

often risky machines; children handling dangerous chemicals; children forced to work when they should be in school, preparing themselves and their countries for a better tomorrow. Each of our nations must take responsibility.

Last week, at the inspiration of Senator Tom Harkin, who is here with me today, I directed all agencies of the United States government to make absolutely sure they are not buying any products made with abusive child labor.

But we must also act together. Today, the time has come to build on the growing world consensus to ban the most abusive forms of child labor—to join together and to say there are some things we cannot and will not tolerate.

We will not tolerate children being used in pornography and prostitution. We will not tolerate children in slavery or bondage. We will not tolerate children being forcibly recruited to serve in armed conflicts. We will not tolerate young children risking their health and breaking their bodies in hazardous and dangerous working conditions for hours unconscionably long—regardless of country, regardless of circumstance. These are not some archaic practices out of a Charles Dickens novel. These are things that happen in too many places today.

I am proud of what is being done at your meeting. In January, I said to our Congress and the American people in the State of the Union address, that we would work with the ILO on a new initiative to raise labor standards and to conclude a treaty to ban abusive child labor everywhere in the world. I am proud to say that the United States will support your convention. After I return home I will send it to the U.S. Senate for ratification, and I ask all other countries to ratify it, as well.

We thank you for achieving a true breakthrough for the children of the world. We thank the nations here represented who have made genuine progress in dealing with this issue in their own nations. You have written an important new chapter in our effort to honor our values and protect our children.

Passing this convention alone, however, will not solve the problem. We must also work aggressively to enforce it. And we must address root causes, the tangled pathology of poverty and hopelessness that leads to abusive child labor. Where that still exists it is simply not enough to close the factories where the worst child labor practices occur. We must also ensure that children then have access to schools and their parents have jobs. Otherwise, we may find children in even more abusive circumstances.

That is why the work of the International Program for the Elimination of Child Labor is so important. With the support of the United States, it is working in places around the world to get children out of business of making fireworks, to help children move from their jobs as domestic servants, to take children from factories to schools.

Let me cite just one example of the success being achieved, the work being done to eliminate child labor from the soccer ball industry in Pakistan. Two years ago, thousands of children under the age of 14 worked for 50 companies stitching soccer balls full-time. The industry, the ILO and UNICEF joined together to remove children from the production of soccer balls and give them a chance to go to school, and to monitor the results.

Today, the work has been taken up by women in 80 poor villages in Pakistan, giving them new employment and their families new stabilities. Meanwhile, the children have started to go to school, so that when they come of age, they will be able to do better jobs raising the standard of living of

their families, their villages and their nation. I thank all who were involved in this endeavor and ask others to follow their lead.

I am pleased that our administration has increased our support for IPEC by tenfold. I ask you to think what could be achieved by a full and focused international effort to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. Think of the children who would go to school, whose lives would open up, whose very health would flower, freed of the crushing burden of dangerous and demeaning work, given back those irreplaceable hours of childhood for learning and playing and living.

By giving life to core labor standards, by acting effectively to lift the burden of debt, by putting a more human face on the world trading system and the global economy, by ending the worst forms of child labor, we will be giving our children the 21st century they deserve.

These are hopeful times. Previous generations sought to redeem the rights of labor in a time of world war and organized tyranny. We have a chance to build a world more prosperous, more united, more humane than ever before. In so doing, we can fulfill the dreams of the ILO's founders, and redeem the struggles of those who fought and organized, who sacrificed and, yes, died—for freedom, equality, and justice in the workplace.

It is our great good fortune that in our time we have been given the golden opportunity to make the 21st century a period of abundance and achievement for all. Because we can do that, we must. It is a gift to our children worthy of the millennium.

Thank you very much.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL TOM HAYES

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a distinguished career in teaching has come to an end. The Honorable Tom Hayes, Principal of Lexington Middle School, recently retired after 34 years as a teacher, coach, counselor, and administrator.

