

The political muscle of Columbia is legendary. When it enters a community in pursuit of an acquisition, Columbia lines up blue-chip legal talent, identifies allies among local civic, political, and medical leaders, and spreads around lots of money. In 1995, for example, Columbia had 33 lobbyists in Tallahassee, FL. It also leads the list of corporate campaign contributors in Florida.

The questionable practices of Columbia HCA are numerous, but one issue is particularly important. In Florida, health care officials cited the possibility that Columbia hospitals engage in cream-skimming. They allege that doctors, who own stakes in Columbia facilities, send the most profitable patients there—and steer less-profitable patients to the public and charity hospitals. The practice of physician self-referral in many instances is illegal, and I have asked the Health Care Financing Administration to investigate Columbia's investment structure and referral patterns.

Columbia HCA and its doctor affiliates are in the business of building medical trusts and destroying public and nonprofit hospitals who take the tougher, less profitable cases. Columbia and similar for-profit entities are not in the business of health care. They're in the business of mergers and acquisitions. It wouldn't matter if their product was can openers or chairs. They run the business like a Walmart is run—I firmly believe that hospitals shouldn't be run that way.

LEGISLATION

For the past three Congresses, I have worked on legislation to ensure that the advantages of tax exempt status ultimately benefit the community and not private individuals. My bills have imposed excise taxes—based on the foundation rules—as intermediate sanctions on 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations engaging in transactions with insiders resulting in private inurement. Bills have also made private inurement a statutory prohibition for 501(c)(4) organizations, the social welfare organizations which include many health nonprofits.

The bill I am introducing today protects the public interest in conversions and is modeled after Nebraska and California laws. It makes sure that conversions are carried out in the sunshine of public information and debate and that the conversion price is fair, without sweetheart deals or private party gain. The legislation would deny Medicare payment to any hospital that did not demonstrate the fairness of the conversion process to the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

LORING JOB CORPS CENTER OPENS ITS DOORS

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 1997

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, on January 2, State of Maine Governor Angus King proclaimed the week of January 5, 1997, as "Job Corps Week" in recognition of the outstanding education and training opportunities provided by the Penobscot Job Corps Center in Bangor, ME, and in anticipation of the opening of the Loring Job Corps Center of Innovation in Limestone, ME. The State of Maine has had a very positive experience with the Job Corps

Program, and I am very proud of the fine work this program does with at-risk students from my State and throughout New England.

I am pleased to announce that the first group of students to utilize the new Loring Job Corps Center will be arriving this week. Some of these students have been waiting since July to begin their work at this new facility, which has been designated by the Department of Labor as a "center of innovation." This is significant, in that it will offer students from disadvantaged backgrounds advanced programs that have not been available through the traditional Job Corps Program.

The Loring Center will provide vocational training a grade above that which is normally provided. It will also have the benefit of being able to work in conjunction with its sister facility, the Penobscot Job Corps Center. Both the Penobscot and Loring Job Corps Centers, designated as alternative schools, are part of the State of Maine's School to Work transition plan.

As a tool for economic development, the Loring Center will provide a highly skilled workforce for Maine and New England. It will also play a crucial role in the area's educational and economic development strategies in conjunction with the University of Maine at Presque Isle, the Northern Maine Development Corporation, the Northern Maine Technical College, the Maine School for Science and Mathematics, the Aroostook County Action Program and the Caribou Adult Education Program. Working together, these entities will position the region as a center for educational innovation and excellence.

I'm pleased that students will now have the opportunity to get the technologically relevant skills they will need to move forward in today's job market. I am also proud to have the Loring Center as a pilot for new educational concepts and technologies that may later be used in Job Corps facilities throughout the country. Congratulations to Don Ettinger, the Loring Center's director, his staff, and TDC for their fine work with the students.

TRIBUTE TO THE SUFFOLK ALLIANCE OF SPORTSMEN INC. AND ITS FOUNDER, WILLIAM W. SHABER

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Suffolk Alliance of Sportsmen, Inc. [SASI] and its founder William W. Shaber. Thanks, in large part, to Mr. Shaber's leadership, SASI has emerged as the leading voice among sportsmen in Suffolk County. Mr. Shaber's vision of achieving a balance between game life and sportsmen has made him a pioneer in his field.

SASI was founded in 1978 on 7 basic principles: (1) to preserve and improve the rights of hunters, sport-shooters, salt and fresh water fishermen, and trappers; (2) to promote and encourage laws for the protection of fish, game life and forests in the State of New York; (3) to encourage and promote the propagation of fish and game in Suffolk County and elsewhere; (4) to encourage the passing of legislation to protect sportsmen and game

life; (5) to promote and encourage better understanding among the members and general public as to the proper use of hunting and fishing equipment and the proper use of boats and other related equipment as well as proper use of our natural resources and good conservation practices; (6) to promote, encourage and educate its members and the general public in the principles of safety in the use of arms, and; (7) to promote, encourage and provide social and friendly intercourse among its members.

