

nor does it seek inclusion of section 151 in the defense authorization process.

Accordingly, I believe that section 151, coupled with two spectrum-related provisions within the Senate's Department of Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (§§ 1049 and 1050 of S. 1060), may have a negative impact on telecommunications policy. The Commerce Committee will be active to ensure that the inclusion of any provision within the final version of a defense authorization bill not interfere or cause harm to telecommunications policy. I respectfully request that these concerns be taken into account during further consideration of this legislation.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for this opportunity to comment on H.R. 1401, the Defense Authorization Bill for fiscal year 2000.

CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE OUTREACH FOR SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS PROGRAM BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**HON. JOE SKEEN**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 1999*

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I support funding grants to 1890, 1862, and 1994 Land Grant Colleges and Institutions to enhance the viability of small farmers by providing training and technical assistance in overall farm management practices. H.R. 1906 provides \$3,000,000 in funding for the program in fiscal year 2000, the same level as 1999 and provides that the Secretary of Agriculture may transfer up to \$7,000,000 from the Rural Housing Insurance Fund Account for "Outreach for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers." However, I am concerned about the Department of Agriculture's track record in the delivery of this program to date.

Since the program was authorized by Section 2501 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990, the management of the program has been transferred to several agencies in the Department ending in the Office of Outreach under Departmental Administration since 1998.

USDA has not audited the program even though questionable fiduciary practices have surfaced, including two violations of the Antideficiency Act in 1996. In addition, in 1998, the USDA's Office of Outreach coordinated \$4.8 million in cooperative agreements with other USDA agencies for small farmer outreach training and technical assistance with the same universities and colleges that have received funding under the Section 2501 authorities.

I believe USDA should carefully review the funding and management requirements for the program and take appropriate action to ensure that eligible farmers and ranchers receive full benefit and that the American taxpayers' funds are being well spent.

For the record, I am submitting copies of the Antideficiency Act notification letters and respectfully request they be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

JUNE 17, 1997.

Hon. FRANKLIN D. RAINES,  
*Director, Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC.*

DEAR FRANK: As required by OMB Circular Number A-34, section 32.2, the Department of Agriculture (USDA) is reporting to the President, through your office, two violations of the Antideficiency Act with respect to USDA's Outreach for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers Program.

Please let me know if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

DAN GLICKMAN,  
*Secretary.*

JUNE 17, 1997.

Enclosure.

The PRESIDENT,  
*The White House, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: This letter is to report two violations of the Antideficiency Act, as required by section 1351 of Title 31, United States Code.

Both violations occurred in the Outreach for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers Program account (1260601) of the Farm Service Agency (FSA). The program was transferred from Rural Development to FSA on October 1, 1995, under the Department of Agriculture's reorganization. The violations occurred on August 15, 1996, and August 27, 1996, and involved the obligation of funds which exceeded the amount available in the fiscal year (FY) 1996 appropriation for the Outreach for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers Program. Officers responsible for the violations were Carolyn B. Cooksie, Deputy Administrator for Farm Loan Programs and John I. Just-Buddy, Chief, Economic Enhancement Branch, FSA.

The violations occurred with the awarding of cooperative agreements by program officials which obligated \$100,000 to South Carolina State University and \$25,414.24 to Langston University. The agreements obligated funds exceeding the amount available in the FY 1996 appropriation for the Outreach for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers Program because the program managers erroneously assumed, based on informal advice they requested from FSA budgetary staff, that unexpended funds from the expired FY 1993 appropriation were available for new agreements. Program officials were unfamiliar with budget and fiscal terminology and procedures, and the FSA budget staff misunderstood the program manager's request regarding fund availability. The violations were identified in time to prevent the actual expenditure of funds in excess of the appropriation.

There is no evidence that anyone knowingly or willfully violated the law. Thus, no disciplinary action has been taken.

An adequate funds control system for FSA is in place. Officials responsible for these antideficiency violations have been counseled to verify the availability of funds prior to entering into future cooperative agreements.

The Outreach for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers Program was transferred to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on October 1, 1996. NRCS has been provided a copy of this letter.

Identical letters will be submitted to the presiding officer of each House of Congress.

Respectfully,

DAN GLICKMAN,  
*Secretary.*

IN HONOR OF COMMISSIONER  
JIMMY DIMORA

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 1999*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to pay tribute to Jimmy Dimora, on the occasion of his being honored for his twenty-eight years of service to the Cuyahoga County community.

