

in Yorba Linda, California. I have no doubt his family is proud of him. When he's not out on the road, Mr. Showler is an active long board surfer and helps coach his son's Little League games.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Showler's record of safety, and I hope my colleagues will join me in saluting his one million-mile driving safety achievement.

SMALL BUSINESS AND DIS- LOCATED WORKER OPPOR- TUNITY ACT

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, at a time when American workers are facing new challenges, it is important to open new avenues to prosperity and economic success. Entrepreneurship has long been such a path: it holds the promise that anyone can pursue his or her own dream. Workers who have been laid off because of import competition deserve to be able to pursue such opportunities. They also deserve a helping hand as they forge this new path for themselves.

The Trade Adjustment Assistance Program was designed to help workers who are displaced due to foreign competition. It provides assistance so that such workers may seek training to gain new skills, and launch themselves onto a more stable and prosperous career track. However, the program can do more to help people who want to start their own businesses.

This bill will accomplish that goal. It specifies that workers who pursue self-employment assistance activities—such as entrepreneurial training, business counseling, technical assistance and related training approved by an appropriate State agency—can still qualify for Trade Readjustment Allowances (extended benefits equal to unemployment insurance) under the TAA program.

In addition, this bill also ensures that displaced workers have a more realistic chance to succeed in their new business. People who have unexpectedly lost their jobs have rarely had the chance to plan or to save the extra resources needed to start a business. On top of that, they face ongoing living and medical expenses. Unemployment Insurance and TRA can help to meet these costs, but they stop as soon as a new business starts, at a time when most businesses are still struggling and when the income they bring is most insecure.

That is why this bill will allow workers who have undergone entrepreneurial training to continue receiving TRA during the first six months after the start of their new business. This gives displaced workers a crucial source of income support, and helps them overcome the distinct disadvantage their job dislocation has caused. However, to ensure that businesses succeed on their own merits, the bill provides for these extended payments to be phased out over time. Thus, workers would be eligible for full TRA in the first 14 weeks after they start their new business, 75 percent of their benefit in the 6 weeks thereafter, and 50 percent of the benefit in the next six weeks.

This bill not only gives hard-working Americans the freedom to pursue a new profes-

sional path, it also gives them the means to do so. It levels the playing field so that workers who have lost their job because of foreign competition have a fair chance at turning misfortune into opportunity. As the wave of global economic change forces our workers to adapt, we must give them the tools to succeed. This bill is a strong step in the right direction.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2646, FARM SECURITY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of my friend, Representative BACA, and his motion to instruct farm bill conferees to restore food stamp benefits to immigrants.

The Baca motion supports immigrants being allowed to apply for food stamps if they are low-income and have been in the United States for 5 or more years. Children would also be eligible for food stamps regardless of when they entered the United States.

In my congressional district, the restoration of food stamps benefits is very important. Everyday, many of my constituents, who often hold more than one job, wake up and go to work to provide for their families. Studies have shown that 43 percent of legal immigrants are working jobs that pay less than \$7.50 an hour, with little increase in wage rates.

Restoring these benefits would be inexpensive. In fact, the cost for restoring these benefits has already been built into the \$6.4 billion allotment for the nutrition title in the farm bill.

The diet of our nation's children and families, whether they were born in the United States or somewhere else, should be one of the most important considerations in this year's farm bill debate. Restoring food stamps benefits to immigrants would be a step in the right direction.

While the Senate and House farm bill conferees continue to work hard to reconcile the differences in their farm bills, I urge them to consider the Baca motion and make restoring food stamps benefits to our hardworking immigrants a reality.

COMMEMORATING SAM L. ERVIN, HEALTHCARE PIONEER

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long and distinguished career of Sam L. Ervin, a pioneer in the development of innovative and cost effective programs that enhance the quality of life for older and disabled adults.

Mr. Ervin was the founding executive officer of the original Senior Care Action Network (SCAN), a social health maintenance organization in Long Beach, California. SCAN was selected by the then Health Care Financing Administration in 1982 to be one of four dem-

onstration sites for the Social HMO program. The Social HMO expands comprehensive HMO benefits to include community-based long-term care and some nursing home care.

