

substantial. More than 51 million school hours are lost each year to dental-related illness in children.

The "Children's Dental Health Improvement Act of 2002", will provide states the flexibility to utilize the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to provide dental coverage to low-income children (below 200% of poverty) including children who may have limited medical coverage that does not include dental services. The legislation will improve the dental health of uninsured and underinsured low-income children by allowing states the flexibility to utilize CHIP to provide funding for dental coverage to low-income children; providing \$40 million to community health centers and public health departments to expand dental health services through the hiring of additional dental-health professionals.

While several factors influence access for low-income groups to dental care, the primary one being limited dentist participation in Medicaid. The primary factor here is in, large part, due to poor reimbursement rates in Medicaid. The legislation seeks to improve dental care access under Medicaid and the Indian Health Service (IHS) by providing \$50 million as financial incentives and planning grants to states to improve their Medicaid program in terms of adequate payment rates, access to care and improved service delivery; again, providing \$40 million to community and IHS health centers and public health departments to expand dental health services through the hiring of additional dental health professionals.

Despite Medicaid and CHIP, dental care is the least utilized core pediatric health service for low-income children. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Oral Health Initiative (OHI) effort to coordinate dental health service within CMS lacks statutory authority necessary to enforce oral health initiatives. The legislation seeks to remedy this by providing statutory authority for the OHI and authorizes \$25 million to improve the oral health of low-income populations.

In addition, the bill contains the following technical provisions:

The bill streamlines the process for the designation of dental health professional shortage areas;

Ensures that entities eligible for funding include both "school-linked" as well as school-based organizations, clarifies that an eligible entity can be public or non-profit health organization or tribal organization;

Creating authority for HHS to establish demonstration projects to increase access to dental services for children in underserved areas.

This legislation has the endorsement and is fully supported by over 40 national health organizations including, National Association of Children's Hospitals, American Academy of Pediatrics, March of Dimes, American Dental Association and Family Voices.

There can be no substitute for providing for our children's health. The "Children's Dental Health Improvement Act of 2002" will go a long way to filling a large gap that exists in our current health programs for children. Clearly, more effort and support is needed. Therefore, I believe that Congress must act now. I ask that all Members of the House and Senate join in to support and vote for passage of the "Children's Dental Health Improvement Act of 2002".

GIRL SCOUT GOLD MEDAL
RECIPIENT: DEBORAH VISCO

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize one of New York's outstanding young students: Deborah Visco. In February, the young women of her troop will honor her by bestowing upon her the Girl Scouts Gold Medal.

Since the beginning of this century, the Girls Scouts of America have provided thousands of youngsters each year the opportunity to make friends, explore new ideas, and develop leadership skills while learning self-reliance and teamwork.

These awards are presented only to those who possess the qualities that make our nation great: commitment to excellence, hard work, and genuine love of community service. The Gold Awards represent the highest awards attainable by junior and high school Girl Scouts.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipient of this award, as her activities are indeed worthy of praise. Their leadership benefits our community and they serve as role models for their peers.

Also, we must not forget the unsung heroes, who continue to devote a large part of their lives to make all this possible. Therefore, I salute the families, scout leaders, and countless others who have given generously of their time and energy in support of scouting.

It is with great pride that I recognize the achievements of Deborah, and bring the attention of Congress to this successful young woman on her day of recognition.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BILL
MCCLUSKEY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I pay tribute today to Pueblo Police Department Sgt. Bill McCluskey, who recently lost his life to cancer. In his 38 years of dedication to the police force, Bill embodied the ideals of integrity, honesty and courage that we, as Americans, have come to expect from the brave men and women who serve as our law enforcement officers. As his family mourns his loss, I believe it is appropriate to remember Bill and pay tribute to him for his contributions to his city, his state and his country.

Bill McCluskey was not an ordinary police officer. In 1999, he was recognized as the Pueblo Police Department's officer of the year, and during his tenure in the department, he received over 100 letters of commendation. In 1989, he was promoted to sergeant, and through his tireless work ethic and impeccable reputation for honesty and integrity, Bill emerged as the department's patriarch and role model.

It was Bill's dedication and love for his job, his family and his community that distinguished him from, and endeared him to all who knew Bill. He is survived by his wife

Sharon, and his two sons Michael and Jonathan. Not only will he be missed by his immediate family, but also by the many brave men and women who served with him in the Pueblo Police Department. He is, without question, one of this country's true heroes. He was a man that served his community with a passion, and helped to make it a much better and safer place. The Pueblo community and I are eternally grateful for his service.

Mr. Speaker, we are all terribly saddened by the loss of Bill McCluskey, but take comfort in the knowledge that our grief is overshadowed only by the legacy of courage, selflessness and love that Bill left with all of us. His life is the very embodiment of all that makes this country great, and I am deeply honored to be able to bring his life to the attention of this body of Congress.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SECURITIES FRAUD PREVENTION ACT OF 2002

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing of the "Securities Fraud Prevention Act of 2002," legislation designed to crack down on securities fraud. I am joined by Minority Leader GEPHARDT along with Representatives WATT, JACKSON-LEE, WATERS, MARKEY and SANDERS.

The last several months have revealed widespread securities fraud at the very highest level of Enron and its advisers. Every day brings a new revelation of the dissemination of misinformation, shredding, obstruction of justice, and insider trading. As more and more companies file bankruptcy, I am concerned that we may well learn of additional instances of fraud across corporate America.

One step we can take to respond to this outbreak is to empower harmed American investors to obtain justice in these cases. Unfortunately, one of the very first items enacted by the Majority in 1995 as part of the "Contract with American" was legislation making it more difficult for ordinary Americans to bring Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) actions involving securities fraud. This legal loophole for securities fraud was enacted over President Clinton's veto as part of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act (PSLRA) of 1995.

The PSLRA ended the use of the private civil RICO statute as a means of seeking treble damages and attorneys fees in securities fraud cases, unless preceded by a criminal conviction. In essence, the Congress wrote a special exemption preventing securities fraud cases from being brought under RICO.

In the wake of the Enron debacle, I believe the time is now ripe to protect American investors once again. The Enron cases has established beyond a shadow of a doubt that white collar fraud can be incredibly damaging, in many cases wiping away life savings and costing innocent Americans billions of dollars of their hard earned money. There can be no conceivable justification for shielding corporate wrongdoers from RICO actions in this context. I am hopeful that Congress can move quickly to enact this worthwhile and timely legislation.