

Under the leadership of CEO Doug Parker, the hospital expects to continue to grow with the increasing demands of the county. As the hospital continues its innovative and compassionate approach to the care of the patients, it dedicates itself to maintaining a leadership position in the health industry; not only in the quality provided, but also in the manner in which it educates, informs, and contributes to the community.

FAMILY FARM AND RANCH
INNOVATION ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation to help ensure our nation's family farms and ranches continue to produce the agricultural products that have made us the breadbasket for the world.

Small family farms and ranches helped build the foundation of America. Thomas Jefferson once wrote in a letter to George Washington, "Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals, and happiness." Today many small farms and ranches have disappeared. This is in part because the smaller farms and ranches have not been able to change to more profitable means of production. To continue as a viable business in agriculture farmers and ranchers need to be able to use modern techniques that increase profitability, and do it in a manner that is environmentally sound.

As a friend of mine, W.R. Stealey, reminded me when I was first elected to the Colorado Legislature, "If you eat, you are in agriculture."

The Family Farm and Ranch Innovation Act (FFRIA) would provide necessary tools for small agriculture businesses to modernize and become more competitive in today's market, access to credit and a plan to turn the credit into increased revenue.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Commission on Small Farms report titled "A Time to Act" found, "The underlying trend toward small farm decline reflects fundamental technological and market changes. Simply put, conventional agriculture adds less and less value to food and fiber on the farm and more and more in the input and post-harvest sectors. We spend more on capital and inputs to enable fewer people to produce the Nation's food and look primarily to off-farm processing to produce higher value products. Sustainable agriculture strives to change this trend by developing knowledge and strategies by which farmers can capture a large share of the agricultural dollar by using management skills to cut input costs—so a large share of the prices they receive for their products remain in their own pockets—and by producing products of higher value right from the farm." (In context of the report farms include ranches.)

The innovation plans in FFRIA, to be developed with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, would provide the blueprints to increase the value of farm and ranch Outputs.

The report also found, "Agricultural operations require high levels of committed capital

to achieve success. The capital-intensive nature of agricultural production makes access to financial capital, usually, in the form of credit, a critical requirement. Small farms are no different from larger farms in this regard, but testimony and USDA reports received by this Commission indicate a general under-capitalization of small farms, and increased difficulty in accessing sources of credit." If small farms and ranches are going use improved technologies laid out in innovation plans they will need capital. The Small Business Administration's 7(a) loan program has a long history of helping small businesses and would be a great tool for small farmers and ranchers to implement their plans.

America's small farms and ranches need a hand up to remain viable in our rapidly changing marketplace. Often today's small agriculture businesses are family owned and have only a very small profit margin. The combination of low market prices for raw agricultural commodities and the rising cost of land means that many of these businesses cannot afford to carry on. And that causes more urbanization of valuable farm and ranch land.

This legislation recognizing the importance of our small farming and ranching businesses. They provide diversity in the market place, local production of food, less pollution, and jobs, all of which strengthen our economy. And, farms and ranches that are part of our community remind us that food and other agricultural products don't just come from stores, and remind us of our connection to the land.

Mr. Speaker, small farms and ranches have provided the livelihood for many families since the beginning of our country. This bill will help ensure small farms and ranches do not become a thing of the past by providing the technical expertise and capital to allow them to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.

JOBLESS RATE IS AT 18-YEAR
HIGH IN DISTRICT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am concerned. I am concerned that my district lost 12,400 jobs in the past year including 300 from Global Crossing. I am concerned that this jobless rate is an 18-year high. I am concerned that in the last decade, 41 percent of Rochester, New York citizens between the ages of 20 to 34 have left town.

While my area has survived the wave after wave of layoffs over the last 20 years by the giant employers such as Kodak, the bankruptcy filing of Global Crossing in January was a shock. Global Crossing was seen as the wave of the future. Two outstanding labor leaders in the Rochester community summarized the thoughts of many workers in an essay which appeared in the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle on March 19, 2002. I have attached for the record a copy of this guest essay for my colleagues' consideration.

HOLD ALL CORPORATIONS ACCOUNTABLE, OR
OUR ECONOMY WILL NOT IMPROVE

(By James Bertolone and Gary Bonadonna—
Guest Essayists)

Recently, it's been reported that Monroe County has experienced a loss of 12,400 jobs

during the last year. Unemployment also has risen to a 10-year high of 6.4 percent (story, March 6). We have also learned that over the last decade, 30,000 young people have left this area looking for better opportunities.

