

Additionally, Baltimore is the home of dozens of HUB Zones or "Historically Under-utilized Business Zones."

The HUB Zone Empowerment Contracting Program was enacted into law as part of the Small Business Reauthorization Act of 1997.

The program encourages economic development in distressed communities through establishment of preferences for award of Federal contracts to small businesses located in these areas.

Such a program has immense potential to aid the residents of my district—both business owners and the employees they hire.

I would hate to think that after my colleagues demonstrated their wisdom in enacting the HUB Zone legislation, that just one year later they would provide inadequate funding to fully enact the program.

My constituents contact my office daily to learn of SBA programs that can assist them in their attempts to gain financial self-sufficiency and independence.

I urge the conference committee to fully fund both the Minority Enterprise Development and the HUB Zone Programs.

Mr. Speaker, I am not sure what the Republican majority meant to accomplish when it so dramatically under-funded the SBA and restricted those funds in a manner that would cause the elimination of virtually the entire SBA headquarters' staff.

I therefore urge the members of the conference committee to act with a clear head and a clear conscience when they consider restoring full funding to the SBA.

FOREST TAX RELIEF ACT

HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to announce the introduction of the Forest Tax Relief Act, an important bill to let all our citizens enjoy the forests free from burdensome taxes. I am proud to announce that I have co-authored this bi-partisan bill with my dear colleague, Representative LOIS CAPPS (D-CA.)

Due to enabling legislation passed by a previous Congress, the United States Forest Service has implemented a new pilot project charging day users a per car fee to park on public lands. Dubbed the "Adventure Pass" by the U.S. Forest Service, this is nothing but a new tax on using public lands. Many of my constituents question the fairness and merits of this tax, and I share their concern. This tax goes against the concept of experiencing our free and open land making it a hardship on locals and visitors alike.

Within the forest of the 44th Congressional district, the per car fee for an Adventure Pass is \$5. To residents in the communities of Idyllwild, Anza, Hemet and San Jacinto and tourists who come to enjoy these precious lands, this fee is a source of much controversy. We have come to expect the freedom to enjoy this area without the inconvenience and tax imposed on us today.

To tax the Great Outdoors is offensive to the very concept of the national forest system. The forests are for the entire nation and therefore should be supported through the traditional funding process. Under this plan, Con-

gress taxes Americans twice. It is now time to remedy this situation.

Mr. Speaker, not only are the fees unjust, but they are generating only half the projected revenue. I believe we are deterring individuals from discovering the wonder and beauty of our National Forest. We must encourage people to visit, not discourage them from doing so. When tourists go elsewhere, it hurts small businesses and it hurts our efforts to educate individuals on the importance of protecting this precious national resource. This tax serves as a barrier to working families, hikers, nature lovers and all those desiring access to our national forests.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this effort to return the forests back to the people.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 4, 1998

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3790.

The major beneficiary of this bill will be the National Digital Library. The "profits" from the bill will go to make millions of items available freely on the internet by the year 2000. It is a most fitting goal as the Library of Congress celebrates its 200th birthday in the year 2000. The Library will be using the world's most advanced technology for further education of all our citizens.

Already more than 500,000 items from the Library's incomparable collections relating to American history are on line, including Civil War photographs, presidential papers, documents relating to the civil rights movement, and women's suffrage. Nearly 62 million transactions are now being handled by the Library's on-line services.

These services are used by students, scholars and the general public in the U.S. and around the world. The Library's web site has been called a "publicly and privately financed funded taxpayers dream" by Wired Magazine and an "internet hit" by the New York Times.

We have more than the 290 co-sponsors required to bring this bipartisan bill to the floor. I applaud the Library and urge all my colleagues to support this worthy bill.

BIOMATERIALS ACCESS ASSURANCE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to support H.R. 872, the Biomaterials Access Assurance Act. The broad consensus of support that the bill now enjoys is the result of many months of hard work by many, especially the bill's sponsor, Representative GEORGE GEKAS.

"Biomaterials" are the raw materials that are used to make medical implants and devices.

Examples of biomaterials include silicone, polyester, urethane, and polycarbonate. These materials have hundreds of non-medical uses, but their use in medical devices is one of the most important.

Despite having no role in the design, testing, or production of implantable medical products, biomaterials suppliers are exposed to millions of dollars in litigation costs from product liability suits. Courts have overwhelmingly found biomaterials suppliers not liable, but the costly litigation quickly overwhelms the relatively small financial benefits of selling to the medical device market. For this reason, many biomaterials suppliers no longer sell their products for medical use.

