

of all he encounters. Through his tireless compassion for others he has been able to assist the needs of many throughout his pastoral vocation. The City of Cleveland is quite grateful to him for his devotion to his duties.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring Reverend Monsignor Leo Telesz for his achievements in the City of Cleveland.

THE REPUBLICAN TAX BILL

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 1999

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, the Republican tax bill is the definition of fiscal recklessness. It seeks to enact a tax cut that is based only on projected surpluses under ten and fifteen year estimates. Budget projections for the next ten years have improved by nearly \$2 trillion in the last twelve months—they could go the other way just as quickly. If budget projections turn out to be wrong, the budget will return to deficits financed by borrowing from the Social Security surplus. Even the Congressional Budget Office—the source of budget projections upon which the Republicans' tax cuts are based—says these projections could vary as much as \$100 billion a year. That's an extremely wide margin of error, wide enough to cause deep concerns among fiscal conservatives like me.

Furthermore, even though Republicans are spending money they can't guarantee will exist, their tax plan still leaves no resources to meet important needs in education, agriculture, or defense, as well as funding for our veterans and other priorities. It is based on the assumption that discretionary spending will be cut by \$595 billion below 1999 levels adjusted for inflation over the next ten years. This will require a cut in all discretionary programs of ten percent below current levels. Any increased spending in any area will require even deeper cuts in all other spending. The exploding costs of the tax bill will place an even greater squeeze on discretionary spending in later years.

If these massive tax cuts are passed, education will suffer greatly. The Republican tax bill includes a change to the tax-exempt bond arbitrage rules that largely fails to meet the stated objective of modernizing schools, especially in rural areas. Under H.R. 2488, school districts would have four years to spend school construction bond proceeds rather than the two years currently permitted. According to Republicans, this would enable school districts to invest bond proceeds for a longer period and recognize greater arbitrage profits. The Republicans contend that their plan is universal, covering cities, suburbs, and farms.

The truth is, many suburban and city school districts will receive NO BENEFITS from the Republican proposal. Schools with urgent needs, forced to teach children in trailers and dilapidated buildings, would not benefit from H.R. 2488. Their backlog of unmet needs means that they do not have the luxury of waiting four years before completing school construction. The Republican proposal also largely excludes some of our most needy schools—those in rural areas. The provisions in the Republican tax bill may benefit a few large, wealthy school districts with the financial

capacity to issue large bonds four years in advance of need, but it WILL NOT help rural districts.

The bottom line is simple: this bill will only serve to hurt the American people by jeopardizing the stability of our economy and the prosperity of future generations for the instant gratification of tax cuts that are not only irresponsible, but dangerous. In reality the best tax cut we can give to all Americans is keeping interest rates low by paying down our debt. Reducing our national debt will provide a tax cut for millions of Americans because it will restrain interest rates, thereby saving them money on variable mortgages, new mortgages, auto loans, credit card payments, etc. Each percentage point increase in interest rates would mean an extra \$200–\$250 billion in mortgage costs to Americans. Paying down the national debt will protect future generations from an increasing tax burden to pay interest on the debt run up by current generations. More than 25% of individual income taxes go to paying interest on our national debt. Every dollar of lower debt saves MORE than one dollar in taxes for future generations.

Secure a prosperous future by paying down the debt and saying no to fiscally reckless tax cuts.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES WINLAB'S 10TH AND MARCONI'S 100TH

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 1999

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Guglielmo Marconi's historic radio transmission from the North Tower of the Twin Lights Lighthouse in Highlands, NJ. WINLAB, an industry-sponsored wireless research laboratory at Rutgers University, is sponsoring a "Marconi Day" celebration at the transmission site in Highlands on September 30, 1999.

Marconi, the inventor of the wireless telegraph, was invited to America by James Gordon Bennett, the publisher of the New York Herald, to publicize the 1899 America's Cup Races and to demonstrate the wireless telegraph. The confident Marconi promised New York reporters that, "We will be able to send the details of the yacht racing to New York as accurately and as quickly as if you could telephone them. The distance is nothing." The first wireless messages actually did not report the America's Cup Races but rather followed the progress of Commodore George Dewey's victorious return from the Spanish-American War along the Hudson River.

