

THE NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY ACT
OF 1997**HON. LINDSEY O. GRAHAM**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Chairman BILEY and the Commerce Committee for passing out of committee H.R. 1270, The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1997.

Fifteen years ago the Department of Energy, under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, was given the responsibility of determining the best location for a centralized nuclear storage facility and for readying it to receive irradiated fuel by January 1998.

The rate payers, our constituents, have financed this operation at a cost of \$13 billion. We have built and tested shipping containers and found them to be reliable and safe. Our European counterparts regularly ship similar canisters both domestically and internationally. With the passage of H.R. 1270, we can consolidate our spent nuclear fuel in a centralized facility.

So why the holdup? The problem is not money or safety, but politics.

As we wait for passage of H.R. 1270, the price tag to our constituents grows. Continued delays could force nuclear powerplants to build additional storage space at the rate payers' expense. Furthermore, because Congress fails to use the funds accumulated in the nuclear waste fund, other nonrelated projects siphon money from this depleting account.

It is time that money collected for the nuclear waste fund be spent for its intended purpose and that the administration keeps their promise to the American people. Let's stop wasting our citizen's money and finish the job: Support H.R. 1270.

ON BILL REGARDING SALLIE MAE
REFINANCING**HON. DAVID E. SKAGGS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, on September 18, when I introduced H.R. 2511, a bill to correct an unfair practice occurring as a result of the privatization of Sallie Mae, the bill's effective date was in error. I am introducing the same legislation, but with an effective date of today to correct the problem.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, 3 weeks have now passed since the August congressional recess, and still no campaign finance reform. The frustration among Members is growing over the inability of this House to take action on this issue.

There is no issue that is demanding more attention this fall, yet we have not found the

time to consider any bill in the Government Reform and Oversight Committee or on the floor of the House. On today's calendar we are considering 15 pieces of legislation, including a bill to study the feasibility of changing the U.S. quarter-dollar coin to commemorate all 50 states. While this idea may have some merit, it clearly is not as pressing an issue as campaign finance reform. The trend in this Congress, the last several months, has been to investigate rather than legislate. Today, unfortunately, we have decided to commemorate rather than legislate.

Mr. Speaker, I and my constituents are tired of hearing no as an answer. It is time to schedule campaign finance reform for a vote.

TRIBUTE TO THE CATHOLIC
HOSPICE**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the efforts of the Catholic Hospice, a nonprofit organization located in my congressional district, and the commitment and efforts of all of their volunteers. The Catholic Hospice is an organization established in 1988 by the Catholic Archdiocese of Miami, SSI Mercy Health System, and St. Francis Medical Health Care Services, whose mission it is to serve the physical and emotional needs of terminally ill patients and their families of all faiths in Dade and Monroe Counties.

Among some of the projects Catholic Hospice offers are Camp Hope, a 3-day intensive therapy session that is offered to children who have lost a parent or very close caregiver within the last 12 months; bereavement support groups, which are counseling sessions offered to adults to assist them to deal with grief and loss; and a volunteer program, where volunteers offer their services free of charge to patients and families who need basic support through a very critical time.

In recognition of the dedication of their volunteers, the Catholic Hospice will be having its annual volunteer luncheon this September 27, where their most valuable volunteers will be recognized. It is volunteers such as Claire Salichs, Tish O'Neil, Lois Newmark, and Berta Friedman, among many others, who have selflessly given their time and energy to assist patients as well as their families during these difficult periods. It is these same individuals who have been indispensable in making the Catholic Hospice a success and whose efforts I commend.

I congratulate the Catholic Hospice for serving so many of south Florida's patients and families and I applaud the efforts of all its volunteers for their dedication to all of those who are sickly or bereaving the loss of a loved one. Death is an experience that is hard to bear for everyone and it is the support of the volunteers at Catholic Hospice that allow those who have lost a loved one to heal more rapidly and enjoy the memories of those who have passed away.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on September 16, 1997, I was unavoidably detained during two rollcall votes: No. 398, on agreeing to the Goodling amendment and No. 399, on agreeing to the Hoekstra amendment. Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "yes" on No. 398 and "no" on No. 399.

GAO'S OUTSTANDING RESULTS
ACT WORK**HON. RICHARD K. ARMEY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, the Government Performance Results Act, popularly known as the Results Act, holds the promise of achieving a smaller, smarter, commonsense Federal Government. It provides the tools we need to comprehensively evaluate Federal programs and agencies in order to determine what's working, what's wasted, what needs to be improved, and what needs to be rethought. It will help us ferret out fraud, waste, error, and redundancy in current programs.

