

INTRODUCING THE LEGAL
SERVICES BENEFIT ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join my friend Mr. RYAN in reintroducing the Legal Services Benefit Act.

This bill reinstates the tax preference for companies to provide access to affordable preventive legal services for employees and retirees. This preference existed for many years, until it was allowed to sunset in 1991.

Group legal service plans provide employees with low cost, basic legal services, including assistance with the purchase of a home, the preparation of a will, probate services and the resolution of domestic conflicts, such as child support collection. With rising evictions and mortgage foreclosures, families need more help in these areas than ever. When hard times hit and families face difficult challenges, legal plans can help keep employees in their homes and focused on their jobs.

The Legal Services Benefit Act will restore the historic pre-tax treatment of group legal services. This change to the tax code will again make legal service plans affordable for both employers and employees, and will provide access to legal services for millions of middle-income Americans who might otherwise let legal troubles get out of hand.

Last year, this bill became part of the Taxpayer Assistance and Simplification Act of 2008, and passed the House 238—179.

I ask my colleagues to again join me again in supporting this important bill that will help workers and businesses.

COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING
WOMEN OF SOMERSET COUNTY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Women's History Month, and I would like to congratulate a number of outstanding women who will be recognized at the Somerset County's Commission on the Status of Women awards in New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District.

The Commission presents awards annually in celebration of National Women's History Month in March. This year there are 17 women being honored, including entrepreneurs, educators and hometown heroes whose community service is considered extraordinary.

This year's Volunteerism Award winner is Nicolette Ash of Bridgewater. She is a 17-year-old founder of MADE or Making A Difference Everywhere.

The organization provides volunteer opportunities to teens in the Bridgewater area and allows them to gain community-service hours required for school, scholarships and religious groups.

Projects have included cleaning trash along the Raritan River, raking leaves for senior citizens, preparing food bundles for needy families and many more.

I am pleased to congratulate Nicolette Ash for her outstanding efforts and share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

ADAM WALSH CHILD PROTECTION
AND SAFETY REAUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2009

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Reauthorization Act of 2009. This bill reauthorizes a number of programs set to expire at the end of 2009 that help to track and apprehend sex offenders.

In 2006, Congress passed the Adam Walsh Act to protect the public, particularly children, from sexual predators. Under the Act, sex offenders must register with state or local jurisdictions after incarceration or while on probation. The Act expanded the National Sex Offender Registry by integrating the information in state sex offender registry systems and ensuring that law enforcement agencies across the United States have access to this information. The Act further requires states to make registry information available to the public via government Internet websites. A number of new grant programs were also authorized to assist states in improving sex offender registration and related requirements of the Act. It is several of these grant programs and some related provisions that are expiring at the end of this year, though the registration requirements and related authorities are not.

Unfortunately, many of the programs authorized by the Adam Walsh Act, including the expiring programs reauthorized by this bill, have received insufficient or no direct funding from Congress.

There are currently more than 100,000 missing sex offenders who have failed to register as required under current law. These predators are working, attending school, and living in close proximity to our children unbeknownst to parents and law enforcement officials.

By reauthorizing these important Adam Walsh Act programs, Congress will demonstrate its commitment to empower federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to protect children and identify, locate and apprehend sex offenders.

These programs were specifically drafted to provide the Department of Justice and state and local law enforcement agencies the tools necessary to track and apprehend absconders from the Sex Offender Registry. These expiring programs reauthorized by this bill include:

1. The Sex Offender Management Assistance Program (SOMA)—this provision awards grants to states to assist with the implementation of the sex offender registry under the AWA.

2. Pilot Program for Monitoring Sexual Offenders—this provision empowers the Attorney General to make grants to state, local and tribal governments in order to outfit sex offenders with electronic monitoring devices. It authorizes appropriations of \$5 million for fiscal years 2010–2014 and thereafter requests the Attorney General to report on the effectiveness of the program.

3. Grants to Combat Sexual Abuse of Children—this provision establishes a grant program for law enforcement agencies to combat sexual abuse of children with authorized appropriations of the necessary sums for fiscal years 2010–2014.

4. Jessica Lunsford Address Verification Grant Program—this provision creates the Jessica Lunsford Address Verification Grant Program to enable state, local and tribal grantees to verify the addresses of registered sex offenders with authorization of the necessary appropriations for fiscal years 2010–2014 and the requirement of an Attorney General's report on the effectiveness of the program.

5. Fugitive Safe Surrender—this provision instructs the Marshals Service to establish and coordinate a Fugitive Safe Surrender program in designated cities for the capture of fugitives from federal, state and local justice. It authorizes appropriations of \$8 million for that purpose in fiscal years 2010–2014.

6. Sex Offender Apprehension Grants; Juvenile Sex Offender Treatment Grants—this provision creates a grant program available to both public and private entities that assist in treatment of juvenile sex offenders or that assist the states in their enforcement of sex offender registration requirements. Appropriations are authorized for fiscal years 2010–2014 in such amounts as are necessary in the case of the enforcement grants and in the amount of \$10 million per year in the case of the juvenile sex offender grants.

Madam Speaker, Congress should move quickly to reauthorize these programs. Congress should also appropriate necessary funds for the full implementation of these programs. I urge my colleagues to support the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Reauthorization Act of 2009.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the record my position on the following votes I missed due to personal reasons.

