

By adopting this updated standard, the United States joined the rest of the developed world with an arsenic standard that will protect the public's health.

The "Get Arsenic Out of Our Drinking Water Act" will protect the public health by codifying the new arsenic standard. It will also double the existing State Revolving Fund authorization to \$2 billion annually, so that public water systems will have funds to meet the new arsenic standard.

Since President Bush took office, the Administration has released anti-environmental initiatives at an alarming rate. The Administration's decision to revoke the arsenic standard for safe drinking water is one of the most egregious. American citizens deserve to have safe drinking water. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
WILLIAM H. BRADLEY WARE

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of the Honorable William H. Bradley of Ware, Massachusetts. In 1993, Mr. Bradley was appointed by President Clinton to be State Director for the Farmers' Home Administration. After eight years of dedicated service to the Clinton-Gore administration, Mr. Bradley has retired.

Over the past few years, Mr. Bradley has made a difference in the lives of many residents of Southern New England. In focusing on rural development, Mr. Bradley has made sure that the rural population of our region has access to affordable housing, safe drinking water, hi-technology jobs and modern community facilities.

Mr. Bradley's outstanding leadership has brought much good to the rural population of Southern New England. Increased housing funding for our region has helped over 600 citizens achieve the dream of home ownership. More than \$25 million has been provided to our district to help the workforce compete in the high-technology economy of the twenty-first century. Community facilities programs have brought essential public safety equipment, town halls and libraries to communities in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island. And \$21 million in loans and grants have helped make drinking water safe across the region.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring William Bradley for his work and service. His presence in the Department of Agriculture will be sorely missed and I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FINANCIAL
SERVICES ANTIFRAUD NETWORK
ACT OF 2000

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, recently, indicted financier Martin Frankel was

extradited to the United States to face felony charges stemming from financial fraud. Originally a stockbroker, Frankel was permanently barred from the securities industry but migrated to the insurance industry. The Frankel case is illustrative of how bad actors can too easily cross state or industry lines in order to deceive financial regulators.

The Financial Services Antifraud Network Act of 2001 is designed with the Frankel case in mind as it seeks to protect the taxpayers and policyholders who end up paying for these scams and to assist the regulators in preventing them.

There are nearly 200 Federal and State financial regulators in the United States, each with their own separate filing systems and anti-fraud records. Over the past three decades, the agencies have attempted to computerize and coordinate their systems, first internally and then within each industry.

For example, the securities regulators have established the Central Registration Depository run by the National Association of Securities Dealers (NASD) to keep track of most securities brokers. The insurance regulators have been working through the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) to establish several databases on licensing, disciplinary actions, and consumer complaints of agents and companies. The banking regulators have been working through the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network to coordinate suspicious activity reports for all banks.

Unfortunately, efforts to coordinate information across industry lines have proven much more difficult. Financial regulators have been developing individual agreements to allow the transfer of information on an ad hoc basis in specific cases. However, the sheer number of regulators, concerns about the confidentiality of shared information, and the technical difficulties with networking computer systems have prevented regulators from being able to share information on an automated basis.

The need to coordinate regulatory anti-fraud efforts is particularly important in light of the recent integration of the financial services industries, such as the implementation of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act.

On March 6, 2001, the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations and the Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit of the House Committee on Financial Services held a hearing featuring the regulators and the regulated entities. Following compelling testimony from all the witnesses, I remarked that it was a rare sight to see the regulators and the regulated actually agreeing on the concept of sharing information about fraudulent actors across financial sectors.

Taking the suggestions of our witnesses, the Financial Services Antifraud Network Act was drafted. This pro-consumer legislation has five primary purposes. One, it safeguards the public from ongoing fraud. Two, the bill streamlines regulators' anti-fraud coordination efforts. Three, it reduces duplicative information requests by regulators. Four, the legislation assists regulators in detecting patterns of fraud. Five, new technology is utilized to modernize fraud fighting.

The organization of the network is based around the creation of a computerized network linking existing anti-fraud databases of Federal and State financial regulators and law enforcement agencies. An Anti-Fraud Subcommittee (AFS) would be established within the Presi-

dent's Working Group on Financial Markets to administer the network. The regulators would be able to network anti-fraud information on entities and key professionals in the financial services industry; information would not be shared that is unrelated to financial or fraudulent activities, and shared information would only be available to financial regulators. Under the legislation, criminal conviction reviews currently required for licensing would be coordinated for greater efficiency, consumer protection, and cost savings. Most importantly, confidentiality and liability protection would be provided for all networked information to allow the regulators to share information without losing existing legal privileges.

