

Management and Budget have been miscalculating the anticipated cost of loan programs to the taxpayer, or the subsidy rates for loan programs.

The Administration's subsidy rate estimates for the Small Business Administration's 7(a) loan program and the 504 guaranteed loan program have regularly been miscalculated, leading to unnecessarily high fees charged to the borrowers who use the Small Business Administration's loan programs. This is, in effect, a tax on small businesses, and must be rectified.

The Administration and the Office of Management and Budget must re-estimate the subsidy rate calculations to ensure that the 7(a) loan program as well as the 504 guaranteed loan program are not threatened, and to reduce the tax burden on our nation's small businesses.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF REGIS
UNIVERSITY

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 125th anniversary of Regis University, a highly acclaimed Jesuit institution in Denver, Colorado.

Founded in 1877 as Las Vegas College in Las Vegas, New Mexico, Regis University has undergone three name changes, two moves and significant growth since its inception one hundred twenty-five years ago. The university now enrolls more than 13,500 students in three constituent schools: Regis College, for traditional liberal arts; School for Professional Studies, with programs designed for working adults; and School for Health Care Professionals, which houses Regis' doctoral program in physical therapy. An additional 15,000 students attend the university's five branch campuses in Colorado and one in Las Vegas, Nevada.

As 1 of 28 Jesuit institutions of higher education in the country, Regis University has developed a reputation for academic excellence and a commitment to the Jesuit mission of developing leaders committed to the service of others. For seven consecutive years, U.S. News and World Report has ranked Regis University to be among its top tier of colleges and universities in the Western United States. The University has also been recognized for its leadership in the field of student character development. The university was 1 of 100 colleges and universities honored in the "Templeton Guide: Colleges that Encourage Character Development."

As a U.S. Representative from Colorado, I know my Colorado colleagues join me in expressing appreciation to Regis University for its significant contributions to the state, country and world at large. It has hosted numerous world leaders to its Colorado campus, including, ten Nobel Prize winners, Mother Theresa and the historic meeting between Pope John Paul II and the President in 1993. The school has also produced an American Rhodes Scholar, two Fulbright professors and two athletes named to USA Today's College All-Academic Team.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, please join me in honoring Regis University as

it celebrates 125 years of dedicated service to the academic enrichment and development of thousands of college graduates. The university and all of its faculty and staff are to be congratulated on this momentous occasion.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS
MONTH

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2002

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize October as Domestic Violence Prevention Month and add my strong support to the struggle against domestic abuse.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month is an opportunity for us to remember those who have been victims of abuse, to support those who are survivors, to educate ourselves about the barriers and hardships domestic violence victims face, and to find effective and lasting solutions to this horrific crime.

I would like to share a story with you about a domestic violence survivor named Anna. Anna is married to an abusive man, who regularly harasses, threatens, and hits her. One evening, he flew into a rage and brutally beat her, because she was considering leaving him.

Anna came into work the next day and confided to her supervisor that her injuries were the result of domestic violence. Her boss referred her to the Human Resources office where the staff had training in working with employees who are victims of domestic violence. Human Resources helped Anna contact a local domestic violence service provider.

The employer gave Anna the rest of the day off to meet with a counselor and figure out other precautionary steps. When made aware that she would need several days off to get a restraining order and move into a shelter, Anna called her boss who gave her additional time off.

Before returning to work, Anna was able to develop a safety plan with her boss and counselor that included one afternoon off per week to attend group counseling sessions at the local service provider.

Anna's ability to get help and support from her employer had a significant positive impact on her life. Anna found a safe place to live and remained economically independent. Anna's boss also gained significantly by retaining a productive and contributing employee. Further saving the company time and money in not having to recruit and retrain a new employee.

Mr. Speaker, I use this story to underscore the benefits of having a supportive system in place to help domestic violence victims break the vicious cycle of violence. Sadly, however, this story is fiction rather than fact. Anna's story is a far cry from what most domestic violence victims currently encounter when they seek help from their employers. Federal law does not specifically allow women to take leave from work to effectively deal with abuse. Nor do most states allow women who leave work as a result of domestic violence to collect unemployment compensation.

Instead, victims of abuse live with the added fear of losing their job and falling into poverty if they take time off to go to a shelter or seek

a protective order. In addition employers also lose out. It is estimated that it costs employers \$100 million a year as a result of higher turnover, lower productivity, absenteeism and health and safety expenses.

To address the inadequacy of our current laws, I have introduced the Victim's Economic Security and Safety Act also known as VESSA. This bill ensures that victims of domestic violence are allowed to take time off from work to make necessary court appearances, seek legal assistance, contact law enforcement officials or make alternative housing arrangements, without the fear of being fired or demoted. Further, to make sure victims can retain financial independence VESSA requires states to provide unemployment benefits to women who are forced to leave work as a result of domestic violence. In addition, VESSA creates a workplace safety program tax credit for 40 percent of the costs incurred or paid by an employer who implements a domestic violence workplace safety and education program.

Mr. Speaker, Anna's story, although fiction, clearly illustrates how a comprehensive support system can help to break the cycle of violence as well as, benefit business and society as a whole. I am extremely pleased to announce that VESSA has already garnered the support of 115 of my colleagues in the House of Representatives. I'm hopeful that with the increased support of my colleagues in Congress VESSA will soon become law, and help turn victims of domestic abuse into survivors.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARIA LOUISE
BROOKS JONES

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2002

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and celebrate the accomplishments of Mrs. Maria Louise Brooks Jones, a resident of Philadelphia for more than fifty years. "Mom Jones" as she is affectionately called, has been a blessing to many in the great city of brotherly love. She is a wife, mother of nine children, grandmother of twenty-six, great-grandmother of seventeen, and an adopted "mother" to a host of children and grandchildren that have claimed her throughout many years. Mom Jones gained some of these "children" because encouraging others is her way of life. The people in her community know that they can get assistance from her in the form of prayer, clothing, or shelter.

Mrs. Jones joined the church at an early age, and from Richmond, VA via Baltimore, MD joined Second Pilgrim Baptist Church in Philadelphia under the pastorate of the late Rev. R. L. Thomas. At Second Pilgrim Baptist Church, she has actively served as a member of the Combined Mass Choir and held various offices on the Jones Gospel Chorus, Senior Choir, Hospitality Ministry, Nurses Ministry, Widows' Ministry, Youth Supervisor, and the Delaware Valley Hospitality Circle.

Mom Jones is an activist and leader in the education of children both in and around her community and church. She worked in the public and private schools of Philadelphia for over fifty years, and remains active in the private sector to this day. As far as she is concerned, she'll help educate children as long as children need to be educated.