

FPL are eligible for the 30 percent enhanced match if they implement the 12 month continuous eligibility provision.

Also, the Child Health Insurance Provides Security Act does not preclude other approaches to expanding health insurance coverage for children. This bill complements approaches like the Hatch-Kennedy or the Daschle bills. CHIPS sets a floor below which no child should fall, and other approaches could fit nicely on top of CHIPS.

I invite my colleagues in the House to join me and the other cosponsors in this bipartisan effort to provide health insurance security for our Nation's most vulnerable population: Children. A strong bi-partisan group of Senators supports CHIPS. I hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in the House will come together behind this sensible proposal that will expand access for children to health insurance.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE NAVY CROSS TO ROBERT JONES

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 1997

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to help celebrate today's presentation of the Navy Cross to Mr. Robert Jones. Earlier today, the Secretary of the Navy presented this medal, the highest honor the Navy bestows, to Mr. Jones for the heroism he demonstrated while under fire during combat in the Pacific in October 1944.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, the heroism of Petty Officer Jones remained unrecognized by his Nation for over 50 years, simply because of the color of his skin. But in a moving ceremony in the Capitol this afternoon, the record was at long last set straight. Secretary Dalton spoke of Mr. Jones' "uncommon valor and selfless sacrifice." He added that Robert Jones "stood firm, took a stand, and stared death in the face. He is truly a Navy hero." I could not agree more.

On that fateful day in 1944, a Japanese dive bomber attacked the U.S.S. *Intrepid*. Petty Officer Jones manned one of the ship's guns and began firing on the incoming plane. Even when it became obvious that the bomber was headed straight for a crash into his gun position, Jones remained at his post, firing his weapon until the plane actually hit. Although Mr. Jones was severely burned, many other sailors aboard his ship can probably be thankful that their lives were spared entirely, thanks only to this one sailor's heroism.

Heroism is rarely something that we plan in advance, and many of us probably wonder if we even have the right stuff necessary to become a hero in the first place. Robert Jones indeed had the stuff that heroes are made of. And while some may be saddened that it has us so long to recognize formally his acts of courage, we can nevertheless take complete pride today in seeing the record set straight, and in seeing a patriot and native son of the Commonwealth of Virginia receive the admiration and thanks of a grateful Nation. Today we salute Robert Jones and share in his pride.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID BROWN

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor David Brown who was recently named "Citizen of the Year" by the Las Virgenes Homeowners Association. Mr. Brown has been an outspoken advocate in our community for 25 years, and recognition of his good work is long overdue.

Mr. Brown has used his multitude of talents to work in areas as diverse as teaching, writing, publishing, and as a planning commissioner and citizen activist. Fortunately, he has seen fit to use his talents for the greater good of our local community. Dave brings to his work a rare blend of expertise and a tireless spirit of voluntarism. Although he has given freely of his time and resources to many worthy causes, his top priority has always been protection of the Santa Monica Mountains.

His dedication to protect the Santa Monica Mountains is unparalleled. He has played various roles in his effort to protect the mountains, by serving on the Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Planning Commission Advisory Committee, the Sierra Club's Santa Monica Mountains Task Force and the Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council Board. Dave has done extensive work on monthly newsletters which served to defend the mountains from over development.

Mr. Brown has indeed been a lifelong steward of the Santa Monica Mountains, ensuring that this natural sanctuary will be available for generations to come.

MEMPHIS TEACHER MAKES NA- TIONAL HONOR ROLL OF SCIENCE TEACHERS

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 1997

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Carl Leon Lamon, a teacher at Douglas Elementary School in Memphis, TN. Mr. Lamon has been named to the 1997 Honor Roll of Teachers by the Association of Science-Technology Centers [ASTC]. ASTC is a nonprofit organization with over 400 science museums in 40 countries.

This is a prestigious award that is given to only 51 teachers picked from teachers in the United States and 10 other countries. Winning teachers have demonstrated an exceptional degree of creativity and dedication. They go above and beyond the call of duty to inspire, motivate, and stimulate their students to achieve in science and technology.

Mr. Speaker, there is a tremendous need to educate more of our young people in science and math. The United States has held a position of world leadership in scientific research and development since World War II. It has made us the economic, political, and military leader of the 20th century. But if we expect to maintain this leadership role, we must continue our commitment to science and math.

