

does it provide funds to carry out other new, federally imposed duties. I must admit I'm a bit perplexed. I thought my Republican colleagues had committed not to impose costly new burdens on state and local governments without compensating them for their expense.

Second, the bill could still preempt state laws that give the consumer greater protection. Although, under certain circumstances, the amendment before us lets the states set the percentage of value loss that will define what a salvage vehicle is, this bill could still preempt state laws that provide greater consumer protections in other areas of salvage vehicle title branding.

Third, the bill gives the Department of Transportation authority to issue regulations covering all aspects of vehicle titling by the states. That may be more than needed to accomplish the bill's stated purpose, which is to require title branding for salvage vehicles nationwide.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, the National Association of Attorneys General has opposed this legislation, as has a broad-based coalition of consumer groups. Among the consumer groups opposing the bill are: the Consumer Federation of America, Public Citizen, Consumers Union, and the U.S. Public Interest Research Group.

Clearly, there are legitimate theft prevention and consumer protection issues involved in the way the states title motor vehicles. I am not opposed to addressing these in a prudent and careful manner which respects the rights of the states.

I, therefore, suggest strongly that this bill simply needs more work and that it should not be enacted into law in its present form. This legislation seeks to address important public policy goals. However, we should be careful that our solution to these public policy concerns does not create new problems that we are not prepared to deal with.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in strong support of S. 2432, the Assistive Technology Act of 1998.

Assistive technologies have dramatically improved the quality of life for thousands of people in Hawaii and millions around the country. In addition to increasing the range of physical functions a person is capable of, assistive technologies provide psychological benefits increasing self esteem and empowering individuals with independence.

The Assistive Technology Act authorizes a range of programs designed to eliminate barriers preventing maximum utilization of Assistive Technologies. In addition to grants for public awareness, promotion, outreach and research, S. 2432, provides for programs that would encourage various segments of the community to become involved in assistive technology efforts.

I am particularly pleased that this bill contains specific provisions for outreach activities in rural and impoverished urban areas and for children and older individuals.

I am also delighted that S. 2432 authorizes alternative financing mechanisms including: loan guarantee or insurance programs, low-interest loan funds and interest buy-down programs; to help individuals with disabilities and their families to purchase assistive technology devices.

For many individuals with disabilities, assistive technologies means freedom and independence. What most of us take for granted.

I support the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 and urge its immediate passage.

RECOGNITION OF EMMA UDOVICH INDUCTED INTO THE TEXAS SENIORS HALL OF FAME

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 12, 1998

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Emma Udovich, of El Paso, as a recent inductee of the Texas Seniors Hall of Fame. Emma was honored on September 22, 1998 at the opening ceremonies of the state games in Temple, Texas. At 74 she has won a roomful of medals for her athletic endeavors.

In 1986 Emma Udovich heard about the Senior Games over the radio in El Paso, she entered two cycling events and won two gold medals. Emma did not begin competing until she was in her sixties. In the next 13 years she found herself entering over 14 venues in the Senior Games as well as all 6 national Senior Games all over the Country.

Among her accomplishments Emma boasts the following titles: the first woman to be named El Paso Senior Games; Athlete of the Year (1994), Broke Senior national games; cycling record in mile race (1991), Lubbock Sports Classic; Outstanding Woman Athlete (1997), and Emma has won more than 200 gold medals among her 300 awards in senior games competition since 1986.

I am proud to recognize my fellow El Pasoan, Emma Udovich, for her remarkable accomplishments. Emma is a role model for all of us, at 61 she found her calling in athletic competition and pursued her dream. Today Emma has realized that dream through hard work, perseverance and the love of athletic competition. She is a beacon of hope for us all, and shows us that it is never too late to pursue your dreams.

HONORING ELEANOR GARLISI FOR HER YEARS OF SERVICE AS HEAD NURSE IN THE OFFICE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN, US CAP- ITOL

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 12, 1998

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Eleanor Garlisi and her six years of service as the Head Nurse in the Office of Attending Physician of the US Capitol.

On November 3, Nurse Garlisi will retire from the Office of Attending Physician. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Nurse Garlisi for her years of service to this body

and for making sure that all of my distinguished colleagues have had their shots.

