

makes it more difficult for working families and laid off workers to make ends meet and avoid debt. Please join me in rejecting this anti-consumer conference report. This conference report is bad for consumers and it should be opposed.

SUPPORT OF MOTION TO GO TO
CONFERENCE ON H.R. 3210, TER-
RORISM RISK PROTECTION ACT

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Motion to Go to Conference.

As a Representative from New York City, I have seen and heard first hand the massive need for such a Federal backstop.

While our nation has plunged into a recession over the past 2 years—the economic conditions of New York City are even more precarious.

For example, between August 2001 to May 2002 while unemployment rates have risen 13 percent in the U.S. they have increased by 20 percent in New York City.

While there are a number of factors for this decline, one is the lack of new construction and building.

This dearth of investment and new construction is due to a lack of financing by banks that will not provide lending to a project that cannot get commercial property and casualty insurance.

Furthermore, for those few businesses that can obtain limited insurance coverage often do not have adequate coverage and are paying drastically higher prices for such limited coverage.

This again saps vital and badly needed resources out of New York's and all of America's economy.

Providing a Federal backstop is good for workers and good for the economy.

Additionally, while in conference, I also hope that the Conferees will give serious consideration to an issue I brought up with Chairman Oxley during Committee mark up—that of providing a backstop to personal lines of property and casualty insurance lines as well.

While personal P&C insurance carriers now claim they can handle any claims for unthinkable terrorist attacks that could effect personal property and casualty holders, such as homeowners, we heard this same thing about commercial lines pre-September 11.

No one can predict the future, and we need to be prepared for anything.

Could personal lines provide for a large-scale attack on a neighborhood using nuclear, biological or chemical terrorism?

We don't know, and that is why I brought this issue up at mark-up and am hopeful for some work on this issue in conference.

Additionally, I am hopeful that the Conferees will work to provide a real backstop and strip out an extra legislative riders such as the damaging tort reforms added by the Republicans leadership to the House bill in the dark of night.

These riders threw a red herring into this debate and slowed Congressional action on this issue—not a lack of trying by the Senate, including Senator Schumer of New York, a leading proponent of backstop legislation.

America needs a Federal backstop for both commercial and personal lines of property and casualty lines and we need to keep such a bill clean for extraneous amendments that are divisive and bad for our economy.

I wish the Conferees well and yield back the balance of my time.

OPPOSING THE CHINESE GOVERN-
MENT'S PERSECUTION OF FALUN
GONG PRACTITIONERS

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, for years, Falun Gong practitioners have been persecuted at the hands of the Chinese government. Tens of thousands of these individuals have been tortured in prisons, labor camps, and mental hospitals for practicing their peaceful form of personal belief. I have been appalled by the stories I have heard from Falun Gong members in Michigan of the horrific acts of violence towards Falun Gong practitioners. I believe we must do all we can to stop this persecution.

The United States needs to take a stand against these atrocities, and send the message to the Chinese government that these terrible acts of violence will not be tolerated. We need to urge the Chinese government to release from detention those Falun Gong practitioners who are guilty of nothing less than practicing their faith. We must put an end to these abhorrent human rights abuses.

I am a cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 188, which expresses the sense of Congress that the Government of the People's Republic of China should cease its persecution of Falun Gong practitioners. This measure passed the House overwhelmingly on July 24, 2002. I regret that I was unable to cast a vote on this resolution, as I was detained in my home state of Michigan when the measure came to the House floor. I would have voted "yes" on this resolution, and I am glad that the House acted in unity to condemn persecution of the Falun Gong.

CIVIL SERVICE AMENDMENT FOR
HOMELAND SECURITY LEGISLA-
TION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this amendment. As currently written, H.R. 5005 would needlessly undermine civil service protections for one hundred and seventy thousand federal workers in the new department—both union and non-union.

At a time when we need to attract and retain the best and the brightest to this new department, it makes no sense at all to strip its workers of their most basic civil service protections. What happens to the federal workers who transfer to this department and find that the benefits of civil service are suddenly gone?

For instance, are these dedicated, loyal federal workers simply supposed to accept the fact that they can be fired without even so much as an explanation? Are they supposed to simply accept that their pay has been unceremoniously cut by a third? Is that the message we want to be sending to the rank-and-file preparing to protect the nation at this new department?

