

OCTOBER 15, 2004.

Hon. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S.
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 4453, the Access to Rural Physicians Improvement Act of 2004.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Mark Grabowicz, who can be reached at 226-2860.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS HOLTZ-EAKIN.

Enclosure.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE H.R. 4453, ACCESS TO RURAL PHYSICIANS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2004, AS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OCTOBER 6, 2004

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4453 would result in no significant net cost to the federal government. The act would affect direct spending, but we estimate that any effects would be insignificant. H.R. 4453 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

Until June 1, 2004, foreign students attending medical school in the United States were permitted to remain here after graduation if they agreed to work for at least three years in certain regions considered to be underserved by physicians or if they accepted employment with certain federal agencies. That program was limited to 30 individuals a year for each state that participated in the program. Under current law, such individuals must return to their native countries. H.R. 4453 would make several changes to that program and would reestablish it through June 1, 2006.

Based on the participation of foreign medical students in those employment programs in recent years, CBO expects that the act's provisions would affect no more than 2,000 persons annually. The Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) would collect fees to provide work permits for those individuals. CIS fees are classified as offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending). The agency is authorized to spend such fees without further appropriation, so the net impact on CIS spending would be insignificant.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz, who may be reached at 226 2860. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

HONORING NEW JERSEY BLOOD SERVICE

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor New Jersey Blood Services for its thirty years of dedication to blood collection and services. As the first regional division of the New York Blood Center, New Jersey Blood Services (NJBS) is a non-profit corporation whose mission is to "provide the safest, best quality transfusion-related products and services at a reasonable cost to those who will benefit, and to increase the body and availability of knowledge in transfusion medicine." Since its founding in 1973, NJBS has collaborated with companies, labor unions and com-

munity organizations in New Jersey to collect over 2.2 million units of blood, thus improving and even saving the lives of countless residents of New Jersey.

In its thirty years of existence, New Jersey Blood Services has developed a strong and valuable relationship with many New Jersey based American Red Cross chapters. These organizations have partnered together in scheduling blood drives, recruiting donors and providing necessary services to donors during blood drives. NJBS has also been a leader in efforts to ensure the safety of the region's blood supply by piloting the "Safeblood" computer system and opening the Nucleic Acid Test Lab in 1999, to screen all blood donated for HIV and HCV. Moreover, NJBS has been a forerunner in the development of pheresis blood donation procedures, which allows for the separation of different blood components and is particularly helpful in treating cancer.

New Jersey Blood Service has made remarkable and lasting contributions to our society through its efforts to increase both the quantity and the quality of our blood supply. Again, I rise today to honor the New Jersey Blood Service for its distinguished achievements in helping to enhance or save the lives of millions of patients in New Jersey over the past thirty years and I look forward to their continued good work over the next thirty years.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING BELMONT COUNTY SHERIFF TOM MCCORT

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Sheriff Tom McCort has provided outstanding service and contributions while serving as the Sheriff of Belmont County for twenty years; and

Whereas, Sheriff Tom McCort began his law enforcement career by serving as a felony investigator for the Belmont County Prosecutor's Office and then as a part time officer in Richland Township; and

Whereas, Sheriff Tom McCort worked tirelessly to improve and expand the Belmont County jail; and

Whereas, Sheriff Tom McCort's diligent service to Belmont County resulted in several remarkable achievements such as an officer training program and an expanded motorcycle patrol service; and

Whereas, Sheriff Tom McCort will be greatly missed by Belmont County and the Belmont County Sheriff's Department.

Therefore, I join the residents of Belmont County, and the entire Eighteenth Congressional District of Ohio, in recognizing Sheriff Tom McCort for his exceptional work and immense contributions, and wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY'S 2004 BUCKEYE BULLET TEAM

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The Ohio State University 2004 Buckeye Bullet electric land speed vehicle team. This group of 11 undergraduate engineering students now holds the national and international land speed records for electric vehicles.

The Buckeye Bullet is a streamlined electric vehicle over 31 feet long, standing 3 feet high and 2 feet wide. It is powered by more than 900 batteries and contains a 400-plus horsepower engine. The most impressive fact about the Buckeye Bullet is that it was designed, built and is maintained by Ohio State students, giving undergraduates a unique opportunity for a hands-on learning experience.

This fall, the team traveled to the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah where they challenged the international land speed record of 245 mph. On October 13, 2004 the Buckeye Bullet set a new official international record time of 272 mph. However, the international record just wasn't enough for the Buckeye Bullet Team. On October 15, the team challenged its own 257 mph national speed record from the previous year, which conforms to a different set of requirements, successfully setting a new national land speed record at 315 mph. This makes the Buckeye Bullet the first electric race car to officially exceed 300 mph.

I would like to recognize the 2004 Buckeye Bullet team members from Ohio State for their dedication and hard work, including team leaders Isaac S. Harper, Andrew L. Marquand, and Benjamin J. Sinsheimer; team members Kevin C. Sze, Sean M. MacGregor, Aaron M. Haliena, Joseph H. Gorse, Andrea J. Barger, Michael B. Quade, Kimberly A. Stevens and Kevin Ponziani; faculty adviser Giorgio Rizzoni, staff adviser Maria Soliman, and of course the vehicle's driver, Roger Schroer of TRC, Inc. Congratulations to all of you for building the fastest electric vehicle on the planet!

HONORING MARGARET PARKER FRETWELL

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to honor Margaret Parker Fretwell. Mrs. Fretwell just recently celebrated her ninetieth birthday and it is my great pleasure to note that she is still working hard to better her community. Through her enjoyment of community service and a love for her family, Margaret Fretwell has made sure that her ninety years here on this earth have been spent in the service of others.

