

IN SUPPORT OF THE LABOR RELATIONS FIRST CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS ACT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Labor Relations First Contract Negotiations Act.

The National Labor Relations Act guarantees the right of employees to organize and bargain collectively to improve living standards and working conditions. The right to organize is a basic civil right, and unions are an avenue to equity, fair treatment, and economic stability for working people. Free enterprise includes the freedom to organize as a unit to bargain collectively. Unfortunately, current law hinders this ability. To remedy this serious situation, I have introduced the Labor Relations First Contract Negotiations Act.

My legislation requires mediation and, if necessary, binding arbitration of initial contract negotiation disputes. Under this proposed bill, if an employer and a newly elected representative have not reached a collective bargaining agreement within 60 days of the representative's certification, the employer and the representative will jointly select a mediator to help them reach an agreement. If they cannot agree on a mediator, one will be appointed for them by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. In the event that the parties do not reach an agreement in 30 days, the remaining issues may be transferred to the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service for binding arbitration. Let us make sure that everyone has a fair opportunity to negotiate a collective bargaining agreement. I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this legislation.

THE ANSONIA POP WARNER JUNIOR PEEWEE CHEERLEADERS ON THEIR TRIP TO THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest pride that I rise today to extend my sincere congratulations and very best wishes to the Ansonia Pop Warner Junior PeeWee Cheerleaders as they make their way to Orlando, Florida to compete in the National Championships. The Junior PeeWee Cheerleaders join the Ansonia Coppers Midget Football team who are also in Orlando for their National Championship game. The Ansonia community certainly has cause for celebration with the tremendous accomplishments of these young people.

A squad of eighteen girls between the ages of eight and ten, the Ansonia Junior PeeWee Cheerleaders have worked very hard over the last several months to be able to compete in this year's competitions. Coming together in August, the girls practiced for two hours four nights a week and, after the start of the school year, three nights a week. This fall, the squad was able to perform live, cheering for the Ansonia Coppers every Sunday.

The dedication and commitment these girls have demonstrated is truly inspiring. They have worked so hard to master the required high-level tumbling skills and the necessary symmetry of their movements. The girls haven't missed a beat, even when, during the regional competition, a judge accidentally stopped their music halfway through their routine. In Orlando, the girls will face seventeen other teams. They should certainly be very proud of what they have already been able to accomplish and I have no doubt that they will represent Ansonia and Connecticut well in the Championships.

I am also pleased to recognize Judy Banks, a Pop Warner cheerleading coach for thirteen years, who has worked with the girls since August of this year. Her leadership and energy has been the driving force behind the success of the Ansonia Junior PeeWee Cheerleaders. In addition, I would also extend a note of thanks and appreciation to the parents and volunteers whose support has enabled the girls to practice and travel for their competitions. Without their efforts, the success of the Ansonia Junior PeeWee Cheerleaders would not be possible.

I am thrilled to join the Ansonia community in extending my sincere congratulations and very best wishes to the Ansonia Pop Warner Junior PeeWee Cheerleaders as they head to their National Championship competition. I, as well as the entire community, will be rooting for you! Win or lose, you have made us very proud!

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Notch Baby Act of 2003, which would create a new alternative transition computation formula for Social Security benefits for those seniors born between 1917 and 1926. These seniors, who are generally referred to as "Notch Babies," have been receiving lower monthly Social Security benefits than seniors born the years just prior to or after this ten year period.

There are those who dispute the existence of a Notch problem. However, take into consideration the following example presented in a 1994 report by the Commission on Social Security Notch issue. There are two workers who retired at the same age with the same average career earnings. One was born on December 31, 1916 and the other was born on January 2, 1917. Both retired in 1982 at the age of 65. The retiree born 1917 received \$110 a month less in Social Security benefits than did the retiree born just two weeks before in 1916. Also take into consideration that there are currently millions of seniors in our Nation who are faced with this painfully obvious inequity in the Social Security benefit computation formula.

