

Dr. Reardon's strong commitment to the university as Provost is paralleled by his equally firm commitment to students and teaching. Throughout his years as an administrator, Dr. Reardon has always found time to teach undergraduate and graduate students in his areas of expertise and develop programs such as an internship program in Washington that has provided students with an opportunity to work and learn in Nation's capital city. Dr. Reardon's students are professors, teachers, business leaders, college administrators, research scientists, and lawyers. Oregon and the nation will benefit from Dr. Reardon's dedication and his commitment to education.

It is with great pleasure that I honor Dr. Reardon for his service to Portland State University, to Oregon, and to the nation. I look forward to his continuing work as professor and consultant to universities and associations of higher education in the coming years.

DEBT REDUCTION LEGISLATION

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to re-introduce legislation I have sponsored the previous three Congresses to help reduce the deficit and the debt. I urge my colleagues to join me and cosponsor my bill.

Since my arrival in Washington, I have worked to reduce the deficit and reduce our nation's debt burden. This legislation takes another step in that direction by sending our unused office budget funds to the U.S. Treasury for deficit and debt reduction. Today, after several years of fiscal discipline, the federal government is currently "in the black" and running surpluses for the first time in 30 years. But we still have a national debt of more than \$5.4 Trillion.

This simple but important step will go a long way to show the American people that we are serious about debt reduction and that we are willing to put our money where our mouth is. Alone, this legislation won't eliminate the debt. But combined with our other efforts to reduce budgets, limit spending and run the government more efficiently, we can eliminate the national debt too.

Specifically, my legislation requires that any unused portions of our Members' Representative Allowances are to be deposited into the Treasury for either deficit reduction or to reduce the Federal debt. The bill also requires the Appropriations Committee to report in its annual legislative branch appropriations bill a list of the amount that each Member deposited into the Treasury.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to return our unused office funds to the U.S. Treasury for deficit or debt reduction.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CEREBRAL PALSY CENTER FOR THE BAY AREA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of the Sixtieth Anniversary of the establishment of the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Bay Area located in Oakland, California.

The Cerebral Palsy Center for the Bay Area was founded in 1939, as the Spastic Children's Society of Alameda County (California), and was the first such organization in the country.

The Society was renamed the Cerebral Palsy Children's Society of the East Bay and was instrumental in the passage of state legislation in 1941 that created the first comprehensive program of special classes, physical therapy and diagnostic services for children with cerebral palsy.

The Center continues to pioneer services, assistive technology and software, to help people with developmental disabilities reach their highest potential, with the Computer Learning Center as its latest example.

The Center leads in raising public awareness about cerebral palsy and other developmental disabilities and the rights and aspirations of individuals with such conditions.

The Center has been sustained and enriched throughout its 60-year history through hundreds of volunteers who assist with numerous administrative tasks, maintain buildings and grounds, teach classes, provide job counseling and computer training, and coordinate special events and fundraisers.

I join people throughout the Bay Area in recognizing this momentous occasion of celebrating 60 years of extraordinary service by The Cerebral Palsy Center of the Bay Area to people with developmental disabilities.

HONORING THE U.S.S. "NEW JERSEY"

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the U.S.S. *New Jersey*, which has honorably served the United States in times of both peace and war for over 50 years.

Today, along with many of my colleagues from New Jersey, I introduced the "U.S.S. New Jersey Commemorative Coin Act." This bill authorizes the minting of a commemorative coin to honor the Battleship *New Jersey*'s contribution to our country.

The *New Jersey* was first launched December 7, 1942, and was immediately sent off to the Pacific Theater. There, the Battleship *New Jersey* played a key role in operations in the Marshalls, Marianas, Carolines, Philippines, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa.

After the Allied victory, the U.S.S. *New Jersey* was deactivated in 1948 until being called to service again in November, 1950. The ship served two tours in the Western Pacific during

the Korean War, and was the flagship for Commander 7th Fleet.

After her service, the U.S.S. *New Jersey* was again mothballed in 1957, only to be pressed into service again in 1968 to serve as the only active-duty Navy battleship. She provided critical firepower to friendly troops before again being decommissioned in 1969.

The Battleship *New Jersey*'s service did not end with Vietnam. She continued to serve our Navy in a number of the roles in the Pacific, the Mediterranean and off the coast of Central America.