These statistics may come as a surprise to people in Monroe County, especially those who have been following the predictions of a hopeful economic future from the Chamber of Commerce, the Industrial Management Council and the Center for Governmental Research the past few years.

In a trend that started in the 1980s, Monroe County has endured an astonishing deindustrialization of its work force. Due to one-sided free trade deals, the rate of this deindustrialization has accelerated rapidly. Eastman Kodak Co., Bausch & Lomb Inc., Xerox Corp., Valeo Electric Systems Inc. and others have announced wave after wave of layoffs. Small manufacturing concerns, many of which sprung up to fill the gap as large corporations shed workers, are suffering also.

The job loss at large manufacturing companies was, despite our instincts to the contrary, supposed to be good news. We were told by pro-corporate cheerleaders of the new economy that despite these layoffs, our local economy would still continue to grow jobs. We were merely an economy in transition, and the wonder of free trade and the dawning of a new Internet-based economy were supposed to lead these workers to a more modern workplace.

So what exactly has this new economy brought us?

Based on statistics, apparently a whole lot less than we bargained for. In this new world, we are supposed to get rich through investment in an ever-expanding stock market, not by punching a time clock. The old economy wouldn't be missed, although it served our community and generations before us so well. But the truth is unmistakable—12,400 jobs lost; 30,000 of our best and brightest seeking greener pastures elsewhere and the so-called experts at a loss to explain how this happened.

Working people can no longer stand idle while the corporate elite strip away our future and while regulations that had been designed to protect us from corporate greed are being dismantled by highly paid, pro-corporate lobbyists. According to that wild-eyed radical Alan Greenspan, two-thirds of economic activity in the United States is based on consumer spending. If workers don't have decent paying jobs, they don't have money, and there goes two-thirds of the economy.

It's time to recognize that our economy cannot improve without corporate accountability. Big business must be held accountable to their workers, to communities in which they operate and their investors.

We must regulate and protect the right of workers to organize and bargain collectively because, like it or not, organized labor is the only protection we have against the unfettered power of corporate management.

Organized labor's struggle to change labor standards, health and safety regulations and general social policy has become the greatest anti-poverty program in the history of the industrialized world.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL DAY IN
AFGHANISTAN

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the children, families, and teachers of Afghanistan for celebrating their first back-to-school

day to welcome both girls and boys since the fall of the Taliban regime. I would especially like to honor the female teachers and students of Afghanistan who were not allowed to teach or go to school for the past five years, and the many who continued to do so despite the risk to their own lives.

In our mission to eradicate terrorism, the U.S. has recognized the importance of supporting education in Afghanistan. In addition to \$2 million pledged to UNICEF for their Back-to-School campaign, \$6.5 million of the \$296 million we designated for reconstruction has gone to printing textbooks.

I commend the UNICEF-sponsored Back-to-School campaign for working hard on the ground to get over 1.5 million children into a learning environment by March 21, the first day of school across the country. Their logistical efforts included delivering kits of over 50 separate teaching and learning tools to schools, teachers, and students; providing 40,000 stationery kits, 10,000 School-in-a-Box kits, 7.8 million textbooks, and 18,000 chalkboards to schools across the country; having all Afghan children vaccinated for the measles; combating malnutrition among Afghan children; and communicating the positive message of the campaign to all parents in the country.

I praise the Afghan Interim Government for playing a critical role in this campaign and making education a priority. It has been heart-breaking to hear about so many girls having to take tremendous risks to sneak to school while their country was under Taliban rule and the horrific punishments they endured if caught. I was in awe of the courage of so many female teachers who ran underground schools because of their commitment to educating children. It has been so inspiring to hear stories of Afghan girls so eager to learn that they weathered harsh conditions to return to school as soon as the Taliban left town, well before the official first day of school.

As the children and teachers in Afghanistan embrace this renewed opportunity for education, we must realize that this is just the beginning and view our continued support as critical. I urge this body and this government to continue to enhance our efforts to ensure that each year all children in Afghanistan can celebrate back-to-school day with joy and anticipation, without fear.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO TEMPORARILY SUSPEND THE U.S. IMPORT DUTY ON CERTAIN EPOXY MOLDING COMPOUNDS

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer legislation that would suspend temporarily, through December 31, 2005, the rate of duty applicable to imports into the United States of certain epoxy molding compounds. These materials are used for encapsulating, or coating, integrated circuits that feed into various electronics applications.

