

participating contractors receive a lower priority for scheduled OSHA inspections. Although certain contractors participating in the VPP have met with some success in reducing injury rates, this can never suffice as a substitute for adequate enforcement of U.S. safety standards.

In its budget request for fiscal year 2006, the Bush administration promises to undermine even further OSHA's ability to develop and enforce essential safety and health standards through funding cuts of \$12 million. This is a clear subversion of congressional intent in passing the OSHA Act more than 3 decades ago. Let me remind my colleagues that OSHA's clear statutory mandate is to "assure every working man and woman in the United States safe and healthful working conditions."

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that an article that appeared in today's Washington Post, outlining OSHA's woeful neglect of worker safety, be printed in the RECORD at this point.

[From the Washington Post, Oct. 5, 2004]

OSHA WITHDRAWS MORE RULES THAN IT MAKES, REVIEWS FIND

(By Cindy Skrzyzcki)

It's no secret that the Bush administration prefers voluntary, collaborative efforts on the part of companies to improve their safety records. Since the administration took over in 2001, the Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration has forged hundreds of agreements with companies and business associations to improve their safety records while rulemaking has been sharply curtailed.

According to OSHA Assistant Secretary John Henshaw, the approach has resulted in safer workplaces with fewer fatalities, injuries and illnesses—what he calls the triple bottom line. "I've seen what works and doesn't work on the shop floor," said Henshaw, reflecting his own career as a safety and health professional at chemical companies, Monsanto Co. and Astaris LLC, before he came to the safety agency.

But labor unions and some watchdog groups would rather OSHA play its more traditional role, issuing regulations.

"We have a preference for an actual regulation that is enforceable and fair across the board," said J. Robert Shull, senior regulatory policy analyst at OMB Watch, a non-profit group funded mostly by foundations that has three union officials among its 15 directors.

Adds Peg Seminario, director of occupational safety and health for the AFL-CIO: Setting and enforcing standards is part of their mission. "So why aren't they?"

Since fall 2000, the agency has not been regulating in the traditional sense, OMB Watch found in a series of reviews. Twenty-four rules that were in some stage of development on OSHA's agenda were withdrawn by the administration. Nine rules were completed, but none were major and several were related to recordkeeping.

In examining the agency's December 2003 and June 2004 regulatory agendas, which track the progress of its rules, OMB Watch found that since last December, OSHA has revised a rule on commercial diving operations, reexamined one on mechanical power presses and changed how musculoskeletal disorders are reported. It completed one rule, to protect shipyard workers from fire hazards, and yesterday proposed new standards to protect workers from hexavalent chromium, a chemical used in chrome plating. That was under a court order.

"It's a meager output. It's the black hole of government," Shull said. "OSHA cleared

the decks of its agenda. Just swept it clean." His group maintains that gutting the agency's regulatory agenda is a sop to business, which won a big victory when the Bush administration cancelled a final rule to protect workers from ergonomic injuries.

Early in the Bush administration, Henshaw said he didn't put much stock in the regulatory agenda, calling it a wish list that contained proposals that had been incubating for years with no result. He said he preferred a "to-do" list—which OMB Watch now calls a "do-nothing" list.

That list has 24 items, including whether employers have to pay for protective equipment for their workers.

Said Henshaw, who inherited the protective equipment proposal from the Clinton administration: "We're reviewing the comments now and we're committed to taking the next step. But I don't want to say exactly what the next step is."

His emphasis, he said, has been on cooperative efforts with business and stepped-up enforcement of "bad actors" who are responsible for most safety problems.

The agency has formed 231 long-term alliances with trade associations and companies since 2002 that emphasize outreach, education, and sharing "best practices." OSHA under Henshaw has forged 214 active strategic partnerships that set safety goals involving 4,762 employers, and there are 1,153 voluntary protection program sites, where companies with exemplary safety records forego routine inspections.

Critics of the agency are leery of these arrangements, where union participation is minimal. And they don't entirely trust the numbers OSHA uses to support its claim that injuries and illnesses are decreasing. Unions don't consider the reports dependable, she said, because they are furnished by employers.

Seminario points out that there have been two major changes in the way employers collect injury and illness data since 2002, making comparisons to earlier years difficult. For example, the incidence of musculoskeletal injuries on the job—injuries from repetitive work and poorly designed workplaces—is no longer reported separately.

Data collected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics on days missed from work for illness show that over the past few years, the percentage of days taken off due to injuries and illnesses related to ergonomic issues has remained constant—about 34 percent—though the overall number of injuries and illnesses has decreased.

