

April 5, 2001

radio station in Kalamazoo to begin broadcasting in stereo. Over the years, as the station's popularity has grown so has their signal strength. From a meager 400 watts in 1951, today, WMUK broadcasts at 50,000 watts.

Today, after 50 years, WMUK is a cornerstone of the Kalamazoo community. I am pleased to say that WMUK is now on the air 21 hours a day offering a wide variety of programming to suit the diverse tastes of our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that these remarks be made part of the permanent record of the Congress so that other public broadcasters can emulate the quality example that WMUK has set across our country.

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VETERANS MEMORIAL  
ENHANCEMENT ACT

**HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 4, 2001*

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, a few months ago, a Vietnam Veterans memorial in my district was vandalized, and the cost to repair the memorial is estimated to be \$4,000. When I learned of the damage done, I contacted the Department of Veterans Affairs and a number of other federal agencies, and I came to realize there was no federal assistance available for these organizations. While federal veterans memorials are taken care through the National Park Service, local monuments and memorials which are scattered across the nation receive no such assistance. A joint venture with the federal government and veterans is the perfect answer to this unfortunate problem. It requires private organizations to take the initiative as well as provide their own funding to complete the refurbishing.

The bill I am proud to introduce today will do just that. The Veterans Memorial Enhancement Act is a simple and straightforward bill which establishes a grant program for Veterans Service Organizations who need financial assistance in refurbishing or repairing aged or harmed veterans memorials. The grant would provide federal funding for up to fifty percent of the total project cost, thus encouraging local veterans and providing them with the resources necessary to ensure that veterans memorials are treated with the respect they deserve. Even in this time of peace, it is important that we remember and recognize the sacrifices our veterans have made, and I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring the Veterans Memorial Enhancement Act.

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PREVENTIVE SCREENING FOR  
COLORECTAL CANCER

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 4, 2001*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce the Eliminate Colorectal Cancer Act, a bill that can save the lives of thousands

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

of people who might otherwise succumb to a type of cancer that could be prevented. This legislation seeks to address the lack of coverage for colorectal cancer screening by all health insurers.

I am proud to introduce this bill along with my distinguished colleagues, Senator EDWARD KENNEDY and Representative CONNIE MORELLA, as well as colorectal cancer survivors and groups dedicated to the effort of preventing this disease.

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in the U.S. for men and women combined. An estimated 56,700 people will die from colorectal cancer this year and 1 in 17 people will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer in their lifetime.

This is an unspeakable tragedy because colorectal cancer is preventable, treatable, and curable when detected at an early stage. When colorectal cancer is detected before it has spread, the five year survival rate is over 91 percent.

Further, colorectal cancer is just about the only cancer we know how to prevent. If polyps are discovered in the colon, they can be removed before they become cancerous and the cancer will never develop.

And yet tens of thousands of Americans continue to die from this disease, mostly because their cancer is detected at a later, less treatable stage.

No one should die of colorectal cancer. This cancer is preventable and detectable. It is slowgrowing and easy to stop in its tracks. The fact that over 56,000 Americans die of this disease is nothing more than a massive failure of our preventive health system.

We need to do more to educate Americans about the ways they can avoid this deadly disease. Too many misconceptions persist about colorectal cancer.

For example, many women consider colorectal cancer a man's disease, but it is an equal opportunity killer. In fact, the American Cancer Society estimates that more women than men will die of colorectal cancer this year.

Federal agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control, the National Cancer Institute and Department of Health and Human Services have worked together to develop a nationwide colon cancer awareness and education program. Grassroots efforts by individuals like as Kevin Richardson of the Backstreet Boys are also critical to improving public health and awareness.

Today we continue our efforts to combat colorectal cancer. Too many people are failing to have regular colorectal cancer tests because their insurers will not pay for a screening exam in the absence of symptoms.

What makes colorectal cancer so insidious is that there are often no symptoms until the cancer is widespread.

Our legislation will require insurers to cover a regular colorectal cancer screening exam. Doctors and patients will be able to decide together the appropriate screening method and frequency of testing.

For many Americans, denial of insurance coverage equals denial of care. They simply cannot afford to pay for these tests out-of-pocket when they are already paying thousands of dollars per year for insurance. A colonoscopy costs around \$1000 per test.

