

park system. To enhance the enjoyment of the park, this legislation will allow visitors greater access to a temperate rainforest.

Unfortunately, the road leading into Ipsut Creek Campground is below the Carbon River in several spots, resulting in frequent road washouts. Consequently, it is difficult, if not impossible, for visitors to drive safely to the campground. With the boundary adjustment, the park will be able to move the campground to a more secure area and provide for safe travel.

To accomplish the boundary adjustment, land will be purchased from Plum Creek Timber Company and the U.S. Forest Service will transfer land to the National Park Service. In the end, the boundary adjustment will include approximately 1000 acres of both private and U.S. Forest Service land. This legislation will also allow the Secretary of the Interior to acquire land in the vicinity of Wilkeson, Washington for a visitor's center. This center will provide vital information to people accessing Mt. Rainier National Park in the Carbon and Mowich Corridors.

I look forward to working with the Resources Committee and my colleagues to enact this boundary adjustment.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF BERNADETTE CASEY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an exemplary member of the Long Island community.

The Suffolk County Police Department consistently shows us the best and most heroic that Long Island has to offer. For 20 years, Bernadette Casey has served as a valuable member of that department. During that two-decade tenure, Ms. Casey was assigned to the Homicide Squad as Stenographer, Senior Stenographer and Principal Stenographer. She has made a lasting contribution to the safety of Long Island residents.

On August 31, 2002, Bernadette Casey retired from the police department. She will be sorely missed by her colleagues, who brought her retirement to my attention. I come to this floor so that I may offer my congratulations and best wishes.

Mr. Speaker, Long Island appreciates the service of Bernadette Casey.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO GEORGE L. MYLANDER FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY OF SANDUSKY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2002

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding gentleman from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. George L. Mylander, of Sandusky, Ohio, is being honored for his dedicated service and loyalty to the citizens of Sandusky.

Mr. Speaker, George's efforts are being recognized by the Firelands Regional Medical Center, of which both he and his family played a significant role in developing. Serving the community was not only George's duty but also his honor. These chances to give back to the community have brought him a lifetime of both personal and professional achievement. George truly is a valued asset to the City of Sandusky.

George has served Sandusky well throughout his years, both professionally and philanthropically. He began as a schoolteacher in the Sandusky City School system, and has since put his efforts to work in the financial and health care industries throughout greater Northwest Ohio.

George's numerous charitable interests include the Stein Hospice Service, Wightman-Wieber Foundation, and the United Way of Erie County. The Greater Toledo Area Chapter of the National Society of Fund Raising Executives recently recognized George's philanthropic efforts when they honored him with their Outstanding Philanthropist Award. He is also active in the local American Legion, Kiwanis Club, and serves on the boards of the Erie County Chamber of Commerce, and Bowling Green State University's Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to George Mylander. Our communities are served well by having such honorable and giving citizens, like George, who care about the well being and stability of their communities. We wish him the very best on this special occasion.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE WATER DESALINATION ACT

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2002

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the reauthorization of the Water Desalination Act of 1996, included in H.R. 5460, the Federal Water Project Recreation Act which the House approved today.

I am pleased that language from H.R. 4792, the reauthorization of the Water Desalination Act, which I introduced earlier this year has been included in the Federal Water Project Recreation Act. This legislation will continue an authorization of \$55 million through 2008 for the Desalination and Water Purification Research and Development program (DWPR). The DWPR program has promoted important research to reduce treatment costs of previously unusable water sources such as brackish groundwater and coastal waters. These projects have proved to be valuable investments in helping to meet our nation's future water needs.

Since its inception in 1996, the Desalination and Water Purification Research and Development program has helped fund research in cooperation with 20 universities and institutes of higher learning, 33 local governments, and 59 domestic private sector organizations. In all, nearly 30 states are represented in a broad cooperation of both public and private organizations.

Such cooperation has produced impressive results with the partnership's efforts making significant technological advances in the field

of water desalination and water purification. Clean water is essential for the health of all Americans. As our population continues to grow and conventional water supplies become over used, we will need to look at new resources such as sea water to supplement our supply.

I am pleased that with the reauthorization of the Water Desalination Act of 1996 my colleagues recognize the importance of desalination technology. This is a significant step forward in ensuring a safe and steady water supply for our nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2002

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, on September 24, I missed rollcall votes No. 404, 405 and 406.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes No. 404, 405 and 406.

