

including surgery, obstetrics, and the operating room. At the time of her retirement, Ms. Deamos was employed in the sterile central supply, the part of the hospital that provides sterile processing for surgical instruments and equipment. A standout employee during her 34 years, she was named Lafayette Regional Health Center Employee of the Year in 1967 and given the Smile Award, recognizing her cheery attitude, in 1997.

Maxine Deamos is an outstanding citizen of the Lexington community, and her wonderful personality will be missed by all at Lexington Regional Health Center. During her quieter times, Ms. Deamos plans to travel, work on her crafts, and spend time with her grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, I am sure that our colleagues join me in recognition of this outstanding Missourian.

A TRIBUTE TO LULAC

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 4, 1999

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the most influential Hispanic civil rights organizations in the United States. The League of United Latin American Citizens is celebrating its 70th anniversary of service to the Latino community.

In 1929 LULAC was formed in Corpus Christi, TX. Formed as a grassroots self-help organization, LULAC has a distinguished record of fighting for Hispanic education, employment and civil rights. Today, LULAC's 250,000 members make it the largest Hispanic organization in the U.S. Its 600 councils nationwide have been significant in empowering Latino communities in Texas, New Mexico, California, Florida, Washington, DC and New York.

Education has always been a chief priority for LULAC, providing more than half a million dollars in scholarships for Latino students. LULAC National Educational Service Centers serve over 18,000 students with counseling and dropout prevention programs. At the same time, its commitment to the assurance of equal access has been fundamental in LULAC's fight for affirmative action and women's rights.

In the Hispanic business community, LULAC has been important in furnishing training and management expertise, while also providing support for economic development. LULAC has also made great strides in combating Hispanic unemployment through the development of programs like SER-Jobs for Progress and Vocational Training Centers.

I am proud to represent the city of Santa Ana, which is the home of the first LULAC council in California. Its work in my community is indispensable. In fact, LULAC was responsible for desegregating Orange County Schools in 1946 with *Mendez v. Westminster School District*.

I congratulate LULAC for its 70 years of service to Hispanics in the United States. Its outstanding work should be an inspiration to other Latino leaders and elected officials, especially those here in Congress. I applaud LULAC's on its anniversary, and give thanks for all its good work.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOL MODERNIZATION ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 4, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1660, the Public School Modernization Act. It is time for Congress to take action and make an investment in the future of America, our children. This legislation will provide significant help to local school districts in meeting their needs both to build new classrooms to keep up with skyrocketing school enrollments and to renovate and modernize their existing facilities.

Overall, California alone projects a \$20.1 billion five-year cost for school modernization, including \$11 billion for modernization and technology upgrades of old facilities. These technology upgrades include very basic amenities such as additional electrical outlets, and telephone jacks for internet connection.

Additionally, California will need \$4 billion just to build new facilities to accommodate growing enrollment. California would get just over \$3 billion under the Public School Modernization Act. This bill will provide \$24 billion in interest-free funds for school modernization projects and deserves our support.

According to the Committee for Education Funding, the Republican education agenda is projected to cut over \$3 billion from the Department of Education's budget including a \$1 billion cut from Title I funding, a program aimed at supporting children in poverty. Funding will also be slashed dramatically for Federal Pell Grants and the Head Start Program.

It would be prudent to cut funding for wasteful defense programs, and unnecessary manned space exploration. It is time to make a significant improvement in the education of our children. I urge my colleagues to support HR 1606. Our children's future depends on it.

A DARK CHAPTER IN OUR NATION'S HISTORY

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 4, 1999

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I am here to support Italian Americans who were singled out during World War II as enemy aliens of the United States. Unfortunately, like many Japanese Americans who were persecuted during World War II, over 600,000 Italian Americans were subjected to harsh treatment by the American government, including being evicted from their homes and subjected to strict curfews. Hundreds of Italian Americans were sent to internment camps.

It is unconscionable that these hard working Americans were denied fundamental human rights and freedoms. Like many other ethnic communities in the United States, Italian Americans fought bravely in World War II and played a major role in defeating the Axis powers. However, many Italian Americans who remained in the United States during World War II faced discrimination including the families of soldiers who were injured or killed in Europe and in the Pacific.

I believe that it is incumbent upon the President and the United States government to acknowledge this dark chapter of our nation's history. Italian Americans who were victims of persecution are entitled to no less, and America needs to acknowledge the truth. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2442.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER INTEROPERABILITY AND PORTABILITY ACT OF 1999

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 4, 1999

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Electronic Benefit Transfer Interoperability and Portability Act of 1999. The sole focus of the bill is to allow food stamp beneficiaries the ability to redeem their benefits in any eligible store regardless of location. Beneficiaries had this ability under the old paper food stamp system but lost it as states migrated to an electronic benefits transfer system.

