

But many more items come into the general repository than are needed for such distribution. Under applicable law, the Service has to retain some of these items that aren't distributed. But others can be sold—and that's where this bill comes in.

Under current law, proceeds from sales of these unneeded items can be used for rewards and for some storage costs, but can't be used to defray the costs of the sales themselves. This bill would change this so that the Service could use the money from the sales to pay for the appraisals, auction expenses, and other costs of those sales, as well as for processing and shipping of items and for any steps needed to clear title to them.

It's estimated that in the first year after enactment, the bill will generate about a million dollars in additional funding for the Service. That will help make these programs more self-supporting, cutting red tape and making it easier for the Service to carry out these important activities.

The bill would not authorize sales of any items that can't be sold now, and it would not change any of the other rules regarding protection or management of fish or wildlife.

I think it's good sense as well as good government. I'm glad that the Senate has now passed this companion measure, and I urge the House to concur and clear the bill for signing into law.

Finally, let me remind my friend from California that this bill really originated on this side of the aisle. Equitable treatment of minority legislation on the suspension calendar is an objective I share. However, this bill is bipartisanship—and it should pass.

#### INTERNATIONAL CHILD LABOR RELIEF ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 1998*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of the International Child Labor Relief Act today.

This bill authorizes the payment of \$30 million for FY 1999, 2000 and 2001 for the U.S. Labor Department, to be used as the U.S. contribution to the International Labor Organization for the activities of the International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor.

According to UNICEF statistics, between 200,000 and 250,000 child laborers exist worldwide, 95% of whom are in underdeveloped countries. The total includes children working on family farms and other argibusinesses, in factories and perhaps most tragically in the sex industries.

Countries including India, Nepal, Pakistan, parts of Central American and Burma many young girls and young women are forced into prostitution. In Sudan and Mauritania, thousands of ethnic minority children have been kidnapped and sold into slavery. We are all aware of the problems worldwide of child labor and child abuse.

Last year, I supported Representative LANTOS' legislation, H.R. 1870, The Young American Worker's Bill of Rights, in order to set minimum standards for protecting children in the workplace. I urge my colleagues to sup-

port this legislation. We must do whatever we can to keep children safe.

#### TRIBUTE TO ALLSTATE HISPANIC MARKETING TEAM

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, October 10, 1998*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to the Allstate Hispanic Marketing Team and Advertising and Brand Development Group for their vision and commitment to better serve the needs of Latino community.

President Kennedy once said, "For those to whom much is given, much is required." This recognition is to honor the individuals who have exemplified such leadership, volunteerism, and dedication. Committed to their industry leadership stance, these Allstate leaders have activity engaged in building relationships with organizations in meaningful ways to develop solutions that make a positive difference for individuals and communities.

Pioneering programs that range from the development of the "En Buenas Manos" (Good Hands) Award which commemorates individuals who volunteer their time and energy to improve the quality of life in the Latino community, to the sponsorship of national events such as the National Council of La Raza Conference (NCLR), and the Olmos Latino Book and Family Festival is what sets Allstate apart.

The list of cultural and civic Hispanic events in which Allstate and its vast network of agents participate as individuals and as a company is long, and includes festivals, parades, conferences, and other national and local events of special interest.

In addition to its commitment to providing its customers with the highest levels of service, Allstate, through its Hispanic Marketing Team and Advertising and Brand Development Group, has forged relationships and spearheaded programs that deal with issues such as housing and community development, education, employment and job training, immigration, health and safety, and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in paying tribute to the Allstate Hispanic Marketing Team and the Advertising and Brand Developing Group. They have shown unwavering commitment to the community and deserve our recognition and praise. "Con Allstate . . . Usted Está En Buenas Manos."

#### THE DIGITAL DATA SERVICES ACT OF 1998

**HON. W.J. (BILLY) TAUZIN**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, October 10, 1998*

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation to assure that a duly licensed low powered television station may utilize its authorized spectrum to offer to the public digital-based interactive broadcast services, and wireless Internet access, one or two way, portable or fixed, or connection to the Internet

via the Interactive Video and Data Service (IVDS).