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Our bill makes sense for both consumers and insurance companies. Colorectal cancer screening is cost-effective, considering that treatment for a patient with an advanced form of cancer can easily be \$40,000 or more.

In fact, many insurers do cover colorectal cancer screening. But in order to make a meaningful impact and save lives, all insurers should give their enrollees access to this vital form of screening.

Here in the House of Representatives we have already have the support of 48 original cosponsors. The bill would require all insurance plans to cover colorectal cancer screening in accordance with recognized guidelines, such as those issued by the American Cancer Society.

I am proud to be a part of this effort to ensure that all Americans can get tested for colorectal cancer. I look forward to working with everyone here to pass our legislation as soon as possible.

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APRIL 26, 2001 IS NATIONAL D.O.  
DAY

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 4, 2001*

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, Thursday, April 26, is National DO Day. We recognize the more than 47,000 osteopathic physicians (D.O.s) across the country for their contributions to the American healthcare system. On National DO Day, more than 500 members of the osteopathic medical profession, including osteopathic physicians and medical students, from 40 states will descend upon Capitol Hill to share their views with Congress.

For more than a century DOs have made a difference in the lives and health of Americans everywhere. They have treated presidents and Olympic athletes. They have contributed to the fight against AIDS and the fight for civil rights. DOs are represented at the highest levels of the medical profession. Indeed, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, the chief medical officer for the U.S. Coast Guard, and the Surgeon General of the U.S. Army were all osteopathic physicians during the last Administration.

As fully licensed physicians able to prescribe medication and perform surgery, DOs are committed to serving the health needs of rural and underserved communities. They make up 15 percent of the total physician population in towns of 10,000 or less. In addition, 64 percent of DOs practice in the primary care areas of medicine, fulfilling a need for more primary care physicians in an era marked by the growth of managed care.

More than 100 million patient visits are made each year to DOs, making them the physician of choice for many people. That's because DOs approach their patients as "whole people." They don't just treat a specific illness or injury. DOs take into account home and work environments, as well as lifestyle, when assessing overall health. This distinct approach provides Americans with the highest quality of healthcare—patients seen as people, not just illnesses or injuries.

From the state-of-the-art healthcare facility in a major city to a clinic in a rural Michigan community, DOs continue to practice the kind of medicine that Andrew Taylor Still envisioned over 100 years ago when he founded the profession.

I am pleased that on National DO Day more than 30 representatives of the osteopathic medical profession will be visiting our Capitol from Michigan. These representatives are practicing osteopathic physicians and osteopathic medical students from the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. To the nearly 5,000 osteopathic physicians in Michigan, the approximately 520 students at MSUCOM and the 47,000 DOs represented by the American Osteopathic Association—congratulations on your contributions to the good health of the American people. I look forward to working with you to further our mutual goal of continually improving our nation's healthcare.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMUNITY CHARACTER ACT OF 2001

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 4, 2001*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Community Character Act of 2001. This legislation will provide state grants to develop or revise state land use plans and planning legislation that underpin local and state efforts to address public transit, affordable housing, environmental and other livability issues.

States, tribal governments, and native Hawaiian organizations would be eligible for grants of up to \$1,000,000 each upon application approval by the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Total appropriations would be limited to \$50 million each year. Applicants that receive grants would be required to provide 10 percent in matching funds. Funds may be used to obtain technical assistance in drafting land use planning legislation; carrying out research and development for planning programs; conducting workshops, educating and consulting for local officials and policy makers; and involving citizens in the planning process.

I submit the following letters of endorsement from the American Planning Association, National Association of Realtors, and the American Society of Landscape Architects to be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION,  
*Washington, DC, April 4, 2001.*

Hon. EARL BLUMENAUER,  
*House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE BLUMENAUER: The American Planning Association is pleased to endorse the Community Character Act of 2001. APA is heartened by the introduction of this legislation and the assistance it would provide to the numerous states and communities struggling with the consequences of change, whether it be growth and development or economic decline. This legislation recognizes that the Federal government can, and should, be a constructive partner with those communities seeking innovative solu-

tions to improving local quality of life through better planning and land use. APA, with more than 30,000 members, is the largest private organization working to promote planning for communities that effectively meets the needs of our people, now and in the future.

Planning is the single most effective way to deal with growth issues facing states and communities. Passage of the Community Character Act is among the most important and beneficial things Congress could do to help promote local solutions to such pressing issues as downtown revitalization, traffic congestion, urban sprawl and open space protection.

