

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 For example, one diverter placed genuine, but outdated, labels of brand-name baby formula on substandard baby formula and resold the product to retailers.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 tampered 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.

THE NATIONAL YOUTH VIOLENCE
COMMISSION**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the Columbine High School tragedy and its after-shocks still haunt our memories. Statesmen, pundits and ordinary citizens ask questions every day as to why our children are murdering their peers. Clearly, the mere fact that we must ask these questions demonstrates that a real crisis exists and needs to be addressed immediately. While no one has any definitive answers, many opinions have been put forth without reaching any consensus. These opinions are multi-faceted and have included: the de-moralization and de-humanization of our youth due to a "culture of violence" perpetuated by the media, the non-enforcement of existing laws regarding firearms, and the degradation of families and communities due to this "culture of violence."

All of these opinions likely point to sources of the problem of teen violence, but they do not reveal the possibility of one single and simple solution. In order to put a halt to the specter of teen violence, an investigation should be made into its causes and to its probable solutions. Such a Commission should be bi-partisan, and it should be appointed equally by the President of the United States and Leaders in Congress from both the Majority and Minority parties. In the best interests of the Nation, the Commission will come to some form of a consensus concerning the various natures of, and the solutions to, the extreme teen violence that is plaguing our society.

These tragedies are too important to ignore, and too important not to focus all of our resources on discovering their root causes and possible solutions. That is why I, along with Representatives MARKEY and TIERNEY, am introducing legislation to create a national Commission that will be asked to conduct an in-depth analysis of teen violence. The Commission would be made up of a panel of experts that include religious figures, teachers, law enforcement officials, counselors, psychologists, and research groups that deal with family issues. Hopefully, a Commission that contains such experts will be able to appraise the situation accurately and make the necessary recommendations.

Upon completion of its work, the commission will be responsible for submitting to Congress and the President a report detailing possible steps to reduce the level of juvenile violence in America. While this is not a problem that will be solved overnight, and there are some serious ideological differences that need be overcome, I am hopeful that this Commission can help us in preventing similar tragedies from occurring in the future, and at least begin to address the plague of youth violence that is tearing the very fabric of our nation.

THE NATIONAL YOUTH VIOLENCE
COMMISSION**HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, weeks after the tragedy at Columbine High School, we as a national community are still cognizant of the ordeal and attempting to make sense of this horrific incident and the other school massacres that followed it. Many of us are still asking questions and searching for reasons why our children are senselessly murdering each other in classrooms, schoolyards, streetcorners and their homes; why there is so much violence surrounding and savaging the youth of our country.

There have been several factors cited as the possible causes for this emphasis on violence: the disconnection so many youths feel from their parents, peers, schools and communities; the harmful influence of the entertainment media; the easy access children have to guns; lack of support services for alienated and mentally ill teens; and the weakening of our moral and communal safety nets.

While there are many informed opinions and hypotheses, there are very few definitive conclusions and little consensus as to who or what is responsible for this atrocity. This is a problem that can not be solved with definitive answers—there is no one answer. As a country Americans do agree that we must come together as a nation to stop this menace, which is putting all of our communities and way of life at risk.

In order to combat this difficult challenge, we must reach a national consensus on how to respond. We must carefully, deliberately, dispassionately analyze the depths of the problem. Today, Mr. BURTON, Mr. TIERNEY and I are introducing legislation to create a national commission on youth violence that will examine the many possible reasons why so many children are becoming killers and help us find solutions to diminish this imminent threat.

In order to thoroughly study the many dimensions of the problem this panel should be composed of the country's finest experts in the fields of law enforcement, teaching and counseling, parenting and family studies, child and adolescent psychology, Cabinet members, and religious leaders.

After 18 months of work, the commission would be responsible to report its conclusions to the President and Congress and recommend a series of tangible steps to take in order to reduce the level of youth violence and prevent another community from feeling the same pain and grief as the residents of Littleton.

There are several steps that must be taken by Congress and the citizens of our country in order to preserve the safety of our children. We understand that this problem is not one that can be solved overnight, or with any single piece of legislation. Despite this we have legitimate policy and philosophical differences to overcome in order to tackle this problem. There is not a guarantee that with this commission that we will find these answers and solve our problems, but we believe there is hope for doing so and therefore deserves our support.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY PETERSON

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of one of Colorado's great businessmen, Larry Peterson. In doing so, I would like to honor this individual who, for so many years, has exemplified the notion of public service civic duty.

Larry Peterson is a self made man who has always exhibited strong morals and family values. After graduating high school, he spent a short time attending Colorado State University. Larry chose to leave college to return home and help care for his family in a time of need. He experienced many areas of the work field, before settling into a career. Late in the 1960's Larry Peterson began working at a pharmacy, which he would later own.

Larry Peterson is a successful businessman and has always sought to share his success with others. He finds time to get involved with charities such as Make A Wish Foundation, and the Children Miracle Network. His contributions to charities are too numerous to list, which indicates just how many there are.

Aside from his contributions to charities, Larry Peterson has been very active in Republican party politics. As a precinct captain since 1998, Larry has helped many candidates who have run, or are running, for office, including Colorado Governor Bill Owens, President George Bush and Senator Bob Dole. Larry has also played a key role in the organizational efforts of the GOP throughout Colorado. He was very effective in assisting former GOP Chairman Don Bain with important grassroots events from throughout 1993–1996. He even participated as a member of the Colorado Delegation to the National Convention in 1996.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to say thank you to Larry Peterson for his truly exceptional contributions to numerous charities, and to the state of Colorado alike. People like Larry, who give so selflessly to others, are a rare breed. Fellow citizens have gained immensely by knowing him, and for that we owe Larry Peterson a debt of gratitude.

A TRIBUTE TO BEVERLY A.
SHAUGHNESSY FOR HER 35
YEARS OF SERVICE**HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable public servant in my district, Beverly A. Shaughnessy, who is retiring after 35 years of service to the Fourth District Cook County Court.

Mrs. Beverly Shaughnessy, the former Beverly Thomas, has been a life-long resident of Berwyn, Illinois. Mrs. Shaughnessy began her career in the Berwyn Health Department. In the early 1950's she moved to Berwyn City Hall as a Court Clerk. When Berwyn and other surrounding communities became a part of the Fourth District, Beverly moved to the District offices in Oak Park. As the Fourth District outgrew its facilities, a new District office was