

DO-NOT-CALL IMPLEMENTATION
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, with the consideration of H.R. 395, the Do-Not-Call Implementation Act, we're finally directing our attention to an issue that has affected our constituents for some time . . . telemarketing.

Telemarketing is big business. There are more than 16 billion telemarketing calls made each year which generate nearly \$300 billion in sales and employ 6 million people. But consumers have grown weary of interruptions coming from an unwanted sales call at dinner-time, while they're sleeping, or just barely waking up. They've repeatedly asked for a way to avoid these calls.

Twenty-seven states have responded by establishing do-not-call lists and more than 12 million households have already signed up.

At last we have a federal response . . . a national do-not-call list. I commend the Federal Trade Commission for making this useful tool available to the consumers of our nation.

Implementation of the list has an estimated cost of \$16 million. This money is well-spent but it's extremely important that the FTC's proposal is implemented in the most efficient manner.

Effective implementation requires harmonization with state laws, as well as a cooperative effort with the Federal Communications Commission which is in the process of reviewing its ten-year-old telemarketing rules.

One area that may need refinement is the FTC's exemption for pre-existing business relationships. The current FTC rules place an 18-month limitation on prior relationships but some industries, such as software and information product manufacturers, may have upgrades that occur outside this time frame.

A longer time frame may be necessary so that the Do-Not-Call list doesn't have an arbitrary impact on consumers and small businesses. Only a consistent framework, not a patchwork of varying rules, will accomplish our goal of increasing consumer confidence and protection.

I'm proud to be a cosponsor of H.R. 395 and look forward to quick enactment of the FTC's Do-Not-Call list. I urge all my colleagues to vote for it to hasten its implementation for the American consumer.

TRIBUTE TO THE AQUINAS HIGH
SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Aquinas High School Mens Varsity Football Team for winning the Class A New York State Football Championship on December 2, 2002. This has been the second consecutive season that Aquinas has clinched the Class A Title.

Through hard work and dedication the Aquinas team has come together this season and

continued their reign at the top of their division. From September to the State Championship, they were ranked number one in their league, ending their season 12-1. The Lil' Irish have set the bar high for both their league and across the state. Aquinas, led by Coach David Neiman, has been established as a unified, passionate, and courageous team. Capturing three State Titles in the last five years, they have stayed focused on their goals, and despite fierce competition, have not let anyone stand in the way of yet another winning season.

On behalf of the people of the 25th District of New York, it is my honor to congratulate the Aquinas High School Football Team and their coaching staff on their Class A State Football Championship. With these remarks, I would like to recognize the following players and staff: John Brennan, Arel Gorgon, Ian Goodbarlet, Ed Baron, Calvin Hall, Jon Houck, Linell Greene, Mark Zepiss, Ryan Brennan, Ryan Rozzi, Chris Kelly, Lou Ricci, Dave D'Aurello, Chris MacDonald, Dan Zegarelli, Jon Sirianni, Nick Rovisa, Josh Kacprzak, Ricky DiFranco, Dom Borrelli, Vaughn Brooks, Mark Smith, Bill Amering, Sal Rosso, Jason O'Mara, Chris Vincelli, Joe Testa, Billy Wagner, Andy Laughlin, Chris Citano, Mike Yankowski, Mark Stolke, Matt Stolte, Mike Guey, Tom Neilson, Dan Poors, Andy Brooks, Matt Querola, Joss Rodriguez, Rick Cheffee, Nate Adams, Chris Rivera, Reed Rothschild, Pat Duffy, Matt Flecher, David Cassell, Dan Magil, Matt Thompson, John Contestabile, Donny Moss, Andy Welch, Head Coach David Nieman, Athletic Director Dick Carons, President Mike Daisy, Principal Sally Cardill, Athletic Trainer Mike Cararo, and Assistants Derek Annechino, Bob O'Effore, Mark Magliocco, Pete Haug, John Marola, John Mintel, and Jack Foote.

HONORING CZECH REPUBLIC
PRESIDENT VACLAV HAVEL**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I rise today in strong support of this resolution commending Vaclav Havel. He served as president of Czechoslovakia from 1989 to 1992 and president of the Czech Republic from 1993 to 2003.

Mr. Havel has led an interesting and exemplary life. In 1948 his homeland of Czechoslovakia was taken over by the Communist Party. He served in the Czechoslovakian army from 1957 to 1959 and later achieved great esteem as a playwright during the politically tolerant period between 1962 and 1968. This period was quickly brought to a conclusion by the Soviet invasion of 1968.

