

I hope that my colleagues will join me in cosponsoring this legislation so that we can help provide fair and equitable treatment to the men and women who so courageously serve our country.

IN HONOR OF THE MAKE A WISH
FOUNDATION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Northeast, Central and Southern Ohio, an organization which succeeds in bringing hope to children who face the adversity of fatal illnesses.

The Foundation is a charity which grants the very special wishes of children, between the ages of 2½ and 18, who have been diagnosed with life-threatening illnesses. Any child that has been diagnosed appropriately by their doctor qualifies for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Following this, a team of Make-A-Wish volunteers visits the child and family to determine his or her wish. The organizations then works in conjunction with local contacts and businesses to transform the child's wish from fantasy into reality.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation offers children an opportunity to see their dreams come true. It recognizes the vital importance of hope to all human life. It seeks to extend a helping hand to all children in need. The Foundation granted the individual wishes of nearly 200 children in the fiscal year 1998. Each wish is limited only by the child's imagination. The organization helps all children irrespective of their families' financial need or status. It covers all expenses associated with a wish, including airfare and accommodation. It provides a ray of light for children in dark times.

I would also like to commend the tireless dedication of Rose Serraglio to the work of the Make-A-Wish Foundation. In her capacity as chairwoman and organizer of the Foundation's Halloween Benefit, she has demonstrated the highest order of caring for children whose world has been shattered by the traumatic effect of fatal illnesses.

My fellow colleagues, please rise with me in honoring the valuable contribution of the Make-A-Wish Foundation to the lives of children afflicted by the serious illnesses. It is an example to us all of the importance of helping the less fortunate members of our community.

INDEPENDENT FILMS AND
TELEVISION PROGRAMMING

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Representatives MARK FOLEY, ROBERT MATSUI, and XAVIER BECERRA, I would like to express our continued interest in an issue designed to increase the production of independent films and television programming in the United States.

As the Members know, the 1990's have seen an accelerating departure of U.S. fi-

nanced films and television programs to Canada, Mexico and other foreign countries. The trend has become so pronounced that a new phrase has been coined to describe the impact—"runaway productions." Next year, we intend address this issue, look for reasonable and responsible legislative remedies and work with our trading partners to reverse the trend of filmings outside the U.S. solely for economic reasons. These efforts are supported by a diverse group of entertainment trade associations and guilds and would be targeted at productions costing between \$500,000 and \$10 million.

The impact of runaway productions has been profound. Runaway production means fewer employment opportunities for individuals directly employed in the U.S. film and television industry. Runaway productions also significantly reduce the business opportunities for the film and television service industries like hotels, restaurants and catering businesses, post production services providing editing and music scoring, equipment rental and transport companies, electrical contractors and many others who service or supply the entertainment industry.

Moreover, these job losses are not limited to Hollywood or Southern California. Many states have seen once thriving film and television industries depart, leaving behind unemployed technicians and craftspersons, business losses and reduced local tax receipts. States like Illinois, Texas and Florida have been particularly hard hit, but even the state of Minnesota, for example, has just experienced its worst year in the past eleven for film and television production. In addition, the individuals whose jobs are lost usually are highly skilled workers who cannot replace their income with work in another sector.

Where are the jobs going? A surprising number are going to Canada. According to Statistics Canada, for example, independent film and television and video production was up 16 percent in 1997-98, the most recent year for which Canadian statistics are available. In British Columbia, alone, film and television production has increased five-fold since the late 1980s to over \$700 million annually. Moreover, full-time Canadian employment in the film and television industry increased by 63 percent from the 1992-93 to 1997-98. The rising trend in Canadian film and television production exacerbates the runaway production problem because Canadian film and television crews and actors obtain the training necessary to accommodate even more productions.

More U.S. film and television production in Canada and elsewhere in the world means less production in the U.S. The U.S. production share of Movies of the Week broadcast on U.S. television declined from 62 to 41 percent between 1994-95 and 1999-2000 representing a loss of \$727 million in U.S. production expenditures. Estimates of overall job loss in the U.S. film and television industry run as high as 23,500 in 1998 alone. To select just one of many examples that demonstrate the impact of this disturbing trend on employment, aggregate wages for musicians performing on film scores in 1999 declined by more than 30 percent from the previous year.

