

day of a cold which I am hopeful that it is no longer contagious.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4070, the Social Security Program Protection Act of 2002. I urge my colleagues to support this badly needed measure.

Every year, Social Security provides benefits to over 50 million retired and disabled workers, their families and SSI recipients. Of this total, more than 7 million are beneficiaries who cannot manage their own financial affairs and have a "Representative Payee" appointed to guard their monthly benefits.

While the majority of these arrangements are above board, a significant number are subject to fraud and abuse. In these cases, the beneficiary is being cheated out of their Social Security income, which they desperately need, and the taxpayers are being cheated by government funds being diverted to unauthorized recipients.

This legislation protects vulnerable beneficiaries by tightening oversight and regulation of the "Representative Payee" system. Penalties for the misuse of the system are enhanced, and new regulations governing who is eligible for a "Representative Payee" status are further qualified by prohibiting anyone convicted and imprisoned for more than one year from serving in this capacity. Moreover, this measure permits the reissuance of benefits to individuals who have been cheated by their "Representative Payee," and further directs that the recovery of misused benefits from those persons may be undertaken.

This measure also makes a number of modifications to shore up the integrity of the Social Security system by denying benefits to fugitive felons, imposing penalties on recipients who fail to notify SSA of any change in their status and clarifies which attorneys the SS commissioner may refuse to recognize in the handling of specific cases.

Mr. Speaker, this measure helps protect the interests of those who are unable to manage their financial affairs, including their Social Security benefits. In doing this, it addresses an unmet need. Accordingly, I strongly support its passage.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Social Security Program Protection Act of 2002.

This legislation gives the Social Security Administration the enhanced tools it needs to help fight fraud and abuse activities that drain program resources and undermine the financial security of beneficiaries.

This legislation also helps individuals with disabilities gain access to representation to help them navigate through complex application process to receive benefit.

Preliminary CBO estimates show this legislation saves the budget \$534 million over 10 years.

The program protections and improvements in this bill are bipartisan and have the support of the Federal Bar Association, the Association of Administrative Law Judges, and the National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives.

I am saddened that the minority has spent today in the same manner they usually choose to spend very other October: scaring our senior citizens.

It is easy for the minority to sit back and cry foul, but I would ask all of my colleagues the following questions: has the minority done

anything but misrepresent our plans to save Social Security?

Have they come to the table with any serious ideas themselves on how to save the program?

The answer to this question, regrettably, is "no."

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4070, the Social Security Program Protection Act of 2002. This legislation provides needed safeguards for the over 6 million Social Security and Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries who cannot manage their own financial affairs and need a "representative payee." I fully support increased oversight of Representative Payees to prevent abuse, and the mis-allocation of taxpayer money. I also agree with this bill's provision that allows for the re-issuance of benefit payments that have been taken from the rightful beneficiaries and the recovery of these funds from unscrupulous Representative Payees.

I want to underscore the importance of one of the items in the bill's final section containing miscellaneous and technical provisions. This is the provision that improves the effectiveness of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999. It will ensure that employers who hire individuals with disabilities through referral by an employer network also qualify for the Work Opportunity Tax Credit. Americans with disabilities experience an unemployment rate of 70 percent, and we must do everything in our power to make sure that incentives exist to open the doors of opportunity wider to these individuals.

Finally, I want to draw attention to this bill's provision that disqualifies those who have been convicted and imprisoned more than a year from serving as Representative Payees. The bill also allows the Commissioner of Social Security to exercise judgment in determining cases where certain ex-offenders may be certified as Representative Payees despite this prohibition. While we must do everything possible to protect Social Security and Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries from being taken advantage of by unscrupulous individuals, we also must not unjustly condemn ex-offenders who have paid their dues and need to re-gain their ability to participate fully in society.

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LINDER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4070, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of H.R. 4070, the bill just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

#### COMMENDING CONTRIBUTIONS OF ROOFING PROFESSIONALS INVOLVED IN REBUILDING OF PENTAGON

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 424) commending the patriotic contributions of the roofing professionals who replaced, at no cost to the Federal Government, the section of the Pentagon's slate roof that was destroyed as a result of the terrorist attacks against the United States that occurred on September 11, 2001.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### H. CON. RES. 424

Whereas the damage to the Pentagon that resulted from the terrorist attacks against the United States that occurred on September 11, 2001, included the destruction of more than an acre of the Pentagon's slate roof;

Whereas roofing professionals from throughout the United States, mostly from small businesses, volunteered to work together to replace the destroyed section of the Pentagon's roof;

Whereas these roofing professionals donated approximately \$450,000 worth of labor and materials to the replacement effort; and

Whereas these roofing professionals successfully replaced 60,000 square feet of the Pentagon's slate roof before September 11, 2002, and at no cost to the Federal Government: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress commends the patriotic contributions of the roofing professionals who replaced, at no cost to the Federal Government, the section of the Pentagon's slate roof that was destroyed as a result of the terrorist attacks against the United States that occurred on September 11, 2001.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. SULLIVAN).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Concurrent Resolution 424.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 424, introduced by my distinguished colleagues, the gentleman