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protection through an educational program that includes accreditation, volunteer certification, and protection policies.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO); the role model for sportsmanship and citizenship in our country today.

SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING IMPORTANCE OF MAMMOGRAPHY AND BIOPSIES IN FIGHTING BREAST CANCER

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about an issue of vital importance to the women of this Nation—breast cancer prevention. As a woman and a mother, I feel that there are few issues as important to women's health as the breast cancer epidemic facing our Nation.

The resolution in front of us today expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that mammograms and biopsies are crucial tools in the fight against breast cancer. As you may know, breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in American women today.

An estimated 2.6 million women in the United States are living with breast cancer. Currently, there are 1.8 million women in this country who have been diagnosed with breast cancer and 1 million more who do not yet know that they have the disease. It was estimated that in 1996, 184,300 new cases of breast cancer would be diagnosed and 44,300 women would die from the disease.

Breast cancer costs this country more than $6 billion each year in medical expenses and lost productivity. These statistics are powerful indeed, but they cannot possibly capture the heartbreak of this disease which impacts not only the women who are diagnosed, but their husbands, children and families.

The most effective technique for early detection of breast cancer is mammography. When detected early, the probability that a woman can survive breast cancer is 90%. Safe and accurate testing offered through mammography is essential to save women's lives.

I am sure that all Members support this resolution today. I support it on behalf of all of our daughters, sisters, mothers, and grandmothers. We must continue to do whatever we can in order to detect, treat and prevent this devastating disease.

HONORING CHIEF PHILLIP MARTIN

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 10, 1998

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor Chief Phillip Martin who has made the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians an American success story.

The changes Chief Martin has implemented show that he is a true friend of the Choctaw Nation and all Native Americans. His vision of self-sufficiency and commitment to entrepreneurship has helped his people succeed. Chief Martin has reversed the injustices faced by his people by establishing an independent and productive reservation-based economy. This is a testament to the understanding and foresight of tribal governments.

It is my sincere hope that others will follow the course Chief Martin has set in establishing private enterprise for the Choctaws. His determination and vision has been rewarded by his many accomplishments. I am certain these positive investments will continue to help his fellow citizens for many years to come.

LYNN D. ALLEN, A DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 10, 1998

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Lynn Allen for his dedication to public service.

Born and raised in Pontiac, Michigan, Lynn served in WWII as a combat pilot. After completing his service, Lynn entered college at the University of Detroit and graduated from Northern Illinois University's College of Optometry, earning B.S. and doctors degrees.

After 18 years of practice as an optometrist, Lynn was elected in 1968 as the Oakland County Clerk and Register of Deeds, a position he holds today. Lynn has served the people of Oakland County honorably and with distinction. An innovative leader, Lynn helped design and implement the first on-line computer court system in the world and established an on-line system for campaign finance reporting.

Lynn has served as the president of the Michigan Clerks' Association and has been selected as the County Clerk of the Year in the State of Michigan. Currently, Lynn serves as chairman of the Court Committee for the Michigan Clerks and chairman of the Court and Charter Committee for the International Association of Clerks, Recorders, Election Officials and Treasurers.

In addition to his official duties, Lynn has made many other contributions to his community. He has been active in the Jaycees and has been named the Pontiac Jaycees Man of the Year. He has also been an active member in the West Pontiac Kiwanis Club, the American Legion, the Oakland County Sportsman's Club, and the First Presbyterian Church.

Lynn is retiring as the Oakland County Clerk and Register of Deeds on October 16. His leadership will be missed. He has made Oakland County and the State of Michigan a better place to live.

I wish Lynn and his wife, Mary Ann, the best of luck in their future endeavors.

SONNY BONO COPYRIGHT TERM EXTENSION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 1998

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to Title II, the Music Licensing Exemptions title in S. 505, the Copyright Term Extension Act. Although some characterize this provision as a "compromise," this provision is entirely unfair to American songwriters.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER's "compromise" on Musical Licensing would exempt certain sized bars and restaurants from paying royalties for radio and television broadcasts in their establishments.

