

the programs starting in fiscal year 2009: for SBIR, the set-aside would be increased to 3 percent; for STTR, the amount reserved for small businesses would be increased to 0.6 percent. Based on information from SBA and participating agencies, CBO expects that the expansion would lead to an increase in the number of applications received under both programs by more than a third. Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that processing the additional applications would cost \$29 million over the 2009–2013 period.

#### *Commercialization program*

H.R. 5819 would authorize appropriations of \$28 million a year for a program to support agency efforts to assist small businesses participating in the SBIR program in developing products or services that could be sold to the government or in commercial markets. SBA would oversee this commercialization program—each agency participating in the SBIR program would be required to request funds from SBA to support its commercialization activities. Based on information from SBA and participating agencies, CBO estimates that implementing this provision would cost \$100 million over the 2009–2013 period, subject to appropriation of the specified amounts.

#### *FAST program reauthorization*

H.R. 5819 would reauthorize the Federal and State Technology (FAST) Partnership program to conduct outreach and provide technical assistance so as to increase the number small businesses participating in the SBIR program. The outreach activities would be directed to geographic areas that are under-represented in the SBIR program and to small businesses owned by women, veterans, and minorities. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$10 million for each of fiscal years 2009 and 2010 to implement the program. Based on historical spending patterns of SBA's other business assistance programs, CBO estimates that implementing this provision would cost \$20 million over the 2009–2013 period, assuming appropriation of the specified amounts.

#### *Additional agency activities*

H.R. 5819 would require each agency participating in the SBIR or STTR program to develop two databases, one to be used by the agency for program evaluation, the other, which would be available to the public, to be used to help businesses participating in the SBIR or STTR program to attract customers for the products or services created under the program. Based on information from the participating agencies, CBO estimates that developing new databases for each participating agency would cost about \$6 million over the 2009–2013 period.

Intergovernmental and private-sector impact: H.R. 5819 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. The bill would reauthorize the FAST program, a matching-grant program to encourage states to assist in the development of high-technology small businesses. Any costs to state governments of providing matching funds to participate in the FAST program would be incurred voluntarily.

Estimate prepared by: Federal Costs: Susan Willie; Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Elizabeth Cove; and Impact on the Private Sector: Jacob Kuipers.

Estimate approved by: Peter H. Fontaine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

APRIL 22, 2008.

Hon. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ,  
Chairwoman, Committee on Small Business,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the en-

closed cost estimate for H.R. 5819, the SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Susan Willie.

Sincerely,

PETER R. ORSZAG.

Enclosure.

### INTRODUCING THE "FAMILY LEAVE INSURANCE ACT OF 2008"

#### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today with Representatives GEORGE MILLER, LYNN WOOLSEY, and CAROLYN MALONEY to introduce a bill that will bring our Nation up to date with the rest of the world. One hundred and sixty-nine countries guarantee some form of paid family leave. The U.S. is part of an illustrious four-member club of nations—including Liberia, Papua New Guinea, and Swaziland—that fail to provide security for new parents or those caring for a loved one. The "Family Leave Insurance Act" will guarantee that workers will no longer have to choose between their jobs and their families.

Since becoming law 15 years ago, the landmark Family and Medical Leave Act, FMLA, has provided job protection and guaranteed leave for millions of workers. Unfortunately, the FMLA is limited to workers employed by large employers—only 45 percent of the private sector workforce—and, because the leave is unpaid, lower income workers can seldom afford to take it. Recent studies have found that 78 percent of FMLA eligible workers who wanted to take leave did not do so because they could not afford it. At a time of recession and tightening family budgets, this predicament is only getting worse.

A few years ago, my home State of California enacted the first paid family leave law in the country. The law has proven to be wildly popular. Despite the protests of business groups at the time the law was passed, most employers have come to embrace the law and realize that it facilitates continuity, productivity, and job satisfaction. Paid leave helps workers to strike a balance between work and family. Such a balance has real benefits for children. A Harvard School of Public Health study found that the education and health of children improves substantially when parents have work flexibility and paid leave. When parents are able to act as caregivers for a sick child, hospital stays are reduced by 31 percent. Parental involvement is also associated with higher achievement in language and math, improved behavior, and lower dropout rates.