The business community said it wasn't that focused on the proposed rules OSHA axed but wanted to prevent new regulations. And groups like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce have been unhappy that the safety regulators issued citations for ergonomic violations under a broad enforcement authority. Since Congress killed the ergo rule two years ago, OSHA has opened cases against seven companies for ergonomic-related violations.

Randel Johnson, vice president of labor, immigration and employee benefits for the chamber, called the trend troubling. "The agency has aggressively pursued ergonomics citations . . . demanding abatement measures that sound much like the repealed regulation and micromanaging targeted employers with a laundry list of requirements. Despite what the unions may allege, our life with OSHA has been no rose garden."

SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES OF CARIBBEAN DEVASTATED BY HURRICANES CHARLEY, FRANCES, IVAN, AND JEANNE

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today to support H. Con. Res. 496 commending the governments of the countries of the Caribbean for their efforts to respond and assist the people of the region after the devastation caused by Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne from August to September 2004. I also recognize American aid workers, development organizations, and the response teams who have provided humanitarian assistance to the people of Grenada, Jamaica, the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and the other affected island nations.

Coming from Houston, I know all too well that hurricanes are a fact of life for anybody living in the region. But this year's hurricane season is different. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicted that 2004 would be an above average Atlantic hurricane season and three of these four hurricanes have been categorized by the National Weather Service as "major" hurricanes. The American people have also endured the impact of this year's hurricane season.

The challenges that the people in the Caribbean have faced since Charley's arrival in August have been particularly great. Hundreds have died and tens of thousands of people are displaced or are homeless as a result of these hurricanes. Some estimate that the cost of reconstruction in the region could exceed a quarter billion dollars.

Nevertheless the effects would have been greater were it not for the actions of the Caribbean governments and the international community. The U.S. assistance to the region is being coordinated by the U.S. Agency for International Development with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency and donor organizations in the Eastern Caribbean Donor Group. International organizations such as the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the United Nations, and the Organization of American States have joined the U.S. in providing necessary assistance to the region.

I support this resolution and ask my colleagues to encourage the President and the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development to provide the funding to private volunteer organizations, the United Nations, and regional institutions that will help to mitigate the effects from Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne and to provide technical assistance for the reconstruction that will help to minimize the impact of future hurricanes in the region.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ADAM
CAMPFIELD

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Adam Campfield, an extraordinary fourteen year old from my district, who has overcome seemingly impossible obstacles in order to compete in martial arts competitions. Adam is a true fighter, and someone other citizens can look to for inspiration and I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this Nation today to recognize his accomplishments.

Adam earned his black belt despite the fact that he lost his vision to cancer when he was six years old. Adam's coach Troy says that there was no doubt that Adam had the ability; his worries came from being able to teach him the material. Adam grew up in a supportive family that would not allow him to use the word can't and today not only is he a martial arts competitor, but he also plays tennis and participates in a ski program. Adam's blindness has only sharpened his other senses, so much so that Adam has said that if he were given the option of not going blind he might not choose to have his vision.

Mr. Speaker, Adam Campfield is a strong, dedicated and gifted athlete who refuses to let life's impediments obstruct his physical activity. His persistent determination has taken him farther than anyone imagined and I am honored to stand here before this body and recognize the efforts of such a courageous young man. Good luck with your martial arts training Adam, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO
COUNTRIES OF CARIBBEAN DEV-
ASTATED BY HURRICANES CHAR-
LEY, FRANCES, IVAN, AND
JEANNE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, by now we are all aware of the enormous toll exacted by Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne on the Caribbean. Indeed, the cumulative force of these disasters has claimed thousands of lives and displaced hundreds of thousands of residents. The tourism and agricultural sectors of the Caribbean, of which so many nations are dependent, have been battered.

While total monetary damage to the region has yet to be firmly established, it is easily in the billions of dollars. These staggering statistics not only sadden us, they clearly compel us to take significant action. The United States has already distributed some assistance, and the administration has requested an additional \$50 million in emergency funds for the Caribbean in the supplemental appropriations bill we have before us this week.

While this assistance is appreciated, substantially more is needed if we are to make a

meaningful impact. An October 4th editorial in the Washington Post noted that the requested assistance for the Caribbean is a minute fraction of the \$12.2 billion requested for southern States affected by the recent hurricanes. I myself have joined other friends of the Caribbean in this House in asking that the administration at least double the size of its request for the Caribbean.