Mr. Hayes started teaching in the Lexington school system as a student teacher in the spring of 1965. He was offered a contract to teach full time in the fall of the same year. Mr. Hayes served as a teacher, coach, and counselor until 1986, when he left Lexington to take a position in the St. James School District. In 1993, Mr. Hayes found his way back to Lexington to serve as principal at the Middle School.

Mr. Hayes educated Missouri's youth and enjoyed watching his students grow and mature into adults. He is also gratified when the young people he taught come back to him years later as adults to thank him. As a coach, he coached multiple championship teams, both in football and wrestling. Through hard work focusing on fundamentals, he helped average athletes develop into skilled players.

Although Mr. Hayes has retired from the Lexington School District, he is still an active community member as the Mayor of Lexington, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Hayes had an outstanding career in education, and he will surely be missed by everyone at Lexington Middle School. I wish him and his wife Sherry all the

best in the days ahead. I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to this fine Missourian.

BOND PRICE COMPETITION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 1999

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, fellow colleagues, I rise in support of the Bond Price Competition Improvement Act of 1999. The Committee on Commerce and Subcommittee of Finance, of which I am a member, has held a number of hearings to review the process and competition in mutual fund fees and bond prices.

Witnesses repeatedly testified that transparency of corporate bonds was poor. Witnesses also revealed that individual purchasers of the same bond from the same dealer at approximately the same time may be given widely divergent prices.

Mr. Speaker, fellow colleagues, improved transparency of the bond market would lead to improved bond prices for investors, and increased transparency would assist the relevant regulators with development of an audit trail.

In today's ever changing global economy, information is our most valuable resource. By improving the information available to investors, leading to more competitive prices for bonds, we hope to eliminate price discrimination and promote a more fair and competitive market.

The Bond Price Competition Improvement Act, which is supported by the NASD, SEC and Bond Market Association has many advantages. However, the three economic benefits that I am mostly enthusiastic about are:

1. It will bolster investor protection by providing investors with better opportunities to monitor the behavior of the entities that make markets in secondary securities;
2. It will help improve market liquidity by boosting investor and market confidence in a market; and
3. It will enhance market efficiency by boosting the price discovery process of moving toward the "optimal price" for a particular security.

Market power invested in one bond dealer enables the dealer to charge prices that are higher than those that would be available in a fully competitive market. Due to the lack of transparency in the current bond market dealers sometimes offer the same bond to different customers at significantly different prices. This price discrimination is facilitated by the lack of pricing information to investors.

I am convinced that improved transparency in the corporate debt markets as addressed in the Bond Price Competition Improvement Act will eliminate this practice.

I would like to commend my fellow colleagues on the Commerce Committee, committee staff, and legislative staff on working together to draft this important bill and I hope that we can continue to work together in this spirit of bipartisanship in the future.

Mr. Speaker, Congress is at its best when we work together to solve problems such as these. The American people deserve nothing

less. The Bond Market Price Competition Act of 1999 is an important piece of legislation that will preserve this country's place as a leader of bond market transaction in the international marketplace.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
OUTPATIENT PRESERVATION ACT

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was (and still am) a proud supporter of the Balanced Budget Act and its attempts to bring about greater fiscal discipline to save Medicare from bankruptcy. However, when we passed this bill, we did so with the understanding that Medicare services to seniors would not be harmed.

Sadly, the current form of the prospective payment system (PPS) for hospital outpatient services such as surgery, radiology, clinical services, emergency room care, chemotherapy, and psychotherapy makes drastic cuts in payments so that many hospitals may be forced to limit or discontinue outpatient services that patients depend on. Initial projections show that when the PPS is fully implemented, some hospitals stand to lose between 40 and 50 percent of their revenue. This could have a devastating effect on the availability of certain services. For many individuals, outpatient care is a safer, more convenient, and less costly alternative to being admitted overnight to a hospital for a minor procedure. I do not want to see patients' choice of health services and care settings limited.