The "Family Leave Insurance Act" takes the next logical and necessary step by implementing a comprehensive paid leave program that will cover all workers. The middle class is getting squeezed: hours are longer, job security is lower, and families have less time together. A report by the President's Council of Economic Advisers found that between 1969 and 1999 children lost 22 hours per week with their parents. Workers and their families need greater flexibility and support. Yet, according

to the Department of Labor, only 8 percent of private employers provide paid leave. Clearly, there is room for improvement. This bill will:

Provide all workers with 12 weeks of paid leave over a 12-month period to care for a new child, provide for an ill family member, treat their own illness, or deal with an exigency caused by the deployment of a member of the military;

Provide these benefits through a new trust fund that is financed equally by employers and employees, who will each contribute 0.2 percent of the employee's pay;

Progressively tier the benefits so that a low-wage worker (earning less than \$30,000) will receive full or near full salary replacement, middle-income workers (\$30,000–\$60,000) receive 55 percent wage replacement, and higher earners (over \$60,000) receive 40–45 percent, with the benefit capped at approximately \$800 per week;

Administer the program through the Department of Labor which will contract with states to administer the program (similar to how the Unemployment Insurance program is run);

Allow states and businesses with materially equivalent or better benefits to opt-out of the program.

The "Family Leave Insurance Act" is endorsed by the National Partnership for Women and Families, the AFL–CIO, the California Labor Federation, Voices for America's Children, First Focus, and the National Employment Law Project.

Members of Congress are constantly talking about family values. Let's go beyond talk and take action that families will actually value. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the "Family Leave Insurance Act." We can strengthen families, make business more competitive, and create a better future for our country. The time to act is now.

### IN RECOGNITION OF GLORIA K. BELL ON HER RETIREMENT

#### HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Gloria K. Bell.

Saturday, March 29, marked the retirement of Gloria K. Bell, a dedicated employee of the Department of Health and Human Services, HHS. Ms. Bell's Federal service spans 40 plus years, and her retirement provides a golden opportunity to reflect upon her service to her agency and to Capitol Hill as a liaison between HHS and congressional staffs.

Gloria Bell entered public service while working on her bachelors of science degree at American University in Washington, DC. Upon graduation, she joined HHS as a program analyst in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation where her portfolio included the Head Start and Developmental Disabilities programs.

In January 1987, Gloria continued her illustrious career at HHS in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Resources and Technology, Office of Budget, as a budget analyst. For over 20 years since, she has worked tirelessly through all phases of the process to develop and present the Department's budget

and has progressed to an effective team leader in the office. She managed one of the largest budget databases in the Department, consisting of over 1,300 programs, project activities, and historical budget numbers from FY 1981 through FY 2005. Gloria also created a database that is used to produce the current All Purpose Tables, APTs. She wrote the operations manual and trained other staff in the APT system's operation.

Along with the budget and APT databases, Gloria's legacy encompasses years of service as the Budget Office's Congressional Liaison, ensuring that the myriad Senate and House reports requested of HHS are responsive, complete, and received on Capitol Hill in a timely manner. Through the years, Gloria's industrious service has been commended by 20 Excellent Performance, 9 Outstanding Performance, 4 Special Act of Service, and 2 Employee of the Month Awards.

I ask that you join me in applauding Gloria Bell as she closes a chapter on many years of excellent service to her agency and the Federal Government.

RECOGNIZING NICOLE GAITHER

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 22, 2008*

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nicole Gaither on achieving the Girl Scout Gold Award. Receiving the Gold Award is a testament to Miss Gaither's leadership, citizenship, and service to her community.

For her Gold Award project, Nicole Gaither developed an outdoor volunteer program for children ages 11–14 called Outdoor Action Kids. O.A.K.S. provides children the opportunity to perform basic outdoor conservation tasks while helping the staff and adult volunteers maintain Bob Jones Nature Center, a 76-acre park. Miss Gaither developed a coordinator's manual, application, training manual, and training video to ensure her program will continue well into the future.

