

our great country, the occupational injury rate for children and teens is more than twice as high than it is for adults. In fact, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) estimates that 230,000 teens are injured on the job each year. I am sure my colleagues will agree with me that these statistics are a national disgrace and are totally unacceptable for a civilized, advanced society such as ours. Unless we swiftly enact this legislation, children will continue to be employed in jobs that place their lives in danger.

Mr. Speaker, The YWPA will reduce the problem of children working long hours when school is in session, and it strengthens existing limitations on the number of hours children under 18 years of age can work on school days. The bill would eliminate all youth labor before school, and after-school work would be limited to 15 or 20 hours per week, depending on the age of the child. Additionally our legislation will require better record keeping and reporting of child labor violations. It also prohibits minors from operating or cleaning certain types of unsafe equipment, and prohibits children from working in certain particularly hazardous conditions.

Mr. Speaker, the issues of children working early in the morning or late into the evening is a problem facing our country. Students continuously tell me that working long hours, late into the night negatively affects their school performance, that they are too tired for class, and that the long hours on the job take away from important extra-curricular activities and take away time from their family.

Mr. Speaker, for the past 60 years our nation's agribusinesses have enjoyed special exemptions under the FLSA. Many of these exemptions were based on the historical prominence of the family farm in the American economy. Current labor laws allow children—even those under 10 years of age to be employed in agriculture. Child farm laborers can work unlimited hours before and after school, and they are not even eligible for overtime pay. At the age of 14, or even earlier, children working in agriculture are using knives and machetes, operating dangerous machinery, and are exposed to dangerous toxic pesticides. In no other industry are children so exploited as they are in agriculture. Despite all these dangers, there are no protections for children working on farms and in the fields.

Mr. Speaker, most of today's farms are not owned by families, but by large corporate entities, and deserve to be treated like any other company employing children. Although I am pleased to report the YWPA keeps the existing family farm exemption, I am delighted that it amends the FLSA to treat companies like Archer-Daniels-Midland and Dole just like McDonalds and Wal-Mart, because obtaining parity in the regulations and restrictions of jobs in agriculture and the rest of the economy is long overdue.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make it adamantly clear, as supporters of child labor reform, we do not oppose young people working. We wholeheartedly believe that children need to be taught the value of hard work and to learn the valuable lessons of responsibility and enjoy all the rewards of working. It is not our aim to discourage employers from hiring young people. Rather, our goal is to ensure that the job opportunities available to young people are meaningful, safe and healthy.

What we oppose are the senseless deaths and needless injuries of our teenagers. We

oppose the negative effects on academic achievement that result when children work excessive hours while school is in session. An education, not after-school employment, is the key to a successful future.

Mr. Speaker, the Youth Worker Protection Act modernizes our child labor laws through simple common sense measures. It has been endorsed by numerous organizations, including the AFL-CIO, the NEA, the National Consumer's League, and the Child Labor Coalition. I ask that the letters from the AFL-CIO and the Child Labor Coalition be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

I urge my colleagues to consider these much needed protections for our nation's young people and to join me in support of this legislation.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS,

Washington, DC, September 23, 2003.

Hon. TOM LANTOS,
House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE LANTOS: Since its inception, the AFL-CIO has fought to assure safe working conditions for the nation's workforce, especially for young workers, who are among the most vulnerable to long hours and unsafe conditions. By setting specific objectives to assure that young workers work in appropriate employment, for reasonable hours and in safe conditions, the Young Worker Protection Act represents significant progress toward this goal and we strongly support it.

Recent studies indicate that 80 percent of all youth in America work for pay during their high school years. However, such studies also reveal that as many as 148,000 youth are illegally employed in the United States each week. The Young Worker Protection Act would address these concerns by establishing reasonable hours of work and by setting the minimum age for all youth employment at 14 years. It also includes safeguards for appropriate employment by requiring minors under the age of 18 to obtain a work permit prior to employment. Because every year, approximately 230,000 children under the age of 18 are injured on the job, and nearly 70 children each year die from their job-related injuries, the bill updates the list of hazards for young workers and incorporates recommendations made by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to protect young workers from hazardous equipment, occupations and industries.

The AFL-CIO commends you for taking the lead in promoting improved working conditions for young workers and is pleased to endorse the Young Worker Protection Act.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM SAMUEL,
Director,
Department of Legislation.

CHILD LABOR COALITION,
Washington, DC, August 28, 2003.