Today, I am introducing the Hospital Outpatient Preservation Act. This legislation will put a limit on the Medicare payment reductions hospitals receive under the outpatient PPS for the first three years it is in place. This bill will allow hospitals to gradually reorganize their budgets and operational structures in order to smoothly transition to the new payment system without having to eliminate services. It is my intention that this bill will preserve the intent of the Balanced Budget Act to enforce fiscal responsibility in the Medicare system, while preventing any negative consequences that drastic revenue reductions would have on hospitals and their patients.

IN HONOR OF CELESTICA OF
COLORADO

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Celestica, a Ft. Collins company determined to provide total customer satisfaction, superior value, quality, and technological leadership through designing electronic memory solutions and manufacturing printed circuit boards. This prosperous corporation has not only benefited itself, but its community as well. Celestica currently employs 1,000 Colorado citizens, and has grown strong enough to add 500 new jobs to the Ft. Collins

area. Celestica workers provide jobs in nine countries and employment opportunities for over 15,000 worldwide while generating economic growth and health benefits.

Mr. Speaker, Celestica is successful because it strives to meet its customers' needs, guarantee long-term value and have innovative ideas for products. For this reason, it is obvious why Celestica is the third-largest electronics manufacturing company in the world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Ms. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 187, the Souder amendment—to "prohibit any fiscal year 2000 funding for military operations in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia," I was absent for the above-referenced vote because I was in North Carolina attending the funeral services for the father of my District Office Director. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

HONORING JOSHUA VANDIVER

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Joshua Vandiver of Swink, Colorado, a student at Swink Junior-Senior High School. He has received an outstanding recognition of being a Presidential Scholar. I am pleased to take a moment and extend Joshua congratulations for his phenomenal academic prowess, artistic success, scholarship, leadership, and involvement in school and community. He possesses the key to success because the attributes of his personality, hard work and perseverance are strong and long lasting. With these skills Joshua Vandiver will prosper in the future.

HONORING SYLVIA LASK

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Sylvia Lask, a tireless advocate for her community and a woman who has worked with me for all of my elected life, is celebrating her 65th birthday, an occasion to celebrate her and all the wonderful things she has done. She has worked with me from my start in the New York State Assembly, but even more, she has been a great friend. She developed a specialty in the area of mental health while at my Assembly office and her dedication led her to join me in late night visits to State psychiatric hospitals to check on the care of the patients. Currently she is Chair of the New York State Board of Visitors of Psychiatric Hospitals and is a member of the Board of Bronx Municipal Hospital. She also led her building in the Co-op City rent strike. Her caring and concern have won

her the affection and appreciation of virtually everyone she has come in contact with. She is also a State Committeewoman for the 82nd A.D. She is a committed Zionist and Jewish causes are her passion. She is an ardent supporter of the Kibbutz movement. She dearly loves her two children, Marc and Vicki. When I picture Sylvia in my mind I see her dancing around a campfire at a Kibbutz. She is a very dear friend and I join all in wishing her a very special birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 189, the Skelton amendment—"prohibiting any funding for combat or peacekeeping operations in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia," I was absent for the above-referenced vote because I was in North Carolina attending the funeral services for the father of my District Office Director. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING DONNA WHEELER
TEACHER

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commend the work of an extraordinary teacher from the Fourth District of Colorado, Ms. Donna Wheeler. Ms. Wheeler teaches at Swink Junior-Senior High School in Swink, CO. Teachers provide one of the most valuable services to society educating students. By promoting integrity, knowledge, proficiency, and wholehearted interest in her students, Ms. Wheeler has proven her ability as an educator. Caring and talented teachers are of immense worth in our society and proficient teachers are the backbone of the Republic. It takes a very dedicated person to encourage children. Ms. Wheeler has set an example each of us can follow to nurture our nation's youth in becoming responsible adults. I congratulate Ms. Wheeler.

HONORING MOUNT VERNON
HEIGHTS CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, this year, the good parishioners of the Mount Vernon Heights Congregational Church celebrate the church's 100th anniversary. The history of the church is actually longer when we remember that it was in 1892 that its meetings began in the Garden Avenue School. The church became fully organized in 1896 with the Rev. F.B. Kellogg named pastor of the new church. By the following year the congregation had