

substantial. More than 51 million school hours are lost each year to dental-related illness in children.

The "Children's Dental Health Improvement Act of 2002", will provide states the flexibility to utilize the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to provide dental coverage to low-income children (below 200% of poverty) including children who may have limited medical coverage that does not include dental services. The legislation will improve the dental health of uninsured and underinsured low-income children by allowing states the flexibility to utilize CHIP to provide funding for dental coverage to low-income children; providing \$40 million to community health centers and public health departments to expand dental health services through the hiring of additional dental-health professionals.

While several factors influence access for low-income groups to dental care, the primary one being limited dentist participation in Medicaid. The primary factor here is in, large part, due to poor reimbursement rates in Medicaid. The legislation seeks to improve dental care access under Medicaid and the Indian Health Service (IHS) by providing \$50 million as financial incentives and planning grants to states to improve their Medicaid program in terms of adequate payment rates, access to care and improved service delivery; again, providing \$40 million to community and IHS health centers and public health departments to expand dental health services through the hiring of additional dental health professionals.

Despite Medicaid and CHIP, dental care is the least utilized core pediatric health service for low-income children. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Oral Health Initiative (OHI) effort to coordinate dental health service within CMS lacks statutory authority necessary to enforce oral health initiatives. The legislation seeks to remedy this by providing statutory authority for the OHI and authorizes \$25 million to improve the oral health of low-income populations.

In addition, the bill contains the following technical provisions:

The bill streamlines the process for the designation of dental health professional shortage areas;

Ensures that entities eligible for funding include both "school-linked" as well as school-based organizations, clarifies that an eligible entity can be public or non-profit health organization or tribal organization;

Creating authority for HHS to establish demonstration projects to increase access to dental services for children in underserved areas.

This legislation has the endorsement and is fully supported by over 40 national health organizations including, National Association of Children's Hospitals, American Academy of Pediatrics, March of Dimes, American Dental Association and Family Voices.

There can be no substitute for providing for our children's health. The "Children's Dental Health Improvement Act of 2002" will go a long way to filling a large gap that exists in our current health programs for children. Clearly, more effort and support is needed. Therefore, I believe that Congress must act now. I ask that all Members of the House and Senate join in to support and vote for passage of the "Children's Dental Health Improvement Act of 2002".

GIRL SCOUT GOLD MEDAL
RECIPIENT: DEBORAH VISCO

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize one of New York's outstanding young students: Deborah Visco. In February, the young women of her troop will honor her by bestowing upon her the Girl Scouts Gold Medal.

Since the beginning of this century, the Girls Scouts of America have provided thousands of youngsters each year the opportunity to make friends, explore new ideas, and develop leadership skills while learning self-reliance and teamwork.

These awards are presented only to those who possess the qualities that make our nation great: commitment to excellence, hard work, and genuine love of community service. The Gold Awards represent the highest awards attainable by junior and high school Girl Scouts.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipient of this award, as her activities are indeed worthy of praise. Their leadership benefits our community and they serve as role models for their peers.

Also, we must not forget the unsung heroes, who continue to devote a large part of their lives to make all this possible. Therefore, I salute the families, scout leaders, and countless others who have given generously of their time and energy in support of scouting.

It is with great pride that I recognize the achievements of Deborah, and bring the attention of Congress to this successful young woman on her day of recognition.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BILL
MCCLUSKEY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I pay tribute today to Pueblo Police Department Sgt. Bill McCluskey, who recently lost his life to cancer. In his 38 years of dedication to the police force, Bill embodied the ideals of integrity, honesty and courage that we, as Americans, have come to expect from the brave men and women who serve as our law enforcement officers. As his family mourns his loss, I believe it is appropriate to remember Bill and pay tribute to him for his contributions to his city, his state and his country.

Bill McCluskey was not an ordinary police officer. In 1999, he was recognized as the Pueblo Police Department's officer of the year, and during his tenure in the department, he received over 100 letters of commendation. In 1989, he was promoted to sergeant, and through his tireless work ethic and impeccable reputation for honesty and integrity, Bill emerged as the department's patriarch and role model.

It was Bill's dedication and love for his job, his family and his community that distinguished him from, and endeared him to all who knew Bill. He is survived by his wife

Sharon, and his two sons Michael and Jonathan. Not only will he be missed by his immediate family, but also by the many brave men and women who served with him in the Pueblo Police Department. He is, without question, one of this country's true heroes. He was a man that served his community with a passion, and helped to make it a much better and safer place. The Pueblo community and I are eternally grateful for his service.

