

worse. This legislation would accomplish the goals of that provision by allowing penalty-free withdrawals during long periods of unemployment from IRA's as well as qualified retirement plan—401(k) and 403(b)—accounts.

Many small businesses offer participation in 401(k) plans, thus, this amendment would help unemployed people who at the time of separation from employment chose to leave their 401(k) funds with their former employer. Then, because of unanticipated long periods of unemployment, need access to those funds. Accordingly, many small businesses would benefit from this amendment. In addition, employees who are laid off from their former employment may need access to those funds in order to start up their own small business. State and local government employees who are displaced through downsizing, also may need access to the funds in their 403(b) plans for similar purposes.

The benefit this legislation would offer the long-term unemployed is the right thing to do in this period of economic uncertainty. You can plan for many things in your life financially, but the impact of long, unanticipated periods of unemployment can create financial havoc on any individual or family, including those that thought they had adequate savings to get them through such a situation. Long periods of unemployment are similar to major illnesses that can result in catastrophic medical expenses. Under current law, taxpayers are allowed penalty-free early withdrawals from qualified retirement plans to meet catastrophic medical expenses, therefore, it makes sense to extend this benefit in cases of long periods of unemployment.

Passage of this legislation would allow unemployed taxpayers a chance to get back on their feet without having to pay an unnecessary financial penalty when they can least afford it.

LEGISLATION TO CHANGE BUDGET SCOREKEEPING RULES

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to change the current budget scorekeeping rules as they relate to Federal real estate transactions. The bill is identical to legislation I introduced in the 103d and 104th Congresses. I originally introduced the bill in response to hearings I held during the 103d Congress, when I served as chairman of the Public Works and Transportation Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds. The hearings focused on the way in which the Office of Management and Budget scores Federal real estate transactions. The hearings underscored previous findings by the General Accounting Office that the Federal Government is wasting hundreds of millions of dollars a year in unnecessary long-term leases. The waste is due primarily to the fact that current budget scorekeeping rules prevent the General Services Administration from pursuing a full range of financing options to meet the Federal Government's office space needs. These practices continue to this day.

My legislation has received strong bipartisan support in the past two Congresses. The bill

changes Federal budget accounting rules to allow GSA to utilize a full range of financing mechanisms in meeting Federal office space needs. Under current Federal budget scorekeeping rules, which were established in the 1990 Budget Act, the entire cost of a Federal construction project or building purchase, must be scored in the first year of the project, rather than amortized over the actual construction period, or over the expected life of a purchased building. For leases, the rules require that only the annual rent costs be scored. The end result is that operating leases have become the most attractive vehicle for GSA, the Federal Government's real estate arm, to meet the housing needs of Federal agencies—even though in the long term it is the most costly.

Specifically, the bill amends the Public Buildings Act of 1959 to treat Federal real estate transactions in the same manner they were treated prior to the implementation of the 1990 Budget Act. The bill would allow GSA to utilize alternative financing mechanisms, such as lease-purchases or time financing.

In 1975 GSA's leasing budget was \$388 million. In 1996 GSA spent more than \$2.5 billion on Federal leases. A December 1989 report issued by GAO analyzed 43 projects that GSA might have undertaken if capital financing were available to replace space that GSA would otherwise lease. GAO estimated that, over a 30-year period, constructing the 43 projects instead of leasing, would have saved taxpayers \$12 billion.

Financing by lease purchase is inappropriately being compared by OMB to direct Federal construction, when the correct comparison should be with the cost of long-term leasing. My goal is to ensure that GSA has all the financing tools available to the private sector. Currently GSA does not have the ability to get the best possible deal for the taxpayer—because of the scoring rules. GAS should be able to, on a project by project basis, determine the most cost effective and efficient way to finance a particular Federal real estate transaction. My bill will give GSA this ability. In the long term, this legislation will save the taxpayer hundreds of millions of dollars. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, the balanced budget amendment is the only foolproof way to guarantee the deficit continues on a permanently downward path to zero. But more than that, a balanced budget amendment is good for America's families. It means reduced interest rates and a lower cost of living for all Americans. A home, a car, and a college education will become more affordable than ever. In my district, a family with the median-priced home would save about \$3,600 each year, based on a 30-year mortgage. Families could keep an extra \$2,200 on a student loan and \$900 on an average-priced car loan. These extra dollars can be spent on your future and that of your children.

