incorporated in any coalition that is assembled to run Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, many Afghans have been celebrating since the liberation of Kabul, Mazar-e Sharif, and other Afghan cities that were once under Taliban control. However, women are reluctant to join in the celebration as it is unclear how the Taliban's collapse may impact their lives. Women's involvement in reconstruction and peace negotiations is essential to rebuilding that country. It will be impossible for the United States to achieve its long term goals for Afghanistan without restoring the social, human, and political rights that have been taken from women. Women must be guaranteed that their human rights are included in the constitution or legal structure of

a new government in Afghanistan. This is why Congresswoman CONNIE MORELLA and I have introduced H.R. 3342, the Access for Afghan Women Act.

H.R. 3342, which I encourage my colleagues to cosponsor, proposes that aid from the United States will ensure that the economic, social, and political rights of women are recognized.

After all, excluding more than half of the Afghan population from the reconstruction process jeopardizes the long-term stability of the region.

We must ensure that Afghan women are included at each stage of the peace process and the creation of a new government of Afghanistan includes women—they are entitled to it.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE FOR WORKERS, FARMERS, COMMUNITIES AND FIRMS ACT OF 2001

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Trade Adjustment Assistance for Workers, Farmers, Communities, and Firms Act of 2001. This thoughtful and innovative legislation was originally introduced in the other body by Senators BINGAMAN, BAUCUS and DASCHLE as S. 1209, and I am pleased to introduce it in the House today along with my colleague ANNA ESHOO.

On balance, the United States benefits significantly from increased trade. Increasing productivity and enhanced means of production through new investment in plants and equipment have provided the U.S. with a comparative advantage in many sectors of our domestic economy. However, too often, proponents of trade liberalization turn a blind eye toward those sectors of our economy which do not benefit, especially our workers. Existing programs designed to help such workers are lacking and outdated. Since its enactment in 1962, trade adjustment assistance ("TAA") has been designed to help American workers cope with the changes that occur as a result of international trade. Trade adjustment assistance is based on a simple, yet important concept: that the federal government has an obligation to assist workers who lose their jobs as a direct result of U.S. trade policy. Under TAA, workers are eligible for up to 52 weeks of income support, provided they are enrolled in re-training. The program also provides job search and relocation assistance. Despite low unemployment through the second half of the 1990s, the number of workers eligible for TAA has increased. In 2000, approximately 35,000 workers received TAA benefits. However, many affected workers either exhaust benefits too soon, don't qualify or don't participate.

TAA is in need of significant reform and modification. For instance, under the existing program, the criteria for the TAA benefits are too restrictive, and excludes too many workers who are clearly dislocated by trade and need assistance, including secondary workers—

such as those working for companies that supply factories or manufacturing facilities that go out of business as a result of trade. Secondly, the program contains a confusing variety of eligibility requirements, depending on which form of TAA is desired—including those under the NAFTA-TAA program, which is designed to assist workers dislocated specifically because of NAFTA. Third, the current program provides 2 years of training, but only 18 months of COBRA assistance over that same period of time. Too often when the payments stop, people are forced to discontinue their training. Fourth, if a person goes back to work at a part-time job, he or she loses eligibility for TAA training, which is contrary to recent trends in other forms of public assistance. Finally, one of the most difficult problems displaced workers face is that their next job often pays much less than their previous job. About one-third of such workers face this circumstance, and older workers are especially hard hit.

This legislation proposes improving upon the current system in a number of ways, including the establishment of allowances, training, job search, relocation and support service assistance to secondary workers, and workers affected by shifts in production. This measure would also harmonize existing TAA and NAFTA/TAA programs to provide more effective and efficient results for individuals and communities. Realizing the difficulty for older workers to change careers, this legislation would facilitate on-the-job training and faster re-employment by providing wage insurance for up to 2 years for part of the gap between old and new earnings levels. Additionally, this legislation would increase income maintenance from 52 to 78 weeks, substantially increase funds available for training, and ensure that workers who take a part-time job don't lose training benefits. This legislation would also provide a tax credit for 50 percent of COBRA payments, increase assistance for job relocation, and link TAA recipients to child care and health care benefits under existing programs. This bill would also recognize the special circumstances faced by family farmers, ranchers and independent fishermen, and would seek to provide assistance and consulting before they lose their businesses. In addition to current practice, the President, the Senate Finance Committee, and the House Ways and Means Committee would be able, by resolution, to initiate a TAA certification process for an affected industry.

To help communities respond to job losses more quickly and efficiently, this bill would strengthen the state-based Workforce Investment Act ("WIN") programs to expedite trade adjustment assistance applications. As a part of TAA reform, this measure would encourage greater cooperation between federal, state, regional, and local agencies that deal with individuals receiving trade adjustment assistance. At present, individuals receiving trade adjustment assistance can obtain counseling from one-stop shops in their region, but typically this is limited to information related to allowances and training. Information concerning funds available through other Federal departments and agencies is frequently not available, including information on health care for individuals and their families. To prevent the