Hon. TOM LANTOS
House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE LANTOS: On behalf of the member organizations of the Child Labor Coalition (CLC), I thank you for your efforts to protect employed youth in the United States. The CLC is pleased to endorse your bill, Youth Worker Protection Act, which promotes safe and appropriate youth employment.

The Child Labor Coalition is a national group that works to protect the health, education, and safety of working minors and to

end child labor exploitation in the U.S. and abroad. The CLC is comprised of more than 50 non-governmental organizations, reflecting educators, health groups, religious and women's groups, human rights groups, consumer groups, labor unions, and child labor advocates.

This bill provides several important updates to the Fair Labor Standards Act. Among these are the following:

Equalizes protections for all working minors. No more will there be differing standards between agricultural and non-agricultural youth employment, which often confuses employers, parents, and youth.

Sets reasonable hours of work. This bill promotes education remaining "job one" for youth in this country, which is best for our youth who will be shortly transitioning into the adult workforce and for our nation which must remain competitive in the global market.

Updates hazards list. This bill incorporates recommendations made by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (2002) to better protect youth from hazardous equipment, occupations, and industries.

The CLC is pleased to endorse this bill and is committed to employing our resources to promote the bill's passage at the earliest time.

Sincerely,

DARLENE ADKINS,
Coordinator.

THE OJITO WILDERNESS ACT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to introduce the "Ojito Wilderness Act." This bill designates the Ojito Wilderness Study Area in New Mexico as Wilderness, and takes specific federal public land in New Mexico into trust for the Pueblo of Zia.

This bill establishes the Ojito Wilderness Study Area, an area totaling approximately 12,500 acres, as a permanent wilderness area to be protected pursuant to the 1964 Wilderness Act. The bill also provides for the purchase and transfer of adjacent Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands, contiguous to the established boundaries of the Pueblo of Zia, by the Pueblo. This land, an area totaling approximately 13,000, will then be taken into trust and held for the benefit of the Pueblo by the Secretary of Interior, and would subsequently be managed by the Pueblo in perpetuity as wilderness.

This proposal has been under consideration for many years, and I am pleased to have the opportunity today to take an important step toward making it law. The proposal has the explicit support of the Governor of New Mexico, the counties of Sandoval and Bernalillo, individual members of State government, the Pueblo of Zia and its members, numerous environmental groups, including the New Mexico Wilderness Coalition, the Wilderness Alliance, the Wilderness Society, and the Sierra Club, and business owners, private citizens, and landowners located nearby. Furthermore, the BLM has evaluated this area and found it to have sufficient land area and natural characteristics to qualify for full wilderness status and protection.

The Ojito Wilderness Study Area is characterized by pristine and dramatic landforms and

rock structures, and by several rare plant populations that are indigenous to the area. This area is also recognized for its high density of cultural and archeological sites, including sites that have religious significance to Pueblo Indians. Many paleontological specimens have been found in the area, and large areas of exposed dinosaur bones are currently visible on the surface of the land. As such, the area is a veritable outdoor classroom for people of all ages.

This legislation has special significance to the Pueblo of Zia. The Pueblo's reservation lands currently lie in 2 noncontiguous sections. Zia has made a concerted effort over many years to adjoin its reservation lands by acquiring adjacent parcels of land. This legislation will help make this longstanding goal a reality.

To facilitate the acquisition of this land, the Pueblo has worked in cooperation with other interested parties and the environmental community to reach a mutually satisfactory arrangement for protection of these important wildlands and to assure that the lands will be open to the general public. As part of the agreement, the Pueblo has developed a series of proposed conservation measures for the acquired lands including a requirement to manage the land as open space; a guarantee of continued public access to the lands for scientific, recreational, and educational purposes; a strict limitation on road vehicle use; and a ban on commercial development within the designated area.

It is important to stress that all lands acquired by the Pueblo of Zia will be preserved as undeveloped open space with continued public access. Members of the public will have access to the acquired land for recreational, scientific, and educational uses, and for access to the Wilderness Area over existing roads. The legislation would prohibit new roads, buildings, mineral and oil and gas extraction, and ATV use. Therefore, the combined Zia acquisition and establishment of the Ojito Wilderness will enable approximately twice as much land to be protected than the establishment of the Wilderness Area alone.

The Pueblo of Zia has waited many years to link the portions of its reservation lands that are separated by the Ojito Wilderness Study Area. The proposed land acquisition is the result of collaborative effort of many to assure that these important lands are protected forever. And, in an additional gesture of good faith, the Pueblo has waived its sovereign immunity from suit for matters arising under the provisions of this bill.

