

proactive security program. I strongly support this resolution and urge its approval.

# INTRODUCTION OF SECURING CONSUMERS' ASSURANCE IN MOVING ACT OF 2003

**HON. THOMAS E. PETRI**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 4, 2003*

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Securing Consumers' Assurance in Moving Act of 2003 (the SCAM Act) in order to put more cops on the beat in policing the interstate household goods industry and to provide more information for consumers facing an interstate move.

While the vast and overwhelming majority of moving companies operate in a fair, open and honest way, I am sure all Members are aware of the increasing problem with so-called "rogue" movers who prey upon consumers. Since the ICC was abolished in 1996, there have been fewer resources available for consumer protection enforcement at the Department of Transportation which now oversees the moving industry. Over the course of the last several years, this issue has been the subject of hearings and continuing oversight by the Subcommittee on Highways, Transit and Pipelines, and I believe it is now time to act.

We have all heard the horror stories of moves gone wrong. One of the most egregious practices is the "hostage goods" situation, where a mover low-balls an estimate, loads the consumer's goods onto his truck, drives off, and then refuses to deliver the goods until paid an amount in cash that can be up to 4 or 5 times the amount of the original estimate—in strict violation of Federal regulation. I have heard from some who have gone months without knowing where their goods are located. And yet there is little the consumer can do.

A major issue which has emerged is the authority of states to take action, since various courts have ruled that they have no jurisdiction over interstate moves—citing primarily the Carmack amendment. This policy was enacted in 1906 and simply sets forth a uniform liability scheme for loss and damage to avoid uncertainties over differing state laws.

A lot has changed since 1906 and Congress has never really had a debate on what role states or individuals should have regarding consumer protection and the moving industry. I understand that the moving industry has concerns regarding the application of consumer protection laws, claiming that it will be difficult to operate with 50 different state laws. However, states have been enforcing consumer protection laws—which are aimed at those businesses engaged in fraud and deceptive practices—for many years now and somehow other businesses which are not exempt have survived and thrived.

Certainly within the trucking industry, the movement of an individual's household goods is unique from commercial shipments. A consumer may utilize a moving company once or twice in a lifetime and entrusts virtually all his worldly goods to a mover—which gives a lot of leverage to the moving company. Although the President has requested funds for another 7

personnel to oversee household goods, I believe it will never be possible for the federal government to provide adequate oversight over those who take advantage of consumers—it is more appropriate that the states also be able to get involved against those who operate now with near immunity from effective oversight.

The bill I am introducing has three major goals—allowing for Federal-State partnerships to enhance enforcement; establishing new fines for certain behavior; and increasing opportunities for consumer education for those contemplating a move.

Specifically, the bill would: Clarify that an individual or states can use consumer protection laws against interstate movers; require DOT to establish a working group of state attorneys general, consumer protection administrators and law enforcement to coordinate information and enforcement efforts; require DOT to establish a database of consumer complaints with a procedure for public access to the database; require DOT to review current federal regulations regarding insurance coverage and determine whether revisions are necessary to provide adequate protection to consumers; establish a civil penalty of \$10,000 and potential 6-month suspension of operating authority, and create criminal penalties, for movers who hold goods hostage in violation of the 110 % rule; create a \$25,000 civil penalty for brokers or movers operating without authority; and establish a \$10,000 civil penalty for a broker who provides an estimate before entering into an agreement with a carrier; require that movers and brokers include additional information regarding DOT registration numbers, consumer rights and responsibilities, and broker-carrier relationships on Web sites; and increase disclosure requirements for brokers who arrange for the shipment of household goods.

Mr. Speaker, it is an unfortunate but necessary step that I am taking today in introducing this legislation. For too long the scales have been tipped in favor of those few within the moving industry who abuse consumers—it is time to even the scales.

## RECOGNITION OF RACHEL NEWELL

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 4, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Rachel Newell, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, Troop 472, and in earning the most prestigious honor of the Gold Award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement attainable in Girl Scouting. To earn the Gold Award, a scout must complete five requirements, all of which promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values, and leadership skills. The requirements include, 1. Earning four interest project patches, each of which requires seven activities that center on skill building, technology, service projects, and career exploration, 2. Earning the Career Exploration Pin, which involves researching careers, writing resumes, and planning a career fair or trip, 3. Earning the senior Girl Scout Leadership

Award, which requires a minimum of 30 hours of work using leadership skills, 4. Designing a self-development plan that requires assessment of ability to interact with others and prioritize values, participation for a minimum of 15 hours in a community service project, and development of a plan to promote Girl Scouting, and 5. Spending a minimum of 50 hours planning and implementing a Girl Scout Gold Award project that has a positive lasting impact on the community.