As an active member in her family, church, and community, she has become a symbol of service and charity. Those around her have been able to rely on her hard work and giving nature to promote charitable programs and

educational events that benefit everyone in her hometown of Anderson, South Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to stand here and honor Margaret Fretwell with my deepest thanks for her continued service and contributions to her local community. It is my hope that those that have been touched by her generosity will remember her example and use it in their own lives.

9/11 RECOMMENDATIONS IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to provide for reform of the intelligence community, terrorism prevention and prosecution, border security, and international cooperation and coordination, and for other purposes:

Mr. FARR. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the Ose amendment.

My friend and colleague from California has indicated that Navy facilities in San Diego are at risk if his amendment is not passed.

I have a Navy facility in my district so I can appreciate his concern. In fact, after September 11th, the Navy constructed a force protection barrier around their facility in Monterey.

But, I disagree with my colleague over his efforts to exempt the construction of portions of a 14-mile immigration barrier south of San Diego from most of the Nation's environmental laws.

A society is judged by how it reacts to adversity, and after 9/11 this Chamber and this country were galvanized into action in the wake of that tragic day.

There is not a single member in this Chamber that isn't willing to fight terrorism or to protect our country and its citizens. Let's get that straight.

The amendment we have before us now is more about immigration control than it is about national security. P.L. 104-208 authorized the construction of fencing and road improvements in the border area near San Diego, CA.

In short, the border improvements were pursued, planned, and construction started before 9/11.

So, we know there will be improvements to the barriers at the border. I don't question the importance of completing the fence—that's not what this is about.

What this amendment is about is ignoring—worse, circumventing—an ongoing process.

Mr. Ose's ill-conceived amendment attempts to fix a problem that doesn't exist.

This amendment undermines and overturns efforts made by local communities, civic groups, State agencies, and elected representatives who have been working to come to consensus with the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection.

This amendment even exempts from protection the Bald Eagle, a symbol of America's freedom that is surpassed only by our American Flag.

My colleagues should be aware that the California Coastal Commission continues to

work hard to complete the Southwest Border Fence, in compliance with the regulatory process established by 16 of our most essential public health, environmental, and cultural heritage laws and executive orders.

In fact, a meeting is scheduled for the 26th of October to work out the concerns between the Coastal Commission and the Department of Homeland Security's office of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection in charge of construction to resolve this issue.

We are a country built on laws. Our laws are in place not only to protect us today but also to protect this great nation for future generations.

There is no good reason why this project requires such a sweeping free ride.

By shirking the process and simply giving this project a blanket exemption from 16 of our most essential environmental laws, we are submitting that we can't do more than one thing at a time—and I don't, and won't, accept this.

I have more faith in our country, our laws, and the process.

This amendment will set a horrible precedent on multiple levels and I encourage all of my colleagues to vote "no."

A PROCLAMATION IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM HINIG

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, I hereby offer my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of William Hinig; and

Whereas, William Hinig was a highly esteemed legislator who served in the Ohio House of Representatives for twenty-five years; and

Whereas, William Hinig worked tirelessly as Chairman of both the House Ways and Means Committee and the House Finance and Appropriations Committee to promote bipartisanship and help the people of Ohio; and

Whereas, William Hinig honorably fought for his country during World War II, receiving a Purple Heart for injuries received at Normandy; and

Whereas, William Hinig worked in and contributed to the financial industry by aiding in the founding of the accounting firm of Hinig and Miller; and

Whereas, the integrity William Hinig possessed, and the compassion he showed towards others, will stand as reminders to a truly remarkable person. His life and love gave joy to all who knew him.

Therefore, while I understand how words cannot express our grief at this most trying of times, I offer this token of profound sympathy to the family and friends of William Hinig.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4200, RONALD W. REAGAN NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to discuss a number of provisions included in the conference report for H.R. 4200, the Defense Authorization bill for fiscal year 2005.

The conference report includes a provision that restricts from access under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), "data that are collected by land remote sensing and are prohibited from sale to customers other than the United States and its affiliated users." The effect of this language is that non-confidential commercial satellite imagery, which the government has purchased, would be restricted from disclosure to the public. This section extends this restriction to products that are derived from those data. That would mean that maps, reports, and any other analyses or communications that are derived from the exempted satellite image would also be inaccessible through FOIA. This section also preempts State and local public disclosure laws that would provide access to these data.

Public access to these data and products derived from these data is essential for effective participation in governmental actions, especially those by local governments that affect their daily lives. Government agencies use licensed and/or purchased imagery data in regulatory proceedings and numerous other mandated activities. The public requires access to this imagery in order to participate in these proceedings and importantly, to be informed about the activities of Government. This point was emphasized by the National Academy of Sciences in its recent report, *Licensing Geographic Data and Services*:

When geographic data are used to design or administer regulatory schemes or formulate policy, affect the rights and obligations of citizens, or have likely value for the broader society as indicated by a legislative or regulatory mandate, the agency should evaluate whether the data should be acquired under terms that permit unlimited public access or whether more limited access may suffice to support the agency's mandates and missions and the agency's actions in judicial and other review. (page 229).

The bill's sweeping exemption is even contradictory to the advice the administration has solicited on access to geospatial information. In a report prepared for the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, the RAND National Defense Research Institute recommends that Federal agencies and other organizations use an analytical process to assess the potential homeland security sensitivity of specific pieces of publicly available geospatial information and to determine if restricting access to these specific pieces would enhance security. They recommend that such a process include analysis of the usefulness of the information to an attacker; its uniqueness; and the expected societal benefits of access and the costs of restricting the information.

The process through which this section was developed is contrary to the fundamental principles represented by the Freedom of Information Act. FOIA is a tool for protecting public