

approach. This approach to regulation was destroying our small businesses.

A handful of visionaries came to the rescue with the Regulatory Flexibility Act which is often referred to as the magna carta of small business rights. It was advanced in a bipartisan manner by a group of individuals who deserve our praise today.

Members of the House who led the charge back then were Andy Ireland, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) and Neal Smith. Their colleagues in the Senate were John Culver and Gaylord Nelson. From the business community, there were many individuals who contributed to this effort, most notably John Motley and former Congressman Mike McKeivitt. And, of course, as with most things we do, there was exceptional staff work done on making the Regulatory Flexibility Act a reality, most notably the contributions of then the House Committee on Small Business staffer, Stephen P. Lynch.

Happy birthday Reg Flex Act.

REFORM FOR SENTENCING OF SEX OFFENDERS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, a 22-year-old Boston transvestite kidnapped and molested a 12-year-old boy with a screwdriver. After all of this, the judge said there is just a little too much hype about this case. Thus, Judge Lopez sentenced this sex offender to 1 year probation and no jail time.

Unbelievable. What is next? Country clubs for child molesters? Think about it. These courts are so screwed up, admitted serial murderers get 3 square meals, TV, law libraries, and air-conditioning.

Beam me up. I say there should be a court-ordered sex change on this transvestite performed by Dr. Lorena Bobbit in Boston, Massachusetts. That would stop this garbage.

I yield back the fact that this judge should be removed from office.

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS FROM HOLLYWOOD UNDERMINES CANDIDATE CREDIBILITY

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, on August 10, 1999, there was an article in the Los Angeles Times. AL GORE was in Hollywood raising money for his campaign.

The Los Angeles Times reported that he told these big Hollywood contributors in very clear terms that a probe into Hollywood violence was the President's idea, not his. These Hollywood big wigs make a lot of money from violent movies and did not like the idea of Washington politicians meddling with their profits.

Well, Mr. Speaker, that investigation that AL GORE once disavowed is complete and it turns out that these Hollywood types have been marketing violent movies and video games to 12-year-olds. Even President Clinton is mad. But AL GORE has accepted over \$13 million in donations from this special interest industry.

Now, AL GORE wants us to believe that he is going to do something about violent movies, video games and music lyrics. Would it seem too cynical if I said, quite simply, I do not believe it.

CALLING FOR RECALL OF CONTAMINATED GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CORN

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, we are told over and over again that the Food and Drug Administration is protecting the food supply by carefully scrutinizing this new genetically engineered food technology with full consideration for our safety. We are told over and over again that the biotech food industry will protect us. We are told over and over again that genetically engineered food is safe.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues may have heard the startling new reports that unapproved genetically engineered corn has contaminated the Taco Bell taco shells found on our grocery store shelves. This corn has not been approved by the EPA for human consumption because of their concern for allergies.

The GE food industry, the genetically engineered food industry fails the American public and they are losing the public's trust in this matter.

Yesterday, the FDA announced that they will recall the product if their own testing confirms the contamination. I am asking Members to please sign my letter to the FDA asking for the recall and the FDA testing of more products that might contain this illegal corn variety.

DIGITAL DIVIDE ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY ACT

(Mr. WELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, let me share some statistics with my colleagues. Over 100 million Americans today are online, and seven new Americans go on line every second. One-third of all new jobs today are created in the technology sector, and in my home State of Illinois, salaries of technology workers are 59 percent higher than other traditional jobs.

There is great opportunity in this new economy, but educators tell me they notice the difference back home in our schools between those children who have computers and Internet ac-

cess at home and those who do not. When we ask why they do not, they always say that the cost is the biggest challenge.

Well, the private sector, Ford, Intel, Delta and American Airlines have stepped forward to provide Internet-accessed computers for their employees. Unfortunately, the IRS wants to tax it. For a worker making \$27,000 a year, that means \$200 in higher taxes, just because their employer provides them with a computer. Think about that. The janitor, the assembly line worker, the laborer, their children having Internet access and a computer at home to do their school work.

Mr. Speaker, it is good policy; and I am glad to see the private sector stepping forward.

That is why I want to ask my colleagues to join with me in cosponsoring the DDATA Act, legislation that clarifies that employer-provided computers and Internet access are tax free, treated the same way as an employer-provided pension or health care benefit.

The DDATA Act is pro worker, pro education, and pro technology. Let us stop the IRS from taxing these kinds of employer benefits.

IMMIGRANTS IN HIGH-TECH INDUSTRY PROVIDE ECONOMIC SECURITY

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I think it is possible for this great body to address the concerns of many, if there is an effort to deliberate and concentrate and generate a solution.

This week, we may have the opportunity to look closely at the needs of our high-tech industry with respect to additional personnel. It is called the H1-B nonimmigrant visas. As many of us have heard and as the country has heard, this high-tech industry has been an anchor of our economic boom.

However, at the same time, there are serious humanitarian issues that I believe warrant our consideration. One of them deals with the providing of late amnesty options for thousands upon thousands of immigrants who have been living in this country and paying taxes, buying homes and raising their children, but because of an INS mistake, were not able to apply for late amnesty. Then we have the parity that needs to occur for Central America similar to that given to any Nicaraguans and Cubans so that the fairness will allow families to remain united.

