

Whereas democracy and stability in Cambodia are threatened by the continued use of violence to resolve political differences;

Whereas the administration has suspended assistance to Cambodia for 1 month in response to the deteriorating situation in Cambodia; and

Whereas the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has decided to delay indefinitely Cambodian membership: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) the forcible assault upon the democratically elected Government of Cambodia is illegal and unacceptable;

(2) the recent events in Cambodia constitute a military coup against the duly elected democratic Government of Cambodia;

(3) the authorities in Cambodia should take immediate steps to halt all extralegal violence and to restore fully civil, political, and personal liberties to the Cambodian people, including freedom of the press, speech, and assembly, as well as the right to a democratically elected government;

(4) the United States should release the report by the Federal Bureau of Investigation concerning the March 30, 1997, grenade attack in Phnom Penh;

(5) the United States should press the authorities in Cambodia to investigate fully and impartially all abuses and extralegal actions that have occurred in Cambodia since July 4, 1997, and to bring to justice all those responsible for such abuses and extra-legal actions;

(6) the administration should immediately invoke section 508 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1997 (Public Law 104-208), as it is required to do;

(7) the United States should urgently request an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council to consider all options to restore peace in Cambodia;

(8) the United States should encourage the Secretary General of the United Nations to expand the monitoring operations of the United Nations Special Representative on Human Rights in Cambodia;

(9) the United States and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) should coordinate efforts to restore democracy, stability, and the rule of law in Cambodia;

(10) direct United States assistance to the Government of Cambodia should continue to be suspended until violence ends, a democratically elected government is reconstituted, necessary steps have been taken to ensure that the election scheduled for 1998 takes place in a free and fair manner, the military is depoliticized, and the judiciary is made independent; and

(11) the United States should call for an emergency meeting of the Donors' Consultative Group for Cambodia to encourage the suspension of assistance as part of a multilateral effort to encourage respect for democratic processes, constitutionalism, and the rule of law.

EQUAL PARENTS WEEK

HON. JAY KIM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues that this coming Sunday signals the beginning of Equal Parents Week. Unfortunately, because of our busy legislative schedule, I will not be able to attend Equal

Parents Week ceremonies in my district this weekend.

Equal Parents Week brings to the attention of our Nation the importance of both parents in the raising of a child, especially in cases of a divorce. Unfortunately, in many cases a divorce results in a custody battle that, in addition to severely hurting the child, renders one parent with fewer parental rights than the other.

As a result, the noncustodial parent loses a great deal of his or her parental rights, and is thus relegated to a position as a "second class" parent. I believe that, as long as it is in the best interest and safety of the child, parents should work together to make certain that both parents have an equal opportunity to play an active role in that child's upbringing.

Mr. Speaker, the positive influence that both parents can play in the upbringing of a child is of the utmost importance. I am pleased we take the time to celebrate this occasion each year, and I salute groups like the Coalition of Parent Support, for hosting events to bring this important issue to our attention.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS AND THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE GUN BAN

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, the domestic violence gun ban amendment, included in last year's omnibus appropriations bill, was intended to protect victims of domestic abuse by prohibiting anyone convicted of a domestic violence misdemeanor from purchasing or possessing a handgun. Supporters of this provision wanted to ensure that if one spouse was convicted of this kind of offense, he or she could not then have access to a gun, which could increase the likelihood of deadly violence against the abused spouse in the future. However, I do not believe that this amendment also intended another consequence: taking away the livelihood of some Americans.

The domestic violence gun ban amendment would make it illegal for law enforcement officials to do their job, because it would prohibit them from carrying a gun during normal work hours.

There is a simple answer to this problem. My legislation would allow law enforcement officials with past domestic violence misdemeanor convictions to carry a handgun on duty while engaged in official police business. A police officer with a prior domestic violence conviction would pick up his or her gun when beginning a shift at work, and then turn in the weapon when they leave to go home. I believe that my legislation is a practical solution to allow law enforcement officers to continue to do their jobs, while also protecting victims of spousal abuse. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

THE VETERANS SEXUAL TRAUMA TREATMENT ACT

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of the Veterans Sexual Trauma Treatment Act, which I have introduced today with the support of 33 of my colleagues.