For these reasons, effective implementation of the Results Act is a high priority for the Congress. Indeed, we have already devoted much attention to ensuring that the act achieves its full potential. We recently completed extensive congressional consultations on draft agency strategic plans through a coordinated effort that involved virtually all House committees and featured outstanding teamwork across jurisdictional and party lines. Our September 4 interim report, entitled "The Results Act: It Matters Now," provides an overall assessment of the agency draft plans based on our consultations.

Our evaluations and feedback on agency draft plans drew heavily on analyses done for us by the General Accounting Office. I want to take this opportunity to commend the GAO and its many dedicated employees for their superb work on this project.

At our request, GAO conducted comprehensive reviews of draft strategic plans for 28 departments and agencies. In order to meet the need to complete congressional consultations promptly, GAO reported to us within 30 days following receipt of each agency's draft plan. The reports were uniformly thorough and insightful. Their detailed analyses and constructive criticisms provided invaluable assistance to us, to our committee teams, and to the agencies. In addition to issuing written products, the GAO staff responsible for each report provided oral briefings to our committee teams.

GAO's ability to produce so much outstanding work in such a short time period is a tribute to the breadth of knowledge, expertise, and commitment of its outstanding staff. Each of the individuals involved in this project can rightly be proud of his or her accomplishment. This project reflects the highest standards of GAO's service to the Congress and to the American taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to insert in the RECORD letters of commendation that we sent to Jim Hinchman, the Acting Comptroller General, and to Chris Mihm, who coordinated the entire GAO project. I would also like to insert in the RECORD the names of all the other fine GAO employees who made major contributions to this project. A special commendation is in order for Henry Wray, who is a detailee to the Congress from GAO who is a tireless, professional optimist who has given of this time and talents on behalf of Government reforms in which he believes.

My hearty thanks to all those with GAO who have provided such a solid support for the Congressional effort to get to a smaller, smarter, more commonsense government using all the tools, laws, and resources available to us.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, September 22, 1997.

Mr. J. CHRISTOPHER MIHM,
Acting Associate Director, General Government
Division, U.S. General Accounting Office,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHRIS: On behalf of ourselves and many others in the Congress, we wish to commend you for your superb contributions to effective implementation of the Government Performance and Results Act.

For the past several years, you have spearheaded a number of excellent GAO efforts in support of the Results Act. They include the following products, among many others: *Executive Guide: Effectively Implementing the Government Performance and Results Act*, GAO/ GGD-96-118 (June 1996); *Agencies' Strategic Plans Under GPPRA: Key Questions to Facilitate Congressional Review*, GAO/GGD-10.1.16 (May 1997); and *The Government Performance and Results Act: 1997 Governmentwide Implementation Will Be Uneven*, GAO/GGD-97-109 (June 1997).

Most recently, you played a key role in producing the 28 reports on agency draft strategic plans that GAO provided to us, each of which was done within a 30-day deadline. The reports were uniformly thorough and insightful. Their detailed analyses and constructive criticisms of each plan provided invaluable assistance to us and to our Results Act consultation teams. You coordinated GAO's overall effort to produce these reports and personally reviewed and contributed to the substance of many of them. On September 4, we issued an Interim Report on implementation of the Act, entitled "The Results Act: It Matters Now," which provides an overall assessment of agency draft strategic plans and draws heavily on the GAO analyses.

In addition to these efforts, you have been a constant and invaluable source of informal assistance on Results Act issues to many members of Congress and Congressional staff in both the House and the Senate and on both sides of the aisle. You have demonstrated outstanding expertise on the Results Act and government management issues in general, remarkable energy and enthusiasm, and an unfailing spirit of cooperation. You should take great pride in all of these efforts. They reflect the highest standards of public service.

Once again, thank you for all of your outstanding support of Results Act implementation. As you know, we view effective implementation of the Act as a high priority. We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that this vitally important law achieves its full promise.

Sincerely,

DICK ARMEY,
House Majority Leader.

DAN BURTON,
Chairman, House Government Reform and

Oversight Committee.
JOHN KASICH,
Chairman, House Budget Committee.
BOB LIVINGSTON,
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, September 22, 1997.