While it is possible that there are U.S. companies that make some kinds of epoxy molding compounds in the United States, my understanding is that there are no domestic

sources of the exact compounds intended to be addressed through my legislation. I further understand that the only qualified manufacturers of the required materials are outside the United States.

Because there is no substitute domestically manufactured product currently benefiting from the present 6.1 percent duty rate on these products, no adverse impact on a domestic producer or industry is anticipated should my legislation be enacted. At the same time, I know its enactment would be beneficial to some hard working folks in the 16th District of Illinois. It makes no sense to impose an import duty on a product where there is no domestic manufacturer. I therefore urge my colleagues to support inclusion of this legislation into the Miscellaneous Tariff Correction bill to be moved later this year.

IN RECOGNITION OF HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Yom Ha Shoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. We recall now not only the more than six million Jews who lost their lives, but the human potential that was also extinguished during the dark days of World War II. We remember not just the mothers and fathers, the sons and daughters, the brothers and sisters, but also their descendants who never got to make their contributions to mankind. And we remember the heroes who gave their lives in the greatest fight for freedom and democracy the modern world has ever known.

By pausing today, we join in a solemn bond with the victims of the Holocaust to ensure that the world will never suffer such a horrific tragedy again. It is through our reflection that we acknowledge our loss and through our actions that we build a world free of such hatred and despair. Our greatest tribute to the millions who suffered at the hands of the Nazis will be to ensure that their memory will never be extinguished. By recognizing Holocaust Remembrance Day, we do just that by educating today's and future generations.

Yet the fires of hate, which burned so brightly in Europe from 1939 through 1945, never really burned out. They were smoldering in the hearts of the terrorists who flew their planes into the Twin Towers, the Pentagon and into the ground of rural Pennsylvania on September 11th. And those same fires are ablaze even today, in actions of the suicide bombers on the West Bank and in Gaza. We pray, Mr. Speaker, for a soothing rain to extinguish forever the fires of hatred.

With these examples fresh in our minds, we marvel at the strength and character of the Jewish people. Their steadfast determination to rebuild their lives following the Holocaust has given the world a remarkable model of resolve. Through their example, we can glimpse the extraordinary human spirit that rises above the fruitlessness of anger and resentment. With this day and with our deeds we honor that spirit. Mr. Speaker, we observe Yom Ha Shoah to always remember and never forget. I am proud to recognize Yom Ha Shoah and I urge my colleagues, and all Americans, to do the same.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY OF NEW JERSEY SCHOOL OF NURSING ON 10 YEARS OF SUCCESS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 10th anniversary of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey—School of Nursing. This anniversary will be celebrated with a gala to be held this Friday, April 12 at The Newark Club in Newark, New Jersey.

The University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) is a national leader in health professions education, research, clinical practice, and community service. One of eight schools within the University, the School of Nursing (SN) has become recognized as a driving force in implementing premier academic programs, advancing clinical practice, conducting urban health research, and offering needed community health services in inner cities. A dynamic institution, the School champions continuous program review and refinement as it prepares students to meet the healthcare delivery challenges of this century.

Established as an academic program in 1990, the School of Nursing was reorganized as UMDNJ's seventh school in 1992. The School offers a comprehensive program of research, education and educational mobility. Nursing degree programs at the Associate's (A.S.), Baccalaureate (B.S.N.), Master's (M.S.N.) and Post-Master's Certificate (P.M.C.) levels as well as Ph.D. program in Urban Systems provide an articulated educational ladder for advanced education.

Student enrollment has risen dramatically since the establishment of nursing programs at UMDNJ, increasing from 55 students in 1990 to 600 currently. The School's success in offering a statewide system of fully articulated undergraduate and graduate education programs has been made possible through the establishment of strong partnerships with both institutions of higher education and leading healthcare institutions. In addition to the nursing education programs offered on the University's Newark and Stratford campuses, UMDNJ-SN has established joint educational programs with its partner institutions (Middlesex County College, Ramapo College of New Jersey, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Englewood Hospital and Medical Center, Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center, and Planned Parenthood Federation of America). These partnerships have increased statewide access to nursing education programs and have enabled SN students to enjoy a rich exposure to a diverse, interdisciplinary faculty and a wealth of clinical experiences. Educational excellence at the School of Nursing is evident by the high distinction received by the Middlesex County College/UMDNJ Joint Nursing Program for receiving the highest ranking in the United States for its 100 percent pass rate on the national board examination in 2001.

Leading the School's development has been its founding Dean, Dr. Frances Ward (formerly known as Frances W. Quinless). Dr. Ward's leadership has inspired the School's faculty