According to the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statis-

tics, high school graduates in 1992 were more likely to take science courses at the level of biology or higher than their counterparts in 1982. Part of the reason for this improvement is the dedication of teachers such as Mr. Lamon. He is making science an interesting, fun and fulfilling learning experience for hundreds of elementary school students in Memphis. Many of these students will take advanced science and math courses in high school and will be prepared for a successful post-secondary academic experience. Again, I salute Carl Leon Lamon and ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring this impressive achievement.

THE GIFT OF LIFE CONGRES- SIONAL MEDAL ACT OF 1997

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 1997

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today our colleagues Mr. SERRANO, Mr. DELLUMS, Mr. KLECZKA, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. FRANK, Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. HALL of Ohio, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. EHRLICH, Ms. CLAYTON, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. MOAKLEY, Mr. FROST, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. SPENCE, and I take great pride in reintroducing the Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act of 1997. The enactment of this legislation, which doesn't cost taxpayers a penny, will not only honor the individual organ donor and their loved ones, but will also heighten the awareness of the organ shortage, ultimately resulting in more organ donation.

There is a major undersupply of available and suitable organ donors.

Currently, there are 50,000 individuals waiting for an organ transplant in the United States. The number of people on the list has more than doubled since 1990 and a new name is added to the national patient waiting list approximately every 18 minutes. Despite the numerous problems that organ donation programs have faced and conquered over the years, a major problem still exists.

The demand for organs will continue to grow with the improvement of medical technologies. Without expanded efforts to increase the supply of organ donation, the supply of suitable organs will continue to lag behind the need.

For the many would-be organ recipients, the consequence of shortage is death. It is clear that expanded efforts are necessary in order to increase the number of organ donors.

According to some researchers, it may be possible to increase by 80 percent the number of organ donations in the United States through incentive programs and public education. A congressional medal recognizing donors and their families can play a very important and effective role in our efforts to encourage such donation.

Our proposed Gift of Life Medal Program will be administered by the regional organ procurement organizations [OPO's] and managed by the entity administering the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network. Once the decision to donate an organ has been made, the donor or the family member of the donor

will be asked by the regional OPO whether participation in the Gift of Life Medal Program is desired.

The OPO will give each donor or family member the option of receiving a Gift of Life Medal, recognizing that some may not want to participate. If requested, a public presentation will be made to honor the donor. A presentation by a local official, community leader, or Member of Congress would be a tremendous opportunity to increase the awareness concerning the desperate need for organ donation.

Every action has been taken to insure that the issuance of the Gift of Life Medals results in no net cost to the Government. In addition, I am proud to report that the legislation has the strong support of the United Network for Organ Sharing [UNOS] and the Coalition on Donation.

Any one of us, or any member of our families, could need a life saving transplant tomorrow. We would then be placed on a waiting list to await our turn, or our death.

So, I ask that our colleagues help bring an end to waiting lists and recognize the enormous faith and courage displayed by organ donors and their families. Please join us as cosponsors of the Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act of 1997. These donors offer others a second chance by providing the most precious gift imaginable, the gift of life.

TAX REFORM

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington report for Wednesday, April 30, 1997, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

TAX REFORM

There is a great deal of discussion in Washington today on fundamental tax reform. The current tax system is widely perceived as too complicated and rigged for those who can hire experts to find the loopholes. Many believe that fundamental reform could sharply increase economic growth by encouraging more saving and investment, and there is considerable debate over whether the current tax system collects either too much or too little revenue. Many Hoosiers favor scrapping the current system and replacing it with something much simpler and fairer.

DIFFERENT APPROACHES

There are several different approaches to reform.

RETAIL SALES TAX

One proposal is to replace the income tax with a national retail sales tax. If all consumption were taxed, a national sales tax of about 15% would be needed to generate the same revenue as the current system. But in the 45 states that have retail sales taxes today there are large exemptions for education, medical care, food, and housing. If these were also exempted in a federal sales tax, the tax base would be sharply reduced and the rate would have to exceed 30%. Yet such high rate would be unpopular with consumers and could encourage evasion by retail businesses. Also, the tax would claim a larger share of the incomes of the poor than the rich, since lower-income households spend a large proportion of their income on food and basic necessities.

VALUE-ADDED TAX

A second approach is the value-added tax. Instead of being levied on the retail sale, this tax is collected from all businesses on the difference between their sales proceeds and their purchases from other businesses. Because it is collected at many levels, evasion has proven manageable in the more than 50 countries around the world that have value-added taxes. A drawback is that it too shifts tax burdens from the rich to the poor. There is also considerable uncertainty about its impact on the U.S. trade balance because such a tax would boost the price of our products.