Mr. JAMES F. HINCHMAN,
Acting Comptroller General of the United States,
U.S. General Accounting Office, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. HINCHMAN: On September 4, we issued an Interim Report on implementation of the Government Performance and Results Act. The report, entitled "The Results Act: It Matters Now," provides an overall assessment of agency draft strategic plans based on Congressional consultations on those plans as mandated by the Act. The report draws heavily from the analyses of agency draft plans done for us by the General Accounting Office as part of our consultations. We wish to take this opportunity to commend the GAO and its many dedicated employees for this superb work.

By letter dated June 12, 1997, we requested that the GAO assist us and our Results Act consultation teams by conducting comprehensive evaluations of agency draft strategic plans. Our request included all of the 24 departments and major independent agencies covered by the Chief Financial Officers (CFO) Act, as well as several other agencies. Given the need to complete Congressional consultations promptly, we further requested that GAO report to us within 30 days following receipt of each agency's draft plan.

In response to our request, GAO submitted a total of 28 reports on agency strategic plans. All of these reports were issued within the 30-day deadline. We understand that this project as a whole involved staff from all of GAO's program divisions and virtually all of its issue areas. The reports were uniformly thorough and insightful. Their detailed analyses and constructive criticisms provided invaluable assistance to us and to our teams. In addition to issuing written products, the GAO staff responsible for each report provided oral briefings to our consultation teams.

GAO's ability to produce so much outstanding work in such a short time period is a tribute to the breadth of knowledge, expertise, and commitment of its outstanding staff. You can rightly take great pride in this effort. It reflects the highest standards of GAO's service to the Congress and to the American taxpayers.

In addition to incorporating much of GAO's analysis in our feedback to the agencies, we shared the GAO reports with the agencies and OMB. We hope and expect that the GAO reports, along with other Congressional input, will lead to much improved final strategic plans by September 30. The development of strategic plans is the first major phase of the Results Act's implementation. The success of the Act's upcoming phases will, in large part, turn on the viability and quality of agency strategic plans. We intend to ask GAO to follow up on its excellent work for us by analyzing the final plans.

We also wish to commend GAO and express our full support for all of the many other excellent projects it has undertaken to support the Results Act. As you know, we view effective implementation of the Results Act as a high priority. We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that this vitally important law achieves its full promise.

Sincerely,

DICK ARMEY,
House Majority Leader.

DAN BURTON,
Chairman, House Government Reform and Oversight Committee.
JOHN KASICH,
Chairman, House Budget Committee.
BOB LIVINGSTON,
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee.

MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS

The following individuals were major contributors to GAO's reviews, reports, and briefings on agency draft strategic plans under the Results Act:

ACCOUNTING AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT DIVISION

David B. Alston, Linda F. Baker, Ronald B. Bageant, Jack L. Brock, Jr., Mark Connelly, Michael J. Curro, Kay Daly, Thomas L. Davies, John DeFerrari, Franklin W. Deffer, Cheryl Driscoll, Denise M. Fantone, John P. Finedore, Geoffrey B. Frank, James Hamilton, Laura E. Hamilton, Joan B. Hawkins, Mark E. Heatwole, Gloria L. Jarmon, Anastasia P. Kaluziensi, Nancy W. Kong, Linda D. Koontz, Dianne Langston, Danny R. Latta, Elizabeth M. Mixon, Christie M. Motley, Paul L. Posner, Mark D. Shaw, Brian C. Spencer, and Deborah A. Taylor.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT DIVISION

Teresa Anderson, James M. Blume, Michael Brostek, Lessie M. Burke, James H. Burrow, Donna J. Byers, Samuel A. Caldron, Curtis W. Copeland, Charlie W. Daniel, Clifton G. Douglas, Jr., William J. Dowdal, Bryon S. Gordon, Mary B. Hall, Kenneth E. John, Michael H. Little, Robert B. Magnum, Jr., Thomas J. McCool, J. Christopher Mihm, John F. Mortin, John K. Needham, Michael J. O'Donnell, Norman J. Rabkin, David E. Sausville, Dorothy L. Self, Richard M. Stana, Gerald Stankowsky, Alan M. Stapleton, L. Nye Stevens, Bernard L. Ungar, Joseph S. Wholey, Michelle Wiggins, Lynda D. Willis, and Steven J. Wozny.

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION

Barbara D. Bovbjerg, Lisanne Bradley, Kay E. Brown, Cynthia M. Fagnoni, Harriet C. Ganson, Richard L. Hembra, Charles A. Jeszeck, Carlotta C. Joyner, Marsha Lillie-Blanton, Thomas N. Medvetz, Valerie C. Melvin, Sigurd R. Nilsen, Lori Rectanus, Valerie A. Rogers, Jane L. Ross, Debra B. Sebastian, Vernette G. Shaw, Bernice Steinhart, Helene Toiv, Karen A. Whiten, and Greg Whitney.