From 1978 to 1993, Mr. Shaber served as President of SASI for all but 2 years. In addition to serving as president, Mr. Shaber was a prominent writer of sportsmen interests. He was a correspondent for the New York Sportsman magazine, a long-time member of the Rod and Gun Editors Association of Metropolitan New York, and a past president of the Outdoor Writers Association. I commend SASI and Mr. Shaber on taking the lead in promoting sportsmen interests while also preserving fragile wildlife.

LEGISLATION AMENDING POSTAL SERVICE POLICY

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 1997

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce legislation that will ameliorate problems stemming from the U.S. Postal Service policy that prohibits the users of commercial mail receiving agents [CMRA's] from submitting a standard change of address form to expedite routine mail delivery service.

In nearly all cases when an individual changes residency, the U.S. Postal Service facilitates prompt and accurate mail delivery by encouraging the postal customer to file a mail forwarding change of address form. Atypically, when a CMRA customer relocates, that individual is responsible for informing all potential mailers of any change of address. This policy creates delays and may exacerbate mail fraud as testimony has shown that the first line of defense against fraud is accurate information regarding postal addresses.

Current policy is contradictory to the Postal Service's charge to ensure prompt, accurate mail delivery service. This important legislation will benefit all parties in this particular mail delivery chain: the U.S. Postal Service, the CMRA's, and most important, the postal customer.

THE NEED FOR FDA MODERNIZATION

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 1997

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in this last election cycle, many of us campaigned on the need for the Federal Government to use a common sense approach in dealing with private industry. The regulatory yoke placed upon the medical device industry in the United States by the Food and Drug Administration is a prime example of how a bureaucratic agency can destroy small business, as well as the entrepreneurial spirit.

My goal, which I believe is shared with many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, is to modernize the Food and Drug Administration. This is to be distinguished from terminating or eliminating the FDA, which I have also been accused of, and I want to make it clear that I believe there is a legitimate need for the FDA. However, it is imperative that this Congress lead the charge to bring the FDA into the 21st century. The current FDA approval process is slow and unpredictable, while at the same time costing the United States jobs, technology, and most importantly—lives.

We held numerous hearings in the 104th Congress in my subcommittee and others detailing the need to change the manner in which our domestic device industry is regulated. In the 104th Congress I introduced H.R. 3201 to reform the medical device industry. With the help of many of my Democrat colleagues, especially BILL RICHARDSON and ANNA ESHOO, we were able to get 162 cosponsors on H.R. 3201, both Republican and Democrat. This strongly indicates that there is support for FDA reform. I intend to continue refining H.R. 3201 in hopes of obtaining more support. Under the leadership of JIM GREENWOOD, and with the great deal of help from RICHARD BURR and SCOTT KLUG, our FDA reform team was able to make amazing strides and I fully intend to maintain this momentum.

I will be introducing the Medical Device Modernization Act of 1997 shortly, which will insure the safety and effectiveness of medical devices, assure a predictable approval process for our companies and insure that U.S. patients are receiving the best available medical technology in the world. I will be asking for your cosponsorship and support of this bill.

Again it is imperative that we pass reform for the medical device industry. Small business is the nerve center of this county's current economic growth. Sixty-five percent of the companies in the medical device industry have less than 20 employees and 98 percent of medical device firms have less than 500 employees. These are the companies involved in high technology which is fueling economic expansion, these are the companies hiring your constituents, these are the companies doing the research and development that can lead to saving your constituent's lives. These small companies have been more vocal on FDA modernization in the last 2 years and I applaud them in their efforts.

We spent a great deal of time laying the groundwork for reform in the 104th Congress for FDA reform by educating Members, conducting oversight hearings, and working with various segments of the industry. It is now time for the 105th Congress to implement the solution. I look forward to working with House Commerce Committee Chairman BLILEY, subcommittee Chairman BILIRAKIS, Congressman DINGELL, and Senate Majority Leader LOTT in arriving at an acceptable solution to all.

THE ENTERPRISE CAPITAL FORMATION ACT OF 1997

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 1997

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my House colleagues and fellow members

of the Ways and Means Committee, Congressman PHIL ENGLISH, and Congressman JIM MCCRERY in a bipartisan effort to promote economic growth and job creation through targeted capital gains incentives. This legislation is designed to be complimentary to a broad-based capital gains proposal similar to that passed by the House in the 104th Congress.

