

OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT  
CORPORATION AMENDMENTS  
ACT OF 1997, H.R. 1681

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 1997*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, together with the ranking minority member, Representative LEE HAMILTON, I am introducing, by request, the administration's bill, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation Amendments Act of 1997 H.R. 1681, extending the authority of OPIC through the year 2000.

Since it began operations in 1971, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation [OPIC], has mobilized private sector resources to assist developing countries and emerging democracies in the transition from nonmarket to market economies. In an era of declining budgetary resources, OPIC has consistently demonstrated an ability to operate on a self-sustaining basis to support United States companies in emerging economies in Africa, the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union and in Latin America and the Caribbean.

OPIC has also played an important role in reinforcing U.S. foreign policy goals and in strengthening our economy by creating jobs and promoting exports. OPIC programs have served to rectify market failures, including limited market information in developing countries and underdeveloped capital markets, by insuring U.S. firms against economic and market uncertainties.

Over the past 25 years, projects supported by OPIC have generated more than \$52 billion in U.S. exports and created more than 225,000 jobs. OPIC has been run on a sound financial basis with reserves totaling approximately \$2.7 billion and with earnings reaching a record \$209 million in 1996. In the process, it has maintained a claims recovery rate of 98 percent, settling close to 260 insurance claims for \$519 million and recovering all but \$11 million.

All the 26 members of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development [OECD] have agencies similar to OPIC: the United States needs to compete with these and other countries that subsidize their exporters.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support the reauthorization of this small but efficient agency.

H.R. 1681

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "Overseas Private Investment Corporation Amendments Act of 1997".

**SEC. 2. ISSUING AUTHORITY.**

(a) MAXIMUM CONTINGENT LIABILITY.— Section 235(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2195(a)) is amended by striking paragraph (1) and all that follows through the end of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

"(1) INSURANCE AND FINANCING.—(A) The maximum contingent liability outstanding at any one time pursuant to insurance issued under section 234(a), and the amount of financial issued under sections 234(b) and (c), shall not exceed in the aggregate \$32,000,000,000."

(b) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—Paragraph (3) of section 235(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2195(a)(3)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating such paragraph as paragraph (2); and

(2) by striking "1997" and inserting "2000".

INTRODUCTION OF THE SAFE  
BRIDGES RECONSTRUCTION AND  
RESTORATION ACT OF 1997

**HON. JO ANN EMERSON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 1997*

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, this year Congress will take up the reauthorization of the ISTEA law to ensure that the critical infrastructure needs of our Nation are met as we strive toward a more efficient safe, and productive transportation network. To that effect, I am introducing legislation that will expand the bridge discretionary program and I would allow States and local communities to receive sufficient funds for high cost bridges that are in dire need of replacement.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, in 1995, 25 percent of the Nation's interstate bridges were classified as deficient. Twenty eight (28) percent of the 130,000 bridges on all other arterial systems in the nation were deficient as well.

In fiscal year 1994–96 States requested \$1.28 billion in discretionary funds for 65 different bridges. Currently, ISTEA funds the bridge discretionary program at \$69 million a year and there is tremendous need for a greatly expanded program. My legislation would authorize \$800 million to be used out of our transportation funds in the new highway bill for these bridges.

In the 1970's and 1980's, the Federal highway program has a large discretionary component that met the needs of replacing aging bridges and reconstructing early segments of the interstate system. However, in the last two surface transportation acts, these programs were severely cut back. Prior to ISTEA, the bridge discretionary program was funded at the \$200 to \$225 million level annually. ISTEA dramatically scaled back the funding, and the state of the nation's bridges has continued to deteriorate.

An expanded bridge discretionary program would allow your State to compete for bridge funds each year. It would permit these projects to move ahead faster and receive more money rather than relying on a State's regular apportionment or scarce demonstration project funds. Once these bridge projects receive their initial funding, they go to the top of the list to receive funds in the future years, if needed.

The Nation benefits from a strong Federal transportation system. We must allow the Federal Government to have the flexibility to fund a State's extraordinary bridge needs in any given year. This legislation would provide the funding and flexibility to meet this pressing need to help rebuild our high-traffic bridges that are in very poor condition nationwide.

TRIBUTE TO RANKIN FIELD,  
TULARE, CA

**HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 1997*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, to pay tribute to the planners and participants from Sequoia and Rankin Fields. These two airfields will be celebrating their first reunion on Saturday, May 31, 1997.