Restaurant owners must pay produce vendors for the fruit and vegetables they serve, alcohol distributors for the beer and wine they sell and furniture suppliers for the tables at which their customers sit. It is absurd to suggest that you should not be compensated for the use of someone's music. Intellectual property must enjoy the same status as real or personal property; a person cannot use or improperly interfere with another's property without facing consequences.

In my home state of Tennessee, music is one of our area's largest economic assets, and it is vital that the United States maintain high protection and enforcement standards in the U.S. and throughout the world.

Mr. Chairman, I have letters from constituent songwriters and Opry performers that don't understand why writers of books, movies, television programs are all compensated each time their work is enjoyed, and songwriters should not be allowed the same protection and compensation.

I believe it is hypocritical of the leadership of this body to pass this lop-sided provision, when tomorrow, we bring to the floor the conference report on H.R. 2281, the WIPO International Copyright Treaty Implementation Act. H.R. 2281 strengthens U.S. copyright laws regarding the transmission of copyrighted materials. Tonight, this music licensing exemption weakens copyright protection for songwriters and their creative works.

Commerce Secretary William Daley wrote in a letter to Speaker GINGRICH stating strong opposition to the Sensenbrenner music licensing exemption. Specifically, Secretary Daley points out that our trading partners will claim that an overly broad exemption violates our obligations under the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary Works and the Agreement on the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs Agreement).

We should be concerned that passage of Title II would sacrifice U.S. interests of U.S. music copyright owners abroad in order to satisfy the demands for uncompensated use of music domestically. The American music industry is the most successful in the world, and royalties from foreign performances are an important source of income for U.S. artists and composers, who are small businesses too. If we expand the exemptions as written, other countries could use this as an excuse to adopt exemptions in their own copyright laws, leading to economic losses to U.S. music copyright owners in the hundreds of millions.

Songwriters are small business-persons that are engaged in an extremely difficult and competitive occupation. It is often only after years

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of struggle that a writer can even begin to make a living.

As I said before, music is intellectual property—and the owners should be paid for the use of their product—particularly when other businesses are making money by using their work.

Finally, I agree with Rep. Mary Bono in hopes that the House will revisit this issue and its detrimental effect on American songwriters and our international trade agreements in the next session. Enacting Title II of this bill is a grave mistake.

MEDICARE HOME HEALTH AND VETERANS HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the bill, H.R. 4567, although I do so with some reservations. The Committee on Veterans' Affairs has a long tradition of bipartisanship in developing constructive policy to meet the needs of veterans. Under the leadership of Chairman BOB STUMP, our Committee considered, perfected and approved, H.R. 1362, the Veterans Medicare Reimbursement Act of 1997. I continue to believe H.R. 1362 better addresses the needs of veterans and VA while simultaneously providing Medicare savings. These Medicare savings would result from authorizing VA to charge the Health Care Financing Administration for certain care provided by VA to certain Medicare-eligible veterans using a discounted Medicare fee schedule or capitated payment rate. H.R. 1362 was approved by the Veterans' Affairs Committee with the support of the Administration and all of the major veterans' services organizations. Working with the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the Senate Finance Committee included a provision similar to H.R. 1362 in its version of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. Unfortunately, this provision was not included in the conference agreement. I hope that future negotiations with the Senate will yield a measure more like H.R. 1362—a more thoughtful and cautious approach than the measure we are considering today.

My support for the measure before us today is due to VA's desperate need for funding from non-appropriated sources on which the Administration is depending. Since it received authority to retain medical care cost recovery funds, VA collections have actually declined. VA intended to use both Medicare reimbursement and medical care cost recovery funds to provide 10-percent of its funding from non-appropriated sources. VA's inability to collect the levels of funds it anticipated from these sources has resulted in a serious unanticipated budget shortfall.

Now VA faces a new challenge—the Under Secretary for Health has committed to "take all comers" into its health care system and provide them with specified health care benefits. Since VA has already committed to enrolling both veterans who bring payment for services to the door with them and veterans without such funding, VA will have no additional incentive to treat those in higher-income groups. I am uncertain what the consequences of Dr. Kizer's decision to enroll all veterans will be for VA, but I know that additional resources will better ensure its ability to honor this commitment without limiting access to care to other veterans with a higher priority to care.