During her tenure as Head Nurse, Eleanor has done everything from educating her patients on how to improve their health to providing emergency care for members, staff, and visitors to these hallowed halls.

I know that all of my colleagues who have had to visit the Office of Attending Physician will join me in thanking Nurse Garlisi for her care and compassion. I congratulate Nurse Garlisi on her years of service and wish her continued happiness and success in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO SUE ELLIS

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 12, 1998

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize today the accomplishments of my good friend, Sue Ellis. On September 30, Sue retired from her position as Director of Congressional Relations for Gallaudet University after nearly thirty years of service. During her years at Gallaudet, Sue has held many positions and her list of accomplishments is long.

Sue has been a wonderful asset to Gallaudet through her commitment to furthering the causes of the hearing-impaired community. Under Sue's watch, the University has flourished. Gallaudet has grown from a college to a university—an institution of higher learning led by a hearing-impaired president. Through much of her work with Congress, Sue has helped increase awareness of the importance of Gallaudet University to every community, not just the hearing-impaired.

Personally, Sue has been a very good friend to me and my staff and has encouraged my office to become more involved with the hearing-impaired community in my district. Sue has helped my office hire hearing-impaired interns and full-time staff and we appreciate her support and assistance to make this possible by helping to install the proper technology and arrange sign language classes for my staff and me.

I have also worked closely with Sue in her tireless efforts to organize the Congressional Basketball Game. This fundraising effort has grown from a small event into a tremendous success with national support and raises hundreds of thousands of dollars for the students at Gallaudet.

Through our many years of working closely with Sue, my office considers her a part of our family. I would like to personally thank her for her dedication to an important issue and her commitment to making our world a better place for all. We wish you all of the best in your retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 12, 1998

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, on October 9, after 6:00 p.m. and on October 10, I was absent from the Chamber. I ask unanimous consent that the RECORD reflect that had

I been here I would have voted "Aye" on roll-call votes 511–520.

CELEBRATING 9TO5'S TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 12, 1998

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, October 16, 1998, 9to5, the National Association of Working Women, will celebrate 25 years of advocating work place issues for women.

9to5 started in 1973 when a group of clerical workers in Boston decided that women workers deserved respect, higher pay, and better working conditions. Since then, as an increasing number of women continue to join the workforce, 9to5 has challenged employers and lawmakers to make the work place more responsive to women and families.

9to5 has worked tirelessly to win rights for women workers. They have worked to eliminate the practice of firing pregnant women, to establish leave time for women—and men—to care for a sick loved one, and to educate employers and employees about sexual harassment. Their efforts have translated into better work environments and higher morale for employees and higher production and lower turnover for employers.

In 1978, 9to5 members were instrumental in passing landmark legislation, the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, making it illegal for employers to discriminate against pregnant women. During the 1980's, 9to5 focused on passing a number of State laws on pay equity and family and medical leave. In 1987, in my home city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 9to5 piloted the "Job Retention Project" to help women make the transition from welfare to work. The successful project became the model for similar projects in Cleveland, Atlanta, and Los Angeles.

In 1993, 9to5 championed another legislative milestone, passage of the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act which allows workers to take leave to care for a family member without risk of losing their job. Also, in the 1990's, 9to5 has focused on sexual harassment in the work place by helping employers establish effective policies on sexual harassment.

As 9to5 celebrates the successes of the past 25 years, issues of fairness and equality continue to challenge women in the workforce. 9to5 will continue to fight the battle for women in the work place seeking higher and more equitable pay, more and better family-friendly policies, stronger employment programs and a reliable social safety net.

I congratulate 9to5 on its accomplishments and I encourage its members to continue their efforts to make the work place safer for women across the country.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF INSPECTORS GENERAL

SPEECH OF

HON. RICK LAZIO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 10, 1998

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the joint resolution, S.J. Res. 58, to recognize and praise the accomplishments of our Inspector Generals who strive every day to prevent and detect waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, and to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the Federal Government.

I would specifically like to commend the accomplishments of the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD Inspector General Susan Gaffney has worked with the Secretaries of HUD, the Congress, HUD managers and employees and the public to prevent and detect waste, fraud and abuse and bring about positive changes in the integrity, efficiency, and effectiveness of HUD operations.