By phasing in an improved benefit formula over five years, the Notch Baby Act of 2003 will restore fairness and equality in the Social Security benefit computation formula for the Notch Babies. For once and for all this legislation would put to rest the Notch issue, and it would put an end to the constant barrage of

mailings and fundraising attempts, which target our Nation's seniors in the name of Notch reform. Our seniors deserve fairness and equality in the Social Security system. They deserve an end to the repeated Congressional stalling on this issue. I urge my colleagues in the House to discuss this issue with the seniors in their districts, and to join me in ensuring that the Notch issue is addressed in the 108th Congress.

HONORING SAN LORENZO UNIFIED SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER BETTY MOOSE'S TENURE ON THE SCHOOL BOARD

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Betty Moose for twenty-one years of exemplary service to the San Lorenzo Unified School District as a member of the Board of Education.

First elected to the Board in 1981, Betty was elected by her fellow Board members to serve as president of the Board from December 2000 to December 2001. Previously, she was vice-president and clerk of the Board.

As a Board Member, Betty has been strongly committed to helping children in all aspects of their development and education. She has proudly represented the San Lorenzo Unified School District on numerous local and state committees and commissions. She is especially pleased with her accomplishments as a 17-year member of the Hayward Area Shoreline Planning Agency and as a member of the San Leandro Collaborative for Children, Youth, and their Families.

Betty has also worked on the San Lorenzo Unified School District Drug Advisory Council, the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Sheriff, the San Lorenzo Area Youth Advisory Commission, and the California School Boards Association Legislative Network.

An active and dynamic community activist, Betty has served on the boards of many organizations. She has been president of the San Lorenzo Area Friends of the Library, the Gray Panthers of Southern Alameda County, and the San Lorenzo Heritage Society. She is a member and first co-chair of the National Women's Political Caucus of Southern Alameda County.

Betty has also served as Vice-President of the Fairmont Hospital Campus Service League and the Church Women United of the Eden Area and Chair of the Alameda County Consumer Affairs Commission and the San Lorenzo Youth Resource Group. Betty's other memberships include the Eden Area League of Women Voters and the California Women's Association for Education reform.

Betty has been married to Claude C. Moose for 56 years, and the couple has lived in San Lorenzo for 50 years. Their five children attended San Lorenzo schools, and graduated from Arroyo High School.

I am honored to commend Betty Moose for her years of service to the San Lorenzo Board of Education. Although San Lorenzo will no longer have the benefit of Betty's wisdom and experience as a School Board member, I know she will continue to be involved in the

community. We look forward to her continued contributions. I value her longtime friendship and appreciate all she does for others.

“SAY ‘NO’ TO UNESCO” ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States should not rejoin the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Mr. Speaker, in 1984 President Ronald Reagan withdrew the United States from membership in that UNESCO, citing egregious financial mis-management, blatant anti-Americanism, and UNESCO's general anti-freedom policies. President Reagan was correct in identifying UNESCO as an organization that does not act in America's interest, and he was correct in questioning why the United States should fund 25 percent of UNESCO's budget for that privilege.

Those calling for the United States to rejoin UNESCO claim that the organization has undertaken fundamental reforms and therefore the United States should re-join. It is strange that in the 18 years since the United States left UNESCO, we only started reading about the beginnings of reform in the year 2000. Are we to believe that after nearly two decades of no change in UNESCO's way of mis-managing itself things have changed so much in just two years? Is it worth spending \$60 million per year on an organization with such a terrible history of waste, corruption, and anti-Americanism?

Mr. Speaker, even if UNESCO has been “reforming” its finances over the past two years, its programmatic activities are still enough to cause great concern among those of us who value American sovereignty and honor our Constitution. Consider the following as a partial list of UNESCO's ongoing highly questionable activities:

UNESCO meddles in the education affairs of its member-countries and has sought to construct a U.N.-based school curriculum for American schools.

UNESCO has been fully supportive of the United Nations' Population Fund (UNFPA) in its assistance to China's brutal coercive population control program.

UNESCO has designated 47 U.N. Biosphere Reserves in the United States covering more than 70 million acres, without Congressional consultation.

UNESCO effectively bypasses Congressional authority to manage federal lands, by establishing management policies without Congressional consultation or approval.