Under the old paper food stamp system, recipients could redeem their food coupons in any authorized food store anywhere in the country. For example, a food stamp recipient living in Bath County, VA could use their food stamps in their favorite grocery store even if it happened to be in West Virginia. Similarly, a recipient living in Tennessee could visit their Mother in Virginia and purchase food for their children while away from home. Unfortunately, as we move to electronic delivery of benefits, this is currently not the case. My bill provides for the portability of food assistance benefits and allows food stamp recipients the flexibility of shopping at locations that they choose.

Across the country we are finding that people live in one state and shop in another. This cross border shopping is conducted for a variety of reasons. One of them is convenience, another is the cost of goods. The supermarket industry is a very competitive industry. Every week stores advertise specials in newspaper ads across the country. People not only shop at locations convenient to them but also shop around for the best prices. Customers paying with every type of tender except EBT have the flexibility to shop where they choose. Why shouldn't recipients of food assistance benefits be allowed to stretch their dollars in the same way that other consumers do, without regard to state borders?

EBT portability is simply allowing recipients of benefits under the food stamp program to redeem those benefits without regard to state borders at the stores they choose. In addition to portability, my legislation allows for the interoperability of EBT transactions. Interoperability can be simply defined as the ability of various computers involved in authorizing, routing and settling an EBT transaction to talk to each other.

I offered a Sense of the Congress Amendment to the Welfare Reform bill that Congress passed in 1996. My amendment urged states to work together to achieve a seamless system of food stamp benefit redemption. States did a decent job considering the circumstances. They are now asking for an extra nudge to realize the goal of my earlier amendment.

My legislation requires states to conform their EBT standards to a national, uniform operating system that the states themselves choose. The clear choice, the Quest operating system, has already been adopted by 33 states.

Pilot studies have been conducted to determine cost and other efficiencies that might be realized by EBT interoperability. The pilot program determined my bill would only cost the Food Stamp Program \$500,000. That's not a lot of money for an \$18 billion program. Also, the State of Missouri found around \$32 million in abuse of the program that they never would have found if their EBT system couldn't talk with neighboring state systems.

Mr. Speaker, the bill I introduce today is simple. It returns the national redemption convenience to the beneficiaries of the program, gives the states the guidance they are looking for, and provides another tool in the fight against fraud, waste and abuse in the Food Stamp Program. Thank you for this time and I urge support from the membership for the Electronic Benefit Transfer Interoperability and Portability Act of 1999.

AMERICAN INVENTORS
PROTECTION ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF
HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, August 3, 1999

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to a bill that jeopardizes America's future prosperity by endangering the protection of our nation's independent inventors. HR 2654 seeks to extensively reform the patent process, which should only occur after deliberative discussion and with the opportunity for amendment. This bill will pass this body without even the courtesy of open debate. Such an important matter demands a thorough dialogue.

Small inventors, like the industrious citizens of Eastern Long Island, provided sparks of inspiration that helped build this nation. The Constitution ensures that inventors have the exclusive right to the product of their efforts. The bill upon which HR 2654 is based would severely erode that protection. Without considered debate and extensive review of HR 2654, we have no idea whether it would be similarly harmful.

Technology has driven America's latest economic boom. It is the foundation of the new economy as we move into the 21st Century. Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, and Raymond Damadian, the inventor of the MRI, were once independent inventors whose ideas have changed the face of society and how we view ourselves. Their creations were protected and have contributed to the prosperity America now enjoys. Tomorrow's inventors deserve the same treatment.

Mr. Damadian, a valued constituent of mine, has written extensively on the issue of patent reform given his unique position as an independent inventor who has seen the impact of his ideas on the lives of his fellow citizens. In correspondence with our colleague, Representative Manzullo, he strenuously objected to passing this bill that could cost independent inventors a right protected by the U.S. Con-

stitution. I would like to place that letter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at this point.

In more depth, he explored the problems with HR 2654's companion bill, S. 507, in a highly erudite letter to the Senate Majority Leader, TRENT LOTT. In that correspondence, he highlights the U.S. patent as "one of America's great blessings" and clearly outlines the serious problems with that bill from removing the U.S. Patent Office from the purview of Congressional oversight to eroding cherished Constitutional guarantees.

