

criminal history background check as defined in 42 U.S.C. 13401."

SEC. 5. REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE LACTATION SUPPORT IN NEW EXECUTIVE CHILD CARE FACILITIES.

The head of each Federal agency shall require that each child care facility first operated after the one-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act by the Federal agency, or under a contract or licensing agreement with the Federal agency, shall provide reasonable accommodations for the needs of breast fed infants and their mothers, including by providing a lactation area or a room for nursing mothers as part of the operating plan for the center.

RESOLUTION ON THE
INDEPENDENCE OF KOSOVA

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 1999

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a House Concurrent Resolution urging the Clinton Administration to publicly declare that the Albanians of Kosova have a legal right to self-determination and independence from Serbia. It is identical to the resolution I introduced in the last Congress. I urge all Members to support this important resolution.

The Clinton Administration has failed to deal forthrightly with the serious situation in Kosova. It is clear that diplomacy has failed in stopping Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic's dirty campaign of repression against the Kosovar Albanians. The time has come for the United States to support, in no uncertain terms, independence for Kosova.

The resolution expresses the sense of the Congress that: 1) the U.S. should publicly declare that the Albanians of Kosova have a legal right to self-determination and that independence is the only political solution acceptable to the Kosovars; 2) the U.S. should, in conformity with its principles and beliefs, support and sponsor the right of self-determination for the Kosovar Albanians and this should be a high priority for restoring peace and security to the region; 3) the U.S. should provide its share of any financial or other resources necessary to facilitate the independence of Kosova; 4) the U.S. in conjunction with members of the United Nations and other multilateral organizations, should convene a working group that deals with the specifics of secession in order to prevent future civil conflict from rising to the level of a breach of international peace and security and the facilitates constructive dialogue in order to prevent violence; and 5) the U.S. and others should use any and all means necessary to remove impediments to the Kosovar Albanian's right to self-determination.

The resolution asserts that the Kosovar Albanians satisfy the objective requirements for self determination according to well-established tenets of international law. The Kosovar Albanians comprise more than 90 percent of Kosova's population; share the common language of Albanian; are descendants of the Illyrian—the first group to occupy the Balkans well before the Common Era; share a common ethnicity; share a common history in the Kosova region; and share a common cultural identity as ethnic Albanians with an unbroken

historic bond to the region. The resolution also notes that the Kosovar Albanians seek independence from Serbia in order to establish a democratic form of government.

Mr. Speaker, prior to the disintegration of the former Yugoslavia, Kosova was a separate political and legal entity with separate and distinct political, economic, social, judicial, legal, medical and educational institutions. Before it was forcibly absorbed into Serbia in the late 1980s, Kosova enjoyed the same legal and political status as the other six republics of the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Since Serbian President Milosevic came to power in 1987 Kosova has been brutally stripped of all vestiges of self-rule. We are now at a critical juncture in Kosova's history. Failure on the part of the U.S. and the world community to take decisive action could lead to further repression, genocide and regional instability. Diplomacy has failed. Fighting continues to rage. Innocent civilians are being slaughtered. Independence may be the only viable option the Kosovar Albanians have to realize self-determination. It's time for the Clinton Administration to stop coddling Milosevic and take a stand for freedom and self-determination.

CENSURE THE PRESIDENT AND
GET BACK TO BUSINESS

SPEECH OF

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 19, 1998

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, from the day in early September that the Starr referral was delivered to the House, I have said that the decision to impeach the President called upon me to consider the Constitution, my constituents and my conscience. I have read and reread the Constitution and Federalist papers. I have heard from over 10,000 of my constituents by phone, mail and E-mail. I have searched my conscience. That is why I rise to urge my colleagues to strongly oppose the impeachment of the President.

Let me reiterate that the President's behavior has been reckless, wrong and harmful to his family, friends and the American people. His efforts to misled the American people were inappropriate for the leader of our great Nation. But, my review of the Constitution leads me to believe that while what the President did may be indictable, it is not impeachable.

The President did not undermine our constitutional form of government, nor did he commit treason or bribery. These are fundamental issues that must be considered when the Congress considers articles of impeachment. Also, I'm very troubled by the tampering with the separation of powers proposed by the House's action against the President. Those who support impeachment speak of the rule of law, but they fail to talk about the framers' clear and explicit delineation of the powers of each branch of our Government. It is the Judicial branch of government that enforces the rule of law and punishes those who violate it. If the President committed perjury, the grand jury can indict him when his is out of office.