Mr. Speaker, we are all terribly saddened by the loss of Bill McCluskey, but take comfort in the knowledge that our grief is overshadowed only by the legacy of courage, selflessness and love that Bill left with all of us. His life is the very embodiment of all that makes this country great, and I am deeply honored to be able to bring his life to the attention of this body of Congress.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SECURITIES FRAUD PREVENTION ACT OF 2002

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing of the "Securities Fraud Prevention Act of 2002," legislation designed to crack down on securities fraud. I am joined by Minority Leader GEPHARDT along with Representatives WATT, JACKSON-LEE, WATERS, MARKEY and SANDERS.

The last several months have revealed widespread securities fraud at the very highest level of Enron and its advisers. Every day brings a new revelation of the dissemination of misinformation, shredding, obstruction of justice, and insider trading. As more and more companies file bankruptcy, I am concerned that we may well learn of additional instances of fraud across corporate America.

One step we can take to respond to this outbreak is to empower harmed American investors to obtain justice in these cases. Unfortunately, one of the very first items enacted by the Majority in 1995 as part of the "Contract with American" was legislation making it more difficult for ordinary Americans to bring Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) actions involving securities fraud. This legal loophole for securities fraud was enacted over President Clinton's veto as part of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act (PSLRA) of 1995.

The PSLRA ended the use of the private civil RICO statute as a means of seeking treble damages and attorneys fees in securities fraud cases, unless preceded by a criminal conviction. In essence, the Congress wrote a special exemption preventing securities fraud cases from being brought under RICO.

In the wake of the Enron debacle, I believe the time is now ripe to protect American investors once again. The Enron cases has established beyond a shadow of a doubt that white collar fraud can be incredibly damaging, in many cases wiping away life savings and costing innocent Americans billions of dollars of their hard earned money. There can be no conceivable justification for shielding corporate wrongdoers from RICO actions in this context. I am hopeful that Congress can move quickly to enact this worthwhile and timely legislation.

IN HONOR OF REVEREND STANLEY
SPREWER

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, as the family and friends of Reverend Stanley Sprewer gathered together at memorial services on January 10, 2002, they celebrated the life of a pastor who touched the lives of so many. A "faithful shepherd of God's flock", Rev. Sprewer's love for God, his church, and his family will continue to be remembered and cherished, after his passing from this earth on January 6, 2002.

Born in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin to James and Marie Sprewer, Rev. Sprewer was the eighth child of ten in his family. After accepting Christ at a young age, Rev. Sprewer's ambition led him to graduate from North Division High School and enlist in the United States Marine Corps. Following his exceptional service during the Vietnam War, Stanley Sprewer's leadership and thirst for life helped him realize his true calling, and after building a beautiful family of his own, he answered the call to ministry.

Beginning his ministry as an exhorter at Bethel C.M.E. Church Milwaukee, he became licensed as a local preacher and then ordained to elder under the late Bishop Chester K. Kirkendoll. After graduating from St. Martin's Seminary in Milwaukee and earning a Master of Theology degree from Bethany Bible College and Seminary in Dothan, Alabama, Rev. Sprewer began his pastoral journey at Allen Temple C.M.E. Church in Milwaukee, where his ministry flourished as he led an outstanding community-based nutrition program and led a successful church renovation and restoration project. His journey then brought him to Michigan, where he pastored first at the Dozier Memorial C.M.E. Church in Flint and then to Detroit, where he served as pastor of Allen Temple C.M.E. Church, a church in an economically deprived area where he resumed a nutrition and clothing outreach program as well as a nursing home ministry at the Hillcrest Nursing Home. Rev. Sprewer's final stop brought him to Turner Chapel C.M.E. Church in Mount Clemens, where his leadership and dedication brought a community together as the church grew both spiritually and numerically, and where his legacy of love and service will continue to live on.