In light of these funding needs, I am extremely pleased to support the resolution introduced by the gentlewoman from California, H. Con. Res. 496. Congresswoman LEE's resolution represents a non-partisan appeal to provide adequate humanitarian assistance to our neighbors in this time of crisis. I am proud to be a co-sponsor of this legislation, and urge my fellow colleagues to lend their support to this critical measure.

We have all borne witness to the difficult road our neighbors have taken towards democracy. As such, we must always strive to ensure that their road is free from obstruction. This resolution is but one step in that ongoing effort. Again, I sincerely thank Congresswoman LEE, and offer my whole-hearted support for her resolution.

[From the Washington Post, Oct. 4, 2004]

CALAMITY IN THE CARIBBEAN

In Haiti the bodies are still turning up. Reports from the island republic mention Haitians shoveling corpses out from under branches and mud—the detritus of Tropical Storm Jeanne and the floods it triggered last month. Perhaps 2,000 are dead, and more may be missing. In tiny Grenada, whose landmass is scarcely twice that of the District, 90 percent of the buildings on the island were damaged by Hurricane Ivan. The hurricane also decimated Grenada's nutmeg trees, which take a decade to become productive, and devastated hotels, mainstays of the tourist industry that provides the island with 70 percent of its income.

The storms paused long enough in the Caribbean on their way to Florida to deliver knockout blows to the bantamweight islands. Americans fixated on Florida may have barely noticed, but the destruction and suffering in the islands was overwhelming. The Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, the Bahamas, the Turks and Caicos Islands, and St. Lucia—all were damaged. Grenada's recovery will take years.

Haiti, no stranger to calamity, is suffering a catastrophe. An estimated 300,000 people have been made homeless by floods. In the northwest, where Jeanne unleashed much of its wrath, food and potable water are scarce. Highways are cut or impassable; Port-de-Paix, a town of 45,000 on the north coast, is reachable only by air. In the port of Gonaives, Haiti's third-largest city, marauding gangs desperate from thirst and hunger have attacked trucks hauling bottled water and depots holding humanitarian food stockpiles. Fears of famine are rising, since flood waters and mud covered some of the most fertile acres in the country. Poverty, deforestation and the virtual absence of effective government all conspire to deepen the misery.

President Bush has proposed \$12.2 billion in aid for hurricane-damaged areas, mostly in Florida and other Southern states. The package includes \$50 million for the islands, nearly half of it for Haiti. We hope Congress passes it quickly, but let's be blunt: The amount set aside for the Caribbean nations is a pittance—not to mention a fraction of what was spent on U.S. military interventions in Haiti and Grenada.

Americans who wish to help may send their own donations. One conduit for such

private support is CARE, which has been active in Haiti for 50 years and is deeply involved in the current relief efforts. Information is available at www.careusa.org.

CONGRATULATING AMERICAN
DENTAL ASSOCIATION FOR
SPONSORING SECOND ANNUAL
“GIVE KIDS A SMILE” PROGRAM

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H. Res. 567 which congratulates the American Dental Association for once again successfully administering the Give Kids a Smile program.

The Give Kids a Smile program has worked hard to emphasize the importance of kids' access to high quality dental care. This year's program, held on February 6, 2004, resulted in an estimated one million children receiving dental education, screening and care.

The Give Kids a Smile program highlights not only the importance of children's dental care but also the need to help those that may not have access. Access to dental care for children is a critical component of overall health care. Tooth decay is the most common chronic childhood disease and results in thousands of children experiencing poor eating and sleeping patterns and suffering decreased attention spans at school. Congress must join the American Dental Association in recognizing our role in providing assistance to children in need.

I want to thank the dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, and others who volunteered their time during this year's Give Kids a Smile program. In addition to the success of this program, America's dental community deserves our thanks for the services and help they provide year round.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL
HESSE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I consider it a great privilege to recognize an outstanding individual who, for many years, has honorably served the interests of my district and the State of Colorado. Michael Hesse has served as my chief of staff, and during that time he has worked to improve the lives of many of his fellow Coloradans through his compassionate activism. Mike is a dedicated public servant and a dynamic leader whose devotion to Colorado is unparalleled. I am honored to recognize his service before this body of Congress and this Nation today.

Mike earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Denver School of Business in 1987. After graduation, President George H.W. Bush appointed Mike as the Assistant to the Health and Human Services Secretary, Louis Sullivan, from 1989 to 1992. In that capacity, Mike coordinated the President's National Initiative for Childhood Immunization and the Presidential Health Mission to Africa.