For many years, HUD has been highly criticized for its poor performance and mismanagement. In September 1992, Congress mandated that the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) conduct a comprehensive review of HUD. The final July 1994 NAPA Report found that HUD's overload of some 240 programs was draining HUD's resources, muddling its priorities, fragmenting HUD's workforce, and confusing communities. NAPA concluded that if HUD did not clarify and consolidate its legislative mandate in an effective, accountable manner in five years (by 1999), Congress and the Administration should consider dismantling the Department.

And there is more. In 1994, the GAO designated HUD a "high-risk agency" because of long-standing Department-wide mismanagement which have made HUD vulnerable to fraud, waste, and abuse. As a result, HUD has weak internal controls, poorly integrated information and financial systems, organizational problems and an insufficient mix of staff with proper skills.

HUD Inspector Susan Gaffney, appointed to office in August 1993, has spent the last five years getting things done at HUD.

Gaffney brings much experience and knowledge to the table. Susan Gaffney received a B.A. degree at Wilson College in 1965, earned an M.A. at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, and studied in the Ph.D program in economics at Cornell University.

In 1970, Ms. Gaffney began her experience with housing issues as a staff analyst in the Department of Housing Preservation and Development with the City of New York. She departed, in 1979, as Deputy Commissioner of that Agency to accept a position as Director of Policy, Plans and Programs, Office of Inspector General, Agency for International Development.

She served in that capacity until 1982, when she was selected to serve as Assistant Inspector General with the General Services Administration (GSA). In 1987, Ms. Gaffney became Deputy Inspector General of GSA, where she assisted the Inspector General in directing all audit, investigatory and adminis-

trative functions. Appointed Acting Assistant Director of OMB's Financial Policy and Systems Branch, Management Integrity Branch, and the Cash and Credit Branch. She developed OMB's financial management strategy, and developed policy for implementation of the Chief Financial Officers Act. Her duties also included the formulation of revised policy and instructions for the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, Federal credit programs, and cost principles governing Federal reimbursements.

Beginning in 1991, Ms. Gaffney served as Chief of the Management Integrity Branch at OMB; and developed government-wide policy relating to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, OMB's High Risk List, and the Inspector General Act. She also directed government-wide implementation of organizational, personnel, and reporting requirements of the Chief Financial Officers Act. Her experience in directing audit and investigatory functions has allowed her to bring a level of professionalism to the Office of the HUD IG that demands commendation.

Gaffney has spent the past five years at HUD supervising and coordinating audits and investigations of HUD's programs and operations. Furthermore, she recommends policies and coordinates activities geared to promoting economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in HUD programs.

Susan Gaffney has worked closely with former Secretary Henry Cisneros and Secretary Andrew Cuomo to help change HUD's high-risk status by monitoring management reform initiatives made by the Department. Ms. Gaffney has also taken important strides to improve public housing with the Operation Safe Home program. The Operation Safe Home program is a collaboration by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) and Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies to combat crime in public and assisted housing.

Despite the dedicated efforts on the part of HUD and the IG, the Department still must make more progress. The HUD IG's Semi-annual report to Congress recognized improvements in some aspects of HUD's performance, but noted that, "progress is slow, and the Department's systemic weaknesses have not been directly addressed." In particular, Gaffney found that the HUD staff is incapable of managing the enormous number and wide-variety of programs run by the Department. In addition, the OIG found that various components of HUD are not equipped to provide reasonable stewardship over taxpayer funds expended for their programs.

The GAO also concluded that while HUD deserves credit for its progress in addressing management deficiencies, the department is far from fixed. The GAO states that HUD programs will remain high-risk until two actions are completed. First, HUD must complete more of its planned corrective actions, principally those related to internal controls and information systems. And, secondly, the Administration and Congress must agree on HUD's mission, structure, and approach to programs.

It is important to acknowledge that the work of the Inspector General is an on-going, vital process of maintaining smooth government operations and of preventing the waste and abuse that can occur in federal programs. The HUD IG must continue her work with the Department to improve all high-risk programs.