H.R. 872 would limit the liability of biomaterials suppliers to instances of genuine fault. It provides expedited dismissal for biomaterials suppliers, without extensive discovery or other legal costs, in product liability suits where plaintiffs allege harm from a medical implant.

Without congressional action, patients will lose access to life-enhancing and life-saving implantable medical devices and some device manufacturers will close their doors.

Passage of this legislation is critically important for the future of Millions of patients and the medical device industry. Anyone that uses a medical device should be heartened by the action of the House today. This bill is a victory for consumers and ensures that the United States' leadership in medical technology innovation will continue.

In closing, I want to emphasize how important it is that this bill remain narrow in scope. As written, it addresses a specific, well-documented public health problem. Any effort to expand the scope of the bill by our colleagues in the other body to include broader product liability reforms will seriously endanger passage this year. On behalf of the patients who depend on medical technology, we cannot afford to let that happen.

24TH ANNIVERSARY OF TURKEY'S INVASION OF CYPRUS

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today to protest the Turkish invasion of Cyprus.

Even though the international community has condemned the Turkish government's action as a brutal violation of international law, Turkey has yet to comply with international pressures and remains the only nation in the world to recognize the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus as a sovereign entity. Since 1974, the United Nations and other international organizations have repeatedly attempted to find a solution to this dispute, but the border separating the Cypriot and Turkish forces remains one of the most militarized in the world. Currently, over 30,000 troops retain control over the northern third of the island. Tensions remain high in the region, and, with the recent Turkish threats of military action, the prospects for a peaceful solution in the near future have been further reduced.

The invasion of 1974 marked not just a defeat of Cypriot military forces, but the beginning of a policy of Turkish ethnic cleansing.

Massive portions of the Greek Cypriot population were dislocated, exposing them to the threats of starvation and poverty. The Turkish invasion did not solve the political disputes that had already fueled factionalism and ethnic hostility in Cyprus, but only intensified the animosity between Turkish and Greek Cypriots. Today, these communities stand isolated from one another, with the hopes for a unified society greatly diminished.

Recurrent violence along the border has continuously proven detrimental to the United Nation's efforts to secure any type of lasting peace in the region. As recently as 1996, increased hostility along the buffer zone led to the injury and death of several soldiers. Strides toward gradual demilitarization remain essential to reducing tension in this delicate situation.

I applaud the Clinton Administration's efforts to find a peaceful solution to this conflict. Recent visits by Richard Holbrooke, U.S. Presidential Envoy for Cyprus, underscore the United States' commitment to furthering political stability in the region. I implore the President to make it clear that violence should not be used to resolve this most recent crisis. United Nations-sponsored negotiations should recommence immediately. The United States must make it clear that it is willing to use foreign aid, sanctions, and its power as a member of several international organizations in order to compel a resolution to this conflict.

While preventing violence is our immediate priority, our underlying goal of a lasting and constructive peace on Cyprus remains at the center of our efforts. When this most recent crisis passes, we must remain firmly committed to promoting peace and reconciliation on the island of Cyprus.

ISSUES FACING YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to have printed in the RECORD these statements by high school students from my home State of Vermont, who were speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people today.

STATEMENT BY ABIGAIL NESSON REGARDING GUN CONTROL

ABIGAIL NESSON: I believe that our forefathers had the right idea. Their wish was to create a safe and free nation for all of us to live in, and they wrote this to prove it: "We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

These are beautiful words. But more than beautiful, they can be used and enforced to create a more perfect union. But our country is at a time in its history when the words "domestic tranquility" and "general welfare" seem to signify things of the past.

I am here today to talk to you about guns. The widespread availability of these weapons is frightening and wrong. Thousand are killed every year in our country by guns

bought legally, guns made not to hunt animals but to hunt humans. Many have killed or have been killed by the time they reach my age, if they ever do.

I am a strict constructionist when it comes to the preamble and the Second Amendment, meaning I believe that our forefathers wrote just what they meant. They meant for the Constitution to create domestic tranquility and general welfare and, especially, common defense. I believe—I know—that the guns that are available today do none of these things. I believe and I know that our forefathers would agree, because I refuse to think that the intentions of the ones who wrote the Constitution was to put lethal weapons in the hands of every person who wanted one. That is not "a well regulated militia." No, their intention was to ensure the safety and freedom of us, their posterity.

I propose that we follow the words of the preamble and of our constitution. I propose that we take a step to make our nation safe again, for me and for the children I want to have some day. I propose we remove the guns from our streets, our homes and our hands.

