

The need to strengthen science at the EPA is well-documented. The most recent report, issued by the National Research Council, made two major recommendations. First, that the EPA create a new Deputy Administrator for Science and Technology to serve as an advocate for and reviewer of science at the most senior levels of the Agency. Second, that EPA set a fixed term for the Assistant Administrator of the Office of Research and Development. These changes would help elevate the role of science in the decision-making process at the Agency, as well as provide more stability to existing research efforts inside of the Agency. The legislation I am introducing today captures both of these ideas and will help ensure that science informs and infuses the regulatory work of the EPA.

I urge the Administration not to go too far down the road of "structural changes" and to tightly adhere to their goal of accepting only straightforward ones. This legislation is one of the simplest, straightforward, and yet most effective structural changes Congress can make. It will truly improve the decision-making process at EPA. Additionally, this proposal has already passed the House and garnered the support organizations from the scientific and business community. I look forward to working with the Administration on this legislation and urge my colleagues to support it.

THRIFT SAVINGS IMPROVEMENT
ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Thrift Savings Fund Improvement Act. This legislation to expand the investment options available to congressional and other federal employees by creating a precious metals investment fund in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). Adding a precious metals fund to the TSP will enhance the plan's ability to offer congressional employees a wide range of investment options that can provide financial security even during difficult economic conditions.

All of us recognize the importance of maintaining a professional congressional staff and promoting longevity of service in order to enhance stability in the operations of Congress. This is why we have recently enacted legislation authorizing new benefits, such as a student loan forgiveness program, and have taken other measures to improve staff compensation and benefits.

The Thrift Savings Plan is one of the most important benefits offered to congressional employees. A strong TSP can obviously play a key role in attracting and retaining talented individuals to serve in the legislative branch. However, the three stock index funds in the Thrift Savings Plan have not recently performed well, especially when measured against inflation. In 2002, for example, losses from these funds were greater than three, four, and five percent, respectively, in the month of December and, more than 15, 18, and 22 percent, respectively, for the entire year!

In contrast, increases in gold spot prices more than offset the losses experienced by

even the worst performing stock-indexed fund in the Thrift Savings Plan in 2002, with the price of gold increasing by nearly 25 percent in the year and by more than nine percent in December!

Recent gains aside, precious metals have a number of features that make them a sound part of a prudent investment strategy. In particular, inflation does not erode the value of precious metals is not eroded over time. Thus, precious metals can serve as a valuable "inflation hedge." Precious metals also maintain, or even increase, their value during times of stock market instability, such as what the country is currently experiencing. Thus, investments in precious metals can help ensure that an investment portfolio maintains its value during times of economic instability.

Federal employees could greatly benefit from the protection against inflation and economic downturns provided by prudent investments in precious metals. I, therefore, once again urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Thrift Savings Fund Improvement Act.

COMMEMORATING THE RETIRE-
MENT OF ANNE S. KIEHLE, PH.D,
SUPERINTENDENT OF FORT SAM
HOUSTON ISD

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Dr. Anne S. Kiehle, Superintendent of Fort Sam Houston Independent School District (ISD). Dr. Kiehle's many contributions to education over her distinguished 36 year career has been recognized by her fellow educators. She has served as president of the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association (TESPA) as well as an active member of numerous educational organizations including the National Association of Federally Impacted School (NAFIS), Military Impacted Schools Association, and American Association of School Administrators (AASA). Additionally, she participates in the National Center for Educational Research and Technology (NCERT), the Association of Supervisors and Curriculum Development (ASCD), and the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA).

Dr. Kiehle, who assumed top leadership role at Fort Sam Houston ISD in May 1996, has guided the school district to its current "Exemplary" status as designed by the Texas Education Agency which rate student performance, drop-out rates, and attendance.

Dr. Kiehle is also responsible for Fort Sam Houston ISD's involvement in the Military Child Education Coalition, an international organization whose mission is to establish partnerships and provide networking of schools and military installations regarding educational issues related to the military child. She has worked with MCEC officials on local arrangements for a Department of Defense Roundtable Discussion for education of military students.