Mr. Speaker, as Mr. Damadian has written, Congress should not hastily pass laws that could have far-reaching impacts without and discussion. It is clear that we do not know what the effects of HR 2654 will be. We owe it to our independent inventors, and to our future, to be sure.

FONAR CORPORATION,
Melville, NY, August 3, 1999.

Hon. DONALD MANZULLO,
House of Representatives,
Cannon HOB, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN MANZULLO: It has come to my attention that an effort is under foot to steal the U.S. Patent System in what I consider an outrageous usurpation of power. The House of Representatives intends to pass a bill, H.R. 2654, that will void the constitutionally granted patent rights of independent inventors everywhere.

Remarkably it is doing so without even a written bill informing the affected parties or even their Representatives what the bill contains. Even more remarkably it is doing it under a suspension of the rules, whose predicate is that there is no opposition to the bill, when independent inventors everywhere are BOILING over the prospect of losing their constitutionally granted rights to a patent.

Please be advised that Roberts Rines speaks only for himself and not for the rest of us great masses of independent inventors, whose rights are being taken away without a hearing, without a vote, without a single sentence of the bill to view and in the darkness of the night, a villainy that will live in infamy!

Sincerely yours,

RAYMOND DAMADIAN,
*President and Chairman; Inductee, National
Inventors Hall of Fame.*

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE B-2
BOMBER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, August 4, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to recognize the tenth anniversary of the first flight of the B-2 bomber. The anniversary was recently celebrated at a ceremony at Air Force Plant 42 in Palmdale, CA, on July 17, 1999.

The first public display of the B-2 was in late 1988, at Air Force Plant 42 in Palmdale, CA. This was followed by the first flight of the B-2 on July 17, 1989, at Edwards Air Force Base, CA. Northrop Gumman's Military Aircraft Systems Division unveiled its brand new product—a low-observability, Multi-role bomber that can fly 6,000 nautical miles (9,600 kilometers) without refueling. The plane's revolutionary design, while instantly recognizable to the human eye, makes it all but invisible to radar.

The B-2 is an engineering marvel. The plane's low-observability characteristic derives from a combination of reduced infrared acoustic, electromagnetic, visual, and radar signatures. These facts make it difficult for even the most sophisticated defensive systems to detect and engage the B-2. While most of the technical aspects of the plane remain classified, the B-2 owes some of its stealth capabilities to special coatings, the flying wing design, and the composite materials of which it is made. These innovations are complemented by the highest-precision bombing technology in existence. The B-2 is now outfitted with the Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) guidance kit. This system combines the Global Positioning System and Inertial Navigation System for incredibly accurate bombing.

The B-2 is based at Whiteman Air Force Base, near Knof Noster, MO. The first B-2, the Spirit of Missouri, was delivered to Whiteman on December 17, 1993. During the recent air war, B-2 made 30-hour round-trip missions from this base to Kosovo, where they dropped eleven percent of the precision ordnance while flying less than one percent of the sorties. As General Leroy Barnidge said at the tenth anniversary ceremony, "The airplane exceeded everybody's expectations. It's got a war-fighting capability that is second to none."

Mr. Speaker, I know that all of our colleagues in the House will join me in celebrating the tenth anniversary of the most revolutionary design in bombing aircraft since World War II.

IT'S TIME TO CONSIDER A
PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

HON. DENNIS MOORE
OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, the people of Kansas' Third District sent me to Washington, D.C., to represent their concerns and do all I can to address major, pending federal issues. For this reason, I was very disappointed when it became apparent in the last few days that the House would not be considering proposals to enact a Patients' Bill of Rights.

One of my first actions as a freshman Member of Congress was to join as an original cosponsor of H.R. 358, the Patients' Bill of Rights. This important legislation will ensure basic rights for patients and give them the protections they deserve. While the majority was unable to reach the consensus necessary within their caucus to bring a proposal in this area before the House for consideration this week, I am pleased that Commerce Committee Ranking Democrat JOHN DINGELL has continued active discussions with three members of the majority who are physicians—Doctors GANSKE, COBURN and NORWOOD—in an attempt to reach a bipartisan consensus on a proposal to provide meaningful protections for managed care patients and physicians.

I also want to bring to the attention of my colleagues a recent newspaper column by Steve Rose, the chairman of Sun Publications, which publishes the Johnson County Sun and several other newspapers that serve my congressional district. I commend to everyone Mr. Rose's commentary regarding the real-world problems that indicate a need for enactment this year of a Patients' Bill of Rights.