This legislation responds to widespread citizen interest in—smart growth by providing critical resources to help state and local political leaders, business and environmental interests, and others manage change. In a recent national voter survey, APA found that an overwhelming majority of Americans, regardless of political affiliation, geographic locale, or demographic group, believe Congress should take action to support state and local smart growth initiatives. Seventy-eight percent of those surveyed believe it is important for the 107th Congress to help communities solve problems associated with urban growth. Moreover, three-quarters of voters also support providing incentives to help promote smart growth and improve planning.

The Community Character Act provides vital assistance to meet the serious challenge of reforming outdated planning statutes and supporting planning as the basis for smart growth. Currently, more than half the states are still operating under planning statutes devised in the 1920s. And, even in those states with updated planning laws, communities are struggling to find and implement tools to grow smarter and in ways consistent with the values and vision of the citizens. Thus far in 2001, twenty-seven governors have initiated some type smart growth proposals and there is pending legislative or executive activity related to planning, growth and land use in twenty-two states. This is happening in states as diverse as Oklahoma and New York, Montana and Massachusetts.

This bipartisan legislation would provide \$50 million to states, multi-state regional programs and tribal governments to assist in revising land use planning legislation and developing comprehensive plans. The bill is intended to support efforts to promote improved quality of life, economic development and community livability through planning reform. Grants could be used to obtain technical assistance and support for a state's review of growth and planning laws. Activities such as researching and drafting state legislation, conducting workshops, holding public forums, promoting regional cooperation and supporting state planning initiatives would qualify for federal assistance.

Under the Community Character Act states are encouraged to create a framework for smart growth planning, but the bill avoids dictating land use policies. In the best sense, it is a "funded non-mandate." The Community Character Act specifically acknowledges that land use planning is rightfully a local and state prerogative. The bill seeks to encourage states to provide their cities, towns, counties and regions with innovative and updated tools for managing the many challenges presented by growth. Communities would not be forced to pursue smart growth strategies but the legislation would provide assistance to those states that

have chosen to do so. Grant guidelines call for comprehensive planning that coordinates transportation, housing and education with infrastructure investments and conserves historic, scenic and natural resources. The bill also acknowledges that it is the collective vision and values of citizens that should guide planning.

Land use planning should not stop at arbitrary jurisdictional boundaries. This bill seeks to promote a vision of land use planning and resource management that works for regions by allowing multi-state regional project to qualify for funding. The legislation also encourages greater cooperation between local planning and federal land management planning. Additionally, the legislation recognizes and seeks to address the tremendous need for planning and community development by the nation's tribal governments.

This legislation promotes smart growth principles and encourages state to create or update the framework necessary for good planning. It creates a federal partnership with communities through incentives, not mandates. The bill does not mandate that states implement specific changes but rather seeks to support and inform that process once it is underway. This program is a small investment that will bring substantial dividends in improving the livability of cities, towns, and neighborhoods throughout the nation.

The American Planning Association applauds your outstanding leadership and vision in introducing the Community Character Act and urges the House of Representatives to enact this legislation.

Sincerely,

BRUCE MCCLENDON, FAICP  
*President.*

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS,

*Washington, DC, April 3, 2001.*

Hon. EARL BLUMENAUER,  
*Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE BLUMENAUER: On behalf of its more than 760,000 members, the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® (NAR) supports your introduction of the Community Character Act, which would provide grants to assist state governments in developing or updating their land use planning legislation.

NAR supports this bill because it: Recognizes that land use planning is rightfully a State and local government function; provides needed assistance to states and localities to better plan for inevitable growth; requires that planning performed under this Act must provide for housing opportunity and choice and promote affordable housing; promotes improved quality of life, sustainable economic development, and protection of the environment.

In adopting our Smart Growth principles, NAR recognized that property owners, homebuyers, and REALTORS® have a great deal at stake in the debate over livability and growth. REALTORS® are outspoken advocates for policies that preserve housing choice and affordability while protecting and improving the quality of life of our communities.

It is our experience that when communities have not planned for growth, they may overreact to growth pressures by adopting excessive regulations that distort real estate markets and make homeownership less attainable. Planning in advance to accommodate growth and protect the quality of life is the better approach, and the Community