

THE PERSONAL INFORMATION
PRIVACY ACT

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 1997

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Personal Information Privacy Act, a bill to protect individual privacy.

My legislation amends the Fair Credit Reporting Act to make it illegal for credit bureaus to release or sell Social Security numbers, unlisted phone numbers, birth dates, and mothers' maiden names. It also revises the Social Security Act and the Drivers' Protection Act of 1994 to ban the commercial use of Social Security numbers. Under the bill, victims can sue willful violators for up to \$50,000 for damages and attorneys' fees. Businesses have 2 years after the date of enactment to comply with the new provisions.

This legislation is the House companion bill to the bi-partisan Personal Information Privacy Act, S. 600, introduced by Senators FEINSTEIN and GRASSLEY.

It's no secret that it is easier than ever before to learn private details about your friends, neighbors, strangers and even Members of Congress, whether from the Internet, credit bureaus, governments, or a variety of other sources. Time magazine has a story about it in this week's issue—it's called "No Privacy on the Web."

Nor can we soon forget the public uproar that resulted when the Social Security Administration put its earnings data on the World Wide Web. Thousands of users flocked to the site, knowing they could access personal data by just a Social Security number, birth date, mother's maiden name, and a few other bits of information. I was among those in Congress who urged the agency to discontinue the practice, which, thankfully, it did.

Few will dispute that the crime of identity fraud is on the rise. Criminals steal their victims' account numbers, run up debts and even rent apartments in their name, then leave the victims with bad credit reports and a lengthy battle to reclaim their good name. Polls show that the number of Americans who are concerned about privacy is at an all-time high.

Unfortunately, this problem does not end with simple fraud. Stalkers can easily gain access to a person's unlisted phone number and home address. Before the passage of the 1994 Drivers Privacy Protection Act, there were no rules preventing any kind of personal information from being sold by State departments of motor vehicles. Now, over 40 States have laws preventing DMVs from selling this information. However, stalkers and other criminals can still access private information from DMVs in many States in order to find their victims much more easily.

Robert John Bardo, an obsessed fan of actress Rebecca Schaeffer of the television show, "My Sister Sam," wanted to find out her home address. When he got it, he went to her home and shot her to death. How did he get this unlisted address? From the California Department of Motor Vehicles, which included this information on its database.

As the Time magazine article pointed out, a little effort and ingenuity is all that is needed to access personal information about Members of Congress. The reporter was able to

quite easily obtain information about Senator FEINSTEIN, including her driving record, lawsuits in which she is involved, her unlisted phone number, current and past addresses, campaign donations, and even her credit report.

Mr. Speaker, the Personal Information Privacy Act transcends party lines. Democrats and Republicans are equally at risk of having their identities stolen on their lives threatened. I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation.

IN TRIBUTE TO RECIPIENTS OF
THE GIRL SCOUT WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARD

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 1997

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to give tribute to the three women of the Permian Basin who have been presented with the Girl Scout Women of Distinction Award. Shatzie Tighe of Midland, Betsy Triplett-Hurt of Odessa, and Kathlyn Dunagan of Monahans have distinguished themselves as positive role models for young women in their respective areas, and have been honored and recognized for their efforts both locally and now at the State level.

In our uncertain world, having positive influences in young people's lives is essential, but making time to spend with young people is not always easy for adults when demands are great. In touching these young women's lives, in helping them to grow into responsible and giving adults, and in giving them the best possible example to follow wherever they live in the future, these Texas women are truly women of distinction and I salute them.

I congratulate Shatzie Tighe, Betsy Triplett-Hurt, and Kathlyn Dunagan for their extraordinary efforts and for all they have done for their neighbors, their community, their State, and our Nation.

STATEMENT BY MARK OLSON,
CHAMPLAIN VALLEY UNION
HIGH SCHOOL, REGARDING COLLEGE FUNDING

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 1997

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of my colleagues I would like to have printed in the RECORD this statement by a high school student from Champlain Valley High School in Vermont, who was speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people.

Mr. OLSON. Yes, hello. I am here today, Representative SANDERS and classmates, to talk about an issue that is very pressing for most of us high school students, the increase in college financing and the troubles around it.

If we look at the last ten years, since 1995 actually, at the money that has been put into the cost of college financing it has for the most part stayed the same. Government funding toward financial assistance has for

the most part stayed the same. I know there was in a projected budget next year a \$27 million increase, but that is not—for a national figure that is not a large increase whereas the costs of going to college since 1985 have been 2½ times that of inflation which is over 10 percent.

If you look at the people who applied for financial aid in the 1985 and received the funds compared to what their tuition costs were and then did a cost comparison today, the comparison will be hard to make. We need to increase educational funding at the equal rate of the rising college expenses if we plan to send students who are talented and motivated, ambitious and want to go to college. And I think it is the duty of the Government to not necessarily directly fund but at least provide a means so that a student who is college bound in the sense, literal sense that he is able to go to college.