We have in place rules and regulations that have worked for decades, rules that were put in place to not only protect workers but also to ward off political patronage and corruption. A Homeland Security Department is not the place to reinstate either.

Mr. Chairman, our civil service protections are good enough for the Defense Department. They are good enough for the CIA, the FBI and virtually everyone else in the Federal government. I fail to see how they are not good enough for the one hundred and seventy thousand workers who will be working in the new Homeland Security Department.

Again, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

H. RES. 443: TO EXPRESS THE SUP-
PORT OF THE HOUSE FOR PRO-
GRAMS AND ACTIVITIES TO PRE-
VENT PERPETRATORS OF FRAUD
FROM VICTIMIZING SENIOR CITI-
ZENS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about an epidemic. It's not one that you'll read about in a medical book, and unfortunately, it's probably not one that a lot of people know enough about, in general. But, we need to respond to this problem, just as we would if it were a public health situation—by launching a vigorous public awareness campaign.

Let me give some examples of what I'm talking about:

Two individuals pleaded guilty to charges of mail fraud in connection with a scheme soliciting elderly individuals to invest in silver and gold coins. The victims, who were promised a high rate of return on their investments, were coerced into paying 200 to 300 percent more than the coins were worth.

A group defrauded 200 elderly investors nationwide of an estimated \$34 million from the offer and sale of fraudulent promissory notes and other fraudulent securities. The majority of the victims were senior citizens who were convinced to liquidate safe retirement accounts and transfer those funds to risky investments.

An independent insurance agent obtained over \$508,000 from twelve senior citizens whom he promised a 10 percent return on their money in an investment opportunity. None of the funds were ever invested.

Elderly victims were falsely told that bond companies were in possession of a \$25,000 bond in the name of the victims, which they could receive after they paid the bond companies a fee ranging from \$100 to \$3,000 for "research" or "paperwork." None of the victims ever received a valuable bond, but elderly victims sent the bond companies approximately \$1.6 million.

I wish these anecdotes were isolated incidents, but unfortunately they are just the tip of the iceberg.

In fiscal year 2001 alone, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service responded to 66,000 mail fraud complaints, arrested 1,691 mail fraud offenders, convicted 1,477 of such offenders, and initiated 642 civil or administrative actions, recovering over \$1.2 billion in court ordered restitution payments. If these figures weren't distressing enough, the number of complaints is on the rise. The Postal Inspection Service has already responded to 68,000 mail fraud complaints this year to date—pointing to a possible 27 percent increase in complaints by the end of this fiscal year.

According to AARP:

"Older Americans are the targets of a new kind of criminal. This criminal holds you up in your own home, but not with a gun. This criminal's weapon of choice is the telephone.

"There may be more than 10,000 fraudulent telemarketing operations calling hundreds of thousands of American consumers every day. Older Americans are a prime target of these crooks . . .

". . . 56 percent of the names on 'mooch lists' (what fraudulent telemarketers call their lists of most likely victims) were aged 50 or older.

"Many of the older people preyed upon by dishonest telemarketing companies are well-educated, with above-average incomes, and they are socially active in their communities."

Therefore, the sales pitches these companies use are appropriately sophisticated. They include: "phony prizes, illegal sweepstakes, sham investments, crooked charities, and 'recovery rooms' where victims are scammed again by the telemarketers with promises that, for a fee, they will help them recover the money they have lost."

The National Consumers League, the oldest nonprofit consumer organization in the United States, reports that: "It's estimated that there are 14,000 illegal telemarketing operations bilking U.S. citizens of at least \$40 billion dollars annually." They believe that "[t]he first step in helping older people who may be targets of fraud is to convince them that the person on the other end of the line could be a crook!"

In order to "to express the support of the House for programs and activities to prevent perpetrators of fraud from victimizing senior citizens," and "to educate and inform the public, senior citizens, their families, and their caregivers about fraud perpetrated through mail, telemarketing, and the Internet," please join Representative JOHN MCHUGH, and me in passing House Resolution 443.

