

pens, the type of chairs, the make of computer a company must provide. That's not what safe-workplace laws are about. However, enforceable rules that protect employees and make the working environment safer are not too much to ask, and that should be law, not choice.

And that's what the administration pulled back from last week. For 10 years the nation's been improving regulations to help prevent muscular and skeletal disorders brought on or intensified by working conditions. In fact, attention to such matters as ergonomics can actually prevent much more serious injuries and maladies that can cause substantial absenteeism.

So why stop now? Why reverse a positive and still-necessary thing? The government estimates 1.8 million U.S. workers per year suffer ergonomic injuries; yet that's an improvement.

The Labor Department will develop new guidelines for safe and healthy work environments. Companies will be able to use or ignore these and the present regulations at their discretion.

It is, of course, in companies' best interests to make the job a place where the workers can work comfortably. It's expensive when employees have to draw on their health benefits, disability and workers' compensation. In the long run it is more costly to have employees suffering from carpal tunnel syndrome, repetitive strain injury, herniated discs and other work-related illnesses than to create a worker-friendly environment.

But many companies, especially those in highly competitive industries, will choose to watch today's bottom line rather than worry about long-term expense. Those people running publicly traded companies may well feel additional pressure to cut ergonomic costs so as to offer short-term profits to the stockholders.

IN HONOR OF THE GIRL SCOUTS OF THE USA

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 22, 2002

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to recognize and congratulate the Girl Scouts of the USA. Today, they celebrate Girl Scouts National Leaders Day—an important day for Girl Scouts in which they honor their role models and volunteers who so selflessly devote themselves to educating and mentoring the young girls of America.

On March 12, the Girl Scouts celebrated another important day—the 90th anniversary of the Girl Scouts. For ninety years, the Girl Scouts of the USA has been dedicated to building character and developing real-world skills for girls in America. Few other organizations are as committed to the strong values and social conscience held by the Girl Scouts.

In 1912, Juliette Gordon Low formed the first Girl Scout Troop in Savannah, Georgia with just 18 girls. By 1915 the organization was incorporated and holding national conventions. One of the Girl Scouts' best-known campaigns to the public started in 1937 when Girl Scout Cookies were first sold. In 1950, the United States Congress officially chartered the Girl Scouts of the USA.

Today, there are over 3.5 million Girl Scouts in America and 10 million Girl Scouts in 140 countries around the world. Juliette Gordon Low's vision of an organization that would bring girls out of their homes and serve their communities has developed into the single largest organization for girls worldwide.

Through Juliette Gordon Low's strong influence and enthusiasm for the Girl Scout movement, Girl Scouting has given many talented and educated girls and women the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually to their fullest potential. They learn about science, technology, finance, sports, health, the arts, current events, community service, and much more. It is an organization of which we can truly be proud.

I am especially proud of Hemlock Girl Scout Council, the Council contained within my Congressional District. Hemlock Girl Scout Council was formed in 1963 with the merger of ten independent Central Pennsylvania councils. However, Girl Scouts have had active troops in Central Pennsylvania since 1917.

Hemlock Girl Scout Council is a very successful council boasting 14,000 Girl Scouts in 1,200 troops. This number represents one in six girls between the ages of five and seventeen in Central Pennsylvania. The council owns and operates four separate program centers throughout Central Pennsylvania. These centers provide a wide range of educational, athletic, and community activities and programs exclusively for Girl Scouts year-round.

Again, I'd like to offer my sincere congratulations to the Girl Scouts of the USA—and particularly to all the current and former Girl Scouts and leaders in the Hemlock Council—on their 90th anniversary. This remarkable organization has made a lasting contribution to millions of girls and has produced generation after generation of strong and capable women. They deserve our genuine thanks.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, April 23, 2002 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 24

9:30 a.m.

Appropriations

District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine reformation efforts of the District of Columbia Family Court.

SD-116

Foreign Relations

Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps and Narcotics Affairs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine future relations between the United States and Colombia.

SD-419

Appropriations

VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2003 for the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation and Community Development Financial Institutions Fund.

SD-138

10 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings on S.2017, to amend the Indian Financing Act of 1974 to improve the effectiveness of the Indian loan guarantee and insurance program.

SR-485

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S.1284, to prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, and the nominations of Evelyn Dee Potter Rose, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts, James R. Stoner, Jr., of Louisiana, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities, and Kathleen M. Harrington, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

SD-430

Appropriations

Defense Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2003 for the National Guard and Reserve.

SD-192

Appropriations

Foreign Operations Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2003 for the Department of State.

SD-628

1:30 p.m.

Appropriations

Treasury and General Government Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2003 for the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

SD-192

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings on pending intelligence matters.

SH-219

Indian Affairs

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold joint hearings on S.2018, to establish the T'uf Shur Bien Preservation Trust Area within the Cibola National Forest in the State of New Mexico to resolve a land claim involving the Sandia Mountain Wilderness.

SD-366

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Science, Technology, and Space Subcommittee

To hold hearings on S.2037, to mobilize technology and science experts to respond quickly to the threats posed by terrorist attacks and other emergencies, by providing for the establishment of a national emergency technology guard, a technology reliability advisory board, and a center for evaluating antiterrorism and disaster response technology within the National Institute of Standards and Technology; and S.2182, to authorize funding for computer and network security research and development and research fellowship programs.

SR-253

APRIL 25

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Department of Veterans' Affairs preparedness regarding options to nursing homes.

SR-418

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings on proposed legislation concerning online privacy and protection.

SR-253

Environment and Public Works

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-406

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the implementation of the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, focusing on behavioral support in schools.

SD-106

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-226

2 p.m.

Appropriations

Interior Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2003 for the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

SD-192

2:30 p.m.

Finance

Social Security and Family Policy Subcommittee

To resume hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program, created by the Welfare Reform Law of 1996, focusing on helping hard-to-employ families.

SD-215

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings on the nomination of Harold D. Stratton, of New Mexico, to be Commissioner and Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

SR-253

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Public Health Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine women's health issues.

SD-430

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Julia Smith Gibbons, of Tennessee, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, Leonard E. Davis, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, David C. Godbey, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, Andrew S. Hanen, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, Samuel H. Mays, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee, and Thomas M. Rose, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

SD-226

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Housing and Transportation Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine transit accomplishments and challenges in the 21st Century.

SD-538

APRIL 26

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Children and Families Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine families and funeral practices issues.

SD-430

APRIL 30

9:30 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

Investigations Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine how gasoline prices are set and why they have become so volatile.

SD-342

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine small business development in Native American communities.

SR-428A