The Federal Communications Commission demonstrated sound judgment in granting limited "experimental authority" to such stations to develop alternative approaches for offering to the general public digital data services, including wireless Internet access at reasonable prices, and I want to make their authority permanent.

In its short period of existence, the Internet has grown to become an important medium for the conduct of commerce, the education of our children, and the maintenance of the informed and enlightened electorate necessary to a free society. Given its status in the United States as a substantial educational, promotional, commercial and distribution channel, the Internet is one of the engines which is driving the United States economy to record levels of productivity and employment.

One of the shortcomings of the technology is that it is wire bound. Through the efforts of the Federal Communications Commission and private entrepreneurs, however, that shortcoming is being ameliorated. There are currently a number of low-power television stations in the United States which have obtained experimental authority to provide Internet service because this service is an innovative use of the spectrum which will benefit the public.

It is the policy of the United States, as evidenced by the provisions of Sections 7, 10, 11, and 273 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, to remove barriers to entry and to foster innovation in the telecommunications marketplace. The legislation I am introducing today is designed to ensure that these low power stations offering Internet service may continue to provide the public with high speed wireless Internet access.

Recent history of telecommunications aptly illustrates the demand and utility of wireless access. Wireless telecommunications has been a substantial enhancement to the United States economy. Wireless Internet access promises even greater but similar economic benefits. Use of low-power television stations for wireless Internet access would facilitate the provision of the Internet to schools and public libraries without the necessity for expensive rewiring of those facilities. For these reasons, there is substantial public interest benefit in encouraging the provision of wireless Internet access.

I anticipate that the subcommittee on telecommunications will take this matter up early next year. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this effort.

#### ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

**HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 1998*

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that yesterday the House passed S. 2432, the Assistive Technology Act of 1998. The bill, with its House amendments, will soon be brought before the Senate for its consideration and I look forward shortly to its

enactment and signature into law by the President.

In June of this year, I introduced H.R. 4603, the Assistive and Universally Designed Technology Improvement Act for Individuals with Disabilities. H.R. 4603 was also introduced in the Senate as S. 2173, offered by my distinguished Senate colleague from Missouri, Mr. Bond. I am very pleased that S. 2432 incorporates a number of provisions from my bill, H.R. 4603.

Mr. Speaker, my Technology Subcommittee has held two hearings, and two exhibitions, in this Congress on the need to promote greater access to technology for people with disabilities. The testimony from the hearings demonstrated that clear need.

As a result of the hearings, the Technology Subcommittee was impressed with the need for a greater emphasis to develop assistive technologies. Yet, the area of assistive technology is greatly overlooked by the Federal Government and the private sector.

While the importance of assistive technologies spans age and disability classifications, assistive technologies still do not maintain the recognition in the Federal Government necessary to provide important assistance for research and development programs or to individuals with disabilities. The private sector generally lacks adequate incentives to produce assistive technologies and end-users lack adequate resources to acquire assistive technology.

It is also believed that there are insufficient links between federally funded assistive technology research and development programs and the private sector entities responsible for translating research and development into significant new products in the marketplace for end-users. Accordingly, new partnerships—involving the public and private sectors—must be formed to aid Americans with physical disabilities improve their quality of life and provide a means for acquiring a job to become self-sufficient.

The Assistive Technology Act of 1998 legislates a number of recommendations made in my Technology Subcommittee hearings. We heard of the need to promote greater interest in assistive technologies, to enhance investment opportunities by the Federal Government, as well as public and private entities, in addressing the unmet technology needs of individuals with disabilities, and to allow for increased methods by which individuals with disabilities could purchase assistive technologies. This bill would do just that.

The Act builds on the success of the Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities (known commonly as the "Tech Act" or as Public Law 100-407) that we enacted back in 1988. The Tech Act supports all 50 States in providing for the technology needs of our nation's 49 million disabled citizens, focuses the Federal investment in technology that could benefit individuals with disabilities, and supports micro-loan programs to provide assistance to individuals who desire to purchase assistive devices or services.

Title I of the Assistive Technology Act authorizes funding for a number of grant programs for five years, from fiscal years 1999 through 2004, extending the Tech Act after its sunset this year. Under the Act, States will be able to continue the successful programs of technology assistance that has served the disabled community well for the past decade.

