

both history and as an unfolding of human tragedy. I am confident that the Commission's efforts will demonstrate that as Americans we are willing to confront our own past, and in so doing, we will demonstrate our leadership in the international effort to obtain justice for the victims of the Holocaust and their families.

NAFTA-TAA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, the authorizations for the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program and the NAFTA Trade Adjustment Assistance (NAFTA-TAA) program expire today, June 30, 1999. Accordingly, I am introducing legislation to reauthorize the programs through fiscal year 2001. There should be no gap in the authorizations for these vitally important programs, which have long enjoyed bipartisan support.

Efforts to increase the participation of the United States in global trade are essential to the continued growth of our economy. However, when increased trade is a cause of dislocation for some U.S. workers and firms, we must be prepared to respond. The TAA programs are the cornerstone of our longstanding efforts to cushion the impact of the blow for employees and businesses who have been harmed by imports. Most important, TAA provides retraining and technical assistance so these workers and firms can thrive in the new economy.

A number of reforms in the TAA programs have been proposed recently. The legislation that I am introducing today is intended to continue these programs as their Congressional authorization is set to expire. However, the bill is not meant to preclude important discussions of broader, systemic changes.

CELEBRATING THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WEST ANGELES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the West Angeles Community Development Corporation (CDC). This thriving community development organization was founded in 1994 as an outreach program of the West Angeles Church of God in Christ, a 15,000 member congregation in the Crenshaw area, located in my Congressional District. The West Angeles CDC is dedicated to economic empowerment, social justice, and community transformation for its surrounding South Los Angeles area.

The West Angeles CDC has achieved success in developing a school-based training program in peer mediation named Peace-Makers, launching a job placement assistance program, providing renters' assistance and case management services to families displaced from housing, and providing emergency food assistance to those in need. In ad-

dition, the CDC recently built the West A Homes, a 44-unit apartment complex for large low-income families.

In recognizing the significant outreach ministry of the West Angeles CDC, I must highlight the outstanding leadership of the organization's distinguished Board of Directors: Bishop Charles E. Blake, Pastor of the West Angeles Church; Lula Ballton, Esq., Executive Director of the CDC; Dr. Desiree Tillman-Jones, Chairperson of the Board; Mrs. Belinda Ann Bakkar; Mrs. Jueline Bleavins; Mr. Mack Bruins; Ms. Stasia Cato; Mrs. Nancy Harris; Mr. Harold T. Hutchison; Mrs. Janet Johnson-Welch; Ms. Nathalie Page; Ms. Sandra McBeth-Reynolds; Rev. Donald T. Paredes; Mr. Maurice Perry; Mr. Mark J. Robertson; Mr. Roy Sadakane; Mr. Paul H. Turner; and attorneys Patricia S. Cannon, Anne C. Myles-Smith, and Wyndell J. Wright. These dedicated individuals have selflessly fulfilled the vision of the West Angeles CDC by bringing compassion, hope, and healing to the Crenshaw community they serve.

The West Angeles CDC's contributions to the South Los Angeles community have been invaluable. I congratulate them on their outstanding work and offer my best wishes for their continued success. With construction underway of a beautiful new West Angeles Cathedral, I am confident the West Angeles Church of God in Christ and the West Angeles Community Development Corporation can look forward to a long and prosperous future.

H.R. 2373, THE START-UP SUCCESS ACCOUNTS ACT OF 1999

HON. BRIAN BAIRD

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague from South Carolina in the introduction of legislation that will give owners of newly formed small businesses a new way to channel capital into the growth of those businesses.

I am very excited to join my colleague, Mr. DEMINT, in this effort. I'm pleased to serve alongside Mr. DEMINT on the Small Business Committee and have found that we see eye-to-eye on so many issues of critical importance to small businesses in our respective states. I believe that we share a common interest of helping small businesses thrive in our nation, and this legislation is a step in that direction.

Mr. Speaker, Small businesses are the economic foundation of southwest Washington. As my colleague mentioned, they account for nearly all new jobs in our economy. However, a majority of those new small businesses fail in the first few years of existence—largely due to lack of capital.

As currently structured, the tax system seems to penalize capital retention. Certainly, it provides disincentives for small businesses to save, which I believe is misguided policy.