Thanks to Sam Ervin's many years of remarkable leadership and dedication to improving the lives of senior citizens, today, SCAN serves more than 50,000 members in four Southern California counties. Since its inception, SCAN has made a unique and significant contribution to seniors' ability to remain healthy, independent and in control of where they live and how they live.

As a testament to SCAN's success and necessity, I have introduced H.R. 2953, the Coordinated Community Care Act of 2001 to make Social HMOs a permanent part of the Medicare+Choice program. I am proud to do so and to recognize Sam Ervin for his contributions to the improved quality of life for thousands of seniors.

INTRODUCING THE TAX EXEMPTION FOR MILITARY STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENTS ACT

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the "Tax Exemption for Military Student Loan Repayments Act."

Today's military requires more high-tech skilled personnel than ever before and the military continues to have a dire need to recruit for its shortage of medical personnel. To fill these jobs known as military occupational specialists or MOSs, the Army, Navy and Air Force utilize student loan repayment programs to attract skilled recruits who have gained high-tech, medical, or other valuable skills, but may be hesitant to join the military because they have incurred substantial indebtedness to finish their college education.

The military student loan repayment program remains popular among military officials because it targets a growing population of people with skills that the services can use. Unfortunately, these payments made towards student loan debt are considered taxable income although these payments are made directly to the student loan creditor, and the soldier, sailor, or airman never sees these payments reach their wallets. As a result, unless the military person requests additional funds to be withheld from their pay, they will in most cases owe a significant amount in taxes for each year repayments are made.

Having to pay taxes on this important recruitment incentive reduces the effectiveness of the program, which is designed to attract highly skilled military personnel to fill critical military occupational specialties. Further, the taxation of these payments seems to place an overly burdensome tax on the pay of military personnel who must already contend with a 7.6% military to civilian gap in pay. To enhance these recruitment efforts and deliver tax relief to military personnel, the "Tax Exemption for Military Student Loan Repayments Act" will amend Section 134 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude the military's student loan repayment from taxable gross income.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleague to support this legislation, which will enhance the military's effort to recruit highly skilled personnel,

deliver tax relief to our underpaid men and women in uniform, and make the military a more viable option for people who wish to serve their country but are weighted down by their student loan debt.

CONGRATULATING COW CREEK
BAND OF THE UMPQUA TRIBE OF
INDIANS ON THEIR 20TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and to congratulate the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians on the twentieth anniversary of their federal restoration. Saturday, April 27, 2002, will be a day of joyous celebration of their renewal.

In 1954, the Termination Act severed the trust relationship between the Federal Government and the small tribes and bands of western Oregon, including the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe. If you can imagine losing your home and having your identity expunged by an action of Congress, you can begin to understand the consequences of termination for the Cow Creek Umpqua.

The termination of the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe was only one of many catastrophic events in the history of their relationship with the United States Government. By 1954, they had been stripped of their homelands, survived relocation, and suffered the loss of their reservation lands. Yet, despite great tragedy and unimaginable loss, the Cow Creek Umpqua endured.

In 1982, the Cow Creek Umpqua were restored as an Indian tribe and established formal relations with the Federal Government. The Recognition Law was a tribute to the indomitable spirit of countless tribal elders and tribal leaders, like Ellen Furlong Crispen and Sue Crispen Shaffer, who refused to let the Cow Creek Umpqua be extinguished.

Recognition of the Cow Creek Umpqua enriched the lives of tribal members, and local communities gained a strong and active partner in their efforts to help youth and families. The Cow Creek Umpqua Foundation and the Tribal Council have given nearly three million dollars to the Special Olympics, local schools, community organizations, and civic projects.

The history of the Cow Creek Umpqua is an impressive story of remarkable perseverance in the face of overwhelming challenges. I am pleased to offer my warmest congratulations on this historic anniversary and my good wishes for continued.

HONORING THE 22ND ANNUAL
RADIO VISION RECOGNITION DAY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the volunteers of Radio Vision in Orange County, New York for their 22 years of devout service in my Congressional district. Radio vision is a radio reading service for over

600 blind and visually handicapped listeners located in the Mid-Hudson region of southeastern New York. This outstanding organization informs its listeners of local events and news, which is broadcast by Radio Vision's dedicated volunteers.