Then, as we look at the non-immigrant visas, it is important to protect American workers and to provide opportunities for employment in the high-tech industry for African Americans and Hispanics. We can do good if we put our minds to it.

PRESIDENT CALLS FOR MORE TAX COLLECTORS AT IRS

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, it astounds me and most of my fellow Nevadans as well when we hear that the Clinton-Gore administration intends to veto the Treasury-Postal appropriations bill, a bill which this Chamber passed just last week; veto it simply because the bill does not give enough money to the IRS.

The IRS is demanding \$224 million more than their current \$8.6 billion budget to pay for 5,000 more tax collectors.

Mr. Speaker, what the American people need is not more tax collectors; what the American people need is a tax break. The overwhelming tax burden currently placed on the American families is simply unconscionable and by vetoing the Treasury-Postal bill President Clinton also vetoes the repeal of the telephone excise tax, a tax passed over 100 years ago to fund the Spanish American war.

Not one single Nevadan has ever asked me to fight for more IRS tax collectors. Americans do not want the bloated bureaucracy of the IRS to expand; they want and deserve a tax break.

AMERICA SHOULD BE STRONG PARTICIPANT IN UNITED NATIONS

(Mr. MCDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House today to talk for 1 minute about today being United Nations Day. It is also the beginning of the decade of peace in the world. They are trying to begin to emphasize how to bring peace in a variety of different places across the globe.

It is important for us in this body to recognize the important part we play, not only by our contributions to the U.N. in which we have lagged seriously behind, but in our support for what goes on.

The United States has, from time to time, supported the U.N. when it has been in our interests and at other times we walk away from them. But as we look across the globe with all of the places, Sierra Leone or Liberia or Somalia, when we look, we see always that the U.N. sometimes has our support and sometimes does not.

Now, if we are going to be the leader of the world, we certainly are economically, but if we are politically going to be leaders of the world, we must participate in the United Nations in a very strong way. That means paying our dues.

GENERICS ARE CRITICAL IN ADDRESSING HEALTH CARE COST ESCALATION

(Mr. CALVERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I do not have to tell Members of this body that health care inflation is out of control. Our constituents are telling us that every day.

They are feeling the effects of medical costs that increased over 10 percent in 1999 alone. The latest projections are that health care inflation will outpace overall inflation for many years to come. This poses a significant threat to American families, government programs, and employers who are shouldering a growing burden of the U.S. health care costs.

One solution to this problem is to increase the availability of generic drugs. Generic drugs deliver the same health results as brand drugs, but generics cost 70 percent less on average than the brands they replace. The savings are significant.

A new report released by Sanford University in Alabama shows that for every 1 percent increase in generic drug utilization, consumers, taxpayers and employers save over \$1 billion in prescription drug costs. It is clear that the greater use of generic drugs must be a part of the plan to cure the Nation's ailing health care system.

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GENERIC DRUGS

(Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, most Americans know that the cost of pharmaceutical drugs is at a record high. Prescription drug costs rose 85 percent between 1993 and 1998, and prescription drugs represent the highest out-of-pocket expense for three out of four senior citizens.

Generic drugs are FDA approved to be safe and to be secure, but they cost 70 percent less than brand name drugs. The fact of the matter is, there are loopholes in today's laws that block entry to these affordable generic drugs.

This Congress needs to reform the Hatch-Waxman Act to improve competition and make our markets more accessible and fair. Let us end the brand drug monopoly that stifles competition, restricts our consumers' choice, and raises consumer drug prices.

CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, the month of September is Childhood Can-

cer Awareness Month, and I am proud to stand here wearing my gold ribbon of hope and voice my support for the children and families who are affected by this disease.

Cancer causes more deaths during childhood than any other disease. This year an estimated 12,400 children will be diagnosed with cancer, and 2,300 will die. Though we celebrate with the survivors and their families, we cannot forget the children who will, unfortunately, succumb.

That is why I am preparing to introduce legislation on behalf of these children and their families that will support them through the hospice care. Later this month, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) and I will host a conference for Members and staff in order to address the challenges concerning hospice care for children and share our ideas and examine questions regarding this serious topic.

I hope my colleagues will support this legislation, the conference, and Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

GENERIC DRUGS PROVIDE AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE ALTERNATIVE

(Mr. GOODE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOODE. Mr. Speaker, today over 40 million Americans lack adequate health insurance coverage and millions more are struggling to cover their health care bills. Unfortunately, seniors and children are among the groups most vulnerable in American society. Finding solutions to this health care crisis has to be at the top of our agenda.

Fortunately, there is help. Right now, generic drug companies are producing lifesaving and life-improving medicines that cost substantially less than brand name drugs. In fact, generic drugs provide one of the best values in the United States health care system. The substantial savings provided by generic drugs means more Americans can buy the medicines they need. It also means that through greater use of generic drugs, public health programs, like Medicaid and Medicare, can manage to help more Americans.

Generic drugs should be a key part of any prescription drug program approved by this Congress.

BRAND NAME AND GENERIC DRUGS ARE INTERCHANGEABLE

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, does anyone in the Chamber know the difference between Zantac and Ranitidine Hydrochloride? Here is the answer: Price. Zantac is the brand name of a popular medication to treat ulcers. Ranitidine Hydrochloride is the generic name of the exact same drug.