The era of Soviet control over the Czechoslovakian people was a very difficult period in Mr. Havel's life. This new government banned his plays and arrested him in 1975, 1977 and 1978 for anti-government activities. In 1979, Mr. Havel was given a choice between exile and imprisonment. He chose imprisonment and was therefore in prison until 1983. He was imprisoned for another nine months in 1989 for leading anti-government demonstrations.

Mr. Havel was one of the many people whose hard work led the Communist Party to

fall from power in December of 1989. He was elected interim president of Czechoslovakia on December 29, 1989 and was elected to the presidency on July 5, 1990. His main initiatives and reforms during his time in office included abolishing the death penalty, encouraging political tolerance and establishing a democratic government.

Mr. Havel resigned as president of Czechoslovakia on July 20, 1992 in protest of the dissolution of Czechoslovakia into the Czech Republic and Slovakia. He was subsequently elected president of the Czech Republic on January 26, 1993 and reelected president on January 20, 1998. Under his leadership the Czech Republic joined NATO in 1999 and will become a member of the European Union in 2004.

Vaclav Havel should be commended for many reasons. His devotion to freedom and democracy stands as a model for all nations. He has never stopped working hard for human rights and other causes that he believes in strongly. His leadership has carried both Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic through tumultuous periods in their histories.

INTRODUCING THE CLEAN-UP
METH ACT**HON. DOUG OSE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduce The Clean, Learn, Educate, Abolish, Neutralize, and Undermine Production of Methamphetamines Act—or CLEAN-UP Meth Act.

This bill is a bipartisan, comprehensive effort to help local agencies address the growing threat that meth production and use poses.

I am pleased to be joined in this effort by more than 60 original cosponsors that include all three Co-Chairs of the Speaker's Task Force for a Drug Free America, both the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources, the Chairman of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, the Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee and the House Majority Whip. The cosponsors include Republicans and Democrats, liberals and conservatives, from Hawaii to North Carolina, and in almost every state in between.

In addition, this bill was supported during the 107th Congress by more than two-dozen national, state and local organizations concerned with the impact of Meth on our society. Among the bills supporters are the National Narcotics Officers Association, the National Sheriffs' Association, the National Association of Chain Drug Stores, the National Association of Convenience Stores, the National Fertilizer Institute, the California Association of Highway Patrolmen, the California Narcotics Officers Association, the California Peace Officers Association, the California Police Chiefs Association and the Peace Officers Research Association of California.

As a Californian, I have a heightened awareness of the danger posed by meth. California is the source of more than 80 percent of the meth made and sold in the U.S.

Between 1995 and 1999, the number of meth labs discovered in California shot from

559 to 2,061—nearly a four-fold increase in just five years. In 2001, 199 of the 273—or 84 percent—of all “super labs” found in the U.S. were in California. The next most common state was home to just 17 “super labs.”

My hometown of Sacramento is particularly hit by Meth. Many of you may remember when an out of control trucker deliberately drove his big rig into the side of California’s state capitol building. The driver was on meth.

The Sacramento Sheriffs department alone spends more than \$1.3 million each year fighting meth—roughly 75 percent of their entire anti-narcotics budget. In 2000 the Sacramento Sheriffs dealt with 27 clan labs, in 2001 that was up to 44.

The CLEAN-UP Meth Act addresses three areas where our state and local officials really need help.

First, the Environment.

The CLEAN-UP Meth Act authorizes \$30 million for cleanup and remediation of our federal, state and local parks, forests and farmlands. All too often, the environment is the first victim of a meth lab.

It also authorizes \$30 million to train law enforcement and other first responders in how to safely enter and clean-up a lab, as well as how to meet the OSHA requirements for working in such a hazardous environment.

Finally, it authorizes \$1 million for the EPA to conduct a study of meth waste’s impact on the environment.

It is important to address environmental concerns as 4 pounds of waste are created for every 1 pound of meth. In 2001, 12,013 super labs, labs and waste or dump sites required clean-up and remediation.

Second, Health and Education.

H.R. 3782 will provide \$20 million to local schools and education groups to provide anti-drug—and especially anti-meth programs.

An additional \$10 million is provided to local health care groups for the treatment of both meth abusers, and those abused by meth producers and users. One quarter of that money is specifically set aside for programs helping children found in the toxic environment of meth labs or abused by meth users.

Finally, the bill authorizes \$1 million for the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct a study on the impact of not only meth use, but also meth production on community health. We need to help stop the use of this deadly drug that 9.4 million Americans admitted to having used at least once in 1999 and that in 2000, 7.9 percent of high school seniors said they had tried.

Finally, Law Enforcement.