On Monday March 9, 2009 I missed rollcall votes 110, 111, and 112. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on those rollcall votes.

COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING
WOMEN OF SOMERSET COUNTY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Women's History Month, and I would like to congratulate a number of outstanding women who will be recognized at the Somerset County's Commission on the Status of Women awards in New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District.

The Commission presents awards annually in celebration of National Women's History Month in March. This year there are 17

women being honored, including entrepreneurs, educators and hometown heroes whose community service is considered extraordinary.

This year's Shirley Noble Volunteerism Award will be given to Doris Zampella, owner and executive vice president of E.A. Boniakowski Agency Inc. in Green Brook.

Doris also is a founding partner of two insurance agencies, Jaz Maz Enterprises LLC, and owns and operates three Rita's franchises in Central Jersey. She is a volunteer Emergency Medical Technician with the Martinsville Rescue Squad.

I am pleased to congratulate Doris Zampella for her outstanding efforts and share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009:

Requesting Member: Congressman VERN BUCHANAN

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: NOAA—Operations, Research, and Facilities

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Mote Marine Laboratory

Address of Requesting Entity: 1600 Ken Thompson Parkway, Sarasota, Fl. 34236

Description of Request: I secured \$500,000 for Science Consortium for Ocean Replenishment (SCORE) at Mote Marine Laboratory.

SCORE is a multi-state initiative for the recovery of the nation's ocean fisheries. Its approach is to replenish diminishing marine fisheries stocks based on scientific protocols developed through a highly coordinated national effort focused on demonstration of successful stock enhancement. This fast-track strategy has the potential to be more cost-effective and timely than policy measures traditionally used to conserve and sustain ocean resources. The consortium includes institutions from Florida, New Hampshire, Washington and University of Southern Mississippi.

Requesting Member: Congressman VERN BUCHANAN

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service—SRG
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Mote Marine Laboratory

Address of Requesting Entity: 1600 Ken Thompson Parkway, Sarasota, Fl. 34236

Description of Request: I secured \$416,000 sustainable aquaculture food technology innovations.

Mote Marine Laboratory and the University of Texas Marine Science Institute are seeking funds for a five-year research program to develop innovative and sustainable technologies to farm marine fishes on land and to expand the supply of safe seafood for U.S. consumers. A critical need exists for inland re-circulating aquaculture technologies to reduce

the large and growing global demand for seafood, to reduce fishing pressure on declining wild fish populations, and to improve our nation's food security and health. The growing demand for marine fishery resources is currently being met through imported seafood produced in coastal ponds or sea cages in other countries around the world.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding an earmark I received as part of H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Member requesting: Congressman Gus M. BILIRAKIS

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: OJP—Byrne Discretionary Grants

Name of requesting entity: Phoenix House

Address of requesting entity: 6604 Harney Road, Tampa, Florida 33610

Description: The \$200,000 will be used to help develop an enhanced residential substance abuse treatment program for women in Hillsborough County, Florida. This funding is justified because Byrne discretionary grants are used to help states and local communities prevent drug abuse and crime, which is the purpose of this program.

COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF SOMERSET COUNTY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Women's History Month, and I would like to congratulate a number of outstanding women who will be recognized at the Somerset County's Commission on the Status of Women awards in New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District.

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This year's Hometown Hero Award winner is Edith Lit of Manville.

For the past seven years, Edith has organized a "Wish List" campaign to make the holidays brighter for clients of Alternatives Inc. by encouraging her fellow Somerset County Library System employees to adopt a person or family.

For the past three years, she has included the Somerset Regional Animal Shelter in the libraries' "Wish List" drive.

Edith also participates in the "point in time" survey conducted by the county Department of Human Services to identify homeless individuals and families, and actively organizes co-workers and friends to help too.

I am pleased to congratulate Edith Lit for her outstanding efforts and share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately last night, March 9, 2009, I was unable to cast my votes on H. Res. 210, H. Res. 222, and H.R. 131.

Had I been present for Roll Call #110, on suspending the Rules and passing H. Res. 210, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that providing breakfast in schools through the National School Breakfast Program has a positive impact on classroom performance, I would have voted "Aye."

Had I been present for Roll Call #111, on suspending the Rules and passing H. Res. 222, Congratulating the National Assessment Governing Board on its 20th Anniversary in measuring student academic achievement, I would have voted "Aye."

Had I been present for Roll Call #112, on suspending the Rules and passing H.R. 131, the Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission Act, I would have voted "Aye."

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information in regards to H.R. 1105, the Consolidated Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2009.

Requesting Member: Rep. JO ANN EMERSON
Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: COPS-Meth

Requesting Entity: Southeast Missouri Drug Task Force

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 1763, Sikeston, Missouri 63801

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$165,000 to supplement and support operations of the Southeast Missouri Drug Task Force (SEMO DTF). SEMO DTF is a multi-jurisdictional drug task force unit that serves a 10 county area of Southeast Missouri. The unit conducts both cover and overt investigations into the possession, manufacture, and distribution of controlled substances. The funds will be spent as follows: \$28,000 for personnel, \$68,000 for overtime compensation, \$60,000 for equipment, \$2,500 for telecommunication services, \$5,000 for supplies, and \$1,500 for personnel expenses.

COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF SOMERSET COUNTY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Women's History Month, and I