

For example, there has been an historic decline in the welfare rolls; increases in employment for low-income single mothers, who comprise the population most likely to need assistance; and a sustained decline in child poverty. Six years ago, the nation's welfare rolls bulged with more than 5.1 million individuals and families. Today, the rolls have decreased tremendously. Since 1996, over 3 million families have left welfare for work. Over 3 million former welfare recipients know the satisfaction of earning a day's pay.

Even with the robust economy of the late 1990s, recent studies confirm that welfare reform is largely responsible for the declining caseload and increase in work. The law's promotion of work made the crucial difference in maximizing opportunities for welfare recipients.

But there is still work for us to do. Too many families receiving assistance are not engaged in activities that will lead to self-sufficiency. This year, Congress must build upon the success of the 1996 law by providing additional options for families on welfare to move into productive jobs, become self-reliant and obtain independence.

As the debate goes forward on the best way to increase personal responsibility, it is important to remember that the true benefactors of welfare reform are young Americans. Because of welfare reform, young Americans are able to see their parents get up each morning and earn a day's pay. Without this very basic ethic, those young people are at a great disadvantage and it becomes difficult for them to escape the cycle of poverty in which their families have lived for generations.

The legislation that is being introduced today, H.R. 4, is based on the Administration's proposal and strengthens work rules to ensure that all families are engaged in a full week of work and other activities that will lead to self-sufficiency. Families will be permitted to combine real work with education and training to help recipients advance in their jobs. In addition, states will need to have plans achieving the work-related goals of TANF. States will be encouraged to coordinate their TANF work programs with the One-Stop Career Center system created through the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, so that former recipients will continue to have access to additional training resources.

Furthermore, we know that families cannot maintain employment without reliable, safe child care for their children. In my home state of California, according to Fight Crime: Invest in Kids California, "Fewer than one out of every five child care centers in California is rated as good quality." That is why this bill will also maintain the unprecedented commitment of federal support for child care by adding \$1 billion in discretionary funding to the Child Care and Development Block Grant, which provides support to state child care programs. In addition, the bill improves the program by helping to target funds set-aside for quality activities and encouraging states to address the cognitive needs of young children so that they are developmentally prepared to enter school. The bill also provides states maximum flexibility in developing child care programs and policies that best meet the needs of children and parents.

Finally, H.R. 4 will provide significant new waiver authority for states to better coordinate a variety of federal programs, including TANF, food stamps, housing assistance and work-

force investment programs that improve services to needy families. This provision will encourage states to continue the experimentation at the state and local level that preceded the federal welfare reform action in 1996. At the same time, it remains important that the local areas created under the Workforce Investment Act be heavily involved in the process. That is why I am pleased that the bill includes provisions ensuring that the local administering entities join in the flexibility applications submitted to the Secretaries. This will, in effect, give the locals veto authority over provisions that they believe will not improve the quality or effectiveness of the programs involved.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation that enhances opportunities for families to move up the economic ladder and access quality child care for their children.

#### TRIBUTE TO ALLEN E. JOHNSON

#### HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 11, 2003*

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to express warm thanks, congratulations, wishes to Allen E. Johnson, upon his retirement as the city manager of the city of Roseville. His vision and managerial skills have helped develop one of the most pleasant, balanced, well-run communities in California.

After achieving a bachelor of science degree from California State University, Sacramento in 1976, Al began a career in public administration as a personnel analyst for the County of Yuba. Within a few short years, he became director of personnel for Yuba City, where he served from 1979 to 1983. Then, in September 1983, he began a nearly 20-year tenure with the city of Roseville. Rising from director of personnel to administrative services director to city manager, Al has had a significant and lasting impact on the direction in which Roseville has developed.

Most recently, he managed the city's day-to-day operations, its \$300 million budget, and 1,000 employees. He has overseen the city-owned electric operation which weathered California's energy crisis better than most utilities in the state. Additionally, he has guided the proactive expansion of regional wastewater treatment facilities and improvements to local flood control capabilities. Perhaps most importantly, he negotiated agreements for and led the implementation of nine specific plan developments ranging from 500 to 3,000 acres in scope. It is fair to say that he has left lasting fingerprints on the shape and character of the city of Roseville.

Roseville has experienced dynamic growth during Al's tenure. Under his steady leadership, the city has developed several outstanding public amenities, including the recently-dedicated Roseville Civic Center, the new Police Department headquarters, the Roseville Aquatics Center, the Roseville Sports Center, the Woodcreek Oaks Golf Course, and numerous parks and transportation improvements. In addition to the fine city projects which he oversaw, Al has also helped to create an environment in Roseville that fosters high levels of private investment. Perhaps

the most recognizable example of this pro-business attitude he helped foster is the 1.12 million square foot regional mall, known as the Roseville Galleria, which opened in the year 2000. Due to this aggressive economic development and contrary to previous history, the city is now regarded as one of the Sacramento region's premier retail centers and dining destinations.