Over 50 years ago, Tulare County opened its doors to train USAAF pilots. This reunion event is designed to honor those pilots who did not make it home from World War II, and to pay tribute to two distinguished soldiers, Maj. Richard Bong and Maj. Daniel Lindsay. Both gentlemen received their flight training at Rankin Field more than 50 years ago. Later, the two went on to fight for victory during World War II. They each received the Congressional Medal of Honor for their distinguish military service.

Rankin Field was founded by flight instructor "Tex" Rankin, a native of the State of Texas. Rankin opened his field during World War II. At the time, the Government contracted out private airfields, making them responsible for training soldiers entering military service during World War II. More than 40 years after Rankin's death, the contributions that he made to the growth of the Tulare and Visalia communities are still felt today.

The celebration at Rankin Field is a culmination of work done by former cadets and instructors, Sequoia Field, the Tulare County Historical Society, and the Costa Mesa Historical Society. Former cadets from all over the State of California joined forces with the Tulare County Deputy Sheriff's Association, an organization that recently purchased a portion of the original Rankin Field site. The association commenced work on the headquarters and recreation facility that would be named "Rankin Field, home of Tulare County Deputy Sheriffs Association." The association plans to create an exhibit devoted to the World War II USAAF pilot training program at Rankin Field.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have constituents in my district who have taken the initiative to restore Rankin Field in its full glory. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing those organizers of the reunion best wishes for a successful and enjoyable celebration.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL  
ALBERT C. HARVEY, USMCR

**HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 1997*

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great patriot and fearless soldier, Maj. Gen. Albert C. Harvey, USMCR. General Harvey, a Tennessean, retired from the Marine Corps on May 10, 1997, after a 40-year career that spanned the height of the cold war in 1962 to the new national security challenges of the 1990's. By having his retirement ceremony at historic Chalmette National Battlefield, he honored an important historic connection to another great Tennessean, Gen. Andrew Jackson. At the Battle of New Orleans at

Chalmette, General Jackson brought together a courageous group of fighting men from three different States as well as a detachment of U.S. Marines and U.S. Army dragoons. This forerunner of the Total Force resulted in victory for the United States at the Battle of New Orleans. Today, the Total Force concept is the cornerstone of the Marine Corps.

General Harvey reached a pinnacle of his military career as commander of the 4th Marine Division—the ground combat arm of the Marine Corps. As commander of the 4th Marine Division, General Harvey lead over 18,000 Marines in 38 States. In July 1995, General Harvey was the first General Officer in the Marine Corps Reserve to be nominated and selected for a position on a Joint Staff. He served as the Vice Director of Operations Directorate (J-3), U.S. Atlantic Command, Norfolk, VA. He was activated for Operation Joint Endeavor—Bosnia—in the summer and fall of 1996 and served as director of the European Theater Command Center, which included Operation Desert Strike—Northern Iraq.

Prior to this, General Harvey rose through the ranks of the Marine Corps, commanding units at every level of the military organization during both peacetime and war. He began active duty in 1961, served on the USS Ranger (CVA-61) in the western Pacific, including Vietnam. He rejoined his reserve unit, the 6th Engineer Company, after earning a law degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law. He commanded the 3d Battalion, 23d Marines in New Orleans and served as Chief of Staff of the 2d Marine Expeditionary Brigade. In 1988, after returning yet again to active duty, General Harvey assumed command of the 25th Marine Regiment, a significant assignment because it was the first time in approximately 20 years that a member of the Marine Corps Reserve Force was selected to command a regiment.

In addition to his military service, General Harvey is a committed family man and participant in civic and community affairs. He has served in leadership positions with the Kiwanis Club, Phoenix Club, Goodwill Boys Club, the YMCA, and many other community organizations.

General Harvey has distinguished himself as a civil and criminal litigator as a partner with the Memphis law firm Thomason, Hendrix, Harvey, Johnson & Mitchell. He is a member of the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association, the Memphis Bar Association, and the Tennessee Bar Association.

General Harvey exemplifies the ideal of citizen-soldier. He has made great sacrifices and contributions by defending the Nation. And let us not forget the contribution and sacrifices made by General Harvey's family, his wife Nancy, and his two daughters Anne and Elizabeth. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring my constituent and friend, a brave soldier and an accomplished attorney, Maj. Gen. Albert C. Harvey for his service to our great Nation.