NATIONAL SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

Sharon Chamberlain, Adam Cowles, Frank Degnan, Yolanda C. ElSerwy, Jess T. Ford, David T. Genser, Diana M. Glod, Jayetta Z. Hecker, Jerry Herley, John P. Hutton, Harold J. Johnson, Jr., Kenneth R. Knouse, Jr., Allen Li, James B. Michels, Lynn B. Moore, F. Earl Morrison, Benjamin F. Nelson, Charles L. (Bud) Patton, Jr., Jeffrey D. Phillips, Jean-Paul Reveyoso, Elizabeth Sirois, Lawrence L. Suda, David C. Trimble, David R. Warren, and Barbara L. Wooten.

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

Alan N. Belkin, George Bogart, Richard P. Burkard, Robert Crystal, M. Rachel DeMarcus, Helen Desaulniers, Carlos E. Diz, Herbert I. Dunn, Lynn H. Gibson, Jackie A. Goff, Robert J. Heitzman, David Hooper, Julian P. Klazkin, John McGrail, Susan Michal-Smith, Jan B. Montgomery, Maureen A. Murphy, James M. Rebbe, Scott Riback,

Jill P. Sayre, Richard Seldin, Dayna Shah, Mark Speight, Adam Vodraska, Michael Volpe, Mindi G. Weisenbloom, Stefanie Weldon, and William T. Woods.

RESOURCES, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

John H. Anderson, Jr., Janet Barbee, Nancy Boardman, Gary R. Boss, Paul Bryant, Carole Buncher, Dennis S. Carroll, Stephen M. Cleary, Eileen M. Cortese, Stanley J. Czerwinski, Sharon Dyer, Judy A. England-Joseph, Larry Goldsmith, Peter F. Guerrero, Jeffrey Heil, Barry T. Hill, Susan D. Kladiva, J. Erin Lansburg, Anu K. Mittal, Philip A. Oleon, Victor S. Rezendes, Stan Ritchick, Robert A. Robinson, Phyllis Scheinberg, Marlene S. Shaul, Nancy Simmons, Teresa Spisak, James R. Sweetman, Jr., John Thomson, and Dave Wood.

ATLANTA FIELD OFFICE

Linda P. Garrison, Diane G. Handley, and Thanomsri S. Piyapongroj.

KANSAS CITY FIELD OFFICE

Dale A. Wolden.

SEATTLE FIELD OFFICE

Lacinda Baumgartner.

DALLAS FIELD OFFICE

Jeanni B. Davis.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO RESTORE THE TAX EXEMPT
STATUS OF TIAA-CREF

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, recently, Senators MOYNIHAN, D'AMATO, and GRAHAM introduced legislation to repeal the provision in the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 which terminated the tax exempt status of TIAA-CREF, the Teacher's Insurance Annuity Association College Retirement Equities Fund. Today, along with Representatives RANGEL, MATSUI, KENNELLY, COYNE, LEWIS of Georgia, and THURMAN, I am introducing companion legislation.

This legislation would simply strike section 1042 of the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 which repeals the tax exempt status of TIAA-CREF and Mutual of America. This legislation would restore the tax exemption that TIAA-CREF has had since its establishment in 1918 by the Carnegie Foundation. TIAA-CREF provides retirement benefits exclusively for employees of U.S. colleges, universities, independent schools and other nonprofit educational and research organizations. TIAA-CREF serves nearly 2 million current and retired employees at over 6,000 institutions. This repeal also would restore the tax exemption for Mutual of America, which has served as pension administrator for welfare organizations for over 50 years and is modeled after TIAA-CREF.

The repeal of TIAA-CREF's 79-year old tax exemption might cost the average retiree who receives a \$12,000 annual pension about \$600 in income and this is a 5-percent reduction in pension benefits. Future retirees currently paying into the system could face reductions as large as 10 to 15 percent. Many of these retirees are not wealthy and they include librarians, assistant professors, and teachers at community colleges.