To the more than 8 million Americans with visual impairments, programs such as Radio Vision are valuable assets.

Radio Vision, an outreach service of the Ramapo Catskill Library System, is a radio reading program for the blind, visually handicapped and print impaired listeners 24 hours a day in the lower Hudson Valley region.

Radio Vision allows listeners daily to stay informed with news of their community and the world-at-large and thus enables them to participate in discussions of local and current events. This service is made possible by the dedication of volunteers that have helped make this service a success since 1979, and it is supported by Outreach Funds from the New York State Legislature.

Many of us take the gift of sight for granted, especially with our ability to watch television or read newspapers in order to learn of the daily worldwide events. We are incapable of knowing what it is like to be blind and have no other means of gathering information without the sense of sight. Radio Vision provides the blind residents of our Mid-Hudson region the opportunity to find out news and current events, since the means of conveying information via television and newspapers to the blind is impossible.

It is our duty in the United States Congress to help the citizens of our nation with disabilities and to support the programs that focus on creating a better life for others.

Moreover, I have cosponsored H.R. 1601, which would have amended the Social Security Act to restore the link between the maximum amount of earnings by blind individuals permitted without demonstrating their ability to engage in substantial gainful activity and the exempt amount permitted in determining excess earnings under the earnings test.

Last year, I supported the Medicare Vision Rehabilitation Coverage Act which would have provided for coverage of vision rehabilitation services under the Medicare Program. These bills will increase older individuals' access to vision rehabilitation services and increase Medicare reimbursement for vision services, respectively.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to bring Radio Vision, their cause, and the honorable deeds of those devoted volunteers at Radio Vision to the attention of Congress and I invite my colleagues to join me in praising their continuing efforts in helping the blind.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES
ON H.R. 2646, FARM SECURITY
ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Mr. BACA's motion to instruct conferees to restore food stamp benefits to legal immigrants. I applaud Mr. BACA's efforts on this issue and am happy to support him in this worthy endeavor.

In addition, I would also like to applaud President Bush's effort to restore food stamps for legal immigrants, which is of critical importance to so many families all across this country. Unfortunately, conferees from the President's own party voted to block the Administration's proposal to restore food stamps to legal immigrants on April 10th.

Instead, they voted for a far more stringent proposal that would make it virtually impossible for immigrant families to qualify for food stamp benefits. This opposition is preventing more than 350,000 people from benefiting from this program that helps poor families feed their children.

Mr. BACA's proposal contains the same provisions that were in the Administration's proposal, which passed the Senate by the overwhelming vote of 96 to 1. These provisions include allowing legal immigrants access to food stamps after 5 years, allowing individuals with 16 quarters of work to be eligible for food stamps, and restoring food stamp benefits to children and other vulnerable populations regardless of date of entry.

I urge my colleagues to support this motion to instruct conferees and help ensure that all legal immigrants, especially children, are eligible for food stamps. Legal immigrants who work hard, live by the rules, pay taxes, and even serve in our armed forces deserve access to food stamps. Lets do the right thing and pass this motion to instruct conferees.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES
ON H.R. 2646, FARM SECURITY
ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, today, we are voting on H.R. 3839, "Keeping Children and Families Safe Act." Preventing child abuse, providing family support to decrease the numbers of abandoned infants, and establishing transitional housing for domestic violence victims are all critical pieces of keeping people safe. Making sure they have adequate food is another.

Congress has an opportunity to do just that through the Farm Bill. Last week, Rep. BACA introduced a Motion to Instruct the Conferees to restore food stamp benefits to legal immigrants. It would allow children to be eligible for food stamps regardless of when they entered the U.S., and to reduce the work requirement for adults from 40 quarters to 16 quarters. I support this Motion to Instruct and urge my colleagues to do so as well.

Nationwide, 37 percent of all children of immigrants lived in families that had trouble affording food. In 1999, the incidence of food insecurity in immigrant households was almost three times that of White non-Hispanic households. Extensive research has shown that children who do not have adequate diets have poor health, slow development, and difficulty concentrating in school.

This Motion to Instruct does not take an extreme stance. We're talking about legal immigrants. These are people who work hard, pay their taxes, and contribute a great deal to our Nation. The Motion to Instruct also requires