With meth growing so quickly, many local law enforcement agencies, district attorneys and other members of the law enforcement community are not prepared to deal with its spread into their community. It is all well and good to find the offenders, but you need to know how to catch them—and perhaps most importantly—prosecute them to get them out of the system.

This legislation authorizes an additional \$20 million under the COPS program for training of

state and local prosecutors as well as sheriffs and police officers in the prosecution of meth law violations. And one quarter of these funds are set aside for rural communities that are often hardest hit but lack the resources to attack this emerging threat. One example of this rapid growth: DEA arrests for meth production and distribution between 1993 and 1999 shot up from 1,944 to 8,618—an increase of more than 400 percent.

Speaking of training, the bill provides \$10 million to expand the great Clan Lab training program run by the DEA in Quantico, Virginia. They do a great job down there, and we need to support them.

Regarding criminal penalties, the CLEAN-UP Meth Act tightens criminal laws used to prosecute the promoters of “raves,” the for-profit parties aimed at young people that are often the places where our children our first exposed to these dangerous drugs—too often with the full knowledge and consent of the promoter.

In conclusion, no matter what you call it—meth, crank, crystal, or whatever—this drug is an emerging threat across the country. And it threatens not just those who use it, not just those who know someone who use it, but all Americans who drink our water, breathe our air, send their kids to school or work our lands. It hits rural and suburban areas, perhaps even harder than it does our cities. You cannot just sit back and say it is someone else’s problem. That is why I am grateful that this Administration, so many of my Republican and Democratic colleagues, and members of the law enforcement community is focused on the emerging meth threat. And why I am pleased to have so many of them supporting our efforts to CLEAN-UP Meth as I reintroduce this important legislation today.

INTRODUCING THE TEACHER RECRUITMENT ACT OF 2003—H.R. 5133

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to re-introduce H.R. 5133, the “Teacher Recruitment Act of 2003” to expand the eligibility of individuals to qualify for loan forgiveness for teachers in order to provide additional incentives for teachers currently employed or seeking employment in economically depressed rural areas, Territories, and Indian Reservations.

Rural and small town schools educate a significant number of America’s students. Nearly forty percent of America’s school-age children attend public schools in rural areas or small towns with populations of less than 25,000. Forty-nine percent of the nation’s public schools are located in rural areas and small towns and 41 percent of public school educators teach in rural community schools. Rural

school districts are often the largest single employer in their area and rural schools serve as the social, recreational, and cultural foundation of their communities.

Although rural and small schools educate nearly 40 percent of America’s students, they receive less than 25 percent of the total federal, state, and local spending on public education. Rural and small schools tend to be located in areas with low property values and few industries, making it more difficult to raise additional revenues. Additionally, because federal grants are awarded based upon student population, rural districts often receive insufficient grant funds to accomplish the stated purpose.

Rural schools face formidable challenges in recruiting and retaining quality teachers. Compared with teachers in central city schools and urban schools, rural teachers tend to be less educated, slightly less experienced, younger, and less likely to belong to a minority group. Chronically low salaries and benefits exacerbate the difficulty in attracting quality teachers to rural and small town schools. For example, in the district that I represent, the U.S. Virgin Islands, teachers have not received a substantial raise in over seven years to offset the rising cost of living. There has been no state subsidized programs towards teacher certification, advance education, or teacher training. Adding to the need to expand the Teacher Loan Forgiveness program is the lack of substantive incentives on the local level to incite teacher recruitment and retention within and outside of the rural communities. Similarly, there are many challenges associated with preparing teachers to work with Native American children and parents, and often teachers have not been properly prepared to address these challenges. Consequently, teachers who are less than qualified are working on American Indian reservations, and the retention of qualified teachers remains a challenge.

If “The Leave No Child Behind Act” is truly meant to reform our nation’s education, we need to pass legislation that adequately addresses the deficiencies in our educational system. To effectively implement the provisions of “The Leave No Child Behind Act,” we must attract and keep quality teachers. The American Federation, which represents of 1.2 million members, has urged the support and passage of amendments to expand eligibility for loan forgiveness to those who are teaching in schools in need of improvement, as defined in “The No Child Left Behind Act.” The “Teacher Recruitment Act of 2003” would expand the eligibility of individuals to qualify for loan forgiveness for teachers beyond that available under section 428J of the Higher Education Act by providing additional incentives for such individuals to teach in economically disadvantaged or depressed and underserved rural areas. Under this bill, teachers may qualify for up to 100 percent student loan forgiveness. The “Teacher Recruitment Act of 2003” is a good step toward the continuing challenge of recruiting and retaining teachers in rural areas and I urge its passage.