Technology has been one of Dr. Kiehle's major initiatives beginning with networking of the school district, providing district personnel and students with computer hardware and software for instruction, record keeping, and

increased communication with families both here and overseas. Distance learning capabilities have been added for student and district personnel.

Fort Sam Houston ISD schools have experienced major facility renovations and new construction as part of the Long-Range Facility Plan developed under Dr. Kiehle's leadership. Early in her administration, a new JROTC Building was built on the Cole campus, with the existing building renovated into a multipurpose Professional Development Center.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to commend Dr. Anne S. Kiehle for her hard work and dedication to Fort Sam ISD. It is the perseverance and dedication of women like her that have made Fort Sam Houston ISD a great institution for students to attend.

IN MEMORY OF ANDREA MARTIN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the inspirational life and work of Andrea Martin, who died peacefully at her home on August 6. A loving wife, devoted mother, and treasured friend, Andrea was a woman of incomparable courage. A champion in the fight against breast cancer both locally and nationally, she used her resources and creativity to expose a national health crisis and fight a critical battle. She fought for all of us by advocating for safer and earlier detection, less toxic treatments and research into environmental causes. Andrea's memory will be cherished by her friends and loved ones and by those countless women whose lives she touched through her relentless advocacy.

Born in New York City and raised in Memphis, Tennessee, Andrea graduated from Tulane University and received her master's degree in French while on a fellowship at Tufts University. She moved to San Francisco in 1969, where she taught French at a local high school. Six years later, Andrea earned a law degree from Hastings College at a time when few women had the opportunity to attend law school. Five years after she joined the law firm of Crosby, Heafey, Roach, and May, Andrea left the practice to open Hog Heaven, a Memphis-style barbecue restaurant.

In 1989, Andrea was diagnosed with breast cancer and told that she had little chance of survival. Andrea's determination and strength of character motivated her to overcome this challenge. After a difficult year of treatment, she joined DIANNE FEINSTEIN's gubernatorial campaign in California and became a top fundraiser for Senator FEINSTEIN.

After being diagnosed with breast cancer for a second time in 1991, Andrea chose to take the offensive. She founded the Breast Cancer Fund in the living room of her San Francisco apartment. Through her dedication and hard work, she transformed the Fund into one of the most influential breast cancer research advocacy group in the nation.

For the rest of her life, she would be an important national leader in the fight against breast cancer. Andrea was a relentless advocate who helped convince elected officials, health officials, and scientists to spend more

time and money discovering and eliminating the environmental causes of breast cancer. Her conviction to educate the public on the environmental links to breast cancer inspired the CDC bio-monitoring legislation that I sponsored.

Andrea “climbed against the odds,” literally and figuratively. Leading other survivors in the extraordinary mountain-climbing expeditions of Mt. Aconcagua in the Andes, Alaska’s Mt. McKinley, and Japan’s Mt. Fuji, she helped increase public awareness and raised over a million dollars for breast cancer research. She taught us that “working together with daring, dedication and determination, we can not only climb mountains one step at a time, but we can move them.”

Andrea helped change how we talk and think about breast cancer—from a private challenge to a public health crisis that must be surmounted. She fought her battles like a fierce warrior, but lived her life with serenity and grace.

To Andrea’s husband, Richard Gelernter, her daughter, Mather, her father and step-mother, Irwin and Becky Ravinett, and to all her family and friends, thank you so much for sharing Andrea with us, and with the countless breast cancer survivors who relied on her indomitable spirit. As Andrea’s friend and colleague, Wanna Wright, so movingly wrote, “her vision, like light, illuminated our lives.”

THE CHILD CARE LENDING PILOT
ACT OF 2003

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about an important issue for many working families in this country—access to affordable childcare.

As all parents know, quality childcare is very hard to find, and it is also very expensive. It is especially expensive for families with low and moderate incomes. According to the Children’s Defense Fund, childcare for a four-year-old child averages between \$4,000 and \$6,000 per year in cities and states around the nation.