In the 10 years since the enactment of the Tech Act, every State has established programs that promote assistive technologies to individuals with disabilities. For example, a very successful partnership has been established with my home state of Maryland to help people with disabilities access assistive technology services and devices.

Additionally, the Assistive Technology Act will help States establish and strengthen systems to inform people with disabilities in determining their best technology options. While there has been a great deal of progress in the creation of new assistive technologies, information about these devices is difficult to find and inconsistent. The Act would authorize the development of a national, on-line resource and distance learning center for people with disabilities. The Act also offers an on-line website to inform the disabled community of newly created assistive technology devices.

Mr. Speaker, assistive technologies are being used to increase, maintain, and improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities. By encouraging the development of assistive technologies, we are offering people with disabilities the abilities they all seek—the ability to successfully compete in the modern workplace and the ability for independence in the home. I urge my colleagues to support this important bill and I will work towards enactment of this worthy legislation.

#### MEDICARE HOME HEALTH AND VETERANS HEALTH CARE IM- PROVEMENT ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOE BARTON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 1998*

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my support for legislation passed by the House of Representatives on October 9, 1998, H.R. 4567, "The Medicare Home Health Care Interim Payment System Refinement Act," as it was amended by the Commerce Committee. This legislation will remedy some of the problems the home health agencies in my state and district are facing with the interim payment system passed in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

The state of Texas is a unique state in more ways than one. We have a very large and ever-growing population. We also have a very high number of "new" home health agencies, meaning agencies established after October 1, 1994. According to the September 1998 General Accounting Office report to Congress on Home Health Agency Closures, Medicare-certified home health agencies in Texas grew from 961 agencies in 1994 to 1,949 agencies in 1997. According to that same report, 134 agencies have closed recently, leaving the state with 1,758 agencies as of August 1, 1998, still more, many more agencies than existed in the state in 1994. As you can see, Texas, as opposed to a state like New Hampshire which has only 46 home health agencies, has been affected greatly by the interim payment system.

One issue I have been very involved with as the Chairman of the House Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations is the problem of fraud and abuse in the Medi-

care and its effect on the continued solvency of the program. One of the changes made in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 was to move Medicare home health care reimbursement to a prospective payment system (PPS). Since there were impediments to going to a PPS immediately, an interim payment system (IPS) was established for reimbursement to home health care agencies. As stated above, the IPS has caused problems for many agencies, especially newer agencies. The problems with the IPS and the fact that HCFA recently announced that they will not meet the original October 1, 1999 date set for the PPS to be enacted required Congressional action to straighten out some of the problems with the IPS.

There are obviously some bad actors in home health care, but there are many more good ones. I do not believe it was the Congress' intention for good operators to be punished by regulations that are too punitive. The honest providers who want to provide quality care should not be penalized.

The legislation considered by the House makes a move in the right direction. I commend the principals involved, Ways and Means Chairman BILL ARCHER and Health Subcommittee Chairman BILL THOMAS, as well as Commerce Chairman TOM BLILEY and Health Subcommittee Chairman MICHAEL BILIRAKIS, on achieving some legislative relief for the home health agencies in my state as well as across the country.

I do not believe that I am alone in the sentiment that we will be revisiting the home health care issue in the 106th Congress for there are additional issues yet to be considered. I do support this home health package and its contribution towards a workable, efficient, and common sense solution for home health care agencies across this country.

#### INTERNATIONAL ANTI-BRIBERY AND FAIR COMPETITION ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 1998*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4353, "The International Anti-Bribery and Fair Competition Act" and ask permission to revise and extend my remarks.

This legislation provides the underlying authorities for the implementation of the Anti-Bribery Convention of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development which criminalizes the bribery of foreign public officials.

I would like to compliment the principal sponsor of this legislation, the gentleman from Virginia, Chairman BLILEY, for his leadership in this issue and for his assistance and cooperation in including reporting provisions that ensure that the administration carefully monitors the implementation of this OECD Convention, that it be updated and amended to include other officials, including political parties, party officials or candidates, and that nongovernmental groups such as Transparency International have a role in the review process.

Mr. Speaker, since the Foreign Corrupt Practices was adopted in 1977, the U.S. was