

Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

THE NATIONAL PARKS CHECKOFF ACT

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 1995

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced the National Parks Check-Off Act.

The National Parks Check-off Act will amend the Internal Revenue Code to require that Federal income tax forms contain a line which will allow taxpayers to donate one or more dollars to the National Park Service. This legislation will provide more money for the care of our National Parks at no cost to the Federal Government.

A recent study released by the National Parks and Conservation Association indicated that nearly 8 out of every 10 people surveyed would be willing to increase their tax contribution by \$1 to benefit the National Park System.

A similar checkoff for presidential campaigns raised over \$71 million in 1994 alone. I believe that our National Parks are far more popular than presidential campaigns. Therefore, I believe we could raise hundreds of millions of dollars for our National Parks through this type of checkoff on income-tax forms.

Recently, James Duffus, from the Government Accounting Office, testified at a joint hearing before the Senate Subcommittee on Parks, Historical Preservation and Recreation and the House Subcommittee on Parks, Forests and Public Lands. During his testimony, he stated: "Since substantial increases in appropriations are very unlikely in today's tight budget climate, difficult choices need to be made on the future of the national parks."

I believe there is at least one easy choice that can be made which will provide our parks with additional funding—the choice to allow taxpayers the opportunity to donate money for the care of our National Parks.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation which will help us improve the quality of our National Parks.

REMOVING BARRIERS TO RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 1995

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, the House is today considering H.R. 2491, the Seven-Year Balanced Budget Reconciliation Act of 1995. We have a moral responsibility to cease building a flawed Federal bureaucracy on the backs of our children. This legislation, the most important in years, will free our economy from the burden of wasteful Government spending and empower the private sector to build a brighter future for the next generation.

There are few provisions of the Reconciliation Act which do more to unleash the creativity and productivity in the private sector than the research and experimentation tax

credit. Since 1981, the R&E tax credit has proven a powerful boost to American competitiveness in our global economy. By extending the R&E tax credit, this legislation will ensure that our Nation's research base continues to be a dynamic source of job creation and technological innovation. Though many of us hoped that this credit might be made permanent, I fully understand the revenue constraints under which we all must operate and therefore applaud the decision to favor an extension.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to extending this useful credit, the Budget Reconciliation Act we're currently considering will helpfully eliminate a Government-created barrier to growth in the electronics and biotechnology industries. As Gordon Steel, V.P. and CEO of the Xilinx Corp., and others have pointed out, the current tax code unfairly denies full eligibility for the R&E tax credit to companies which began operating between 1984 and 1988. This arbitrary policy has proven to be a significant roadblock to U.S. business development.

To correct this inequity, the budget reconciliation bill before us includes commonsense guidelines to determine qualification for start-up R&E credit—regardless of the year a company began operations. I am delighted to support this important effort to remove existing penalties for companies that invest in long-term R&D, and I urge all my colleagues to join with me in voting for this landmark legislation.

IN HONOR OF MILDRED ALESSI MIGLIACCIO

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 1995

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today before the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mildred Alessi Migliaccio, an Italian-American who has made great contributions to American society through her business and community work in the city of Bayonne. She will be honored by the Sicilian Citizen Club of Bayonne on October 28, 1995, at their 68th annual dinner dance.

The Sicilian Citizen Club is a political and social organization for Italian-Americans. Established in 1929, it is the oldest Italian club in the city of Bayonne. Mrs. Migliaccio, a grandmother of three, is an active member of the organization. The leader of the club, Frank Carine, Sr., describes her as "a warm-hearted woman who is always there for everyone."

Mrs. Migliaccio, known to family and friends as "Millie," was born in Bayonne to Sicilian immigrants, Nicola and Guiseppina Alessi. Her father, one of the first members of the Sicilian Citizen Club, taught Millie the value of family, the importance of community and pride in her Sicilian heritage at an early age.

This year is also the 75th anniversary of the Migliaccio Funeral Home, the business she ran with her husband, William R. Migliaccio. At 82 years of age, Millie is still an active part of the business which is now run by her daughter, Carol McNulty. The Migliaccio family has always been community-minded and has sought to contribute to the vitality of Bayonne and its residents. Millie is a parishioner at the Lady of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church in Bayonne and a member of the Saint

Anne Society, a women's club connected to the church.

Please join me in saluting a lifetime of achievement and a proud Italian-American, Mildred "Millie" Alessi Migliaccio.

MEDICARE PRESERVATION ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. MELVIN L. WATT

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2425) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to preserve and reform the Medicare Program.:

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 2425, the Medicare Preservation Act, which proposes to cut Medicare by \$270 billion over 7 years. These drastic cuts are the largest cuts ever proposed for the Medicare Program and will have a devastating impact on 999,000 North Carolinians who rely on Medicare to help pay for their medical bills.

These cuts in Medicare are real. More than \$2 billion will be lost in the 10 counties in my congressional district. The average Medicare beneficiary in North Carolina will see their out-of-pocket costs increase by an average of \$2,400 in 2002. How can we expect senior citizens who have worked and paid taxes all their lives and now live on fixed-incomes to afford the additional out-of-pocket costs associated with this cut? This Medicare plan will raise the average premium for North Carolinians by \$18 per year and it may even force many of them to give up their doctor. Those are not choices, those are mandates.

The cuts in Medicare are greatly magnified by the proposal to cut Medicaid by \$182 billion over 7 years. The impact on North Carolina will be severe. Eight States including North Carolina will bear almost half of the \$182 billion in Medicaid cuts. North Carolina will lose \$8.5 billion over 7 years. This proposal, which we will consider on the House floor next week, amounts to a 40 percent overall cut from what North Carolina would receive under current levels. This is not shared sacrifice. This is an assault on the people of North Carolina. These cuts will be difficult to justify to over 490,000 children in North Carolina who are on Medicaid.