CONGRESSMAN SANDERS: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT BY ABE KLEIN REGARDING CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

ABE KLEIN: The issue I am choosing to bring up today is that of campaign finance reform. You mentioned a moment ago, it is really quite a simple process, to some extent, for getting people elected to the smaller, local levels, including in Vermont, our state Congress and the senate, as well. But once you go beyond that, it is really a different story, and it takes a lot of money for people to get elected to office, as I'm sure you are aware of.

CONGRESSMAN SANDERS: Tell me about it. Yes, I know.

ABE KLEIN: You are the only person in the entire Federal Government of our nation who has been elected without the monetary support of the Democratic or Republican party. And I feel that this requisite amount of money required for people to attain office is really limiting who can be elected to office and who can hold power in our country, and the other real issue behind this problem is that, though people can get elected with the support of the democratic and republican parties, both of these parties get a large amount of their support from large corporations throughout the nation, and it seems to hold a really evident influence on the policies of our nation, and I think to the detriment of the people.

The one I am working with, there was a proposal, and there have been many proposals since 1974 when the first campaign finance reform proposal was passed, after the Nixon administration, but that particular proposal left a lot of gaps, including allowing organizations or PACs, these PAC organizations, to gather money for the political parties without restrictions. And a number of people in the Congress, including you, have attempted to reprimand that with new proposals, to no success.

I really wanted to bring that issue up as a discussion, because I feel that it's really limiting the viewpoints and the opinions of people in Congress, and who can get elected to Congress. I mean, people continue to work on it, but it really—I don't know—I think that, at some point, maybe with large amounts of grassroots support, it could be brought up as an issue for serious debate, and it could be really brought into a forefront, and it needs to be done in a manner which does not limit people's free speech. And that is a serious issue as well, because a lot of people claim that their ability to

spend money for political elections is representing their free speech, and any limits on their ability to spend money is therefore infringing on their First Amendment.

I am not sure. I guess I would ask you, actually. Have you found any ways in which a seriously extensive limitation on who and how much money can be spent, or who can spend this money to elect people to federal office without infringing on their First Amendment.

THE COURT: Abe, thank you very much.

STATEMENT BY BRIDGET GUILFOY, MICHAEL HASTINGS, KATE CHARLEBOIS AND MANDY COLLIER REGARDING VIOLENCE IN THE SCHOOLS

BRIDGET GUILFOY: We are going to be talking about violence in schools. And so a real important question to be asked initially is: Has the violence actually increased over the last few years, or several years? And it seems very obvious that it has increased, but there is a surprising lack of evidence and information about it. The last official national study was done in 1978, and, since then, there has been no national one to compare it with. The only ones that have been done have been in smaller local settings. So all we can do is really speculate, based on local studies to compare the violence over the years.

In 1978, 1.3 percent of students reported being attacked, and 4 percent of those needed medical attention. And in a survey in 1989 of 31 Illinois public high schools, 8 percent of students reported being attacked, 8 percent of those had been cut, and 4 percent shot. And in a 1990 report, 20 percent of students said that they had carried a weapon to school within a month before the survey. So with these more informal reports, it seems clear that the violence has increased, but it is just very surprising and almost disturbing that there have been no studies, because it seems like there is a lack of interest.

It is also very interesting that, in the 1978 report, students reported 22 times the number of attacks and robberies that their principals and teachers reported, and it just is a shame, because it seems that if people are trying to cover up the problem here, it will make it a lot more difficult to actually get to the bottom of it and help it.

For causes, one cause attributed to the violence is the easy availability of guns. And another, violence is often blamed on gangs and drug traffic, but, really, I mean, violence occurs outside of major cities where gangs and drug issues aren't as big of a problem, and these are also just reasons that explain how the violence occurs and not why.

Violent children are usually victims of abuse themselves, and psychological studies have shown that child abuse is invariably connected with child violence.

KATE CHARLEBOIS: As Bridget was saying, there is a direct relation between child abuse and violence among teenagers. And recently, there was an article in The Burlington Free Press which stated that the number of reported child abuse cases is the lowest in 15 years. However, it has also been reported that these cases that are reported tend to be much more violent than ever before, which may be in relation to why there is more guns and shootings happening, rather than fights in schools.

So we feel as though there is a real need for both more child abuse programs as well as an increase in the availability of these programs. Also, as a solution for this problem, if I could just read a quote from Jimmy Foster, who is the Mayor of Pearl, Mississippi, where, on October 1st of '97, there was a shooting which killed two teenagers and wounded seven others. And he said: "You know the old cliché, it happens to somebody