The balanced budget amendment will also safeguard Social Security and Medicare while

protecting future generations from crushing debt. The President has said that balancing the budget is his top priority. However, by stating that a balanced budget amendment could lead to reductions in Social Security benefits, he has been using scare tactics to avoid committing to a balanced budget.

Mr. Speaker, I know that Clinton's assertion is not true. In fact, our skyrocketing debt is the real threat to Social Security. The further we go into debt, the harder it will be for the Federal Government to meet its Social Security commitment to today's and tomorrow's seniors. The best way to protect Social Security for future generations is by passing a balanced budget amendment. I find it unfortunate that the President has chosen to oppose our bipartisan effort to improve the American people's quality of life by standing in our way once again. American families can balance their budgets, State and local governments balance their budgets, and so must the Federal Government.

RESPONSIBLE REPEAL OF THE ETHANOL TAX

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation to eliminate the ethanol subsidy. This legislation is good fiscal policy, good agriculture policy, good environmental policy, and good energy policy, and I urge my colleagues to join me as cosponsors.

The ethanol subsidy was established to help address the Nation's energy needs during the oil crisis of the 1970's. Unfortunately it is a program that has proven to be woefully inadequate. According to the Treasury Department, the ethanol subsidy cost the American taxpayers over \$5.3 billion from 1983–94. The ethanol tax subsidy costs the Federal highway trust fund \$850 million each year—and the revenue drain is increasing. Ethanol receives a 54 cents per gallon Federal tax subsidy on some 1.6 billion gallons of ethanol produced per year—with an additional 10 cents per gallon for small producers and from 10 to 80 cents per gallon more from various States. But we have seen few benefits for this huge expense. In fact, a close examination of the ethanol subsidy shows that it not only has failed to live up to its billing, it has several negative consequences:

Ethanol yields significantly less energy than gasoline. Per gallon, ethanol yields about 76,000 Btu, while gasoline yields between 109,000 to 119,000 Btu. This means that ethanol provides only about two-thirds to three-quarters as much energy and mileage as conventional gasoline.

Ethanol tax subsidies harm beef and dairy industries. Ethanol production competes with traditional feed grain customers for corn, driving the price of feedstocks up for the cattle industry and raising consumer prices for meat and dairy products.

While ethanol does help reduce carbon monoxide emissions, it can increase ground level ozone, especially in hot summer weather. This is because ethanol makes gasoline evaporate more easily.

Corn-based ethanol has had dubious results as an alternative fuel additive, and it is now

time to let this program stand without taxpayer support.

Proponents of energy subsidies and mandates say that they are needed to improve the environment, enhance energy security, spur economic development, and replace dwindling supplies of oil. However, this subsidy has proven to be both expensive and ineffective.

Eliminating the ethanol subsidy is a positive beginning to balancing the budget and is a responsible choice for the taxpayers of this country. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

NATIONAL WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SPORTS DAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1997

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the growing numbers of girls and women in sports whose achievements will be celebrated across the Nation on February 6, 1997, the 11th annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day [NGWSD]. In Washington, DC, there will be a 2-mile fitness walk on the Mall followed by a luncheon on Capitol Hill where athletes will be recognized by Members of Congress.

Track and field star Lillian Green-Chamberlain is among the athletes participating in the celebration in Washington, DC. Dr. Greene-Chamberlain holds a number of firsts. She was the first national champion in 800 meters, long before it became an Olympic event, and she was the first African-American to represent the United States in international middle distance running. She was the first and only woman and American to serve as the director of the Physical Education and Sports Program for the 161 member nations of the Paris-headquartered U.N. Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization [UNESCO]. In addition, Dr. Green-Chamberlain has been a leader in developing health, education, physical fitness, recreation, and sports programs nationally and internationally for more than 28 years. I am proud that this All-American woman is from Silver Spring, MD.

Also participating in the activities in Washington, DC is award-winning canoeist Jennifer Hearn. This outstanding athlete was the 1993 U.S. Olympic Festival Champion in whitewater slalom kayaking and the 1995 Olympic Festival slalom team champion. She placed fifth in the 1993 U.S. National Championships, and won a silver for the women's slalom kayak team event in the 1990 Pre-Worlds. In 1994 and 1995, she was sixth on the U.S. National Team, and has also finished among the top 30 in two World Cups. Again, I am proud to report that Jennifer Hearn is from Bethesda, MD.