I know that finance is certainly a contributing factor to a college decision, but in 1985 there were students who were deciding to go to one university or college over another because of financial reasons and there is nothing wrong with that competition, but now it has become not just a persuading factor, but I know there are a lot of students who apply to college and are forced to go to universities or colleges strictly because of unmet financial need, and I am curious about how we plan to remedy that situation.

I think that any student who has the potential to be a college graduate and is unable to finance their way there should not be held back, and it needs to be allowed and the Federal Government is certainly involved in that as it is now, but needs to allow it to happen, whether it needs to come out of their budget or needs to come out of a program.

There is a difference there because pleasure and—I do not want to say extra things, postsecondary school but a higher education right now is not a right, it is not, but I think it needs to be considered that we should not as a nation, not just the Government but as a nation discriminate against the less financially advantaged.

My problem is that my kids are smarter than yours, they work harder than yours, and they are being born into a life that is less fortunate and it is a cycle that has been repeating in this Nation for a long period of time and needs to stop.

I think that they should invest in me because I am an investment that is going to pay off and I am going to pay for their Social Security and I am going to undoubtedly—I mean, the students who are going to go to college have put in the hard work and are going to graduate are not just—I mean that money is not disappearing, it is being invested.

In the last 10 or so years a lot of these programs, like corporate welfare, national defense, they have not stayed the same and there have been in the last—if you look at the last 10 years every year there has been slight increases, increases, increases, and I want to know why those same moneys didn't go to VSAC Program and TRIO?

There has to be initiative taken because while these things were increasing, they were increasing with inflation so in order to have the military and the corporate welfare slowly increase year to year it is sort of like putting it on autopilot in some ways.

They were going up every year and that was actually considered traditional, regular, accepted where it should have stayed the same, so someone had to have gone out of their way to make the initiative to make sure it didn't grow.

TRIBUTE TO JOYCE BAYNES

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 1997

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Joyce Baynes from Teaneck—a woman from my district who represents all that we aspire to be.

Her life story was told in a newspaper from my district, The Bergen Record, in its weekly "Inspirations" column.

Ms. Baynes did not quit when her husband died 2 days after her third child was born. She did not quit when she only had one salary and some survivor benefits to feed four hungry mouths. She did not quit when one of her children was diagnosed with Tourette's syndrome.

She persevered. She did all the things that a mother should do. And she did all the things a father should do. She is an example which we all should follow. Her success and that of her children is humbling to all.

Instead of using the challenges she faced as excuses for failure, Ms. Baynes used them as motivations to excel. She is unique and worthy of our mention on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives today.

I submit the news article for the RECORD so that my colleagues, present and future, can draw inspiration from her.

The article follows:

[From the Bergen (NJ) Record, Apr. 27, 1997]

HARDSHIP ONLY DEEPENS A MOM'S LOVE

(By Caroline Brewer)

March 6, 1978, found Joyce Baynes reveling in one of the happiest days of her life. Her third son, Marcus, had just been born.

Two days later, she was writhing in the pain and sadness of one of the worst days of her life. Her 31-year-old husband, Walter Jay Baynes, had just died of systemic lupus disease.

The awesome collision of a son's birth and a husband's death left Joyce Baynes crushed. It was the end of the world she knew and loved and had hoped to spend the rest of her days delighting in.

"I felt totally helpless. Everything became just a fog," she recalled.

But with four mouths to feed on one salary and survivors' benefits, Baynes didn't have the luxury of disappearing into the fog. So she created a new world in the two-parent-flush suburb of Teaneck, a world centered on devotion to her sons.

Nearly 20 years later, Baynes basks in the light of three well-rounded young men—one a graduate of Dartmouth, one a junior at Princeton, and one a freshman at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

She's sure their father would have been proud. After all, Walter had degrees in physics and medicine from Dartmouth and Harvard and worked as an ophthalmologist and emergency room doctor.

Baynes herself has math degrees from Swarthmore and Harvard. A longtime educator, she joined Teaneck schools in 1988 as mathematics supervisor and in 1995 was promoted to assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction.

She managed to juggle career and parenthood only by staying organized.

"I shopped on the weekends and cooked enough meals on Sundays to last the whole week," said Baynes, who is 50. "If you're going to try to beat all these odds, you have to plan."

Her plan was to keep sons Jeffrey, Jason, and Marcus busy. They were taught piano

and played midget league baseball and basketball. They also sang in the choir of Christ Episcopal Church in Teaneck and were acolytes.

Despite Baynes' own hectic schedule, she was in the bleachers for all of the boys' sporting events, and, like a lot of fathers, coached them on their performance. "Arch it up! Bend your legs!" the tall, curly-haired mom would cry out during basketball games, to her sons' embarrassment.

Baynes' consistent presence made an impression.

"I remember one time I was supposed to play in a baseball game, and she got dizzy [from exhaustion] and had to go to the hospital. I wasn't going to go to the game, but she told me to go. Then, she came, too!" said Jason, now 21.