The transmission between Twin Lights Beacon and the Navy's Great White Fleet on September 30, 1899 marked the first demonstration of practical wireless telegraphy in our history. Marconi became a national hero when the wireless telegraph, known simply as a "Marconi", was required on all sea-going ships and was responsible for saving many lives at sea, including 705 survivors of the Titanic. He received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1909.

The centennial celebration features distinguished speakers, a reception and ceremonial reenactment, and a celebration of WINLAB's 10 year contribution to wireless communication. A ceremony and re-enactment will take

place at the Twin Lights above Sandy Hook. Antique radio equipment will be displayed at Twin Lights, which commands a magnificent view of Sandy Hook and the entrance to New York Harbor. The evening concludes with a river-view dinner in the town of Highlands to celebrate WINLAB's 10th anniversary.

Rutgers WINLAB, the Wireless Information Network Laboratory, is a particularly appropriate sponsor for this event. WINLAB is an educational institution committed to advancing wireless communications through education and research. For ten years, WINLAB, founded by Dr. David Goodman, has been a National Science Foundation Industry/University Cooperative Research Center at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. WINLAB is renowned for its role in technology creation, evaluation, education and information exchange. It serves private industry, government agencies, academic and standards organizations. As they share both significant anniversaries and missions, WINLAB honors Marconi for providing the basis for wireless communications and creating the very object of their research.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing WINLAB's commitment to Guglielmo Marconi's vision and continued contribution to wireless technology throughout the world.

RECOGNIZING THE BOYS HOPE GIRLS HOPE ORGANIZATION

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 1999

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Boys Hope Girls Hope organization, who were among recipients of the Daily Points of Light Awards.

Boys Hope Girls Hope was formed to address the needs of children whose families can no longer provide for them. Volunteers live with the children and staff and help maintain an orderly, safe, and caring home environment. The Daily Points of Light Award honors individuals or organizations that make a positive lasting difference in the lives of others, and Boys Hope Girls Hope is such an organization.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the privilege of visiting Boys Hope Girls Hope often. It is a phenomenal program that offers so much to the children of St. Louis. Mr. Speaker, I hope that you will join me in offering congratulations to Boys Hope Girls Hope for receiving this award, and thank them for their continuing devotion to children in need.

DR. ARTHUR LEVINSON, PRESIDENT OF GENENTECH, DISCUSSES THE HUMAN IMPACT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AT HEARING OF THE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, biotechnology is leading our world into a new century of improved health and happier and productive

lives through revolutionary science. Today at a hearing of the Joint Economic Committee, my distinguished friend Arthur Levinson, the President and CEO of Genentech, testified about the life-saving results and remarkable growth of the biotechnology industry. That hearing was chaired by our colleague from the Senate and the Chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, Senator CONNIE MACK of Florida.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that Genentech has deep roots in my Congressional District. It was in South San Francisco that Genentech originally pioneered the research and therapies that generated the biotechnology industry.

Genentech's President, my friend Dr. Levinson, has been a key force behind the firm's humanitarian mission to save lives. He earned his doctorate from Princeton University and was a post doctoral fellow in the department of microbiology at the University of California at San Francisco. He has served on the editorial boards of the journals Molecular Biology and Medicine, Molecular and Cellular Biology, and Virology. An outstanding active leader of the biochemistry community, there is no one more qualified than Arthur Levinson to discuss the merits and the mission of biotechnology.

Mr. Speaker, Arthur Levinson delivered an excellent statement to the Joint Economic Committee, highlighting the importance of continued federal involvement in the industry in order for biotechnology to continue its progress in saving and improving the quality of our lives.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the full text of Dr. Arthur Levinson's testimony to the Joint Economic Committee to be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to give his testimony thoughtful consideration.

PUTTING A HUMAN FACE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY

Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding the most important topic of biotechnology and its impact on people like you and me. It is truly an honor to testify before you today. Your leadership on issues related to innovation, and medical research and development has been critical to the on-going development of new life-saving drugs and breakthrough technologies.

Without your commitment to such important policy initiatives as funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and permanent extension of the research & experimentation tax credit (commonly known as the research and development tax credit), many remarkable products would not be made available to those in need.