The next time I hear someone say, "You run or throw like a girl," I'm going to ask, "Which girl?" Maybe they mean the women's world record holder in the 440-yard dash in 1961, Lillian Greene-Chamberlain. Or do they mean the young woman, also from Silver Spring, who, during the 1996 Summer Olympics, helped the U.S. women win their first team gold in gymnastics, and won an individual bronze medal, Dominique Dawes? Perhaps they mean the young woman who is

considered the best girl high school basketball player in the United States, senior guard-forward from Frederick, MD, Nikki Teasley.

On the 25th anniversary of title IX, we pause to reflect on what we have accomplished in the past, and the work that we must do for the future. There is no doubt in my mind that title IX has been successful in expanding opportunities for women in athletics. We have made great strides toward increasing the numbers of women and girls in competitive athletics at the high school and college levels. Before title IX, women represented only 2 percent of the Nation's college varsity athletes. Twenty-five years later, women represent 35 percent of college athletes nationwide. The door to athletic opportunities, however, has only partially opened for women. Title IX's goal of bringing equal opportunity in sports to women and girls has yet to be realized. At schools that belong to the National Collegiate Athletic Association [NCAA], women account for 53 percent of the college students, but only 36 percent of the college athletes.

I applaud the distinguished athletes who have gathered in Washington, DC, to celebrate National Women and Girls in Sports Day, for they all are long distance runners for equality and social justice that has afforded women and girls the benefits of competitive sports.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAYS

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 15 million girls and women who will be participating in the 11th Annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day. National Girls and Women in Sports Day will be celebrated throughout the United States on February 6, 1997.

Sponsored by Girls Inc., Girl Scouts of the USA, National Association of Girls & Women in Sports, Women's Sports Foundation, and YWCA of the USA, National Girls and Women in Sports Day celebrates the participation of women in sports and honors the memory of Olympic volleyball silver medalist Flo Hyman, who died suddenly during a match in Japan. In her honor, the Women's Sports Foundation honors a female athlete on National Girls and Women in Sports Day who exemplifies the commitment, integrity, and superior athletic ability of Flo Hyman. This year the award will go to legend Billie Jean King for her commitment to women's rights and her renown as an international tennis champion.

As a cosponsor of this congressionally established event, I would like to give special recognition to seven women who have helped to make this event possible, and who have made such a difference in the lives of young women all over the United States. They are: Regina Montoya, president, board of directors of Girls Inc.; Elinor J. Ferdon, national president, Girl Scouts of the USA; Dr. Sue Durrant, president, National Association for Girls & Women in Sports; Donna Lopiano, executive director, Women's Sports Foundation; Dr. Alpha Alexander, director, Health in Sports

Advocacy YWCA of the USA; Dr. Prema Mathai-Davis, executive director, YWCA of the USA and Benita Fitzgerald Mosley, director, Women's Sports Foundation. Every day they make it possible for young women to improve their health, self esteem, leadership skills and academics.

As the 25th anniversary of the passage of title IX, this National Girls and Women in Sports Day marks a particularly significant event in the history of women in sports. Since title IX, the law prohibiting sex discrimination in federally-funded institutions, was enacted, women's participation in school athletic programs has greatly increased. This increase has benefitted young women. Young women who play sports are more likely to graduate from high school, and less likely to use drugs or have an unintended pregnancy. They reap multiple health benefits from athletic participation, including a 40-60 percent decrease in their risk of breast cancer. In addition, athletic participation helps improve self-esteem and discipline.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these women, and all women who participate in National Girls and Women in Sports Day.

NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we will recognize the achievements of women and girls in an important area that has been traditionally dominated by men: sports. As part of the 11th Annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day, many women, athletes and members of Congress will be celebrating the athletic accomplishments of women.

As cochair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, I am proud to have the opportunity to spotlight women's activity in an area where they have often been overlooked. The majority of media coverage focusing on sports coverage goes to men's sports. While a recent study found that 94 percent of local television news sports coverage goes to men's sports, women's sports get 5 percent of the coverage.

Unfortunately, one of the results of this low level of media coverage is insufficient financial support of women's sports in universities across the United States. Less than 24 percent of college sport operating budgets and less than 18 percent of athletic recruiting dollars are allocated to women's sports. This is despite the fact that women are as athletic and as talented in sports as men, and that women and girls involved in sports have greater self-esteem and do better in school than those who do not participate in sports.

By participating in sports, women and girls learn how to work as a team and to strive to achieve a desired goal, skills vital to succeeding in any career. Many women also choose sports as a career, including returning to high school or universities to coach young athletes. Yet even here women are not equal to men. According to a recent survey of head coaches of Division I basketball teams, head coaches of women basketball teams average only 59