FLAT TAX

A third approach is a flat tax, which imposes a single income tax rate on businesses and households while eliminating virtually all the deductions in the current system. Businesses would be allowed deductions for wage payments and pension contributions, and exemptions would basically spare low-income families from paying taxes. There are many variations of this proposed tax but one of the more popular would require a flat rate of about 21% to replace the income taxes we now have.

CONSUMED-INCOME TAX

A fourth approach is a consumed-income tax which combines a consumption tax on families and a value-added tax on businesses. Families would be able to deduct all of their net savings and investments, thereby receiving an unlimited savings allowance. This tax would be progressive, with lower rates for those with lower income. Such a tax would encourage saving and investment, but it raises major administrative problems. There would be powerful incentives to conceal assets, and policing such evasion would be very difficult.

SIMPLIFIED INCOME TAX

A final proposal would simplify the current income tax system, building on the 1986 tax reform which eliminated various deductions and exemptions in order to cut tax rates. Versions of this proposal would end individual deductions for state and local taxes and charitable contributions, and would end corporate tax breaks for pension contributions and health insurance. This broadening of the base would allow lower rates, such as a maximum rate of 34%, compared to almost 40% under current law.

ASSESSMENT

Each of these proposals raises difficult questions about what base to tax, what deductions to permit, and what rates to levy. Major tax reform inevitably redistributes tax burdens among taxpayers and changes the value of taxpayer assets. For example, the elimination of the homeowner deductions for mortgage interest and property taxes could cut the value of housing by 15-20%. Current tax law encourages employers to provide health insurance to their employees by exempting insurance premiums from personal income and payroll taxes. But health insurance under several of these plans would become taxable, and that could boost its cost by as much as 20%. Current tax law also promotes giving through the charitable contributions deduction, and proposals to eliminate it fuel intense concern among charitable organizations.

The impact of tax reform on income inequity must be carefully watched. In recent years, the gap between upper-income and lower-income Americans has widened significantly. Many of these proposals could increase that gap. In addition, current law permits the deduction of state and local income and property taxes. Eliminating these deductions would undercut the notion that people

should not have to pay taxes on other taxes they've already paid—a very popular concept. The point simply is that all of these proposals for fundamental tax reform would make major changes on the tax burdens of the poor, the strength of charitable organizations, the popularity of home ownership, the continuation of health insurance coverage, and many other similar concepts that have widespread popular support.

Underlying all the talk about fundamental tax reform is the impact on economic growth. Although some of the proposals have positive features, I don't think anyone knows exactly how fundamental tax reform would affect the economy's growth rate. Most of the proposals have never been tried before in the form proposed and they would each entail huge changes far and above any previous modification of the tax code.

CONCLUSION

The more I examine fundamental changes in the tax code the less attractive they become. I am increasingly interested in proposals to broaden the base and reduce the deductions, credits, and other sheltering devices in order to reduce overall tax rates, simplify the system, and provide better incentives for work and investment. Incremental reform along these lines would avoid the wrenching upheavals and the windfall redistributions that might accompany more radical change. I am certainly not interested in proposals that would increase our budget deficits.

(Material for this newsletter taken from "Setting National Priorities" by Brookings Institution.)

ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL ARTS COMPETITION PARTICIPANTS HONORED

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 1997

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, once again, I come to the floor to recognize the great success of strong local school systems working with dedicated parents and teachers in raising young men and women. I rise today to congratulate and honor 48 outstanding high school artists from the 11th Congressional District of New Jersey. Each of these talented students participated in the Annual Congressional Arts Competition. "An Artistic Discovery." They are honored at a reception and exhibit last Friday evening, and their works were exceptional.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to list each of them, their high school, and their contest entries, for the official RECORD.

STUDENT, HIGH SCHOOL, AND NAME OF ENTRY

Leandro Flaherty, Bayley-Ellard—"to be advised".

Michelle Mechanic, Bayley-Ellard—"Pantheon With a Side of Rice".

Charlene Accinni, Boonton—"Untitled".

Stephanie Rartell, Boonton—"Untitled".

Kelly Ricciardi, Boonton—"Curiosity".

Larissa Schaffnit, Boonton—"Larissa".

Travis Lett, Chatham—"Troubled Town".

Jim Newton, Chatham—"Monkey in the Rain".

Melissa Quinn, Chatham—"Still Life of a Pitcher".

Kim Tucker, Chatham—"Glimpse Through the Window".

James Hughes, Kinnelon—"Co-op".

Alejandra Madriz, Kinnelon—"Creation".

Will Mowry, Kinnelon—"Untitled".