

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE FIRE SAFE CIGARETTE ACT OF 1998

HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, Today, I am introducing the Fire Safe Cigarette Act of 1998, which would direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a fire safety standard for cigarettes.

Each year thousands of innocent people are killed, maimed or permanently disfigured by carelessly discarded cigarettes. Under a typical cigarette fire scenario, the smoker falls asleep in a bed or sofa with a burning cigarette, the ash smolders for hours, then bursts into flames in the middle of the night—a time when everyone is least prepared.

Cigarette related fires are not rare or freak occurrences. In 1995, 1,122 individuals perished and 2,667 individuals were seriously injured from these fires. One third of the victims were innocent children. Furthermore, cigarette related fires caused more than \$500 million in property damage in 1995.

I first became involved with this issue when a family of seven perished in a cigarette related fire in my Congressional District. Five children—all under the age of ten—were burned to death. This tragedy occurred on Memorial Day Weekend in 1979.

Now, almost twenty years later, I am still fighting to give the CPSC that authority to promulgate a fire safety standard for cigarettes. Two technical bills, the Cigarette Safety Act and the Fire Safe Cigarette Act, have been passed and enacted into law.

As a result of the legislation, we now know that a cigarette can be slightly altered to significantly reduce the number of cigarette related fires. The key characteristics of a fire safe cigarette are: a filter tip, a smaller diameter, less porous paper, more expandable tobacco, and no citrate additive. By simply modifying these characteristics, cigarette manufacturers could significantly reduce the number of cigarette related fires each year.

All the technical work required to develop a fire safety standard is completed. The CPSC is ready and willing to do it. We just need to give the CPSC the authority to promulgate a fire safety standard and the Fire Safe Cigarette Act of 1998 does just that.

After twenty years of work on this issue, I am frustrated that the victims of cigarette related fires continue to be the innocent. Too often the victim is the child asleep in the upstairs bedroom, or the elderly neighbor in the apartment next door. Study after study has proven that it is technically and economically feasible to develop a fire safe cigarette, clearly Congress needs to weigh in and require cigarette manufacturers to develop fire safe cigarettes. No more children should fall victim to cigarette related fires that are preventable.

Let's pass the Fire Safe Cigarette Act of 1998 and save thousands of innocent children

and elderly individuals from perishing in cigarette related fires.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO MIKE AND JOELLA KERSCHNER ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR TWENTY-FIFTH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding couple from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District, Mike and Joella Kerschner. I extend my best wishes to Mike and Joella, who will be celebrating their Twenty-Fifth Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, May 23, 1998.

Mr. Speaker, Mike and Joella exemplify what a loving, strong, healthy marriage should be. For as long as I have known them, Mike and Joella have been the best of friends and the closest of companions. Through their marriage vows, they have dedicated their lives to each other, to share in the joy of marriage. As we celebrate the Twenty-Fifth Wedding Anniversary of Mike and Joella's wedding, let us reflect on their lives, their love for one another, and wish them a happy and healthy marriage in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, as Mike and Joella Kerschner celebrate this very special occasion, I wish them, their children, Karl, John, and Chris, and all of their families many years of love and happiness. I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Mike and Joella Kerschner on their Twenty-Fifth Wedding Anniversary, and in wishing them the very best in the future.

THANK YOU, EDWIN KORN, JR.

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, our communities grow and succeed when there is strength in community and strong leaders. I rise today to pay tribute to one individual, Edwin Korn, Jr., who has been the backbone of Port Austin for almost 40 years, serving 36 of those years as the President of the Port Austin Village Council.

Edwin was born in Detroit and moved to Port Austin in 1950. He left Port Austin only twice; once to attend college and again to serve his country in the Army. Since then, he has been a strong presence in Port Austin and an important leader of the community.

Appointed clerk in 1962, he served one term as Trustee before becoming President. He has overseen some amazing changes in Port Austin including the switch from well water to lake water and the construction of a world-class

waste water facility. Port Austin now has the distinction of having the best tasting water in the state. It is no wonder that other surrounding communities would like to tie into the Port Austin system. Although he will not seek reelection, I am sure he will remain a strong influence and continue to support efforts to improve the lives of the citizens of Port Austin and Huron County.