Runaway production is due, in large part, to the concerted efforts of governments to attract U.S. film production. Canada has been particularly successful in this regard. For exam-

ple, the combination of federal and provincial tax credits in the provinces of British Columbia and Ontario exceed 30 percent of wages paid in connection with a production. The sheer size of these credits has increasingly attracted productions to Canada that might otherwise have stayed in the U.S.

We look forward to working with our colleagues next year in an effort to keep independent U.S. film and television production here at home in the United States.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
SIDNEY R. YATES

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I will never forget Sid Yates—ever. He loved the story of the Adams family. I could recite passages from the Adams Chronicles. He represented the finest this country has to offer.

Politics is not just serving. It's serving well and with high integrity. That was Sid Yates.

P.S.—He was lots of fun to be with!

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER
AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT
ON H.R. 1614, CERTIFIED DEVELOPMENT
COMPANY PROGRAM
IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM BLILEY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to touch on aspects of this bill that the Members of the Commerce Committee worked hard on this past year. Just last month, we marked up in full committee, HR 5291, the Medicare, Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Program Beneficiary and Improvement Protection Act of 2000.

I would like to mention several of the provisions in the Commerce package voice voted out of the Commerce Committee, that were included in the legislation we are voting on her today. I am hopeful that the President will support this package, which includes many bipartisan provisions.

We all know that one of the most pressing issues facing American senior citizens and persons with disabilities today is the need for coverage of prescription drugs under Medicare. While we continue to work to reach consensus on a Medicare prescription drug benefit, I want to thank Members from both sides of the aisle who supported a provision that would restore and preserve Medicare coverage for certain injectable drugs and biologicals that are crucial to seniors and persons with debilitating chronic illnesses. This legislation ensures that the sickest of our Medicare beneficiaries who suffer from life threatening illnesses such as cancer and multiple sclerosis, will receive life saving therapies by providing coverage for certain injectable medications.

In addition, we build on last year's step towards providing coverage of immunosuppressive drugs by eliminating the arbitrary 36 months cap currently in place.

We build upon Medicare's colonoscopy benefit by allowing average risk beneficiaries the option of a colon cancer screening every ten years. This policy comports with American Cancer Society guidelines, and will ensure that average risk beneficiaries have another tool at their disposal to detect colon cancer.

We provide relief for Medicaid disproportionate share hospitals. These hospitals provide uncompensated care to the poorest in our Nation. We should recognize the value of those services. I want to thank Ed Whitfield and Brian Bilbray from the Commerce Committee for their tireless effort on this piece of the legislation.

This bill does not just help the seniors and disabled in our country, but also our most vital resource: our children. I want to talk about the changes we made to SCHIP. We created the program in the BBA 97. As a result of this provision, over two and half million children have health insurance today who might not otherwise have it.

Unfortunately, more than half the states have been unable to spend the 1998 dollars we thought they would. This concerns me.

One of the reasons states have not been able to spend their money is because we restricted the way in which money could be used for outreach. We said you get money for outreach, once you start enrolling children. Many states told us they could not enroll the children unless they had the money to do outreach first.

This legislation gives states money up front for outreach and allows them more time to spend their money. At the same time, those states that have spent all of their money will be given additional sums in recognition of their early and successful implementation of their SCHIP programs.

I also want to talk about Medicare+Choice. Yes, we do provide relief for health plans participating in the Medicare+Choice program. Seniors have asked us for choice in selecting their Medicare coverage. Seniors across the country should have choice, not just those in large metropolitan areas. Our Medicare+Choice provisions are targeted at rural areas to allow seniors in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the same choices as seniors in New York City enjoy.

I also want to highlight the adoption tax credit provisions in this bill. My wife and I are adoptive parents. At the beginning of the 106th Congress, I sponsored the Hope for Children Act (H.R. 531) in order to allow more families and children to experience the happiness my family has been blessed with over the years. The Hope for Children Act enjoyed the co-sponsorship of 280 of our colleagues. I am gratified my bill enjoyed broad, bipartisan appeal and am very proud that major provisions of the Hope for Children Act are in this bill.

The adoption tax credit provisions increase the non-special needs tax credit to \$6,000 in 2001, \$7,000 in 2002, \$8,000 in 2003, \$9,000 in 2004, and \$10,000 in 2005. The tax credit for special needs is increased to \$8,000 in 2001, \$10,000 in 2002, and \$12,000 in 2003 and years thereafter. Also, the income eligibility for the tax credit is doubled from present law. For all taxable years after December 31, 2000, this bill provides a full credit for all adjusted gross incomes under \$150,000 and the credit is gradually phased out for incomes between \$150,000-\$190,000.