Mr. Speaker, I hope all members of this body will join me in opposing renewed U.S. membership in the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization by co-sponsoring this “Say ‘No’ to UNESCO” act.

HONORING WILLIAM H. CARBONE FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CONNECTICUT JOB CORPS CENTER

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the Connecticut Job Corps Center in honoring one of our community's most active leaders and my dear friend, William H. Carbone. For his outstanding contributions and invaluable assistance, Bill will receive an honorary membership in the Job Corps Alumni Association as the Connecticut Job Corps Center celebrates the graduation of eighty students.

Since its inception only six years ago, the Connecticut Job Corps Center has helped hundreds of students between the ages of sixteen and twenty-four develop the skills and training they need to obtain jobs that will allow them to provide for themselves and their families. By building partnerships with businesses throughout Greater New Haven, students who successfully complete the Center's rigorous program have access to real careers.

Upon the announcement of its opening in 1996, the Center found an immediate advocate and resource in Bill Carbone. Knowing that young people who have access to job training and a job are likely to stay away from the state's correctional system, Bill initially contacted the Center in an effort to provide a positive step for young people completing the Alternative Incarceration Program. Through this effort, three Job Corps Judicial Liaisons have guided nearly two hundred young people to successfully participate in the Connecticut Job Corps Center's judicial program. Many of these young people have attained their GED, completed vocational training, obtained jobs and so much more. Bill's efforts have created invaluable opportunities for these young people, giving them one of life's most precious gifts—hope.

Our communities would not be the same without the generosity and compassion of those who dedicate themselves to enriching the lives of others. Throughout his career, Bill has worked hard to ensure that some of our community's most vulnerable citizens have access to opportunity. The Greater New Haven area is certainly fortunate to have an individual like Bill working on our behalf. He is a true community treasure.

It is with my deepest thanks and appreciation that I rise today to join the Connecticut Job Corps Center in paying tribute to William H. Carbone. His unwavering support and tireless efforts have touched countless lives and has left an indelible mark on this community.

IN SUPPORT OF THE LOW INCOME FAMILIES FLOOD INSURANCE ACCESS ACT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in June of 2001, Texas and other States witnessed the

damage wrought by Tropical Storm Allison after it swept through Texas and up the East Coast, and the importance of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) really hit home. Thousands of my constituents suffered substantial flood damage to their homes and businesses, but many of these losses were mitigated because they had federal flood insurance.

Unfortunately, not all my constituents who needed flood insurance could afford to purchase a policy. Because of a recent redraw of Houston's Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) many of my low-income folks were brought into the 100-year flood plain, but could not afford the insurance. As a consequence of my constituents' experience, I rise today to introduce the Low Income Families Flood Insurance Access Act.

This legislation helps bridge the insurance gap between those that can afford a flood policy and those that cannot. The bill would provide discounted flood insurance over a five-year term for low-income homeowners or renters whose primary residence is placed within a Special Flood Hazard Area (flood plain) by a redraw of the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). If their property is worth no more than \$75,000, they would be eligible to receive a 50% discount on their flood insurance premiums for a five-year period.

It also provides for limited retroactivity if their residence is placed within the flood plain within two years of the enactment of the legislation; otherwise, the five years would begin upon the placement of the property within the flood plain. I hope that this legislation will not only increase participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), but make this program more affordable for the economically disadvantaged. It provides an incentive for those who are most vulnerable to huge losses in floods to get the protection they need at a price they can afford.

The NFIP plays a crucial role in lessening the impact of a major flooding disaster, but to make the program operate most effectively we need greater participation. I believe my legislation will extend the helping hand associated with flood insurance down to those people in greatest need of assistance.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we can speed this bill through the 108th Congress.

MILITARY RETIREE HEALTH CARE TASK FORCE ACT

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to introduce the Military Retiree Health Care Task Force Act of 2003. This legislation will establish a Task Force that will look into all of the health care promises and representations made to members of the Uniformed Services by Department of Defense personnel and Department literature. The Task Force will submit a comprehensive report to Congress which will contain a detailed statement of its findings and conclusions. This report will include legislative remedies to correct the great injustices that have occurred to those men and women who served their country in good faith.