My constituents and I are searching for a way to strongly but appropriately register our

disgust with the President actions. Censure the President and move on, they say, by a 2-to-1 margin. I agree. But, we have been denied a vote on censure in spite of the fact that this is what an overwhelming number of Americans have told us that they want.

When I came to Congress 2 years ago I said that while I couldn't agree with anyone 100 percent of the time, it was my responsibility as a Representative of the people to LISTEN 100 percent of the time. My colleagues, we were sent here to be our constituents eyes and ears.

Americans want people in their elected Government who know more, not people who think they know better. Colleagues, please stop and listen. The American people say we must strongly censure the President and get back to their business. I urge you to vote no on impeaching the President.

CONGRATULATING COACH PHILLIP
FULMER AND THE TENNESSEE
VOLUNTEERS ON WINNING THE
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. VAN HILLEARY

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 1999

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Phillip Fulmer, the head football coach of the undefeated, unified national champion University of Tennessee Volunteers. Coach Fulmer is a native of Winchester, Tennessee, which I am honored to represent in the United States Congress.

In just his first seven years as a head coach, Phillip Fulmer has made his mark as one of the best coaches in the nation. He has won a national championship faster than many of the game's most legendary coaches. His 67-11 career record gives him the best winning percentage (.859) in Division I-A college football among active coaches. He has led the Volunteers to back-to-back Southeastern Conference Championships over the past two seasons, and on January 4 led the Vols to the national championship for the first time since 1951.

Coach Fulmer's success has not gone unnoticed by the media or his peers. Earlier this month, Fulmer was awarded the Eddie Robinson National Coach of the Year Award, and he was also named the national Coach of the Year by the Maxwell Football Club. He was also recently named the Southeastern Conference (SEC) Coach of the Year by the Associated Press and by his fellow SEC coaches.

However, Phillip Fulmer is more than a coach to the young men who play on his team. He genuinely cares about his players, and he leads them on and off the field by setting a good example for how they should live their lives. He personally embodies the values his players should incorporate into their lives long after their football days are over.

Mr. Speaker, as a University of Tennessee graduate (Class of 1981) and a dedicated Big Orange fan who proudly displays a real piece of the old artificial turf where so many great Vols played, I feel qualified to convey to you the immeasurable joy which Coach Fulmer, his staff and his players have brought to Tennesseans and Tennessee football fans around the world. Coach Phillip Fulmer has shown a

great deal of class, dedication and excellence. For that, I say thank you, congratulations, and we will always cherish the memory of this national championship and this dream season.

HONORING MARY TRUSCOTT

HON. TILLIE K. FOWLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 1999

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents who has dedicated her life to something of which we speak so often in this Chamber, the pursuit of excellence in education. For the past 40 years, Mary Truscott has faithfully served as secretary and administrative assistant at Father Lopez High School in Daytona Beach, FL. Throughout this time, Mary had a profound positive influence on countless lives and helped to shape our future leaders. She has been the glue that binds the school together and is a shining constant in an all too rapidly changing world.

Mary Truscott's 40 years of selfless service to the Father Lopez school community and to the Diocese of Orlando is truly a remarkable accomplishment. To many students and teachers, she has been a real American hero. As she celebrates her anniversary this coming weekend, I am proud to recognize her accomplishments and to express my personal gratitude as well as that of the entire Daytona Beach community.

IT'S TIME FOR A TAX CUT

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 1999

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, as we begin the new year and the 106th Congress, there are many things that the American people can be optimistic about. Our economy is growing at a brisk pace. Unemployment is low. Inflation is almost non-existent. And interest rates are down.

While more Americans are working and earning more money because of our strong economy, excessive taxation is making it harder for families to get ahead. When looking at the burden taxes impose on the lives of the American people, I am reminded of an observation offered by Mark Twain. This great American author asked, "What's the difference between a taxidermist and a tax collector?" He answered, "the taxidermist takes only your skin."

The average family in America is currently paying more money in taxes than it spends on housing, food, and clothing combined. In fact, when State and local taxes are added to Federal taxes, the average family sees 40 percent of its income confiscated by the Government. This is outrageous. Working Americans should be allowed to take care of their basic needs before being asked to finance the Government.

With the budget balanced and the Federal Government projected to run a surplus of \$1.6 trillion over the next 10 years, the 106th Congress has a historic opportunity to cut taxes so

working Americans can keep more of their hard-earned money.