I commend the gentleman from California, Mr. Thomas, for his work on behalf of VA-Medicare Subvention. However, I believe we need to re-assess VA's health care funding sources and end the funding "shell game" which has subjected VA to an uncertain revenue stream for the last three years. It hasn't worked. If VA is to be a high-quality health care system, Congress must be committed to funding the VA with adequate appropriated resources for the next fiscal year and years to come.

MEDICARE HOME HEALTH AND VETERANS HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENTS 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, although I am an original cosponsor of the original version of H.R. 4567, the Medicare Home Health Care Interim Payment System Refinement Act, I am rising in reluctant support for the bill.

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 implemented a poorly designed formula for Medicare payments to home health agencies which devastated home health agencies around the country. Reimbursements were slashed across the board and more than a thousand home health agencies either closed or began refusing to accept Medicare beneficiaries. The number of Medicare-Certified Home Health Agencies in my home state of Hawaii went from 28 in October 1997, to 22 in August 1998. A 22 percent decline in ten months.

For every agency that is closed, there are several hundred patients who are abandoned. The situation compels immediate action and I am very pleased the House is addressing this problem. Nonetheless I believe more can be done.

I am distressed that this bill is not retroactive. Many agencies have continued to operate in the red for the past year clinging to the hope that Congress would enact retroactive legislation to fix the payment problem. Agencies will not get assistance for losses they took this year and because of this, many will close even with the additional payments provided by this bill.

Furthermore this bill does not address the additional problems that would be created by the impending home health payment reduction scheduled for September 1999. Unless we address this problem we will be in the same situation next September, as we are in now.

Since H.R. 4567's introduction, numerous unrelated provisions have been added to the bill. One of my main objections to this bill is the inclusion of language expanding the Roth IRA limit from $100,000 to $145,000. This is a tax shelter for the wealthy and will cost U.S. taxpayers almost $5 billion over 10 years while providing little, if any, benefit to the majority of the population.

I am pleased that the bill will enable Medicare to reimburse the VA for services provided to Medicare eligible Veterans by VA facilities. This change is fiscally responsible and is predicted to save the Federal Government money in the long run. However, I am concerned that services previously paid for by the VA would now be extracting scarce resources from the Medicare Trust Fund.

In conclusion, although the meager home health payment increase is not at the level I would have liked, this is a step in the right direction and I am relieved that struggling home health agencies will receive some assistance.

TURKMENISTAN: AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENHANCE POLITICAL STABILITY IN CENTRAL ASIA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 10, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a sense of the Congress resolution supporting United States assistance to the Republic of Turkmenistan to build pipeline routes or take other measures necessary to resume the export of natural gas.

Turkmenistan, a newly independent Republic, bordering the oil and gas rich Caspian Sea, plays a vital role in the stability of Central Asia, a region that is quickly becoming one of the most strategically important areas in the world.

As we enter the 21st century, it should be the goal of the United States to support the exploration and use of cleaner sources of energy, without hampering economic growth. Turkmenistan, a country with one of the largest reserves of natural gas in the world, plays a key role in reaching this goal.

At this point, political and economic factors have hindered Turkmenistan from exporting its natural gas to the world. The United States must act to assist Turkmenistan in resuming the sale of its natural gas. The resumption of Turkmen gas sales is one of the main hurdles that must be overcome before economic and political stability comes to this region.

Without stability, Central Asia could cease to be a viable source of clean energy for the world, and also deteriorate into a "hot spot" where different cultures and political forces could combine to create a threat to our national security.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I ask my fellow members to support this resolution, and in so doing give Turkmenistan encouragement to promote stability and democratization in the region.

TRIBUTE TO DR. IVOR L. GEFT

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 10, 1998

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Ivor L. Geft, one of the most dynamic and dedicated physicians in Los Angeles. Dr. Geft is the recipient of The Jewish Healthcare Foundation—Avraham Moshe Bikur Cholim's Ahavas Chesed Award. He is being recognized for his excellence in caring

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