I want to begin by thanking four outstanding Veterans Service Organizations; the American Legion, Amvets, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Vietnam Veterans of America for their leadership on this issue. Their input on this legislation has been invaluable. I am very proud that they all strongly support this legislation and thank them for their work.

The Veterans Sexual Trauma Treatment Act provides very real help to veterans who experience the very real problem of sexual abuse or harassment while serving in our nation's military. The numbers are alarming. In 1996, approximately 190,000 women served in our armed services.

A Department of Defense survey of active duty women found that 5 percent of women had been the victim of a sexual assault. That is almost 10,000 women. These statistics—and news reports of incidents like those at Aberdeen—have made clear the existence of very serious problem in our Armed Forces and the need to move aggressively to end the tragedy of sexual abuse.

However, we must also take aggressive steps to help our veterans after this abuse or harassment has occurred. The pain and suffering that sexual abuse causes does not end when a person leaves the military. The physical, psychological and emotional effects are often just beginning.

That is why I believe the Veterans' Sexual Trauma Treatment Act is so important. This legislation strengthens existing Veterans Administration programs for aiding victims of sexual assault. Sadly, the current law is inadequate. It states that the VA may provide counseling and care to victims of sexual assault, and that the program must be reauthorized each and every year.

It excludes members of the reserves and National Guard—thereby denying care to some soldiers called to duty during the Gulf War. It also excludes any military personnel who separate before 2 years of duty with our armed forces. Finally, the VA has done a woeful job of notifying veterans of what services are available to them and how to access these services.

I don't believe these half-hearted provisions are acceptable for veterans who have made whole-hearted commitments to serving our Nation.

We know that problems exist. We should pass legislation that guarantees care.

Our bill assures a national commitment to our veterans. Our bill makes the provision of care to victims of sexual assault or harassment mandatory—and permanently authorize this care. It allows veterans who separate before they have completed 2 years of service to be eligible for care and counseling. This is vital, because often sexual assault is the very reason these people leave the military. It is illogical and unfair to deny them care.

The Veterans Sexual Trauma Act also makes reservists and National Guard members eligible for care.

It also ensures that health professionals—not VA administrators—make determinations about eligibility for care and guarantees that all appropriate medical care is made available to any eligible veteran.

Finally, it mandates that the VA aggressively promote the availability of this vital service and assure that veterans are aware of these counseling and care programs.

This is not a complicated bill, nor is it an expensive bill.

It is however, a vital bill.

Each year, more and more women make the decision to dedicate a portion of their lives to serving our Nation.

The increasing enlistment of females is a trend that should make our Nation proud—but we should be ashamed when any soldier faces sexual assault or harassment.

When Americans enlist in the military they make a promise to dedicate their lives to serving our Nation.

This legislation helps America keep its promise to our veterans—its promise to provide all necessary health care.

Care and counseling for victims of sexual abuse and trauma should be a basic and fundamental part of the health care services the VA makes available to our veterans. Today, it is not.

This legislation accomplishes this important goal. I urge all of my colleagues to support it and push for its quick passage.

SMALL BUSINESS JOB OPPORTUNITY ACT

HON. ELIZABETH FURSE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will promote investment in small business by cutting the tax on capital gains that are reinvested in American small businesses. By doing so, this bill will create jobs. I repeat—the only capital gains relief is for small business—where their profit is invested in companies doing business in America. That means jobs for Americans in America. Increasing the amount of capital available to American businesses will be extremely beneficial to our long-term economy.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and need extra capital to expand and compete in the increasingly international marketplace. In Oregon, over 95 percent of businesses earn less than five million dollars per year in gross receipts. These small businesses are the core to Oregon's success in trade in the Pacific Rim. In fact, many of my colleagues are surprised to learn that Japan is Oregon's largest trading partner. Most importantly, Oregon small businesses provide job opportunities for Oregon's working families.

During the debate over the capital gains tax cuts, Congress should embrace this bill as an opportunity to provide support to the small business community and benefit America's working families. Traditionally, capital gains tax cuts have been viewed as a tool for the wealthy, but by targeting investments in small

business we are providing job opportunities for working families. Many middle-income Americans realize some type of capital gain and this is an opportunity for them to reinvest that gain in their community and help provide jobs for their neighbors.