While proposing these drastic cuts to Medicare, Republicans also want to provide a \$245 billion tax cut which is designed to disproportionately benefit the rich. In order to pay for the tax cut, Republicans are cutting Medicare by three times the amount that is necessary to keep the Medicare Trust Fund solvent through the year 2002. While I agree with some of my colleagues who argue that we need to balance the budget, I do not agree with those who argue that we can balance the budget and give a tax break to the rich. The first priority of Congress should be to balance the budget and eliminate the Federal deficit, not cut Medicare to pay for a tax cut. We simply cannot afford to finance a tax cut on the backs of the elderly and the poor.

This bill punishes and jeopardizes the health of our most vulnerable children, the elderly

and the poor. This bill does not save Medicare, it dismantles it. I urge all my colleagues to reject this shameful bill and to support the Gibbons-Dingell Substitute.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS
MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 1995

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my colleagues a disturbing news story. The Associated Press reported today that a chilling backlash against battered women has formed in this country since O.J. Simpson was acquitted of murder. Advocates for abused women say that calls to domestic violence hotlines have dropped sharply in some States because women fear their claims will not be taken seriously.

In the aftermath of the Simpson trial, several jurors stated for millions of viewers to hear that domestic violence has nothing to do with murder. Yet over 4,000 women each year are killed by husbands or partners who have abused them. Domestic violence has everything to do with murder, everything to do with abuse, pain, suffering, loss of self-esteem, and violence against women.

The passage of the Violence Against Women Act was a great achievement in the fight against domestic violence. Public awareness remains high. Communities are working to see that this problem is eliminated and that victims of abuse have somewhere to turn or a safe place to go.

I am pleased to report that in my district the San Francisco Police Department recently announced the formation of a special unit to investigate domestic violence cases, one of only two such special units in the State of California. But domestic violence is still our problem. It will be our problem so long as it exists. We as legislators are responsible for letting women in this country know that we taken them seriously—that there are funds and resources available for their needs, that they don't have to hide their problem or be afraid to report cases of abuse.

I urge my colleagues to support full funding of the Violence Against Women Act, and to take every opportunity to speak out against this unspeakable crime against women, not just during National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, but every day.

GETTING THE HOT AIR OUT OF
GOVERNMENT

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 1995

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, the Seven-Year Balanced Budget Reconciliation Act of 1995 gives taxpayers plenty to cheer about. Previous speakers have talked about the many ways in which this bill attacks wasteful government spending. I'd like to take this opportunity to talk about one boondoggle in particular which our Balanced Budget bill will eliminate: the National Helium Reserve.

Humorist P.J. O'Rourke once described the National Helium Reserve as "amazingly stupid, even by government standards." First established in 1925 so America could field a fleet of blimps in time of war, the federal helium program has now piled up a debt of \$1.4 billion and loses tens of millions more every year. It's incapable of competing with private industry, which accounts for 90 percent of the nation's helium sales and is fully capable of supplying the entire demand. But no Congress—until this one—had ever taken action to terminate this "poster child of government waste."

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to point out that the true cost of maintaining this wasteful government anachronism has been much greater than its \$1.4 billion debt might indicate. A more accurate price tag might be \$250 billion—that's the amount in new taxes the American people had to endure under the 1993 tax bill signed into law by President Clinton.

Why is it appropriate to link the helium reserve to the Clinton tax bill? The answer can be found in Bob Woodward's *The Agenda* and in numerous other press reports at the time of the 1993 budget debate: President Clinton promised Rep. Bill Sarpalius—the Democrat

who until this year represented Amarillo, Texas, the home of the helium reserve—that the reserve would be protected if Sarpalius changed his vote, and voted for the Clinton tax bill. Sarpalius did change his vote, allowing President Clinton a one-vote margin of victory on House passage of his tax bill.

Privatizing the National Helium Reserve, then, is an achievement steeped in symbolism. While I am pleased that President Clinton now supports termination of the helium program—it was one of the few specific budget cuts he mentioned in his 1995 State of the Union address—I'm disappointed that his budget proposed to forgive the reserve's \$1.4 billion debt. This is altogether unfair to the American taxpayers who for so long were forced to keep this antiquated dirigible of a program aloft. We must not simply "write off" the reserve's enormous debt.

That's why I am especially pleased that the Budget Reconciliation bill before us today rejects the Clinton Administration's approach, and instead incorporates the language from H.R. 873, the helium privatization legislation I introduced earlier this year along with more than 170 Republican, Democrat, and Independent Members of the House.

The Budget Reconciliation legislation gets the government out of the helium production business, yielding millions in annual savings. It requires the government to provide accurate annual financial statements that will for the first time reflect the reserve's true cost to the taxpayers. It provides firm dates for beginning and completing privatization of the Federal Government's vast helium reserves. Most importantly, it ensures that the reserve's entire \$1.4 billion debt to taxpayers will be repaid out of the sale of the helium stockpile.

Mr. Speaker, today's vote on the Seven-Year Balanced Budget Reconciliation Act represents an enormous victory for those of us who have fought for years to get the government out of the helium business. I'd like to thank the many members of this body—including BARNEY FRANK, KEN CALVERT, BARBARA VUCANOVICH, and FRANK CREMEANS—who have worked so hard to help make this proposal a reality, and I urge all my colleagues to join with me in voting in favor of this important legislation.