Edwin is astutely optimistic that there will be strong development in the Port Austin area over the next ten years and he plans to continue to remain a key player. His leadership in brining a major breakwall and harbor development effort to Port Austin goes directly to the recognition that this is a leading fishing, boating, and recreation destination in Michigan.

He could not have had such a successful career and fulfilled life without the support of his wife, Doreen, and their four children, 11 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. His loyalty and dedication is evident through his job at Mayes IGA Foodliner where he has worked for 40 years and is now manager.

Mr. Speaker, if we want to teach our citizens to be driven by the concept of community and family, we need only introduce them to individuals like Edwin Korn. I ask you and all of our colleagues to join me in wishing Edwin Korn the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING ALBERT COURNOYER ON 40 YEARS OF SERVICE AT THE PUBLIC HOUSE HISTORIC INN

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged today to honor one of my constituents, Mr. Albert Cournoyer, as he celebrates his 40th year of hard work and dedicated service to the Public House Historic Inn in Sturbridge, Massachusetts.

The Public House has been successfully operating and thriving in Sturbridge for 227 years. I have to think that part of the reason for the Inn's long and prosperous presence in this area of Massachusetts is due to the work of fine employees such as Albert Cournoyer.

Mr. Cournoyer first began assuming responsibility at the Public House in 1958, at the young age of 14. His work ethic and positive attitude were quickly manifested and noticed as he performed the duties of handyman and dishwasher. Mr. Cournoyer's commitment and skill allowed him to move on from these jobs to other facets of the Inn's operations so that by age 21, he was promoted to Head Chef.

Albert Cournoyer's career in the culinary arena continued to grow until he was made Executive Chef and later to the point where he was entrusted with the duty of overseeing food service operations at Old Sturbridge Village.

One of Mr. Cournoyer's greatest achievements, the fruits of which we witness today,

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

came when he served in the capacity of Director of Maintenance in the early 1980's. At this time he directed and supervised all renovations and construction to the Country Motor Lodge and adjoining restaurant.

In June of 1997, however, Albert Cournoyer's accomplishments, experience, consistent maintenance of the highest quality standards, and hospitable demeanor received their crowning recognition in an announcement which named him the newly appointed Innkeeper of the Publick House. Based on Mr. Cournoyer's record of excellence it came as no surprise that such a worthy candidate received the Innkeeper position.

The qualities that Albert Cournoyer has exhibited for 40 years and continues to reveal in his work at the Publick House are those that all citizens should strive to emulate. For the Publick House's frequent patrons, celebrants of special occasions, and travelers stopping off at this landmark, Albert Cournoyer, for 40 years, has been making their experiences both memorable and enjoyable. I am fortunate to serve such an outstanding citizen and I am proud and honored to congratulate him today.

THE MEDICARE CRITICAL NEED
GME PROTECTION ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce "The Medicare Critical Need GME Protection Act of 1998." This important legislation seeks to protect our nation against the depletion of health care professionals that are trained to appropriately treat costly and deadly illnesses.

Under current law, the Medicare program provides reimbursement to hospitals for the direct costs of graduate medical education training. That reimbursement is designed to cover the direct training costs of residents in their initial residency training period. However, if a resident decides to proceed with further training in a specialty or subspecialty, a hospital's reimbursement is cut to half (50%) for that additional training.

The rationale for this policy is strong. In general, we have an oversupply of specialty physicians in our country and a real need to increase the number of primary care providers. By reducing the reimbursement for specialty training, the Medicare program has promoted increases in primary care training rather than specialty positions.

I agree with this policy. However, as is often the case, there are always exceptions to the rule. We do not want to hinder training of particular specialties or subspecialties if there is strong evidence that there is a serious shortage of those particular physicians. That is why I am introducing The Medicare Critical Need GME Protection Act.

To provide an example of a current subspecialty facing serious shortages of professionals, we can look at nephrology. Between 1986-1995, the number of patients with End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) has more than doubled. At present, more than 40 million Americans die from kidney failure or its complications each year. In 1998, the estimated cost to treat ESRD will exceed \$12 billion.

However, current data indicates that only 51.8% of today's nephrologists will still be in practice in the year 2010.