Noted for his leadership in regional public policy discussions, such as the recent local debate over sales tax revenue distribution, Al has shared his expertise and experience through numerous presentations to public forums, training sessions, and professional conferences. He is also an active member of several professional organizations.

Beyond his professional capacity, Al Johnson has also contributed much to the community through his involvement in various civic and charitable organizations. Among these are the Roseville Chamber of Commerce, Roseville Host Lions Club, the United Way Leadership Council, and the Association for Retarded Citizens.

Roseville, which was once a sleepy railroad town, is now a vibrant, well-planned community with award-winning parks, law enforcement, and city management. It is home to nationally-recognized, high-performing public schools. Its railroad past blends with its newer high-tech industry and thriving commercial centers. Its residential areas include dynamic new developments as well as historic neighborhoods. Despite its increasing affluence, the community has also met its affordable housing needs. In short, Roseville is a model community with a high quality of life and a bright horizon. The clear vision, tough negotiation, and consistent leadership of Al Johnson are a large part of the reason why.

I thank him for his service and wish him well in his future endeavors.

#### OFFICER EUGENIO SOLIS

#### HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 11, 2003*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a retiring lawman, Agent Eugenio Solis, a unique patriot who has enforced our laws and chased the bad guys his whole career. I am enormously grateful to him for his life's work.

Eugenio Solis has served South Texas with 32 years of law enforcement altogether, both as a patrol officer and as a narcotics agent. He has over 27 years with the Texas Department of Public Safety.

His superiors say he is one of the best undercover agents we have. Undercover work is dangerous, dirty work, and doing it well takes a special talent and untold bravery. Agent Solis can make a deal on the street happen quickly; he has a nose for nasty business. He can expertly hook a bad guy, buy drugs \* \* \* and either get out of there fast, or arrest the bad guys.

Over the years he has established relationships and made contacts with all manner of federal and local officials, offering him sundry resources and contacts that make him effective on the streets.

His legendary exploits are so well known around South Texas that he has even been

recruited by other law enforcement agencies to do undercover work. In his undercover capacity, he has been fortunate; he has never had to draw his gun.

You cannot work undercover and not have a good sense of humor, and Eugenio Solis indeed possesses that. He is a famous kiddier and practical joker, which can often mean that when he's swept up with the druggies to avoid detection, his fellow officers will leave him handcuffed for several hours in good-humor retribution.

Even in his retirement, he continues to work—currently with a drug task force in Kingsville. Mr. Speaker, the men and women on the front lines in our drug war are necessarily in the shadows, their faces unseen and their names unknown \* \* \* because that is the way the business works.

He has a strong, loving family to support him. That support is vitally important to an agent whose business requires him to deprive his family of his time and attention. Druggies do not keep a schedule. His wife, Sylvia—and their children: Eugenio III and Eduardo, and granddaughter, Shelby—have been his greatest support network.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Eugenio Solis for his years of dedication to law enforcement, for standing on that thin blue line that protects our neighborhoods from the bad guys.

#### MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ESSAY CONTEST

#### HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 11, 2003*

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kate Wagoner, a 13-year old resident of Eugene, Oregon. Ms. Wagoner, an eighth grader at Thomas Jefferson Middle School, recently won an essay contest held in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The theme of the essay contest was how Americans can be peacefully patriotic, even as the clouds of war loom on the horizon.

In her insightful essay, Ms. Wagoner notes that peaceful change can begin with one individual or one family who cares about others and acts on that compassion. However, she goes on to write that it is equally important for such individuals to influence the decision-making of those in power in order to guarantee a lasting peace.

As Ms. Wagoner concludes, if the United States dedicates itself to helping feed, clothe, house, and educate the needy around the world, then we may be able to achieve the "nonviolent" coexistence of which Dr. King spoke, rather than the "violent co-annihilation" of which he warned.

I would encourage my colleagues and others to read Ms. Wagoner's essay, which I've included at the end of my remarks.

Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., ESSAY

Almost 40 years ago, on April 14, 1967, Dr. Martin Luther King said, "the greatest 17 purveyor of violence in the world today (is) my own government."

Dr. King's statement is still a powerful message because America continues to use

violence around the world. President Bush is pushing for a war in Iraq, while nations like North Korea, South Korea, Pakistan, India, Afghanistan, Israel, and Palestine suffer from U.S. foreign policy decisions.