In addition to the primary purposes of the Financial Services Antifraud Network Act, the bill does not create any new federal bureaucracy, there are no new regulations, no new collection of information is authorized, and absolutely no information is shared on consumers.

In closing, I would like to thank House Financial Services Chairman MIKE OXLEY and his hardworking committee staff for their guidance and assistance in crafting common-sense legislation that will ensure greater protection for consumers.

HONORING CHARLENE DINDO AND
JUDY REEVES

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to honor two wonderfully inspirational teachers in my district, Charlene Dindo and Judy Reeves, who have recently been selected as winners of the distinguished National Science Foundation's Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The foundation annually recognizes four teachers per state who have excelled in the fields of Math and Science. Teachers are selected at both the elementary and secondary level and are chosen by the foundation from finalists picked by state education boards. The award recognizes teachers for their exceptional teaching and achieving excellence in the classroom. Each winning teacher is also awarded \$7,500 to use at their discretion in an effort to bolster the science departments even further at their respective schools. Charlene and Judy's hard work and dedication has demonstrated their commitment to ensuring a brighter future for Alabama's children.

Charlene Dindo is an environmental science teacher at the Fairhope K-1 Center, where she runs the science lab. She has been teaching since 1978 where she started her long and successful career at Woodstock Elementary. She is known for her environmental science experiments that use the bay, rivers and estuaries as her classroom. Her unconventional teaching style has successfully captivated her students for quite some years and continues to be an incredibly effective method of motivating them.

This is not the first time Charlene has been recognized for her exceptional teaching abilities, in March 2000, she was named the Outstanding Environmental Educator of the Year in a new awards competition sponsored by the

National Teachers Association. Charlene is a true inspiration to her colleagues and her students. Her tireless efforts over the past twenty years have had an enormous impact on the Alabama educational system.

Judy Reeves is an environmental science teacher at Baldwin County High School in Bay Minette. Judy has also been praised for her work, using outdoor activities to inspire her elementary students. In a courageous effort to help children outside her classroom, she successfully instituted a mentor program for younger students in her community. Judy began teaching almost ten years ago at Fairhope High School, and ever since she has been encouraging and inspiring Alabama's children to excel in both Math and Science.

Over the course of the last few years, Judy has become quite accustomed to receiving awards. Numerous agencies and associations including the Alabama Wildlife Federation and the Alabama Science Teachers Association have recognized her for displaying superior teaching and motivational skills. She stands out among her colleagues as an exceptional teacher and her unflagging efforts to better the level of education for Alabama's children must not go unnoticed.

Mr. Speaker, we seldom meet people who give so tirelessly of their time and efforts as Judy Reeves and Charlene Dindo. Sir, please join me in paying tribute to these two wonderful women whose contributions to their community and the children around them are unmatched. May they continue to educate and enlighten Alabama's youth for a number of years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO PAUL H. SELDENRIGHT ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE U.P. LABOR HALL OF FAME

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. STUPAK Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Paul H. Seldenright, who has devoted 41 years of his life to the labor movement, working to ensure a good quality of life for working men and women.

Born and raised in Detroit, Paul began his union career in 1960 as a member of United Steelworkers of America, Local 2659, in Trenton, Michigan. His strong interest in politics led to his becoming chairman of his local's Political Action Committee from 1962 to 1968. In 1968 Paul became assistant director for Vice President Hubert Humphrey's Democratic presidential campaign in Michigan, Michigan Citizens for Humphrey.

A number of jobs in state government followed, including Administrative Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of State, Assistant Secretary of State, and Assistant Director of the Senate Democratic Staff. In 1970, Paul served as Associate manager for the successful G. Mennen "Soapy" Williams for Michigan Supreme Court Campaign.

In 1973 Paul began working for the Michigan AFL-CIO as coordinator for COPE, the AFL-CIO's political arm. He became COPE director in 1982 and, except for a brief stint as the federation's legislative director from 1984 through 1986, he served in that role until his

retirement at the end of 2000. As COPE director, Paul was responsible for organizing and implementing the State AFL-CIO's year-round political program in conjunction with the federation's affiliated unions.