Most primary care physicians are not trained to treat the complex multi-symptom medical problems typically seen in ESRD and are unfamiliar with particular medications and technology prescribed for such patients. The decreasing supply of nephrologists, coupled with an expanding population of renal patients, puts the health of our nation at risk.

The Medicare Critical Need GME Protection Act provides a tool to help combat such shortages of qualified professionals. The bill would simply provide the Secretary of Health and Human Services with the flexibility to continue full-funding for a specialty or subspecialty training program if there is evidence that the program has a current shortage, or faces an imminent shortage, of physicians to meet the needs of our health care system. The Secretary would grant this exception only for a limited number of years. The Secretary would have complete control of the exception process. Programs would present evidence of the shortage and she could agree or disagree with the analysis. Nothing in this bill would require the Secretary to take any action whatsoever.

The bill also includes protections for budget neutrality. If the Secretary approves a specialty or subspecialty training program for full-funding under this bill, the Secretary must adjust direct GME payments to ensure that no additional funds are spent.

Again, The Medicare Critical Need GME Protection Act does nothing more than provide limited flexibility to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to ensure that we are training the health care professionals that meet our nation's needs.

I would encourage my colleagues to join me in support of this important legislation. By giving the Secretary the flexibility to allocate funds to attract and train professionals in certain "at risk" fields of medicine, we will significantly improve patient care and lower long term health care costs.

A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the selection of Warren P. Shepherd Junior High School as a Blue Ribbon School.

Located in Ottawa, Illinois, Shepherd is one of only 166 secondary schools in the nation presented with this prestigious award by the United States Department of Education. The Blue Ribbon Award is sought after by thousands of schools across the country.

Blue Ribbon status is bestowed upon schools with qualities including strong leadership, a clear vision and sense of mission, high quality teaching, challenging and up-to-date curriculum, and solid evidence of family involvement. These are the schools that best prepare children for the challenges they will face in the future. Blue Ribbon schools are also effective in meeting local state and national goals.

Led by Principal Michael Bannister, Shepherd Junior High School clearly has the characteristics of a Blue Ribbon school. As a sev-

enth and eighth grade junior high school, Shepherd strives to maintain excellence, effectiveness and equity in the education of young people in the "middle grades." This school of 513 students serves both regular and special education students. Shepherd was recognized for its ability to combine these two populations through a successful peer partnering program.

As with other Blue Ribbon schools, Shepherd prepares our young people for tomorrow's challenges through active learning programs. Shepherd's hands-on learning philosophy is perhaps best evidenced by its science curriculum. After undergoing several major technology-related renovations last year, Shepherd has become a technology leader in north central Illinois. At least one new computer with multimedia capabilities and Internet access has been installed in each classroom. In addition, clusters of up to six new computers were placed in four locations of the building, and a Special Education computer lab was installed.

Among Shepherd's strong points are an integrated curriculum designed by cross-curricular grade level teams, a commitment to the development of skills in the area of language arts and exemplary students, faculty and administrators. These and many other accomplishments led qualified Shepherd for Blue Ribbon status.

Mr. Speaker, today I recognize and honor Shepherd Junior High School as a recipient of the prestigious Blue Ribbon Schools Award. Shepherd exemplifies the standard of excellence to which all junior high schools should be held. I am proud to represent a district that includes schools of Blue-Ribbon caliber.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JOHN
KELLY

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the career of one of the longest serving National Officers of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU), AFL-CIO, John Kelly, who has announced his retirement after a most distinguished career representing Union members.

John Kelly was a native of the Philadelphia, PA area, but came to the Denver area when he was four years old. He was a graduate of North High School and began his career with the United States Post Office on September 30, 1962, eight years before Congress created the U.S. Postal Service.

John's sterling union career began as a steward, later as secretary, and finally, as President of the Denver local. In 1971, five postal unions merged to form the APWU, and John became a full-time union officer. As the National Vice President for APWU, John served on the National Executive Board, the highest governing body of the Union. Today, he is the senior business agent for the APWU, an organization which has grown to include business agents nationwide.

During his tenure with APWU, John was well-known not only for his skills at arbitration but for his ability to help the members understand the very technical language of their contract with the Postal Service. His expertise