On September 25, I missed rollcall votes No. 407, 408 and 409; had I been present I would have voted "yea" on these rollcall votes. Additionally, I missed rollcall vote No. 410 on agreeing to the resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 4691. Had I been present I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote No. 410. I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 411 on the motion to recommit with instructions and I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote No. 412. I would have also voted "nay" on rollcall votes No. 413 and 414 and "yea" on rollcall vote No. 415.

On September 26, I missed rollcall vote No. 416; had I been present I would have voted "nay" on this rollcall vote. On rollcall votes No. 417 and 418, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall vote No. 419, I would have voted "nay" on agreeing to the resolution to provide for consideration of H.R. 4600. Additionally, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 420 and "nay" on rollcall vote No. 421. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes No. 422 and 423.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2002

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to business in my district, I was unable to vote during Rollcall Vote 423. Had I been present I would have voted Yes.

HELP EFFICIENT, ACCESSIBLE, LOW COST, TIMELY HEALTH CARE ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the bill H.R. 4600, which

is before us today. We are facing a medical malpractice problem. We are also facing a medical malpractice insurance problem. But rather than addressing those issues, this bill would actually make both problems worse. The Institute of Medicine study, "To Err is Human," reported that between 44,000 and 98,000 Americans die each year from medical errors, making medical malpractice the 8th leading cause of death. More people die from medical errors than from automobile accidents, breast cancer or AIDS. We also know that a handful of physicians and facilities are responsible for the lion's share of medical malpractice cases. Does this bill do anything about improving health care safety? Does it make it easier for patients to avoid dangerous physicians or facilities? Does it require that those with bad medical records—like bad drivers—get charged higher malpractice premiums while safe providers—like safe drivers—get discounts? No.

We also know that we have a medical malpractice insurance problem. Just as businesses and health care consumers are complaining about double digit premium increases, so, too, are providers. Once again, the evidence suggests a solution. Medical malpractice insurance companies made bad investments—now they are raising premiums to pay for their mistakes. Studies show that there is usually no connection between premiums and payouts—with no or little regulation, insurers are free to charge what they want. Does this bill do anything about medical malpractice insurance practices? Does it even require that the federal government monitor premiums to determine the effect of this bill on premiums and make sure that insurers don't just pocket any savings instead of passing them through lower premiums? Do the authors of this bill have any evidence from the insurance industry that premium rates will come down or moderate if we pass H.R. 4600? No.

Instead of addressing medical malpractice or medical malpractice insurers, this bill is a plain and simple assault on the rights of consumers—health care patients and their families who have already been injured once would be injured again and again because of this bill. There is not a single provision in this bill that strengthens the rights of consumers or improves their access to quality care. But there is not a single provision in this bill that doesn't erode consumers' legal rights to win compensation for their injuries and to send the signal that dangerous medicine does not pay. This bill doesn't just affect physicians. It provides a broad liability shield for drug companies, nursing homes, medical device manufacturers and suppliers. This bill may well increase health insurance premiums to small businesses and individuals because it says that, if you are fortunate enough to have health insurance, your policy may have to pay your costs even if you prove malpractice in a court of law. And most disturbing of all, this bill puts a \$250,000 price tag on the life of a child. The authors of this bill say that we shouldn't worry about caps on non-economic damages. After all, they say, there are no caps on economic damages. But there are no economic damages to compensate for the loss of an infant or a grandmother, for the loss of sight or mobility. This bill tells all those families who suffer those losses—through proven malpractice—that their losses are worth a paltry \$250,000. I urge this body to reject this anti-

consumer bill. I also urge my colleagues to read the attached letter, sent to me by USAction, regarding this important issue.

US ACTION,

Washington, DC, September 24, 2002.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of our twenty-four statewide organizations, I want to express our strong opposition to H.R. 4600, the so-called HEALTH Act, and ask that you vote no when it is considered on the House floor this week.

H.R. 4600 is a direct assault on the rights of consumers. Instead of addressing the root of the premium problem—the insurance industry—it attacks medical malpractice victims themselves. Nursing home residents, prescription drug and medical device users, and other patients would all lose rights that they have had since the beginning of our nation. Yet, there are absolutely no indications from the medical malpractice industry that this harsh, anti-consumer legislation would result in any reduction in premium rates or greater accessibility of malpractice insurance.