TIAA-CREF was established to insure that the Nation's college professors had adequate

retirement. TIAA-CREF serves as a model for multiemployer pension plans. The creation of TIAA-CREF enabled teachers to save for retirement even if they moved from school to school. TIAA-CREF has always been well managed and sought to shield unsophisticated investors from too many choices and risks. Throughout its history, TIAA-CREF has maintained a well run pension fund with large reserves. The management of TIAA-CREF has focused on counseling and education. We should be awarding such plans, not punishing them by removing their tax-exempt status. I urge you to join me as an original cosponsor of this legislation.

CONGRATULATING FORT BENNING
FOR BEING AWARDED PRESI-
DENTIAL AWARD FOR QUALITY

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize Fort Benning, GA—the home of the infantry and the Army's premier installation—for being the sole nominee and winner of the 1997 Presidential Award for Quality, recognizing the best Federal agency in the Federal Government.

On July 10, Fort Benning was honored with the award, having already received the Army Community of Excellence Commander-in-Chief's Award for being the best Army installation in the world three times in the last 4 years and the Army Community of Excellence Army Chief of Staff Award for being the best Army installation in the continental United States in each of the last 5 years.

These awards are indicative of both the ability and professionalism of the tens of thousands of soldiers that pass through Fort Benning's gate very year and of the successful partnership that has developed over the years between Fort Benning and the greater Columbus area. No military facility can be fully effective without developing a positive relationship with the local community. Fort Benning has accomplished this and has developed a military/civilian team that is unmatched in its efficiency and effectiveness.

In spite of the fact that the military population of Fort Benning is in a continuous state of transition, the installation has been able to maintain its high standards of quality. This is, in large part, thanks to the nearly 7,000 civilians who work behind the scenes to advance Bennings' mission. These are individuals like Sarah McLaney, Fort Benning's ACOE coordinator, who has seen the facility receive the Commander-in-Chief Award under three different commanding generals. Dedicated workers like Sarah have been instrumental not only in achieving Fort Benning's military mission, but also in the development of the strong ties that bind Fort Benning to the Columbus community.

General Ernst and his able staff have further reinforced Fort Benning's longstanding commitment to military quality. Focusing on the watchwords "First in Training, First in Readiness, and First in Quality of Life," Fort Benning soldiers constitute a cornerstone of our Nation's Armed Forces.

Since 1918, Fort Benning has operated the world's foremost military institutional training

center. As the home of the infantry, Fort Benning's mission is to produce the world's finest combat-ready infantrymen, to provide the Nation with a power projection platform capable of rapid deployment, and to continue to be the Army's premier installation and home for soldiers, families, civilian employees, and military retirees. This mission is achieved with distinction on a daily basis.

While the Infantry remains the central focus of activity at Fort Benning, a number of other types of units have been added over the years, enhancing the ability of the installation to accomplish its mission. In addition to being home of the infantry, Fort Benning now houses the Airborne School, the Army Ranger School, the 29th Infantry Regiment—training unit for the Bradley fighting vehicle—the 36th Engineer Group, and the U.S. Army School of the Americas. Each of these units works tirelessly to defend our national interests around the world and to serve our communities at home.

To the military and civilian personnel of Fort Benning, I am once again honored to offer my sincere thanks and congratulations for a job well done.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FOOD
BANK OF NEW JERSEY

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I had a most remarkable and heartwarming experience yesterday. I visited the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, in Hillside. The Food Bank of New Jersey is a sterling example of how private citizens, church groups, and business volunteers can come together and work hard to improve the lives of the less-fortunate in their community. I want to give my thanks and appreciation to Kathleen DiChiara, executive director of the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, and Sister Christine Vladimiroff, president of Second Harvest, the National Food Bank Network. But most importantly, I want to thank the thousands of volunteers whose hard work and extraordinary dedication make the Food Bank's success possible.

The Food Bank is an amazingly effective organization, distributing as much as 12 dollars' worth of food for each \$1 of its budget. Acting as a sort of wholesale-level savior for the hungry, it distributes an incredible 10 to 14 million pounds of food and other groceries each year to the places where hungry people turn for help—food pantries, shelters for the homeless, soup kitchens child care centers, battered women's shelters, and senior nutrition programs. In all, it serves more than 1,500 organizations in 18 New Jersey counties from its headquarters in Hillside and its Southern Branch in Egg Harbor Township. The Food Bank also operates the extra helping program, the first prepared food rescue program in the state, distributing 30,000 meals a year including kosher meals.

The facilities are impressive: a fully equipped, 280,000-square-foot warehouse, 15,000 square feet of freezer and cooler space, a fleet of trucks on the road daily, including refrigerated trucks, and an experienced, professional staff.