With so many families comprised of two parents who are working, the need for childcare has increased dramatically over the last few years, and we as a nation need to ensure that the children of these hardworking Americans have a safe, reliable, and moderately priced place to learn and grow.

Mr. Speaker, it is for these reasons that I am pleased to introduce today, with over

twenty-five of my colleagues, the “Child Care Lending Pilot Act of 2003.” This legislation will create a three-year pilot program that allows small, non-profit childcare businesses to access financing through the Small Business Administration’s Certified Development Company (CDC)/504 loan program.

As a Ranking Member of the House Committee on Small Business, I believe the SBA’s 504 loan program is the perfect vehicle to expand the availability of affordable, quality childcare in this country.

Currently, only for-profit childcare businesses are eligible for 504 loans, yet in many states, the majority of childcare is delivered through nonprofit providers. In addition, nonprofits are often the only daycare providers in low-income communities.

Mr. Speaker, The Child Care Lending Pilot Act will provide licensed nonprofit childcare providers access to desperately needed funding to start new centers with loan dollars that may not ordinarily be available without the incentive of a guarantee from the SBA.

The 504 program is an appropriate vehicle for this initiative because it was created to spur economic development and rebuild communities.

Financing through the 504 program will encourage the establishment and viability of childcare businesses because the program requires the borrower to only put down between 10–20 percent of the loan, with fixed interest rates for up to 20 years.

Furthermore, the borrowers and lenders who participate in the 504 program cover the costs through program fees, which means there is no appropriation required to cover these loans.

Mr. Speaker, our children, all of our, children, deserve the same quality of care no matter where they live, and I know that this legislation is a strong step in leveling the playing field for parents in low-income communities who simply wish the best for their children.

I hope that my colleagues would support this effort, and ensure that affordable childcare is available to all families.

TRIBUTE TO THE NASHUA LIONS
CLUB

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Nashua Lions Club in recognition of their 80th anniversary on September 22 of this year.

Eighty-six years ago, insurance executive Melvin Jones and his fellow business associates gathered and formed Lions International. Originally, the Lions International was formed to perform humanitarian service. In 1925, Helen Keller spoke at one of their conventions where she challenged Lions International to become her “Knights of the Blind in the crusade against darkness.” From this time, Lions clubs have been actively involved in service to the blind and visually impaired.

In the fall of 1923, a similar group of Nashua business leaders gathered at the old YMCA and were chartered as the Nashua Lions Club. The men and women of the Nashua Lions have since heeded the call of Helen Keller and have lived by the Lions motto “We Serve.”

This year marks an important milestone for the Nashua Lions Club. For the past 80 years, the Nashua Lions has served the greater Nashua community by raising over \$1 million that has gone to purchase eye examinations, eye glasses, eye surgery, and hearing aids for needy children and adults.

But the true measure of their impact on Nashua is not in the dollars they have raised, but in the many lives they have touched.

During the last year and with the help of the New KidSight camera, the Nashua Lions have tested more children between the ages of 3 months and 4 years than any club in the entire state.

In the early 1950s, the Nashua Lions led by former Mayor Mario Vagge built the Friendship Club—a place for handicapped Nashua residents to go and socialize. The club is still in use today and has been a home away from home for many, including the famous author Richard Chaput of Nashua.

Whether working with school nurses, local hospitals, Lions Camp Pride, Camp Carefree, or the Lions Haunted House, the Nashua Lions have responded to Helen Keller’s call to service.

In addition to their numerous community and charity efforts, the Nashua Lions have also provided leadership to the entire Lions International Organization. During their 80 year history, Nashua has had three district Governors: Clifford Sloan, Joseph Bielawski, and most recently Edward Lecius.

Mr. Speaker, the Nashua Lions are a true example of America’s volunteer spirit. Their leadership, compassion, and hard work have helped make the Gate City a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family. It is with great pleasure that I rise to express my thanks and congratulations for their 80 years of devoted services to their community and state.