Rev. Sprewer has always given on hundred percent in every aspect of his life, his work, his community, his family and his friends. Those who had the pleasure of knowing him and the benefit of working with him will surely continue to remember him as a dedicated, faithful pastor and friend to all. He will truly be missed. I invite my colleagues to please join me in paying tribute to Rev. Sprewer, and saluting him for his exemplary years of care and service.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TOMASA
BARGAS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor a woman whose passion for life and whose incredible human spirit is an inspiration to us all. Tomasa Bargas, a Pueblo, Colorado resident of over seventy years, recently passed an impressive milestone, celebrating her one-hundredth birthday with four generations of her friends and family.

Tomasas was born December 29, 1901 in Irapuato, Guanajuato, Mexico. She came to the United States at the age of sixteen, settling in Trinidad, Colorado with her husband Joaquin, and later moving to Pueblo, where she still resides today. Incredibly, Tomasa is the matriarch of a family that includes 11 children, 34 grandchildren, 74 great-grandchildren and 37 great-great-grandchildren. It is an impressive lineage of which she is extremely proud, and which, more importantly, is extremely proud of her.

Battling overwhelming odds, Tomasa managed to reach this impressive milestone while battling Alzheimer's disease, a condition that has conquered neither her mind, nor her spirit. Her memories are still very much alive, and her family and friends are all fortunate to be able to share in a life as rich and varied as hers. The remarkable longevity of Tomasa's life is a testament to both her will to survive and her unparalleled passion for life.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I bring to the attention of this body of Congress, the life and spirit of such an incredible woman. Through overwhelming odds, she has managed not only to endure, but to brighten and invigorate the lives of those around her. She is truly an inspiration to all of us, and I, along with the many people whose lives she has touched, am honored to recognize her tremendous accomplishment in reaching her one-hundredth birthday, and more importantly, her passion for life and indomitable human spirit.

**JOB CREATION AND ECONOMIC
SECURITY ACT**

HON. JOHN R. THUNE

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, while it appears that our economy has begun to pull out of its recent doldrums, people in South Dakota and across our Nation continue to need help.

I have been arguing for months that the best way to address many of the problems facing our nation is to first get our economy back on track. I strongly believe one of the ways to accomplish this goal is to pass an economic security bill.

That's why, Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced the Jobs Creation and Economic Security Act. This legislation is needed to get the economy moving and put people back to work.

Some have argued that our economy doesn't need help or even that putting dollars back into the pockets of American taxpayers

actually sent the economy into recession in the first place. Nothing could be further from the truth.

That's an economics I don't understand and frankly one that every expert I've talked to flatly contradicts. They will tell you that getting the money out of Washington and back in the hands of Americans is the best way to create jobs, instill consumer confidence and get the economy moving.

The provisions of my bill include a tax rebate for those who didn't get a rebate last year, reducing the 27.5 percent rate to 25 percent immediately, providing for accelerated depreciation for businesses, including farmers, providing unemployment and health care benefits and providing needed tax relief for farmers.

Passing this legislation will be a great first step in getting our economy moving. However, I believe we can also do more. Congress needs to pass a farm bill as soon as possible so farmers will know what programs to expect when they begin planting. The House has already passed legislation to improve and maintain the necessary farm programs, while adding a counter-cyclical safety net to help producers when times are tough. It has a strong and balanced conservation title that provides incentives for both idling environmentally sensitive land and for performing conservation practices on working lands.

In addition, it supports value-added agriculture to help producers add value to their raw commodities. Producers will receive more of the value of what they grow, not merely settling for the prices that they are given at market.

Congress should also enact the President's energy bill. Again, the House has already passed a comprehensive national energy policy, because we've become too dependent on foreign oil. The House bill takes a balanced approach toward finding new resources here at home and developing new ideas for the future. It also works to improve conservation today while developing renewable energy sources for tomorrow.

By acting now on each of these measures Congress can put our economy and our nation on the path toward prosperity. Our constituents demand it and deserve nothing less.

**THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
BANK OF GUAM**

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, in Chamorro, we refer to the Bank of Guam as Bangkon Ifil (the Bank of Ifil). Ifil is the hardest wood that can be found on Guam. The Bank of Guam has become synonymous with the strength and durability that the ifil tree represents. More importantly, both the Bank of Guam and the ifil tree represent the soil and soul of Guam.

Responsibility, service and commitment are words that aptly describe the Bank of Guam with regard to our island and the Western Pacific. Chartered for operation on March 13, 1972, the Bank of Guam was a life-long dream of Mr. Jesus S. Leon Guerrero, the institution's founder and Chairman of its Board of Directors.