The Girl Scouts of America promotes a positive influence for young women of today. I am honored to represent Nicole Gaither in earning the highest award bestowed in Girl Scouts. I commend her commitment and dedication for the betterment of her life, her community, and her country.

HONORING THOMAS EDWARD PRICE

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 22, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Thomas Edward Price of Kearney, Missouri. Thomas is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 397, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Thomas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Thomas has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Thomas Edward Price for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 22, 2008*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on April 8, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my vote for rollcall No. 193. Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 193—"yes"—Providing for consideration of H.R. 2634, Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Collection Act.

GONZAGA UNIVERSITY SENDS TEAM TO SUSTAINABLE DESIGN EXPO

**HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 22, 2008*

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of a team of college students making a difference in Africa. A student team from Gonzaga University has been selected to present their project, "West African Technology, Education, and Reciprocity, WATER, for Benin," at the 4th Annual National Sustainable Design Expo on April 20–22, 2008.

The goal of the WATER for Benin project is to address the clean water shortage that many developing nations are currently facing. Through their participation, students learn about contemporary health problems in Africa and their contributing factors; the relationship between water, sanitation, and causes of morbidity and mortality in Africa; and communication skills for providing culturally appropriate health education.

In August of 2007, 17 students from eight academic programs, and three faculty members, traveled to Benin. At the Songhai Center in Porto-Novo, this group trained staff to make inexpensive, effective drinking water filters. Through leadership, community building, and personal sacrifice, these students created innovative ways to solve the water crisis. Their exhibit, on display at the National Sustainable Design Expo, chronicles the research and development the students implemented in order to find the best technology to provide clean water to the people of Benin.

Madam Speaker, many of us take something as simple as having clean water every day for granted. I commend these students for responding to the needs of the developing

world and helping them to move toward sustainability. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Gonzaga University team on this great accomplishment, and for being chosen to compete for the EPA's prestigious P<sup>3</sup>—People, Prosperity, and Planet—Award.

HONORING CAROLDYNE AND HERSHEL SWEDLOVE

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 22, 2008*

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, on June 14th, 2008, the Congregation Emanu El of San Bernardino, California, will present to Caroldyne and Hershel Swedlove the prestigious Rabbi Norman F. Feldheim Award. The Rabbi Norman Feldheim award was established in 1983 to pay tribute to those members of the Congregation Emanu El that reflect the Rabbi's qualities of love and loyalty to the synagogue, service to their community, and the personal traits of humility and kindness.

The Swedloves have been members of the Congregation Emanu El since 1966. They have long been active in supporting the congregation's endeavors, most notably their annual sponsorship of the Rosh Hashanah congregational luncheon. Caroldyne has been especially active in the community, as a member of the Sisterhood of Congregation Emanu El. She has taught in the Religious School there, while also volunteering in the Sisterhood Gift Shop. Hershel was a regular volunteer in the congregation's major fund raising activities, an effort that enabled the synagogue to pay off its mortgage.

I am sure that the Swedloves are most proud of their family's involvement in the synagogue as well. Their four sons Jerome, Sheldon, Randall, and David all attended the religious school, were Bar Mitzvahed and confirmed in the synagogue and are now all active members of the Congregation as well.

The Swedloves have been an important part of the Jewish community in the Inland Empire for years, as members of Paradise B'Nai B'rith and the Redlands Jewish Club, and as supporters of Jewish homes for the Aging and the Western States Jewish Historical Society. As owner-operators of Morris Automotive Supply in Fontana since 1962, they have been prominent members of the business community as well. Well known for their family traditions and unquestioned integrity, the Swedloves have been honored by the Fontana Chamber of Commerce for their excellence.

I am honored to recognize Caroldyne and Hershel Swedlove for their commitment to our community. I congratulate them on an honor well deserved on the 117th anniversary of the chartering of the congregation in San Bernardino. May both the Congregation Emanu El and the Swedloves continue to serve San Bernardino for years to come.