

private health insurance plans and to the Federal Employees Health Benefits plan, requiring these plans to cover cancer screenings.

Cancer screening allows for the detection of cancer in its earliest form, when the cost of treatment is the least. And more importantly, it is estimated that the rate of survival would increase from 80% to 95% if all Americans participated in regular cancer screenings. The legislation we introduced has the power to save thousands of lives.

I am also working with my distinguished colleague, CONNIE MORELLA, to make women's health research a priority. We, joined by many members of the Women's Caucus, introduced the Women's Health Office Act, H.R. 1784, to make the women's health offices at the Department of Health and Human Services permanent.

And for our littlest people and their moms, I have introduced the Breastfeeding Promotion Act, which supports and protects mothers who choose to breastfeed. Everyday, new medical studies are released highlighting the positive health effects of breastfeeding for both mother and child. Just today, a new study was released showing that breastfed babies are less likely to become overweight children.

Again, let's celebrate National Women's Health Week. We must continue to work hard to ensure that the priorities of our nation include policies that protect and promote the health and well-being of women and their families. I urge my colleagues to join me on these measures.

#### FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2002 AND 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 16, 2001*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1646) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal years 2002 and 2003, and for other purposes:

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to the Hyde amendment, which would prohibit foreign non-governmental organizations which receive population aid from the United States from using their OWN funds to provide abortion services or counsel women about abortion options.

This amendment would place an unfair restriction on family planning efforts in developing nations. How can a democratic country like the United States have in place a policy which has the very un-democratic effect of restricting free speech? The Hyde amendment would restrict the ability of foreign nongovernmental organizations to talk openly to patients about their health care options. It is simply unfair.

Reproductive health care is a matter of life and death in developing countries. Family planning programs provide critical health care services for women and families in the world's poorest regions. Taking away U.S. funds for

foreign organizations who use their own money to counsel women about abortion options will do real harm to important international family planning efforts.

While opponents of international family planning may attempt to cast this vote as an abortion-related matter—it is not. It has been illegal to use U.S. funds for abortion overseas since 1973. This vote is about whether women overseas should have access to needed family planning information. I think they should and I urge my colleagues to vote against the Hyde amendment.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM HENRY SEWARD

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2001*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, William Henry Seward was born in Florida, Orange County, New York on May 16, 1801; two-hundred years ago.

The son of Samuel Sweezy Seward and Mary (Jennings) Seward, he graduated from Union College in 1820, studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1822. In 1823, he moved to Auburn, New York, where he entered Judge Elijah Miller's law office and, one year later, married Frances Adeline Miller, the daughter of Judge Miller.

Seward was interested in politics early in his career and became actively involved in the Anti-Masonic movement after 1828. With the backing of Thurlow Weed, the Whig newspaper editor, he was elected to the New York State Senate in 1830 where he served for four years. He was nominated by the Whigs for governor in 1834, but was defeated by William L. Marcy. From 1834 to 1838 he practiced law and served as an agent for the Holland Land Company, settling settlers' claims in Chautauqua County.

In 1838 Seward was elected governor of New York State and again in 1840. He favored internal improvements, public support of Catholic schools, and began to favor free soil and abolition positions. From 1842 to 1848 he again practiced law, first in the court of chancery and later in patent cases. He also defended cases involving fugitive slave laws.

In 1849 Seward was elected to the United States Senate, and increasingly built a reputation as an anti-slavery senator. After 1855, the Whig party merged into the Republican party, and Seward became one of the leading Republicans. He was passed over as the presidential nominee in 1856 and, though he was the front runner in 1860, Lincoln was given the nomination.

After Lincoln's election, Seward was appointed to the post of Secretary of State, a position he held until 1869 serving under both presidents Lincoln and Johnson.

As Secretary of State Seward was a central force in the administration. The major issues he dealt with during the Civil War years were the possibility of European intervention, the outfitting of Confederate cruisers in British ports, the Trent affair and the French invasion of Mexico. Seward was also interested in terri-

torial expansion, and in 1867 negotiated the purchase of Alaska from Russia.

Seward was seriously wounded in the Lincoln assassination conspiracy, and after 1865 his health was not good. He retired from public life upon Grant's election, and despite his poor health, took a trip around the world in 1871. William Henry Seward died in Auburn on October 10, 1872.

#### THE COMPUTER EQUIPMENT COMMON SENSE DEPRECIATION ACT

**HON. MAC COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2001*

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I am joined by my colleague from Maryland, Congressman BEN CARDIN and several of our other colleagues, to introduce legislation that will return common sense to the Internal Revenue Code by changing the depreciation period for computer equipment.

The depreciation provisions in the Code have not been updated since the 1980s. Since that time, the technology available to manufacturers has literally exploded. Tax rules require businesses and manufacturers to keep their computer equipment "on the books" for five years. In highly competitive industries, the average economic life of the equipment ranges from 14 and 24 months, far shorter than depreciation rules. This skewed limitation places manufacturers at a competitive disadvantage.

In a slowing economy, more flexibility is needed over capital investment choices. Many manufacturers would like to expand their businesses and increase employment opportunities. They would have greater opportunities to do so if the tax code recognized a more realistic economic life expectation for this equipment. Unfortunately, these business owners often put off investing in new equipment due to the unfavorable tax treatment they receive from the outdated computer depreciation schedule.

Specifically, the legislation we are introducing would update the tax code to acknowledge the rapid advancements in computer technology by changing the depreciation period for computer equipment used in manufacturing processes from five years to two years. We need to encourage businesses to make investments that will keep them competitive, not penalize them with an outdated tax provision.

Please join us in this effort to inject a little common sense into the Internal Revenue Code by cosponsoring the Computer Equipment Common Sense Depreciation Act.

#### CHILD PROTECTION/ALCOHOL AND DRUG PARTNERSHIP ACT

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2001*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am reintroducing legislation today to improve the prevention, screening, and treatment of substance