The Pacific Northwest International Trade Association and Oregon Bankers Association have joined me in supporting this bill. Following are their letters of endorsement. I urge all my colleagues to support this important legislation.

OREGON BANKERS ASSOCIATION,
INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY BANKS OF

OREGON,

Salem, OR, July 21, 1997.

Hon. ELIZABETH FURSE,

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN FURSE: The Oregon Bankers Association wholeheartedly endorses your proposed "Capital gains small business reinvestment exemption". We shall support its passage in every way possible.

As we have previously discussed, Oregon has a large number of small businesses. As a matter-of-fact, most of our new job potential is in the small business sector.

We must create incentives and remove roadblocks to insure growth in this very key area of our economy.

Your proposal could be extremely valuable to the emerging Oregon small businesses and small businesses nationwide.

Sincerely,

FRANK E. BRAWNER,
President.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST INTERNATIONAL
TRADE ASSOCIATION, ONE WORLD
TRADE CENTER,

Portland, OR, July 21, 1997.

Hon. ELIZABETH FURSE,

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Re: Capital Gains Exemption for Small Business Reinvestment Act

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN FURSE: PNITA commends you for introducing this bill which has our enthusiastic support. As a small business state we believe this legislation will help to encourage small businesses in general and specifically provide a greater opportunity for investment by people who own and operate small businesses.

We ask that your staff keep us informed as this bill is assigned to committee so that PNITA members may do whatever is necessary to insure its timely passage.

Again, we appreciate your continued support of the small business community. We know that your bill will help small businesses nationwide as the similar Oregon law has helped Oregon companies.

Sincerely,

STEVEN W. NEWMAN,
Executive Director.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMALL BUSINESS JOB OPPORTUNITY ACT

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague, Representative ELIZABETH FURSE, in introducing legislation that will provide targeted capital gains tax relief to small business owners. Our bill would reward small business owners who reinvest their profits in American small businesses, and would demonstrate our national commitment to the health and welfare of our nation's entrepreneurs.

In the state of Oregon, small businesses are a crucial part of the growing economy. In fact, more than 95 percent of businesses in the state earn less than \$5 million a year. These growing businesses are providing quality jobs and economic opportunity for working families across our state. But this experience is not unique to Oregon. Small businesses across this country are providing the new jobs and economic growth that are driving our strong economy.

As Congress continues to work toward balancing the budget and providing tax relief, it is essential that we maximize the benefit of tax reductions by targeting them to the people who need them most. This bill does just that by encouraging reinvestment in small business and creating a climate for continued growth and job creation.

I am also pleased that the Oregon Bankers Association and the Pacific Northwest International Trade Association have joined us in support of the legislation. I urge my colleagues to join us in support of this important small business legislation.

IN HONOR OF QUEENS SURFACE CORPORATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a respectful tribute to Queens Surface Corporation, a company with an outstanding reputation of service in Queens, on the 60th anniversary of its founding. Now the largest privately owned transit company in New York City, Queens Surface plays an important role in the community of its headquarters in College Point, Queens.

Queens Surface Corporation has given significant amounts of financial support to the College Point community by helping such organizations as the College Point Ambulance Corp., the College Point Sports Association, the College Point Security Patrol, the College Point Little League and the College Point Athletic Club. The company has also given donations to the Poppenhusen Institute, Saint Mary's Foundation for Children, the American Diabetes Association, the American Lung Association, the American Cancer Society and Memorial Sloan Kettering.

For its service to and support for the community, Queens Surface Corporation has been awarded hundreds of awards and citations from cultural, religious and educational institutions. Since 1988, when the current owners, Robert and Myra Burke, bought the company, Queens Surface Corporation has continued to drive at community service, garnering 14 awards from a wide array of organizations.

Mr. Burke also gives his personal time to the community, serving on the board for Saint Patrick's Home for the Aged and Infirmary, and holding positions as President of the Bus Association of New York State and Secretary/Treasurer of the Mass Transit Operations of New York. Most recently, Mr. Burke was the Grand Marshal of the 1997 College Point Memorial Day Parade.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise with me in this tribute to Robert and Myra Burke's company, Queens Surface Corporation, as it celebrates its 60th anniversary. I am honored to have in my district, a company which services over 80,000 riders daily while continuously contributing to its Queens community. Thank you