

after graduation and is subject to an income phase-out.

In order to better help teachers defray these costs, I am introducing this bill with my good friend and Virginia colleague, Senator JOHN WARNER, who is the primary sponsor for this legislation in the Senate. Our bill would ensure that qualifying teachers would not have to itemize their deductions or exceed the 2 percent floor to receive the credit. Teachers would not be phased out of the student loan interest benefit based on income level, and there would be no 60 month limitation.

We all agree that our education system must leave no child behind. As we try to achieve this goal through strengthening and reforming our educational system, we must keep in mind their most important component—the teachers.

RECOGNIZING THE 5TH ANNUAL FAST OF REVEREND RONALD I. SCHUPP ON TIBETAN NATIONAL DAY, 2001

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to inform my colleagues that on March 10, 2001, which is Tibetan National Day, one of my constituents, Reverend Ronald I. Schupp will begin his fifth annual 24-hour fast to call attention to China's occupation of Tibet. Reverend Schupp will be sending a message to the People's Republic of China to free Tibet and allow for displaced Tibetans to return to their homeland.

The 14th Dalai Lama was forced to leave Tibet in 1959 and is still working for a just outcome to China's occupation of Tibet. In 1989, the Dalai Lama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his ongoing efforts to focus attention on this subject.

I respect the efforts of Reverend Schupp and wish him well in his efforts on behalf of the people of Tibet.

181ST ANNIVERSARY OF SUSAN B. ANTHONY

**HON. JO ANN DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mrs. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring attention to and commemorate tomorrow's 181st anniversary of the birth of Susan B. Anthony. This anniversary is a good time to remember her lifelong work for women's rights, her opposition to slavery, and work that changed the course of this nation. And it is a good time to remember, or perhaps, recover, another very important aspect of her legacy in promoting equal rights for all. I refer to Susan B. Anthony's pro-life legacy in calling for equal rights for both women and their unborn children.

In fact, Susan B. Anthony considered opposition to abortions as part and parcel of her

work to promote women's rights. Anthony branded abortion, "child murder," and believed women turned to it only because of their treatment as second class citizens. She called for "prevention, not punishment," for the abortion problem of her day, and believed the best way to prevent abortion was to promote the dignity and equality of women.

More than a century later, "prevention, not punishment" remains a sound strategy for all those who would promote the rights of both women and unborn children.

OSTEOPOROSIS FEDERAL EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFITS STANDARDIZATION ACT

**HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Osteoporosis Federal Employee Health Benefits Standardization Act of 2001. This much needed legislation will provide the same consistency of osteoporosis coverage for our Federal employees and retirees as Congress approved for Medicare in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

Instead of a comprehensive national coverage policy, FEHBP leaves it to each of the over 350 participating plans to decide who is eligible to receive a bone mass measurement and what constitutes medical necessity. A survey of the 19 top plans participating in FEHBP indicate that many plans have no specific rules to guide reimbursement and instead cover the tests on a case-by-case basis. Several plans refuse to provide consumers information indicating when the plan covers the test and when it does not. Some plans cover the test only for people who already have osteoporosis. All individuals, whether they work in the public sector or private sector, should have health insurance coverage for osteoporosis screening because this affliction is so widespread but more importantly, because it is preventable when discovered early.

Osteoporosis is a major public health problem affecting 28 million Americans, who either have the disease or are at risk due to low bone mass; eighty percent are women. The disease causes 1.5 million fractures annually at a cost of \$13.8 billion (\$38 million per day) in direct medical expenses, and osteoporotic fractures cost the Medicare program 3 percent of its overall costs. In their lifetimes, one in two women and one in eight men over the age of 50 will fracture a bone due to osteoporosis. A woman's risk of a hip fracture is equal to her combined risk of contracting breast, uterine, and ovarian cancer.

Osteoporosis is largely preventable and thousands of fractures could be avoided if low bone mass was detected early and treated. We now have drugs that promise to reduce fractures by 50 percent. However, identification of risk factors alone cannot predict how much bone a person has and how strong bone is. Experts estimate that without bone density tests, up to 40 percent of women with low bone mass could be missed.

It is my hope that by making bone mass measurements available under the FEHBP,

we can minimize the deleterious effects of osteoporosis and improve the lives of our Federal employees and retirees.

AMERICAN HEART MONTH

**HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in recognizing February as American Heart Month and in commending the 22.5 million volunteers and supporters committed to combating heart disease. Clearly, all citizens should "Be Prepared for Cardiac Emergencies. Know the signs of cardiac arrest. Call 9-1-1 immediately. Give CPR."

Paralysis, weakness, decreased sensation, numbness, tingling, decreased vision, slurred speech or the inability to speak, loss of memory and physical coordination, difficulty swallowing, lack of bladder control, mental capacity declines, mood changes, dysfunctional, uncontrollable, and unpredictable movement, shortness or loss of breath, fainting, and fatigue are all signs associated with cardiac arrest.

Immediate response to signs of cardiac arrest is imperative as seconds and minutes make the difference between life, the quality of life, and death. Every 29 seconds, someone in America suffers a heart attack, and every 60 seconds someone dies as a result of the same. While we have the luxury of emergency ambulatory responses as a result of 9-1-1, if we act while waiting on trained professionals to arrive, we can make a meaningful difference. For this reason, we should all encourage broader knowledge of CPR.

As medical professionals have said, when the heart is under attack, blood is not flowing to parts of the body, such as the brain, that solely rely on it for functioning, and permanent damage to the brain can occur if blood flow is not restored within four minutes. As a result, if life is sustained, the quality of life may be significantly diminished as irreversible harm often takes place. I am hopeful that those who have regular contact with loved ones at risk will be trained in CPR.

I applaud the American Heart Association and other organizations nationwide that educate and train all of us to be properly prepared for cardiac arrest by providing education that informs us about the causes and signs of heart disease and the skills necessary to react to these unfortunate episodes when they occur. Also, I thank my colleagues for pausing to recognize these organizations for their ongoing efforts in this vital area.

IN SUPPORT OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS' HEALTH ACT

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Law Enforcement Officers' Health