The subject of today's hearing cuts to the core of what the biotech industry is all about. As Carolyn Boyer and Lance Armstrong's testimony demonstrates—the human face of biotechnology is very real. All the cutting-edge science and innovative technology of our industry is valuable only when it ultimately results in the alleviation of human suffering and the overall enhancement of human life.

Our mission at Genentech is to be the leading biotechnology company, using information and human genetic engineering to develop, manufacture and market pharmaceuticals that address significant unmet medical needs. We are committed to working with patients, families, providers and payers to improve patient care.

At Genentech we say that we are "In business for life". Our commitment to this is reflected in our history—a history that marks the genesis of the biotechnology industry.

Genentech's founders, Herb Boyer and Bob Swanson, were the first to conceptualize the process of cloning human proteins for the purpose of manufacturing life-saving therapies. In 1976, Genentech was founded as the pioneering biotechnology firm with research and development, manufacturing and sales capabilities. By the early 1980s, Genentech had developed and licensed the first two products of biotechnology—recombinant insulin and alpha interferon.

As a testament to our commitment to saving lives, Genentech is among the most research intensive companies in the world. In 1996, we invested \$471 million, or 49% of our income, on research and development. We reduced that amount to \$396 million in 1998, or 34% of income, partially because investors are hesitant to support one-half of income going to research. But research is our life-blood. It gives life to the ideas we test to treat serious, unmet medical needs. Our strong portfolio of products is a direct reflection of the ideas our scientists have brought from the lab to the patient. And, as evidenced by our robust pipeline, I firmly believe the best of our science is yet to come.

In an effort to further our commitment to our patients, Genentech devised a "Single Point of Contact" (SPOC) program to assist patients and their physicians in gaining reimbursement for their care. In addition Genentech instituted our own "Uninsured Patient Program" in 1986 when we marketed our first product, Propofol. The program provides free drugs to patients ensuring that a lack of financial resources will not prevent anyone from gaining access to our products.

With this brief background in mind, there are a few issues on which I wish to focus today, particularly: federal support for research and development, permanent extension of the R&D tax credit, and the Medical Innovation Tax Credit (MITC).

Federal Support for Biomedical Research and Innovation is Crucial. The scientific underpinnings of the industry itself—namely, the discovery of recombinant DNA technologies—was developed in the 1970s at Stanford University and the University of San Francisco with the help of federal funding.

As the industry has matured and grown, the ability of the federal government to either constructively nurture or inadvertently harm the industry has increased commensurately. The Joint Economic Committee (JEC)—particularly in hosting the national high technology summit earlier this summer—has played an enormously important role in highlighting some of the critical ways the federal government can advance our country by creating a more supportive environment for high-technology.

Permanent Extension of the R&D Tax Credit. Except for small increases in the past three years, direct federal support for overall research has, for the most part, been declining for over a decade. While a long-term commitment to increasing funds available to the federal government for basic research is important, maximizing private industry R&D through a permanent R&D tax credit is a necessity. Numerous studies have shown that a permanent R&D credit is a cost-effective means of ensuring that high levels of private-sector investment will continue to take place.

A short-term extension of the credit is clearly preferable to allowing the credit to lapse, however the lack of permanence severely compromises the effectiveness of the credit for the biotechnology industry. With biotechnology R&D programs often planned five to ten years in the future, uncertainty regarding the credit can prove detrimental. The industry is required to work under the assumption that the credit may not be in effect for the entire life of the research

project, which in turn means less revenue can be committed to R&D. And, this translates into fewer scientific discoveries—fewer therapies like Herceptin.

Returning to our theme of "Putting a Human Face on Biotechnology", this uncertainty regarding the credit has profound implications for the patients since our industry spends much of its revenue on R&D. This uncertainty may necessitate a small firm furloughing scientists engaged in promising research. For a large firm it may mean making the hard choice to terminate or curtail a significant project. Either way, patients lose. I dare say that without the R&D tax credit, Herceptin simply would not be a reality. Mr. Chairman, you have long been the champion of this cause and I know that others on the Committee have been long time supporters of the credit. It is our desire to work with you to make the credit permanent.