Another important responsibility was serving as liaison between the state AFL-CIO and the Upper Peninsula central labor councils. When Paul first took over this role, there were only four central labor councils in the U.P. He was instrumental in helping form two new councils, the Eastern U.P. Labor Council and the Dickinson-Iron Labor Council.

Paul also served key roles in other U.P. initiatives and activities. Along with former Michigan State AFL-CIO President William C. Marshall, he served on the original planning committee for the Italian Hall project in Calumet. The project, now complete, is considered one of the Northwest U.P. Labor council's most important achievements. Mr. Speaker, the Italian Hall memorial commemorates the deaths of more than 70 people—striking miners, their wives and children—who were killed when fire struck their gathering on Christmas Eve in 1913.

Paul also was a member of the Northern Michigan University Labor Studies Advisory and Planning Committee since its inception in the late 1970s. Since the early 1980s he has coordinated the annual U.P. Labor Conference, considered the U.P.'s most important labor event other than Labor Day.

Although officially retired, Paul maintains an active interest in the labor movement and politics. He and his wife Lesley live in the Lansing suburb of DeWitt.

Paul will be honored Saturday, April 7, 2001, with induction into the U.P. Labor Hall of Fame at a banquet in Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Michigan. With his years of work on behalf of the labor movement in Michigan, Paul Seldenright has more than earned this recognition.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD BREWER

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable South Carolinian who was named "MVP 2001" by the South Carolina State Council of Senior Citizens. Richard Brewer has earned this prestigious honor through his constant dedication to his community.

Mr. Brewer is the first elected president of ILA Local 1422 Retirees, where he continues to serve. He is also on the Executive Board of the South Carolina State Council of Senior Citizens. Family and church have always come first for Mr. Brewer, but he selflessly devotes his time to his Chartered ILA Club. He is active in the politics of South Carolina, leading rallies at the State Capitol dealing with issues ranging from the Confederate Flag to workers rights.

Richard Brewer led the ILA Retiree volunteers in hosting a "Legislative Breakfast" in Charleston, South Carolina last year. He also took it upon himself to ensure the attendance of key elected officials, causing the event to be a complete success. The funding for the breakfast was also secured by Mr. Brewer, whose ILA Retirees paid for the event.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in paying tribute to Richard Brewer and the ILA Local 1422 Retirees. Mr. Brewer has demonstrated tireless dedication and loyalty to the citizens of my state of South Carolina and for this he should be honored.

THE MEDICARE AND MEDICAID NURSING SERVICES QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACT of 2001

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleague from Wisconsin, Representative PAUL RYAN, in introducing legislation to allow certain non-certified resident assistants to continue to be employed by nursing facilities in North Dakota, Wisconsin, and up to 8 other states under a 3-year demonstration project.

For several years, nursing facilities in these and other states have relied upon single-task employees, specifically assistants who help their residents dine, to supplement professional nurse staffing levels and increase patient care. Unfortunately, the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) has given our states' facilities until August 31, 2001 to discontinue the employment of feeding assistants. With the current national shortage in nursing facility employees, the loss of these valuable workers will further strain our nursing homes. Particularly as our elderly population increases in future years, we must ensure that nursing homes do not lose existing staff. Unless Congress acts, significantly fewer trained professionals will be available to ensure that nursing home residents can comfortably and safely enjoy their meals.

In North Dakota alone, 40 percent, or two out of five, of the state's nursing facilities have had to deny new admissions in the past 12 months due to staffing shortages. The state currently has 600 open positions for Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs). While the North Dakota Long Term Care Association encourages all feeding assistants to become CNAs, many assistants are members of a contingent workforce and are not able to become CNAs due to physical or other limitations.

I understand that certain consumer groups, patient advocates, and labor organizations have concerns regarding the continued employment of feeding assistants in long-term care facilities. I also believe, as do these organizations, that we must act during this Congress to address the nursing shortage in our nation, increase wages for certified and licensed nurse professionals, and improve the work conditions of these individuals. At the same time, I believe that moderate steps can be taken to address the reservations regarding feeding assistants without compromising the ability of nursing facilities to care for our nation's seniors.

Specifically, I support efforts to allow only feeding assistants to continue to be employed by nursing facilities in a few states through a pilot project administered by the Department of Health and Human Services. Under such a program, these assistants augment staffing levels in a facility—they do not supplant professional nurses and are not counted toward any minimum staffing levels. Furthermore,