As one who grew up with small business owners, I am aware of the struggles that one goes through in trying to build a business. My folks owned a small clothing store as I was growing up, and went on to run a small ice-cream and sandwich shop. They certainly had their good years, and their bad and tried des-

perately to make ends meet during those less profitable years.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation, the Start-Up Success Accounts Act of 1999, would help our small businesses save for those rainy days; and it would allow them to take a more careful, considered approach to investing in the growth of their business. By allowing business owners to set aside up to 20 percent of their profits in more successful years and defer tax on those profits until later years, this bill would put another instrument in the toolbelt of new small business owners, who need all the help that we can provide.

Giving small businesses a fighting chance to succeed isn't a Democratic issue or a Republican issue—it's an American issue. It's the common sense thing to do, and I am proud to join with my colleague in drafting and introducing this bill. I think that this straight-forward legislation will appeal to our colleagues on both sides of the aisle who see the simple benefits of promoting savings.

CIVIL ASSET FORFEITURE REFORM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1658) to provide a more just and uniform procedure for Federal civil forfeitures, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1658, the Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform Act.

The Constitution is the foundation of our great nation. From an early age we are taught that we are entitled to basic rights and liberties, and we cherish these rights and protections afforded under our Constitution. When these rights are violated, we are quick to demand action and correction.

This is a time when we must demand action and correction. The current civil asset forfeiture laws abuse individual rights by denying basic due process.

Under current law, there are two kinds of forfeiture—criminal asset forfeiture and civil asset forfeiture. Under criminal asset forfeiture, if you are indicted and convicted of a crime, the government may seize your property if your property was used, however indirectly, in facilitating the crime for which you have been convicted.

I have no problem with that law. Not only is it a good deterrent against a number of crimes, but it does not deny anyone their Constitutional rights.

However, under civil asset forfeiture, the government can seize your property, regardless of the guilt or innocence of the property owner. The government can seize property merely by showing there is probable cause to believe that these assets have been part of some illegal activity. This means that even if there is no related criminal charge or conviction against the individual, the government may confiscate his or her property.

And property can be anything—your car, your home, your business. The government can take anything and everything premised on

the weakest of criminal charges—probable cause.

Moreover, the current law gives little consideration to whether the forfeiture of the property results in a mere inconvenience to the owner, or jeopardizes the owner's business or livelihood.

To reclaim this property, no matter the inconvenience, the property owner must jump through a number of hoops.

First of which, the owner must pay a 10 percent cost bond or \$5,000, whichever is less. For low-income people or for people who have been made poor by this civil asset seizure, coming up with the money for this bond may be extremely difficult or impossible. This bond serves to discourage people from contesting the seizure.

If a property owner can come up with this money, he still has the burden of proof.

The government should have this burden. We are still “innocent until proven guilty.” And under criminal law, that is the way it is. If someone is charged with a crime, the government has the burden to prove that the person is guilty.

However, under civil asset forfeiture, it is the exact opposite. The owner must prove, by a preponderance of the evidence, that either the property was not connected to any wrongdoing or the owner did not know and did not consent to the property's illegal use.

And to top it off, if the owner succeeds in reclaiming his property, the government owes him nothing for his trouble—not even an apology.

H.R. 1658 calls for reforms that protect the rights of innocent citizens while still allowing the government to pursue criminals and their property. First, H.R. 1658 puts the burden of proof, by clear and convincing evidence, onto the government, where it should be. Second, it gives the judge the flexibility to release the property, pending the final disposition, if the confiscation of the property imposes a substantial hardship on the owner.

Under H.R. 1658, Judges also would be able to appoint counsel in civil forfeiture proceedings for our poorest citizens to ensure that they are protected from the government's exercise of power. Furthermore, property owners would no longer have to file a bond, and could sue if their property is damaged while in the government's possession.

In our haste to punish drug traffickers, Congress failed to adequately protect the rights of our citizens.

H.R. 1658 restores these protections and returns law enforcement in drug crimes to the basic tenets of criminal jurisprudence.