"I see how a lot of parents put their jobs first. But not my mom. Sometimes I'd call her and she'd be in an important meeting and she'd come to the phone," he added.

When she did come to the phone, Jeffrey, always a worry-wart, was struck by how she never seemed stressed.

"She could have a paper due Tuesday, a board meeting Wednesday, and be dealing with seven employees," he said. "But she would seem very calm and have a plan for how she's going to handle each thing."

Looking like a force of calm in the midst of a storm was just one way Baynes mothered by modeling the behavior she expected from her children.

"They didn't hear me cursing or lying or see me smoking. They also saw that the rules I set up for myself, I followed," Baynes explained.

"I remember Jason asking me how it is that [they] never had a desire to smoke or do drugs. It was just kind of our existence that we never had those desires," she elaborated.

Baynes' sons didn't have those desires, but they don't pretend to be angels. Jeffrey battles selfishness. Jason believes he's kin to Mario Andretti; one night two years ago, he was caught speeding down a highway at 100 mph.

Marcus had a long bout of immaturity, but now says his mother's integrity is so powerful, it haunts him hundreds of miles away at Cambridge, Mass.

"She's turned us into such honest people. I have some people say, 'Your mom's at home, you can do whatever you want.' But I won't. The respect for her is so great," Marcus said.

When Marcus turned 5, doctors confirmed that he had a mild case of Tourette's syndrome, which causes facial and vocal tics, jerking, and, in some people, involuntary uttering of obscenities.

Marcus displayed compulsive behavior, such as rewinding taped songs dozens of times to catch the lyrics. But he never cursed. Baynes believes that's because she didn't.

The Tourette's did boost Marcus' already high energy level, which in turn made the job of raising the three boys that much more difficult.

They argued, wrestled, and banged holes in the walls. Jason would scream and holler when it was time to go to bed. During their younger years, Baynes couldn't even take a bathroom break until her sons were in bed.

By day's end, she was drained.

"I used to just think I had bright kids, but when I reflected on all that I did, I realized I did play a big part in this," she laughed.

A big part, indeed. Even though the boys were intelligent, the eventual Teaneck High graduates weren't always motivated. Though Jeffrey was a fixture on the honor roll, Marcus and Jason didn't really focus on academics until their sophomore years. It was not any lecture from their mother, but her years of setting high standards, that eventually brought them around.

After graduation, Jeffrey, the oldest, tallest, and most reserved son, walked in his father's shoes to Dartmouth. He graduated in 1993 with a degree in math and works at the agricultural firm of American Cyanamid in Parsippany. He's also pursuing a master's degree.

Jason, the middle son, whose face and personality are most like his father's, is a junior at Princeton. Like Walter, the self-assured Jason plans to be a doctor, specializing in the study of the brain.

Marcus, the youngest son, who with his mother's love and patience mastered his academics as well as his Tourette's, is winding up his freshman year at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

As for Joyce Baynes, the struggle is not over. Her income was too high for the boys to qualify for full scholarships to college. So she footed the \$20,000-a-year bill for Jeffrey's stay at Dartmouth and still shells out more than \$20,000 a year for schooling for Jason and Marcus.

Yet no one in the Baynes quartet would trade the creature comforts they've sacrificed, or even a new dad, for the new world that was forced on them when fate took an unexpected and agonizing turn.

"It would have been nice to have remarried," Baynes said, "but after three or four years of dating and nothing working or feeling right, I felt I had built such a relationship with the boys that it would have been hard to bring in someone new."

Jason, a toddler when his father died, always felt secure with just his mom. "I didn't even know people had two parents until maybe I was 9. I thought my life was great with just one parent," he said with the deep, throaty laugh the Baynes' boys share.

Marcus, too, likes his family as it is. He, most of all, used to pine for a father figure. "Sometimes I would get jealous when I'd see commercials and TV shows with kids playing with their father. We never got to do that."

"But," Marcus concluded, "I've lived a happy life. When people say a child needs a father and a mother, it depends on who you have. Not every child has a mother as wonderful as Joyce Baynes."

A SPECIAL SALUTE TO ARTISTIC DISCOVERY WINNERS

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 1997

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute young students from the 11th Congressional District of Ohio who participated in the annual An Artistic Discovery competition. Later this month, student artwork from around the Nation will be placed on display in a special corridor of the U.S. Capitol. I take special pride in sponsoring the Artistic Discovery competition for students in my congressional district. The art contest provides an important means for recognizing the creative talent of our Nation's youth.

I am proud to report that An Artistic Discovery is enjoying great success in the 11th Congressional District. This year, students from 12 schools submitted a record 403 art entries. Our judge had the difficult task of selecting a winning entry from this outstanding collection of artwork.

Mr. Speaker, I want to offer a special salute to Monica Grevious, who is a 12th grade student at Bedford High School. Monica's work, a