Considering the above, I believe it is time to ensure the preservation, protection, and public access to this special area of New Mexico for future generations of Americans to enjoy forever. It is my pleasure to help facilitate this process, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY PRICE

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to an outstanding student from my district. Anthony Price, a recent graduate of Centen-

nial High School, was recently named the National Champion for Computer Applications by the Future Business Leaders of America. I am honored to pay tribute to the many accomplishments of this young Coloradan here today.

Anthony set a goal for himself and he worked hard to achieve that goal. After an impressive fourth place finish in the Future Business Leaders of America competition last year, Anthony decided that this year he was going to win. He studied hard and never gave up on that goal. Anthony's efforts paid off when he won not only the Colorado competition, but the national competition as well.

I know that Anthony will make good use of the lessons he has learned as he goes on to study business management at Johnson and Wales University in Denver. With his drive and determination, Anthony is sure to excel at whatever he puts his mind to.

Mr. Speaker, Anthony Price exemplifies how, with hard work, determination, and perseverance, any goal is attainable. Anthony has a bright future ahead of him, and I am honored to join with my colleagues here today in congratulating him on his accomplishments thus far. Good luck, Anthony.

COMMENDING PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF TAIWAN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the people and government of Taiwan for their democratic achievements, their economic accomplishments, and their significant advances in healthcare, the sciences, business, and many other fields.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT M. LYNCH

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to Robert M. Lynch, the patriarch of one of California's premier publishing dynasties. Mr. Lynch passed away Sunday, September 21, 2003 in Sonoma, California with his family at his side.

Bob Lynch was a treasure to our community and to his family. He was an old time newspaperman in the very best sense, who used the pages of the Sonoma Index Tribune to make his hometown a better place. There was nothing he relished more than crusading for the passage of a school bond measure, building new ball fields, constructing the senior center, the swimming pool at the high school or the boys and girls club. It was a role he played for 57 years.

Bob's grandfather was editor and publisher of the Index Tribune from 1884-1915. His aunt Celeste took the reigns after that and Bob joined his aunt in Sonoma after graduation from high school.

It was during this period that the newspaper business got into his blood but his plans were

interrupted when he answered his country's call at the outset of World War II. Bob joined the Navy and spent 4 years in service away from his new bride, Jean and his beloved newspaper.

Bob and Jean purchased the Index Tribune in 1946. During those early years, Bob did it all. He was the editor, publisher, reporter, photographer and even covered all the sports and society events.

The paper flourished and grew under Bob's stewardship. One of his proudest moments was when his three sons joined the family business. This moment was only surpassed this year when two grandsons came on board.

Though officially semi-retired, he still wrote a weekly column and all of the obituaries because he knew everybody in town.

His newspaper won numerous State and national awards during his 57 years at the helm. He was also recognized by his peers on many occasions, most notably as the California Press Association's Newspaper Person of the Year for 1989, the California Press Association's Philip N. McCombs Achievement Award winner for 2003 and as one of the first three people inducted into the Sonoma County Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, Bob Lynch has had a long and distinguished career in journalism and it is appropriate that we honor him today. He has made his community a better place in which to live and has passed on his passion for the newspaper business to his sons and his grandsons. He leaves his wife of nearly 62 years, his sons, six grandchildren, two step grandchildren and three great grandchildren. He will be missed but his memory will live on forever in the pages of the Index Tribune.

IN HONOR OF PETER TROXELL

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Peter Troxell on his recent retirement as the station manager at KUSP. For 10 years he has run this Santa Cruz-based community radio station, making changes and improvements, and never forgetting the people whom it serves.

When Peter took over as the station manager in 1993, KUSP was in serious debt and he had some hard decisions to make. While he may not have always done what was popular, he managed to bring the station out of debt within a year, and used the new money to make some much-needed improvements. KUSP doubled the number of signal translators, and added another station, KBDH in San Ardo, so that today their signal is reached in 5 counties. Last year the station underwent a major remodeling, making the space professional and comfortable.

Peter's first commitment at KUSP has always been to his employees. He trusts in their abilities and works with them to foster their talents. The many employees and volunteers at KUSP regard Peter as a father figure whom they can depend on and trust. He takes this commitment seriously and understands that the station cannot function without its dedicated employees. This is a welcome change from many businesses that see employees as the first to go when times are tough.