Jimmy Dimora is a dedicated public official who has contributed a substantial portion of his life to the betterment of his community. He is especially committed to maintaining ties to labor organizations and helping the working men and women in the community. He has held a variety of public offices, ranging from Mayor of Bedford Heights to the Commissioner of Cuyahoga county. In addition to his service as a dedicated public official, he has devoted much of his time to community initiatives. Some of this activities Commissioner Dimora has been involved with include: a member of the Board of Trustees for the University Hospitals Health System Bedford Medical Center, and leadership rolls in the United Way, Shoes for Kids and the YMCA. Additionally, he has served as chairman of the Cuyahoga Democratic Party since 1994.

Although his work and community service put extraordinary demands on his time, Commissioner Dimora has never limited the time he gives to his most important interest his family especially his lovely wife, Lori.

I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in commending Commissioner Jimmy Dimora for his lifetime of dedication, service, and leadership in Cuyahoga County. His large circle of family and friends can be proud of this significant contributions he has made. Our community has certainly been rewarded by the true service and uncompromising dedication displayed by Commissioner Jimmy Dimora.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JIM SELKE

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 1999*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I now recognize Mr. Jim Selke, who after 31 years of dedication to educating the students of District 51 in Grand Junction, Colorado, has decided to retire. In doing so, I would like to pay tribute to the extraordinary career of this remarkable individual, who for so many years, has worked to shape the minds of the youth of Grand Junction, and who has worked to preserve a high standard of education.

Mr. Selke began his career in Grand Junction, Colorado at Central High School in 1968, and for 24 years he served in various capacities, coaching football and baseball, and serving as activities coordinator. After his years of inspiring the students of Central High School, Mr. Selke was ready to return to the classroom.

For the past 7 years, Jim Selke has served as the athletic director for Palisade High School. There is no doubt that his positive attitude and uplifting words of encouragement will

be missed. Teachers like Mr. Selke, who give tirelessly to their students and inspire great success, are a rare breed.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say thank you to Mr. Selke and wish him the best of luck as he begins his much deserved retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF "MEDICARE HOSPITAL CAPITAL EFFICIENCY PROMOTION ACT OF 1999," 11TH IN A SERIES OF MEDICARE MODERNIZATION BILLS

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 1999*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing the 11th in a series of bills to modernize Medicare, obtain long-term savings, and make the program more efficient, without forcing beneficiaries to make radical changes.

The bill would give Medicare authority to reduce capital payments 25% to hospitals in areas where we have more than an average number of beds and the occupancy rate is below the national average. Exceptions would be made if capital payments to these hospitals were used to merge or downsize or if the Secretary determined that special circumstances required a capital expansion.

Mr. speaker, a major force making American health care the most expensive in the world is that we have way, way too many hospital beds. In California, occupancy has been below 50% for years. Throughout the nation, many hospitals are at 20 to 30% occupied. No one would run a modern factory at these occupancy rates and certainly no banker would willy-nilly put more capital into such an industry. Yet the taxpayer consistently makes billions of dollars a year in automatic payments for capital to the nation's hospitals.

Dr. John Weinberg of Dartmouth has just published the third in what is called The Dartmouth Atlas. He provides overwhelming documentation that in health, it is not so much demand, as supply that is driving the cost of the health care system. In other words, "build it, and they shall come." Build a hospital, and doctors will find a way to use it. The more hospital beds available in a community, the more likely you will die in a hospital instead of at home, in a hospice, or in a nursing home. Yet we know that the public does not prefer a high-tech, prolonged death. At the moment of death, most people would like to be a familiar setting surrounded by family-not hooked up to a half dozen tubes in a hospital ICU.

Capital payments also are used to proliferate fancy new services-rather than asking that expensive services (such as transplant or open heart surgeries) be concentrated at hospitals which do a large volume of operations and which have better outcomes. The data is overwhelming that the more operations a hospital does, the less likely they are to kill you. In other words, practice makes perfect, or at least very good. Yet in California, for example, we have about 130 hospitals doing open heart surgeries. Setting up an open heart program costs, I am told, about \$10 million. Yet some of these heart centers only do 3 or 5 operations a month! They may be good for a local hospital's prestige, but they are almost a prime facie malpractice waiting for a jury.

Medicare and taxpayers, again, should not be paying for this proliferation of local prestige: we are killing people through bad outcomes when we allow every Tom, Dick, and Harry hospital to do sophisticated operations.