I have worked for many years to enact legislation which provides critical incentives for high-risk, high-growth firms. In 1993, I was able to work with Senator BUMPERS to enact the Enterprise Capital Formation Act of 1993. This new, bipartisan proposal is built upon that 1993 legislation and will greatly improve its effectiveness by:

Shortening the holding period for qualified stock from 5 years to 3 years.

Increasing the size of companies whose stock is eligible for the exclusion from \$50 million to \$100 million.

Revising certain limitations to make the provision more attractive to investors.

Biotech and high-technology companies are particularly dependent upon direct equity investments to fund research and to grow. A targeted capital gains incentive is crucial for encouraging investors, including venture capital investors, to purchase the stock of these companies, thus putting their capital at risk with a long-term speculative investment. These small venture-backed companies provide high-skilled jobs, grow very quickly to create more jobs and are aggressive exporters. Venture capital-backed firms have a much higher rate of growth than Fortune 500 firms. From 1990 to 1994, venture firms grew at an annual rate of 20 percent while Fortune 500 firms are powerful engines for job creation. In their first year, these firms typically have 18 employees, by their sixth year they have over 200. Finally, these firms perform 2 times the amount of research and development compared to nonventure-backed firms.

Now more than ever, small companies need better access to investment capital in order to grow into productive enterprises. The risks associated with small firms has often been too great for venture capitalist. By giving a capital gains cut for investment in small, startup firms, the higher risks are offset by additional financial benefit to the investor.

A POINT OF LIGHT FOR ALL AMERICANS: THE BROOKLYN CHINESE-AMERICAN ASSOCIA- TION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 1997

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Brooklyn Chinese-American Association [BCA] during their Ninth Anniversary Celebration. The members of this organization have tirelessly dedicated themselves to addressing the growing needs of the Asian immigrant population in Brooklyn and to providing residents of this community accessible bilingual and multicultural services. BCA is a great Point-of-Light whose contributions to the community must not go unappreciated or unnoticed.

On January 19, 1988, BCA was formally established in response to the expanding Asian-

American community in the Sunset Park, Borough Park, Bay Ridge, Bensonhurst, and Sheepshead Bay neighborhoods in Brooklyn. At its inception, the association received no funding and nearly single-handedly, Mr. Paul P. Mak, the president and CEO of BCA, worked on a voluntary basis to initiate and provide a bilingual social service program for the Asian immigrant community.

With 9 years of hard work, intense exploration and struggle, BCA has grown from a one-person service project to the borough's most comprehensive bilingual, multi-human service and community development organization. Currently, BCA delivers services at various centers in Brooklyn such as the Main Community Services Center; Senior, Youth and Cultural Center; Employment Training Center; Day Care Center; Avenue U District Community and Senior Center; and at numerous school sites. In the past few years, because of the lack of Government funding and personnel, BCA has undergone several crises and struggles to keep the organization afloat. It is the dedication, enthusiasm and painstaking efforts of BCA's staff, its board members and the community that have sustained BCA and enabled it to develop rapidly.

Today, BCA serves over 500 clients a day. BCA's many human services and programs include social services; senior services; day care and youth services; adult education programs; adult and senior employment programs; services for the mentally retarded and developmentally disabled [MR/DD]; and community economic development programs.

The past year has marked another turning point in BCA's expansion. BCA's work force has remained the same but the association has expanded, reaching a much wider community than ever before. In May 1996, BCA opened a new District Community and Senior Center delivering bilingual multi-human services to the increasing Asian immigrant population in the Sheepshead Bay neighborhood, an area that is becoming the second largest Asian community of Brooklyn. BCA has also been actively involved in registering voters and in educating the community on voting policies and procedures.

1996 is also the year in which BCA initiated the Community Revitalization Project that serves as a master development scheme for the community. This summer, 10 traffic lights were installed as a result of BCA's constant lobbying efforts. In addition, BCA is working with the New York City Police Department to prepare and distribute educational materials on crime prevention, the CAT Auto Program and business residential security surveys. These are major steps toward making a better and much safer community in which to live.

One of BCA's accomplishments this year is the educational Neighborhood Clean-Up Project. More than 150 youth participated in cleaning up the 8th Avenue neighborhood and providing informative materials to community residents and merchants. Recently, BCA also assisted in upgrading a garment factory in the neighborhood and has long supported promoting the economic progress and stability of the garment industry in Brooklyn. Moreover, a Tree Planting project was implemented to further beautify Brooklyn. Two hundred trees are scheduled to be planted along 8th Avenue in the spring of 1997. In a further attempt to improve the living environment, a Graffiti Removal Campaign will also be initiated in the