## THE SCHOOL-BASED CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE ACT OF 1997

### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the School-based Children's Health Insurance Act of 1997.

Health insurance equals access to health care. Access to health care equals better health and a better quality of life. It is that simple, and it should be that simple for all kids.

I have sponsored several bills this Congress that address the need for health insurance for uninsured children in low-income families. This bill is modeled, in part, after the nationally recognized, award winning Florida school-based Healthy Kids Program. The bill combines this effective school-based approach with a sliding scale tax credit so that all parents of children can buy affordable health insurance through their own school system.

This bill provides up to a 90-percent tax credit for low-income families plus an effective distribution system for actually getting private market health insurance products to the 10 million children that are not currently covered.

Each Member of Congress was elected to make laws that make sense. This bill makes sense. It realistically reaches all of the 10 million uninsured kids in America \* \* \* quickly and efficiently. The school-based approach provides low cost but comprehensive health insurance for millions of children without new bureaucracies or hassles. Schools are the natural grouping mechanism to lower the cost of insurance for children, similar to the role large employers play in providing group coverage to their employees. It is more affordable and more portable than coverage through an employer.

Are uninsured kids a problem in every community? Yes. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, fully 30 percent of all children are uninsured for at least a month during the year. In addition, 10 million kids under the age of 18—or one in seven children—are uninsured year round, without a single day's health coverage.

Who are these kids that have no health insurance? Studies indicate that there are 10 million children that currently do not have health insurance for at least 1 year. That's about 14 percent of all children. One-third of these uninsured children have families below the poverty line, and another one-third have families between 100 and 200 percent of the poverty level. Almost 15 percent are from families above 300 percent of the poverty line, and most parents of uninsured children are also uninsured, 85 percent. However, 60 percent of uninsured children have at least one parent working full time. In addition, almost 50 percent of these family heads work for small firms with fewer than 25 employees.

A month or a year without health insurance is long enough to suffer serious harm for a child. According to the 1987 National Medical Expenditure Survey, the most recent comprehensive national survey of health care expenditures, and use, uninsured children are almost twice as likely not to be seen for health problems that expert physicians say should "always or virtually always come to medical attention." For example, according to this sur-

vey, more than half of uninsured children with asthma never saw the doctor during the year of the survey. One in three uninsured children with recurring ear infections likewise will never see the doctor. Many of these asthmatic children are hospitalized with problems that could have been prevented. Many children with untreated, recurring ear infections suffer permanent hearing loss.

With the recent attack on welfare, the number of uninsured children may get disastrously worse . . . fast. Adding fuel to this fire, a recent report published by the American Hospital Association indicates that the number of individuals without health insurance will increase to nearly 46 million by the year 2002. This projected growth is attributed to a decline in the level of employer-provided health insurance.

Can the school-based concept work to insure more children? Yes. This bill is modeled after the Florida Healthy Kids Corporation, a school enrollment-based insurance program that currently provides broad coverage to thousands of previously uninsured children. It was recently named a winner of the 1996 Innovations in American Government Award by both the Ford Foundation and the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. In presenting the award, considered to be among the Nation's most prestigious public prizes, the president of the Ford Foundation, Susan V. Berresford, characterized Florida Healthy Kids as "one example of effective government producing extraordinary results. They are helping to restore faith in government's ability to solve tough problems."

The concept for the Florida program is simple. Most American children attend school. School systems can be used as a mechanism for creating large groups of people to cover participants the way large businesses do. Coverage is offered to families with children enrolled or residing in the school district and benefits are designed for the individual child. This is identical to employment-based insurance, except the school children become, in effect, employees qualifying themselves for coverage. A group composed of school children is large enough to provide an insurance benefit and premium package that is a good fit for families. Since premiums can still be beyond the reach of some lower income families, the coverage is subsidized on a sliding scale based on income.

In Florida, the school district plays a significant and varied role that schools, nationwide, could follow. The district serves as the center of community focus, fostering relationships between the school programs, local community leaders, and area business groups. It distributes enrollment materials and verifies student eligibility, contributing significantly to administrative efficiencies. School staff, especially school nurses and teachers, help identify and put the program in touch with potential participants. Mailing labels have been provided by schools to assist with marketing efforts. Schools have also allowed the use of dial-up systems which automatically call a student's family with a prerecorded health care message.

Is quality health care for children too expensive? No. When the Florida program evaluated the predicted frequency with which children utilize the offered benefits, they found that those services which typically drive up the