LEGISLATION TO OPEN PARTICIPATION IN PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to open participation in presidential debates to all qualified candidates. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

My bill amends the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to organizations staging a

presidential debate to invite all candidates that meet the following criteria: the candidate must meet all Constitutional requirements for being President (e.g., at least 35 years of age, born in the United States), the candidate must have qualified for the ballot in enough states such that the candidate has a mathematical chance of receiving the minimum number of electoral votes necessary for election, and the candidate must qualify to be eligible for matching payments from the Presidential Election Campaign Fund.

This legislation will ensure that in a presidential election campaign the American people get an opportunity to see and hear from all of the qualified candidates for presidential. Staging organizations should not be given the subjective authority to bar a qualified candidate from participation in a presidential debate simply because a subjective judgement has been made the candidate does not have a reasonable chance of winning the election.

The American people should be given the opportunity to decide for themselves whether or not a candidate has a chance to be elected president. So much is at stake in a presidential election. A presidential election isn't just a contest between individual candidates. It is a contest between different ideas, policies and ideologies. At a time when our country is facing many complex problems, the American people should have the opportunity to be exposed to as many ideas, policies and proposals as possible in a presidential election campaign. My bill will ensure that this happens. It will give the American people an opportunity to hear new and different ideas and proposals on how to address the problems facing our nation. I have confidence that the American people are wise enough to make a sound decision.

Some of the basic principles America was founded on was freedom of speech and freedom of ideas. I was deeply disappointed that in the 1996 presidential campaign, the ideas of qualified candidates for president were not allowed to be heard by the American people during the presidential debates. It is my hope that Congress will pass my legislation and ensure that the un-American practice of silencing qualified candidates for president is permanently put to a stop. Once again, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THEODORE “TED” JAMES

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of sadness that I take a moment to recognize the remarkable life and significant achievements of one of Larimer County's leading businessmen, Theodore “Ted” James. An entrepreneur and developer of Grand Lake Lodge and Hidden Valley Ski Area, Mr. James died at his home on June 8 in Estes Park, CO. While family, friends and colleagues remember the truly exceptional life of Mr. James, I too would like to pay tribute to this remarkable man.

Mr. James was a resident of Estes Park for 46 years; moving to Larimer County in 1953 to run sightseeing buses, two lodges, and a store

in Rocky Mountain National Park. During his time in Estes Park, Ted was the president and manager of the Hidden Valley Ski Area, Trail Ridge Store, Grand Lake Lodge, and the Estes Park Inn.

A graduate from Greeley High School, Ted attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. During his college career, Mr. James received numerous football awards and was selected by Knute Rockne for the All-West football team. Upon graduating college, with a bachelor's degree in business, Ted played football for the Frankford, PA., Yellowjackets, now known as the Philadelphia Eagles of the National Football League. Many years later, Mr. James was inducted to the Nebraska Hall of Fame at Memorial Stadium.

In 1947, Mr. James was instrumental in merging the Burlington Bus Co. and American Bus Lines to create American Bus Lines in Chicago. With previous experience as the manager of the Greeley Transportation Co., Ted was immediately offered a job as the president and general manager of American Bus Lines Chicago branch.

In 1953, Mr. James was given the opportunity to develop Hidden Valley Ski Area by the Larimer County Park Service. He was a park concessionaire for Hidden Valley, Grand Lake Lodge, and the Trail Ridge Store, as well as operating the Estes Park Chalet.

Mr. James was a member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, Scottish Rite and Estes Park Knights of the Belt Buckle. He was commissioner of the Boy Scouts of America in Denver, president of Ski Country USA, and member and director of Denver Country Club.

Although his professional accomplishments will long be remembered and admired, most who knew him well will remember Ted James as a hard working, dedicated, and compassionate man. I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Mr. James for their profound loss.

ISSUES FACING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD these statements by high school students from my home State of Vermont, who were speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people today.

CHILD CARE IN VERMONT

(On behalf of Jody Foster, David Verge, Alicia Norris and Bobby Collone)

David Verge: Our issue is about child care in Vermont, and with the young people because a lot of the younger people are having kids now. According to child care funds in Vermont, a family could not afford care in 75 percent of the homes or any center. Vermont child care subsidy is at too low of a rate, only \$83.70 for field time centers, and \$67.45 for full-time care and home care. People of low income levels cannot afford even \$50 to make up the difference that the state does not pay.

If they want to come and encourage people to work or go to school, then they need to make it worthwhile. If you are working and your whole paycheck is going to the cost of