Her brave and honorable service finally came to an end in February 1991, when the U.S.S. *New Jersey* was decommissioned for the fourth and final time.

Last year, Congress passed legislation directing that U.S.S. *New Jersey* be brought home and permanently berthed in her namesake state. Mr. Speaker, Governor Whitman, the state legislature and the people of New Jersey all strongly endorse bringing the Battleship home. We are all united in our desire to have the U.S.S. *New Jersey* come home.

This legislation would help raise money to offset the costs of bringing the Battleship home, where she can serve as a permanent reminder of the brave men who served aboard her, and the important role the U.S.S. *New Jersey* has played on our nation's history.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this bill to honor the memory of the Battleship *New Jersey*.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ANTI-TAMPERING ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1999

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague from California, Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN, to introduce the Anti-Tampering Act Amendments of 1999. This important legislation, which I introduced last year and which garnered a majority vote in the House, will provide law enforcement the tools they need to combat the growing crime of altering or removing product identification codes from goods and packaging. This bill will also provide manufacturers and consumers with civil and criminal remedies to fight those counterfeiters and illicit distributors of goods with altered or removed product codes. Finally, this bill will protect consumers from the possible health risks that so often accompany tampered goods.

Most of us think of UPC codes when we think of product identification codes—that block of black lines and numbers on the backs of cans and other containers. However, product ID codes are different than UPC codes. Product ID codes can include various combinations of letters, symbols, marks or dates that allow manufacturers to "fingerprint" each product with vital production data, including the batch number, the date and place of manufacture, and the expiration date. These codes also enable manufacturers to trace the date and destination of shipments, if needed.

Product codes play a critical role in the regulation of goods and services. For example, when problems arise over drugs or medical

devices regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, the product codes play a vital role in conducting successful recalls. Similarly, the Consumer Product Safety Commission and other regulators rely on product codes to conduct recalls of automobiles, dangerous toys and other items that pose safety hazards.

Product codes are frequently used by law enforcement to conduct criminal investigations as well. These codes have been used to pinpoint the location and sometimes the identity of criminals. Recently, product codes aided in the investigation of terrorist acts, including the bombing of Olympic Park in Atlanta and the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

At the same time, manufacturers have limited weapons to prevent unscrupulous distributors from removing the coding to divert products to unauthorized retailers or place fake codes on counterfeit products. For example, one diverter placed genuine, but outdated, labels of brand-name baby formula on sub-standard baby formula and resold the product to retailers. Infants who were fed the formula suffered from rashes and seizures.

We cannot take the chance of any baby being harmed by infant formula or any other product that might have been defaced, decoded or otherwise tempered with. FDA enforcement of current law has been vigilant and thorough, but this potentially serious problem must be dealt with even more effectively as counterfeiters and illicit distributors utilize the advanced technologies of the digital age in their crimes.

Manufacturers have attempted, at great expense and with little success, to prevent decoding through new technologies designed to create "invisible" codes, incapable of detection or removal. However, decoders have proven to be equally diligent and sophisticated in their efforts to identify and defeat new coding techniques. We therefore must provide manufacturers with the appropriate legal tools to protect their coding systems in order for them to protect the health and safety of American consumers.

Currently, federal law does not adequately address many of the common methods of decoding products and only applies to a limited category of consumer products, including pharmaceuticals, medical devices and specific foods. Moreover, current law only applies if the decoder exhibits criminal intent to harm the consumer. It does not address the vast majority of decoding cases which are motivated by economic considerations, but may ultimately result in harm to the consumer.

My legislation will provide federal measures which will further discourage tampering and protect the ability of manufacturers to implement successful recalls and trace products when needed. It would prohibit the alteration or removal of product identification codes on goods or packaging for sale in interstate or foreign commerce, including those held in areas where decoding frequently occurs.

The legislation will also prohibit goods that have undergone decoding from entering the country, prohibit the manufacture and distribution of devices primarily used to alter or remove product identification codes, and allow the seizure of decoded goods and decoding devices. It will require offenders to pay monetary damages and litigation costs, and treble damages in the event of repeat violations. The bill will also impose criminal sanctions, includ-

ing fines and imprisonment for violators who are knowingly engaged in decoding violations.