Medical Innovation Tax Credit (MITC). Over the years, the federal government has invested billions of dollars to create a biomedical establishment of medical schools and teaching hospitals deemed the finest in the world. The growth of managed care, coupled with cuts in Medicare payments, threatens the ability of these medical schools and teaching hospitals to carry out their vital social mission of research, training of health professionals, and the provision of indigent care.

The Medical Innovation Tax Credit would establish an incremental 20 percent tax credit for clinical trials performed at medical schools, teaching hospitals that are under common ownership or affiliated with an institution of higher learning, or non-profit research hospitals that are designated as cancer centers by the National Cancer Institute (NCI). This credit would partially offset the roughly 30 to 50 percent greater cost of doing clinical trials at these institutions. It would encourage biomedical firms to do clinical trials here in the United States while providing a revenue source for medical schools, teaching hospitals, and NCI-designated cancer centers. Clinical trials at these crown jewels of our health care system have dropped from 82% of clinical trials in 1985 to an estimate of 27% in 1996.

This narrow credit is designed to complement the R&D tax credit and has been scored by the Joint Committee on Taxation as having negligible cost so long as the R&D credit is in effect. The legislation—H.R. 1039 in the House and S. 1010 in the Senate—has attracted strong bipartisan sponsorship and support. Mr. Chairman, thank you for your vital leadership on this important issue. I know others on the Committee are co-sponsors of this legislation, and we appreciate their support and efforts as well.

The Future of Biotechnology. The first quarter century of biotechnology has been a period of astounding advance. The next quarter century promises revelation and quantum leaps forward. The industry is on the cusp of major breakthroughs, breakthroughs that would have been the stuff of science fiction—not science—a few short years ago.

One example of where Genentech is headed in the future is our use of computers and the new technologies of bioinformatics to search large databases of information to advance our own research and medical science. Genentech's Secreted Protein Discovery Initiative (SPDI) builds on our world-class expertise in cloning and expressing genes from the human genome that encode proteins. SPDI focuses—through the brilliance of computer technology—on identifying the minority of proteins that are most likely to be of therapeutic interest. And because SPDI is

just that—"speedy," it has dramatically enhanced our scientific capabilities and is leading to new candidates for research. For example, SPDI has already helped identify proteins that may be useful as cancer therapies through a process called "apoptosis," which means the genetic programming of the death of cells or, in the case of cancer, tumor cells. This technology would not have been possible 5 years ago. Both the Human Genome Project and the increases in computational capability through smaller, more powerful computers make bioinformatics work. Both the Human Genome Project and the advances in computer capability rely on federal research as the platform for future breakthroughs.

Our pipeline is very exciting and robust. In addition to apoptosis, we are making headway on an advanced form of our original product, tPA, which is effective in the treatment of heart attack and stroke victims. We are also moving forward with research on a product designed to block the cascade of health problems associated with asthma and other allergies, and are in the process of testing Herceptin on other forms of non-breast cancers as well as on earlier stages of breast cancer.

As I hope I have illustrated for you today, the biotech industry holds tremendous promise for the future and lives of so many patients facing serious illnesses. Our resolve to better their lives is unwavering, even in the context of an unpredictable financial and regulatory environment.

However, two things are predictable as we look toward the future of biotechnology. As in the industry's first 25 years, the next 25 years will require federal policies that are supportive of biomedical research and innovation. And finally, the industry as a whole will only succeed if we continue to keep the patient—the human face in biotechnology—first and foremost in all our decisions.

GRANTING THE VIRGIN ISLANDS GREATER FISCAL AUTONOMY

SPEECH OF

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 1999

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the benefit of the Members a copy of the cost estimate prepared by the Congressional Budget Office for H.R. 2841, an act to amend the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands to provide for greater fiscal autonomy consistent with other United States jurisdictions.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
U.S. CONGRESS,

Washington, DC, September 28, 1999.

HON. DON YOUNG,
Chairman, Committee on Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 2841, an act to amend the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands to provide for greater fiscal autonomy consistent with other United States jurisdictions, and for other purposes.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is John R. Righter, who can be reached at 226-2860.