Our colleagues in the Senate have passed a resolution designating the week beginning August 25, 2002 as "National Fraud Against Senior Citizens Week." We will be able to collaborate with them, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and numerous advocacy groups in raising public awareness about this epidemic of fraud and deception against senior citizens and hopefully prevent future incidents of fraud.

2002 WORLD BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the House that the United States will be playing host to the World Basketball Championship for the first time in the event's 50 year history. For 11 days from August 29 to September 8, 2002, 16 teams from all over the world will compete for the title of World Basketball Champions, and appropriately they will be competing for that title in what is known as the basketball capitol of the world, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Long before basketball was a world game, it was an Indiana game, in fact it was THE Indiana game. There is no place in the world that follows basketball with more passion, devotion, support, and adoration than in Indiana. The term for this basketball craze is fondly called "Hoosier Hysteria." A hysteria that allows Indiana to have over 30 high school gymnasiums with seating capacity over 5,000, including one arena that seats 5,600 people, not too surprising until you find out that the town's population is only 5,000.

Indianapolis is also no stranger to major international sporting events. It is preparing for what is expected to be about 150,000 to 175,000 visiting basketball fans.

Indianapolis not only hosts the three largest single day sporting events in the world in it's three races, but it has also hosted 4 NCAA Men's Final Fours, 14 United States Olympic Team Trials, the 2001 World Police and Fire games, and is slated to host many events in the near future.

Indianapolis hopes that its Hoosier Hysteria will shine through and take on a new international light to warmly welcome the many international visitors. It is in this spirit of support and international goodwill that the entire Indiana Delegation is introducing House Concurrent Resolution 443, a resolution supporting the 2002 World Basketball Championships and welcoming the visiting teams from Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, Lebanon, New Zealand, Puerto Rico, Russia, Spain, Turkey, Venezuela, and Yugoslavia.

International sporting events such as the 2002 World Basketball Championship play an important role in continuing to foster positive international relationships between participating teams and fans. This event provides an opportunity for not only residents of Indiana, but for all Americans to unite behind their national team and also welcome the players and fans from all the visiting teams. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I ask that Congress join me in supporting the 2002 World Basketball Championship for Men welcoming the 16 international teams to the United States by supporting this resolution.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 3612, THE MEDICAID COMMUNITY ATTENDANT SERVICES AND SUPPORTS ACT (MICASSA) ON THE 12TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 12th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act and to request support for H.R. 3612, the Medicaid Community-Based Attendant Services and Supports Act, also known as MICASSA. It is fitting that we give special attention to the merits of this important bill as we recognize the twelfth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. On July 26, 1990 President George Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act into law. This landmark civil rights legislation ushered in a new era of promise for a segment of our population whose talents and rights as American citizens have been too long ignored. It established a new social compact that seeks to end the paternalistic patterns of the past that take away our rights if we become disabled. It says that people with disabilities have the right to be active participants integrated into the everyday life of society.

Much like the promise of the 1965 Civil Rights Act, however, the promise cannot become a reality until we roll up our sleeves and do the work necessary to eliminate the barriers, which still hinder its full implementation. While some recent decisions of the Supreme Court have threatened the scope of the ADA, I would like to call our attention to a Supreme Court ruling that reaffirms the fundamental principle that people with disabilities have the right to be active participants integrated into the everyday life of society. In 1999, the Court ruled in the Olmstead case that states violate the Americans with Disabilities Act when they unnecessarily put people with disabilities in institutions. The problem is that our Federal-State Medicaid Program has not been updated and has a built-in bias that results in the unnecessary isolation and segregation of many of our senior citizens and younger adults in institutions.

In the case of Medicaid beneficiaries who need long-term support services, the only option currently guaranteed by Federal law in every State is nursing home care. Too often decisions relating to the provision of long-term services and supports are influenced by what is reimbursable under Federal and State Medicaid policy rather than by what individuals need and deserve. Research has revealed a significant bias in the Medicaid program toward reimbursing services provided in institutions over services provided in home and community settings. Other options have existed for decades but their spread has been fiscally choked off by the fact that 75% of our long term care dollars go to institutional settings, in spite of the fact that studies show that many people do better in home and community settings.

Only 27 States have adopted the benefit option of providing personal care services under the Medicaid program. Although every State has chosen to provide certain services under home- and community-based waivers, these