The bill would not require product codes, prevent decoding by authorized manufacturers, or prohibit decoding by consumers. It is a good approach designed to strengthen the tools of law enforcement, provide greater security for the manufacturers of products, and most importantly, provide consumers with improved safety from tampered or counterfeit goods. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting passage of this bill, which will go a long way toward closing the final gap in federal law enforcement tools to protect consumers and the products they enjoy.

HIGH TECHNOLOGY

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, as a Californian, I am fully aware of the impact of the high technology industry has had on my state's economic well-being and the prosperity of our people. California is, after all, the proud home of high-technology—the industry responsible for revitalizing the California economy, ensuring our position as the premier exporting state in the nation, and creating tens of thousands of high-wage jobs for our burgeoning population.

High-tech jobs are well-paying jobs—approximately 73 percent higher than other private sector jobs. This means that, on average, high-tech pays a \$49,500 annual salary while other jobs pay \$28,500. The most recent data on California's high-tech industry indicate that California ranks first in high-tech employment (about 785,000 jobs) and second in high-tech wages. Moreover, by 1997, 61 percent of all California exports were high-tech products.

In the context of a competitive global economy, America's high-tech products are in growing demand. As a result, America has a huge high-tech goods trade surplus with the European Union, Canada, and Brazil. In 1996, the high-tech industry exported \$150 billion in goods making it the nation's leading exporter ahead of transportation equipment and chemicals. In this decade our high-tech exports grew a phenomenal 96 percent.

Our high-tech companies' innovations and business acumen are truly the envy of the world. The New Democrat Coalition's High-Tech Week is a perfect opportunity to put into perspective both our triumphs and our challenges. There is no doubt that the twin engines of technology and trade propel this economy.

The U.S. computer industry serves as a good example of American innovation and leadership. Many of our most successful companies started out as small entrepreneurial ventures with little cash, lots of enthusiasm, vision, hard work and real commitment. Those are the qualities that make me proud to be an American and a Californian.

However, today we are at a crossroads. We approach a new millennium with a workforce that lacks the skills to take advantage of the boundless opportunities that the high-tech industry has to offer. The concerns I hear from both educators and high-tech business people about the lack of skilled workers are serious.

This is an ominous situation that deserves our serious attention.

The American Electronics Association is absolutely correct when it states "the technology industry cannot be sustained without workers with solid training in science and math."

It is a national embarrassment that American students do not compete well with high school students from other countries. For example, U.S. high school seniors ranked 19th in math and 16th in science in standardized tests among 21 countries.

When it comes to cultivating qualified workers for high-tech jobs, California, like many other high-tech oriented states, lags behind many of our foreign competitors. Although there has been some progress, California and other states continue to struggle with creating a solid and educated high-tech workforce. The key is developing core competencies in technical areas such as math, science, and the use of technology.

Without fundamental change, I am concerned about the continued vitality of our high-tech industry and its ability to attract an educated high-tech workforce. In California and throughout the U.S., the high-tech industry continues to experience a shortage of qualified workers. How long can we rely on other countries to fill our job vacancies without harming our own competitiveness? Right now, foreign nationals receive nearly half of all doctoral degrees and a third of all masters degrees awarded by U.S. universities.

I believe that we—educators, business people and political leaders—must come up with a new educational agenda and the will to implement it. Our educational system, from kindergarten to the college level must encourage Americans to study math and sciences so that they can have access to the abundance of high-paying job opportunities in the high-tech industry.

It is alarming that despite all the opportunities available to people with degrees in math, engineering and physics, colleges are graduating fewer and fewer American students with these majors. In fact, high-tech degrees from American institutions have actually decreased 5 percent from 1990–1996. Although California colleges and universities conferred the most high-tech degrees, they also had had one of the steepest declines, awarding 1,600 fewer degrees in 1996 than in 1990.

Our economic security demands that we find solutions to this crisis. A world class, K-12 public school educational system is not beyond our grasp. What has eluded us is national commitment. We tend to talk about educational excellence but have been unwilling to provide the funds that are critical to this objective. And we have failed to rally parents and business as true partners in what must be a coordinated and creative national effort. The 106th Congress has an obligation and an opportunity to make "educational excellence" one of its highest priorities. This means we need to assure that we have qualified teachers in our classrooms, that students meet basic competencies and that attention is given to the evolving needs of the high-tech industry.

Our children and our grandchildren will be the true beneficiaries of this legacy if we are bold enough to meet the challenge.