Sincerely,

DAN L. CRIPPEN,
Director.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE SEPTEMBER 28, 1999

H.R. 2841—An act to amend the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands to provide for greater fiscal autonomy consistent with other United States jurisdictions, and for other purposes—as passed by the House on September 27, 1999

H.R. 2841 would provide the government of the Virgin Islands, a territory of the United States, more flexibility in issuing general obligation debt (that is, debt that the Virgin Islands secures by pledging its full faith and credit). Specifically, the legislation would allow the Virgin Islands to issue general obligation debt for any public purpose authorized by its legislature. It also would remove certain types of debt from the territory's limit on aggregate debt and would allow its government to pay bondholders on a monthly or quarterly basis. The Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that enacting H.R. 2841 would decrease governmental receipts by about \$2 million over the 2000-2004 period, with the amount of forgone receipts totaling less than \$500,000 for each year. The estimates loss of receipts would occur as a result of the government of the Virgin Islands increasing its amount of tax-exempt debt. Because the legislation would affect governmental receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply.

In addition, the legislation would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement with the Governor of the Virgin Islands to establish financial controls and performance standards for the territory. Subject to the availability of appropriated funds, CBO estimates that providing the technical assistance would not significantly increase costs at the Department of the Interior.

H.R. 2841 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. The legislation would provide significant benefits to the government of the Virgin Islands.

The CBO staff contact is John R. Righter, who can be reached at 226-2860. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

CONGRATULATING MEGAN SMITH,
DARLENE TURNER AND DAWN
YERGER ON THEIR SELECTION
AS PARTICIPANTS IN THE
VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE
TEEN CONFERENCE IN WASH-
INGTON, DC

HON. PETER J. VISCOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 1999

Mr. VISCOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce today, the selection of three teens from Northwest Indiana to participate in the Voices Against Violence Teen Conference in Washington, D.C.

Megan Smith, a senior at Chesterton high school was selected along with Darlene Turner and Dawn Yerger, both seniors at Emerson School of the Performing Arts in Gary. These three teens will join over 400 youths from across the country as they work with lawmakers to develop youth violence prevention strategies.

The interest that has surrounded this conference is proof enough to me that our teen-

agers believe that preventing youth violence is a top priority, and want to be empowered in creating solutions to this emerging national crisis.

These three students represent the very best in our young people and I eagerly look forward to working with them during their trip to Washington. I have the utmost confidence that these three students will represent Northwest Indiana and the First Congressional District with dignity and leadership.

Megan Smith is a senior at Chesterton High School in Chesterton. Megan ranks first in her class of 439 students. She has excelled in varsity basketball and soccer at Chesterton. Megan is also active in her church, student government, SADD, and Chesterton's academic superbowl team.

Darlene Turner is a senior at the Emerson School of the Performing Arts in Gary where she ranks in the top quarter of her class. Darlene is active in a number of extracurricular activities at school, including the academic superbowl and spellbowl teams, Christians in Action, and the National Honor Society. She is also involved in her community as a church youth leader and a member of the Gary Civic Youth Orchestra.

Dawn Yerger is also a senior at Emerson School of the Performing Arts in Gary. Dawn ranks in the top quarter of her class and is active in extracurricular activities including National Honor Society, Spanish Club, Science Club, and Christians in Action. She is also involved in The Jesus Club, the International Thespian Society, and the Delta Teen Lift Organization.

Congratulations to these three exceptional young ladies and I look forward to their trip to our Nation's Capital.

TRIBUTE TO DR. PIYUSH AGRAWAL ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM PUBLIC EDUCATION

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 1999

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a distinct honor to pay tribute to one of America's unsung heroes, Dr. Piyush Agrawal. The celebration of his retirement from public education, particularly in his role as Superintendent of Piscataway Township Public Schools in Piscataway, New Jersey, this Saturday, October 2, 1999, will certainly leave a great void in our public school system.

During the years that I have known Dr. Agrawal as an administrator par excellence in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools, he truly epitomized the preeminence of a caring public servant who genuinely exuded the virtues of a gentleman and a scholar. I want to express my gratitude for all the efforts and sacrifices he consecrated to the thousands of children and their parents, as well as the administrators, teachers and paraprofessionals working in our Nation's fourth largest school system.

He has been in the field of education since 1955. His career has spanned over four continents from Asia to Europe, to Africa and to North America. His broad range of assignments included a stint as a United Nations expert on education, and has likewise served as