How can Americans be peacefully patriotic while our government gives the U.S. military more and more to do around the globe? To repeat one of my mother's favorite quotes, "Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For, indeed, that's all who ever have." (Margaret Mead, American anthropologist).

During the holidays, my family gave money to an organization that helps hungry people all over the world feed themselves. The families we help receive donations of goats, sheep, llamas, honey bees, geese, oxen, and other farm animals so they can be more self-sufficient and live healthier lives. Peaceful patriotism is like this donation.

Around the world, kids like me are starving. Around the world kids like me are soldiers and suicide bombers. Around the world kids like me get sick from drinking dirty water, get shot by soldiers, and step on land mines. Around the world, kids like me struggle to survive. Americans, as peaceful patriots, can help change some of these kids' lives.

Americans have a right to be proud of their country. This is a nation where people can be and do great things. However, imagine a world where America is also known as a nation that helps people around the globe be and do great things. When the richest and most powerful nation in history dedicates itself to making sure people everywhere are well-fed, housed, clothed, educated, and have hope for the future, peaceful patriotism will change the world.

It is not enough for my family to practice peaceful patriotism or for your family to make that choice. We have to have people in power making decisions about our relationships with other nations who share our hope for the future of America and of the world. We can each live as peaceful patriots and help many people now, but if we work together to create a nation of peaceful patriots tomorrow, we can make all the world safe; and secure for kids like me.

The message I want quoted in the future because it describes America is, "The greatest purveyor of peace in the world today is my own government."

#### PRESCRIPTION DRUG AFFORDABILITY ACT

#### HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 11, 2003*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Prescription Drug Affordability Act. This legislation ensures that millions of Americans, including seniors, have access to affordable pharmaceutical products. My bill makes pharmaceuticals more affordable to seniors by reducing their taxes. It also removes needless government barriers to importing pharmaceuticals and it protects Internet pharmacies, which are making affordable prescription drugs available to millions of Americans, from being strangled by federal regulation.

The first provision of my legislation provides seniors a tax credit equal to 80 percent of their prescription drug costs. As many of my

colleagues have pointed out, our nation's seniors are struggling to afford the prescription drugs they need in order to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle. Yet, the Federal Government continues to impose taxes on Social Security benefits. Meanwhile, Congress continually raids the Social Security trust fund to finance unconstitutional programs! It is long past time for Congress to choose between helping seniors afford medicine or using the Social Security trust fund as a slush fund for big government and pork-barrel spending.

Mr. Speaker, I do wish to clarify that this tax credit is intended to supplement the efforts to reform and strengthen the Medicare system to ensure seniors have the ability to use Medicare funds to purchase prescription drugs. I am a strong supporter of strengthening the Medicare system to allow for more choice and consumer control, including structural reforms that will allow seniors to use Medicare funds to cover the costs of prescription drugs.

In addition to making prescription medications more affordable for seniors, my bill lowers the price for prescription medicines by reducing barriers to the importation of FDA-approved pharmaceuticals. Under my bill, anyone wishing to import a drug simply submits an application to the FDA, which then must approve the drug unless the FDA finds the drug is either not approved for use in the U.S. or is adulterated or misbranded. This process will make safe and affordable imported medicines affordable to millions of Americans. Mr. Speaker, letting the free market work is the best means of lowering the cost of prescription drugs.

I need not remind my colleagues that many senior citizens and other Americans impacted by the high costs of prescription medicine have demanded Congress reduce the barriers which prevent American consumers from purchasing imported pharmaceuticals. Congress has responded to these demands by repeatedly passing legislation liberalizing the rules governing the importation of pharmaceuticals. However, implementation of these provisions have been blocked by the federal bureaucracy. It is time Congress stood up for the American consumer by removing all unnecessary regulations on importing pharmaceuticals.

The Prescription Drug Affordability Act also protects consumers' access to affordable medicine by forbidding the federal government from regulating any Internet sales of FDA-approved pharmaceuticals by state-licensed pharmacists.

As I am sure my colleagues are aware, the Internet makes pharmaceuticals and other products more affordable and accessible for millions of Americans. However, the federal government has threatened to destroy this option by imposing unnecessary and unconstitutional regulations on web sites that sell pharmaceuticals. Any federal regulations would inevitably drive up prices of pharmaceuticals, thus depriving many consumers of access to affordable prescription medications.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to make pharmaceuticals more affordable and accessible by lowering taxes on senior citizens, removing barriers to the importation of pharmaceuticals and protecting legitimate Internet pharmacies from needless regulation by cosponsoring the Prescription Drug Affordability Act.