For her Gold Award Project, Rachel refurbished and painted a playground.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Rachel Newell for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

## IN RECOGNITION OF THE PARTHENON CHAPTER OF THE ORDER OF AHEPA (AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION)

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 4, 2003*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Andreas T. Stamboulidis Parthenon Chapter of the Order of AHEPA on the occasion of their annual dinner dance. For their extraordinary service and commitment to the community, Senator Frank Padavan, James Efthimiades, Stephen Cherpelis and George Doulaveris will be honored. They are truly "Axie", worthy of this honor.

Established to fight prejudice and racism, AHEPA is philanthropic organization that has been serving the Hellenic community since its inception 80 years ago. The many dedicated members of AHEPA have provided the community with an understanding of the Hellenic heritage and an awareness of its contribution to the evolution of democratic ideals in the United States and Greece.

AHEPA's many contributions to the community include the establishment of educational scholarships, relief drives to aid the victims of warfare, persecution and national disaster, sponsorship of sports tournaments, support for women and children, the elderly, and the disabled. Through all of their community outreach efforts, AHEPA has striven to promote appreciation of Greek culture and further advance understanding between the Hellenic-American, American and the Hellenic community abroad.

The Andreas T. Stamboulidis Parthenon Chapter is exemplary of the AHEPA objective. Founded by the late Andrew Stamboulidis twenty-two years ago, the Parthenon Chapter has raised and contributed over \$35,000 toward the Holy Cross School and Community Center. For the Parthenon Chapter's extraordinary support of the school, one of the classrooms is named after founder Andreas T. Stamboulidis. Mr. Stamboulidis typified the ideals and aspirations of AHEPA.

It is a true pleasure to honor this chapter and its members, including Theodore Stamas and my good friend Manny Mavroidis. As the founder and co-chairperson of the Hellenic Caucus in Congress it has been my pleasure and honor to work with many of the members of AHEPA. Since its inception, the Parthenon

Chapter of AHEPA has become an important and invaluable member of the community.

In recognition of the Andreas T. Stamboulidis Parthenon Chapter of the Order of AHEPA's many contributions to the community, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting this organization and all of tonight's honorees on the occasion of their annual dinner dance.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ANDREW E.  
CRAWFORD, JR.

### HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, March 4, 2003*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, it is with both sadness and pride that I rise today to recognize the life of an amazing young man, Mr. Andrew E. Crawford, Jr., a highly valued member of my staff who tragically lost his life a few months ago.

Born in Trenton, New Jersey on February 11, 1978 Andrew was a loving son and friend, gifted student, and dedicated staff member. Spending his early years in schools in both Pennsylvania and New Jersey, Andrew was both an outstanding athlete and student. An exceptional wrestler, Andrew found a way to balance both his athletic talent and scholastic success, being named to the "Who's Who Among American High School Students". Andrew was a true role model for his classmates, always taking the time for friends who confided in him and sought his guidance. Andrew continued his studies at William Patterson University, majoring in Communications. While there, Andrew became an active participant within the college community as a Resident Assistant, news announcer on the campus radio station, a member of the Brothers of Awareness Christian Fellowship, and the gospel chorus.

Upon completing his studies, Andrew joined my staff as Special Assistant in my district office in Elizabeth, New Jersey. Responsible for special projects and programs within the 10th Congressional district as well as serving as a liaison between myself and elected officials within Union County, Andrew was an extremely reliable and dedicated man. His laughter and positive spirit were contagious and he will be truly missed by myself and all who knew and loved him.

Mr. Speaker, I know that all of my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives join me today in recognizing Andrew, a spirited young man whose life and spirit will never be forgotten. While his earthly life was short, his achievements and contributions were very significant. Please join me in sending our heartfelt condolences to his family: his mother Catherine, his father Andrew, Sr., and siblings Candice and Alexander.