My bill is a simple proposal: where we have to many beds and they are going unoccupied, the taxpayer can save 25% in reduced hospital capital payments.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE RAGIN CAJUN AMATEUR BOXING CLUB

**HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 1999*

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special group of young athletes. These young boxers, along with their coach Beau Williford, comprise Lafayette, Louisiana's Ragin Cajun Amateur Boxing Club.

Over the Memorial Day district work period, I had the privilege of visiting their gym and witnessing first-hand the remarkable program that Mr. Williford leads. Everyday after school, Mr. Williford's gym becomes a training ground for the next generation of boxers. He not only provides these youngsters with a place to train, but he also provides the life instruction and guidance that many of these kids so desperately need. My experience at his gym convinced me of just how vital the need for such programs is in communities throughout the United States. In fact, research has shown that students who participate in after-school programs exhibit higher levels of achievement in reading, math, and other subjects. These students also exhibit improved grades, reading ability, attendance levels, homework completion, and increased graduation and enrollment in post secondary education.

In 1982, Beau Williford opened Beau Williford's Boxing Academy and began the Ragin Cajun Amateur Boxing Club. Mr. Williford's Boxing Academy soon became a place where young people could productively spend their after school time under the wing of an inspirational coach. Indeed, nine gold medals were recently won by young athletes who competed at the 1999 Junior Olympics and Under 19 competitions in Natchitoches, LA, on May 14-16, 1999.

Beau Williford deserves special acknowledgement for his devotion to the physical and personal development of the youngsters he takes in. A former boxer and trainer of six boxing champions, Mr. Williford offers these kids a place where they can relieve stress through exercise while socializing with others their age. Several of the young people he trains were troubled youths without motivation, discipline, or direction. Under Mr. Williford's guidance, their lives have been turned around. Those who were once making failing grades in school are now making straight A's. In addition, the parents of these young athletes claim that not only are their children doing great as boxers, but they are doing much better as children. They are more disciplined and have gained a sense of self-respect.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to individually recognize these outstanding youths who have worked hard to earn the title of "champion." Please join me in extending a warm voice of

recognition to Jared Hidalgo, a sixteen year-old Carencro High School junior who won the 178-pound division gold medal; to Harold Breau, a seventeen year-old Northside High School junior who won the 165-pound division gold medal; to Mark Megna, an eight year-old Woodvale Elementary School student who won the Gold in the 60-pound bantam division; to John Ross Prudhomme, an eleven-year old Westminster Academy student who won the Gold in the 85-pound junior division; to Jacob Carriere, an eleven year-old Edgar Martin Middle School student who won the Gold in the 65-pound junior division; to Clay Johnson, an eleven year-old S.J. Montgomery student who won the Gold in the 95-pound junior division; to Michael Carriere, a fourteen year-old Edgar Martin Middle School student who won the Gold in the 156-pound intermediate division; to Darren Johnson, a fourteen year-old Lawtell Middle School student who won the Gold in the super heavy weight intermediate division; and to Wesley Williford, a fourteen year-old Lafayette Middle School student who won the Gold in the 156-pound senior division.

These youngsters are guided by an outstanding group of coaches who also deserve our recognition. In addition to the guidance of Beau Williford, Coaches Gene Hidalgo, Walter Dugas, Mark Peters, Sean McGraw, Lenny Johnson, Harold Breau, Sr., and Deidre Gogarty work with these kids on a daily basis. Along with team manager Christian Williford, this outstanding group of adults is committed to the direction and success of these young athletes.

The hard work and discipline that Mr. Williford and his team inspire in these young people not only produces athletic growth, but personal growth as well. Studies have shown that sustained positive interactions with adults contribute to the overall development of young people and their achievement in school. At a time in our country when youth violence is on the rise and we are searching for answers, Mr. Williford and the Ragin Cajun Amateur Boxing Club have found their own solution. He and his young boxers were an inspiration to me, and in recognizing them today I hope that his story will inspire others to take an active role in the lives of our youth.

HONORING KENNETH C. BAKER

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 1999*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize and honor the accomplishments of a man who has given much to the teaching profession, and even to his many students. On June 30, friends, colleagues, and family will gather to pay tribute to Mr. Kenneth Baker of Flint, Michigan, who is retiring from the Flint Community Schools after 34 years of dedicated service to the community.

As a former school teacher myself, I understand how important it is for the minds of our Nation's children to be influenced by positive, uplifting role models. I am happy that Kenneth Baker lives up to this ideal. A graduate of the University of Toledo, and Eastern Michigan University, Kenneth began his long and rewarding career with Flint Community Schools in 1965. He served as a science teacher at