At the same time that more and more FDA-approved drugs are being pulled off the market because of safety concerns, this bill would immunize drug or medical device manufacturers if their product had been approved by the FDA or is "generally recognized as safe and effective." While more and more families are concerned about nursing home quality, this bill would limit the liability of nursing homes that knowingly put their residents at risk. Under H.R. 4600, Congress would place a \$250,000 limit on the loss of a child or sight or the ability to walk. These are just a few of the most outrageous provisions of this bill, which would put more consumers at risk and shield dangerous manufacturers and practitioners from full liability for their actions. And it does so without any guarantee that malpractice rates would fall or even any provision that the federal government would monitor those rates to determine their appropriateness.

Again, I urge you to protect health care consumers by voting against this irresponsible and dangerous bill.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM McNARY,
President.

FIRST LADY OF TAIWAN CHEN WU-SUE-JEN

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2002

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, last week we witnessed an historic event in the long-standing relationship between the United States and our ally Taiwan. On Wednesday, September 25, 2002, the First Lady of Taiwan Chen Wu-Sue-jen addressed a bipartisan gathering of Members of Congress to express her heartfelt support for U.S.-Taiwan relations and a common commitment to freedom, democracy and human rights. I have included a copy of the First Lady's speech to be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

As a strong proponent our nations' unbreakable bond with Taiwan, I want to thank Madame Chen Wu for her statement in support of the American people and our war against international terror. All Americans greatly appreciate President and Mrs. Chen's heartfelt message of unity and solidarity with our nation

in our greatest time of need. Additionally, I want to express my admiration for Mrs. Chen Wu, whose undeniable courage in the face of adversity has helped create a future filled with prosperity and hope for her people.

As Co-chairman of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, I am hopeful that we can build on Madame Chen Wu's visit, which will only serve to enhance and strengthen U.S.-Taiwan relations and cooperation.

FRIENDS INDEED

(By Madam Chen Wu, Sue-jen)

Honorable Members of Congress, the best friends of Taiwan: It is a most honorable and warm moment for me to be able to come to the Capitol Hill, in the capacity as the First Lady of Taiwan, to meet so many good friends in the U.S. Congress. Standing here, I feel a strong sense of affinity and goodwill.

Although my husband cannot come with me on this trip, you should know that after 27 years of marriage, what I say here today should not be objectionable to him!

What I mean is my husband cherishes my opinions. If he were coming here to give a speech in person, he would certainly consult me beforehand and put my ideas into his remarks.

You might think that I am joking, but don't forget, when I was elected a Legislator in 1986, President was my legislative assistant, and I was his boss!

The first thing I would like to say is that the friendship between Taiwan and U.S. is very strong and everlasting. The fact that I am here to see you in the Congress is a sure sign of this. Indeed, in Taiwan there are countless government officials, university professors, and high-tech professionals who received higher education in the U.S. They brought home not only advanced knowledge and skills, but also the American values of democracy, freedom and human rights. Thus these values stimulated not only our economic advancement, but also our democratization.

In 1979 this great democratic institution passed the Taiwan Relations Act, which explicitly affirms that the U.S. will help Taiwan defend itself and expresses the American concern for Taiwan's commercial development and human rights. The Act even states that "the preservation and enhancement of the human rights of all the people on Taiwan are hereby reaffirmed as objectives of the United States." Thanks to such support, we are able to enjoy such remarkable political and economic achievements today, and it is easy to understand why the Taiwan people deeply appreciate the U.S. standing here in the Congress, which represents all the American people and their democratic system, I would like to say thank you to all of you from the bottom of my heart.

Through our political reforms over the past years, Taiwan has become a democratic country that fully embraces the values of freedom and human rights. As a result of the 2000 presidential election, Taiwan undertook the unprecedented challenge of the first democratic transition of power in its history. Now we are proud to say that Taiwan is a genuine, consolidated democracy. This undeniable fact will enable Taiwan to sail stably into the future on the sea of democracy.

Today you can hear all kinds of opinions in Taiwan, and sometimes the controversies seem quite serious. However, if you ask the Taiwan people whether they would like to go back to the old days when the freedoms of speech and ideas were deprived of, I don't think you will get a single positive answer. Simply put, the concept of democracy and freedom upheld by the Taiwan government