This legislation strengthens the American family by making adoption more affordable. Adoption is expensive and every penny spent helping these adopting families now will be returned tenfold in the future contributions of the children who ultimately benefit from the tax credit. These families are willing to put themselves on the line to give a child a chance for a real future.

Passage of this bill will unquestionably make a tremendous impact in the lives of adopting families, the least of which is to encourage those who are intimidated by the cost of adoption to move forward in opening their hearts and homes to a child in need of a loving home. We will make a meaningful difference in the lives of thousands of children upon passage of this bill.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN RON PACKARD UPON HIS RETIREMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend and colleague from California, Ron Packard. After 18 years of service and dedication to his constituents and his country, Ron is retiring. While I join my colleagues in wishing him all the best as he dedicates himself to some well deserved time with his family, I also know that the House is losing a valued and trusted Member.

Ron Packard's career has been marked by fairness and bipartisanship. In his various roles on the Appropriations Committee, Ron has always gotten the job done. That's not always an easy task when it comes to funding the government, but Ron has done it with integrity, dignity, and purpose.

Ron's career has been marked with distinction since the beginning. Even the method of his election was notable. Ron is one of only four Members of Congress ever to have won their first election as a write-in candidate, but that's not surprising. He had experience as a businessman, a school board member, a city councilman, and mayor. He knew then what he knows now citizens' needs are best met on the state and local level by people who understand them rather than by Washington bureaucrats.

This is the legacy Ron Packard will leave behind. It is characterized by hard work, honesty, bipartisanship, leadership, patriotism, and strength. It will serve as an example for future legislators as they do the people's business. I join my colleagues in wishing Ron a fond farewell and a happy retirement.

IN HONOR OF MUNAWAR HUSSAIN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Munawar Hussain, a neighbor, an entrepreneur and a friend, who serves as a fine example of what a little ambition and hardwork can bring. This remarkable man

gives us all hope that the American dream is still alive and well.

Mr. Hussain's story begins in 1955 in Lalamusa, Pakistan where he was born and raised. After spending most of his young life in Pakistan, Hussain realized that he wanted more for himself. At the age of 26, Hussain made the decision to come to America. Bravely, with only one dollar in his pocket, he made the long trip to the U.S. alone, without the comfort of family and friends. All he carried with him were the hopes and dreams of capturing some of the opportunity and prosperity that he knew existed in the United States.

Hussain originally settled down in New York City, where he remained for 15 years. However, the expense of living in New York proved to be a heavy burden on Hussain. He worked as a mechanic, a taxi driver, and a limousine driver just to make ends meet. In 1996, Hussain and his brother, who had joined him in America in 1991, decided to move to Cleveland, Ohio. Together they agreed that a life in Cleveland held more promise for them than struggling to survive in the Big Apple. Shortly after arriving in Cleveland, Hussain made a choice that would permanently change his life for the better. With little money saved, Hussain used credit cards to purchase a 7-Eleven franchise. For four years, he worked diligently to save enough capital to buy the 7-Eleven store and bring it under his private ownership. Just last week, his goal became a reality, when the sale of the 7-Eleven became final. Hussain and his brother now independently own and operate the store, which Hussain has renamed "Zishan Food Store" after his son.

Today, Hussain still lives in Cleveland along with his wife of 15 years and their four children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me today in honoring Mr. Munawar Hussain. This kind, hard-working man should be commended for his dedication and drive to succeed. He truly serves as an inspiration to us all.

OLDER AMERICANS ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in support of the Older Americans Act Amendments of 2000. It has taken a lot of hard work and a long time to reach this point. In fact, the last time this bill was authorized was in 1992.

First, I would like to take a moment and thank several of my colleagues who have worked many, many hours to reach a bipartisan agreement and to bring this bill to the Floor.

Since February of last year, Ranking Member Clay, Subcommittee Chairman MCKEON, Congressman MARTINEZ and Congressman BILL BARRETT have been hard at work crafting a bipartisan proposal, which provides for the needs of older Americans and which makes several overdue changes in the Older Americans Act.

The fruits of their labor were rewarded earlier this month, when we reached a bipartisan