Today, I have introduced five bills which ease the burden of Federal taxation. These bills will strengthen families and promote economic growth by cutting income taxes and removing the penalties imposed on saving and investing.

The first bill in my tax relief package is entitled the Taxpayer Relief Act. This bill cuts marginal income tax rates by 10 percent across the board. This broad-based tax cut benefits every working American and rewards hard work and success.

The next bill in my package is the Taxpayer Fairness Act. This bill allows taxpayers to deduct the amount of payroll taxes they pay each year from their Federal income taxes. It's simply wrong to tax people on income they never receive. This bill ends this ridiculous policy and will benefit millions of middle income taxpayers, many who pay more in payroll taxes than they pay in income taxes.

The third bill in my package is the Job Creation Act. This bill will stimulate investment in new businesses and good paying jobs by eliminating the capital gains tax.

The fourth bill in my package is the Senior Citizen Tax Relief Act. This bill contains three provisions. It repeals the 1993 tax increase on Social Security benefits. It eliminates the earnings limitation for Social Security benefits, thereby encouraging more seniors to continue working and contributing to our Nation's economy. And it eliminates the taxes on estates and gifts. While death and taxes may be the only two certainties of life, any individual shouldn't have to encounter both at the same time.

The last bill in my package is the Marriage Penalty Relief Act. Under current law, approximately 21 million married couples pay about \$1,400 more a year in taxes than they would if they were single. My bill provides some relief from this stiff penalty by increasing the standard deduction provided to married couples so that it equals twice the amount of the deduction provided to single taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are paying too much in taxes and they want their Members of Congress to do something about it. The five bills I have just discussed provide significant tax relief to the American people. These tax cuts benefit every working American. They strengthen working families. They promote economic growth. And they restore fairness and simplicity to the tax code.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in this fight for lower taxes and yield back the balance of my time.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE ALLOCATION FAIRNESS ACT OF 1999,
H.R. 24

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 24 the Veterans Health Care Allocation Fairness Act of 1999.

In 1996, the Veterans Administration was mandated by Congress to develop and implement a more equitable method for allocating health care resources. In response, the VA

devised the veterans equity resource allocation (VERA) model.

While VERA was a noble effort, it is based on a flawed model. As a research method, VERA is unfairly biased against older veterans in major metropolitan areas. These veterans are those in need of inpatient, comprehensive health care, and they will suffer if VERA is allowed to go forward as planned.

This legislation is designed to correct these inherent flaws within VERA. Specifically, it does this in three ways:

First, the bill would raise the income level in the means test by 20% for any veteran who lives in a standard metropolitan statistical area (SMSA) as defined by the Bureau of the Census. This would make the VA more accessible to veterans who live in high-cost areas, thus increasing the number of veterans who use VA in those regions.

Second, the bill would move veterans with catastrophic health care expenses from category "C" (those who must meet the means test for non-service connected care) to category "A" (those eligible for free non-service connected care). These veterans are defined as those individuals whose medical expenses for the previous year exceeded 7.5% of their adjusted gross income.

Third, the bill would level the playing field between the northeast and southwest by removing the high-cost, "inefficient" specialty care programs from those funds which can be considered in reallocation calculations under VERA. The programs removed would include: Readjustment counseling and treatment, counseling and psychiatric care for the mentally ill, drug and alcohol related programs, programs for the homeless, PTSD programs, spinal cord injury programs, AIDS programs and geriatric and extended care programs.

In a memorandum prepared for me by the Congressional Research Service on this legislation, it estimates that this bill would result in an additional 5-6% of veterans in the northeast becoming eligible for free health care. That translates to approximately 75,000 additional veterans for New York alone. CRS also estimates that if 20% of these veterans seek to use VA services, a conservative assumption, it would result in an increased caseload for both VISN #2 and #3 of 15-20%. This would force a recomputation of VERA distributions, and result in more VA health care funds remaining in northern urban areas.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation which will help ensure that all veterans receive equal opportunity to the health care which they have earned, regardless of where they have chosen to live.

H.R. 24

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CRITERIA FOR REQUIRED COPAYMENT FOR MEDICAL CARE PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) EXCEPTION BASED ON PRIOR CATASTROPHIC HEALTH CARE EXPENSES.—Subsection (a) of section 1722 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "or" at the end of paragraph (2);

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (3) and inserting ";" or"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(4) the veteran's expenses for medical care (as defined in section 213 of the Internal