TRIBUTE TO JILL THOMPSON

### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, March 4, 2003*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a lifelong resident of Lexington, MO, will be celebrating 25 years of

service to the Lafayette County Health Department on March 12, 2003. Mrs. Jill Thompson has demonstrated a strong commitment to the area and has helped to ensure a brighter future for the community.

Mrs. Thompson graduated from Lexington High School and attended Research School of Nursing in Kansas City receiving her diploma in 1971. Jill began her 25 year journey with the Lafayette County Health Department in March of 1978 as a Registered Nurse working part-time. Her dedication and hard work earned her the position of Administrator of the Lafayette County Health Department in 1988. She has been the Administrator ever since and has helped expand the department and its services.

Mrs. Thompson's devotion to the Lafayette County community does not stop at the Health Department. She is a member of many organizations such as Cancer Assistance Relief, Treasurer; Sounds of the Heart, Treasurer; Charles Lyons Memorial Foundation; MoAlpha, Chair of the Rural Public Health Committee; West Central Missouri AHEC; Lexington R-V School District Health Advisory Committee; County Health Improvement Project; Lafayette County InterAgency; Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Committee; Mohakca; and P.E.O. Chapter HX.

Mrs. Jill Thompson has distinguished herself as a community leader in Lexington and Lafayette County, Missouri. She has and continues to make her friends and family proud. I am certain that my colleagues will join me in wishing Jill Thompson, her husband, Larry, and their three children Craig, Chad and Kristin all the best.

### RECOGNITION OF ASHLEY FOWLER

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, March 4, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ashley Fowler, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, troop 971, and in earning the most prestigious honor of the gold award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement attainable in Girl Scouting. To earn the Gold Award, a scout must complete five requirements, all of which promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values, and leadership skills. The requirements include, 1. Earning four interest project patches, each of which requires seven activities that center on skill building, technology, service projects, and career exploration, 2. Earning the career exploration pin, which involves researching careers, writing resumes, and planning a career fair or trip, 3. Earning the senior Girl Scout leadership award, which requires a minimum of 30 hours of work using leadership skills, 4. Designing a self development plan that requires assessment of ability to interact with others and prioritize values, participation for a minimum of 15 hours in a community service project, and development of a plan to promote Girl Scouting, and 5. Spending a minimum of 50 hours planning and implementing a Girl Scout Gold Award project that has a positive lasting impact on the community.

For her Gold Award project, Ashley made baby quilts for Hope House.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ashley Fowler for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, March 4, 2003*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on February 27, 2003, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes 38-39 on H.R. 534, the Human Cloning Prohibition Act due to urgent family business. Had I been present I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 3, and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 39, final passage of H.R. 534."

### HUMAN CLONING PROHIBITION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

### HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. WU. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to state that I am strongly pro-choice. I am strongly pro stem cell research. I have profound discomfort in opposing many of my former professors by supporting the Weldon/Stupak bill. But, difficult as it may be, I have no hesitation in following both my heart and my head in this matter. I urge support of the Weldon/Stupak bill, and reluctantly urge defeat of the Greenwood/Deutsch substitute bill.

I think this is a time to pause. This is a subject that behooves caution, and we must take time to let our ethics catch up with our technology. Our technology has gotten to the point where we are talking about genetic mixes, chimeras of human and animal cells, and other procedures with which Americans have a reasonable and profound discomfort.

Many scientists say it is incredibly dangerous to stop any form of experimentation. However, I submit to you that we do stop certain forms of experimentation. We no longer permit certain kinds of head trauma experiments on non-human primates that potentially could protect us in vehicle accidents. The nuclear test ban treaty is nothing but a cessation of certain forms of experimentation. And many scientists were in favor of the destruction of the last stocks of smallpox, which would have stopped experimentation on that virus.

There are times when it is important to pause, to pull back, and to deeply consider an issue before proceeding. I differ with the chairman in that perhaps in five or ten years our science and our ethics may lead us to a different conclusion than the ban on cloning we are debating today. Perhaps both our science and our ethics will lead us to the same conclusion we reach today. We should come back and force Congress to reexamine and address this issue again in five or ten years.

On the issue of cloning, no one can make a sure and permanent claim to truth and rectitude.