

IN SUPPORT OF THE LABOR RELATIONS FIRST CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS ACT

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 7, 2003*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Labor Relations First Contract Negotiations Act.

The National Labor Relations Act guarantees the right of employees to organize and bargain collectively to improve living standards and working conditions. The right to organize is a basic civil right, and unions are an avenue to equity, fair treatment, and economic stability for working people. Free enterprise includes the freedom to organize as a unit to bargain collectively. Unfortunately, current law hinders this ability. To remedy this serious situation, I have introduced the Labor Relations First Contract Negotiations Act.

My legislation requires mediation and, if necessary, binding arbitration of initial contract negotiation disputes. Under this proposed bill, if an employer and a newly elected representative have not reached a collective bargaining agreement within 60 days of the representative's certification, the employer and the representative will jointly select a mediator to help them reach an agreement. If they cannot agree on a mediator, one will be appointed for them by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. In the event that the parties do not reach an agreement in 30 days, the remaining issues may be transferred to the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service for binding arbitration. Let us make sure that everyone has a fair opportunity to negotiate a collective bargaining agreement. I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this legislation.

THE ANSONIA POP WARNER JUNIOR PEEWEE CHEERLEADERS ON THEIR TRIP TO THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 7, 2003*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest pride that I rise today to extend my sincere congratulations and very best wishes to the Ansonia Pop Warner Junior PeeWee Cheerleaders as they make their way to Orlando, Florida to compete in the National Championships. The Junior PeeWee Cheerleaders join the Ansonia Coppers Midget Football team who are also in Orlando for their National Championship game. The Ansonia community certainly has cause for celebration with the tremendous accomplishments of these young people.

A squad of eighteen girls between the ages of eight and ten, the Ansonia Junior PeeWee Cheerleaders have worked very hard over the last several months to be able to compete in this year's competitions. Coming together in August, the girls practiced for two hours four nights a week and, after the start of the school year, three nights a week. This fall, the squad was able to perform live, cheering for the Ansonia Coppers every Sunday.

The dedication and commitment these girls have demonstrated is truly inspiring. They have worked so hard to master the required high-level tumbling skills and the necessary symmetry of their movements. The girls haven't missed a beat, even when, during the regional competition, a judge accidentally stopped their music halfway through their routine. In Orlando, the girls will face seventeen other teams. They should certainly be very proud of what they have already been able to accomplish and I have no doubt that they will represent Ansonia and Connecticut well in the Championships.

I am also pleased to recognize Judy Banks, a Pop Warner cheerleading coach for thirteen years, who has worked with the girls since August of this year. Her leadership and energy has been the driving force behind the success of the Ansonia Junior PeeWee Cheerleaders. In addition, I would also extend a note of thanks and appreciation to the parents and volunteers whose support has enabled the girls to practice and travel for their competitions. Without their efforts, the success of the Ansonia Junior PeeWee Cheerleaders would not be possible.

I am thrilled to join the Ansonia community in extending my sincere congratulations and very best wishes to the Ansonia Pop Warner Junior PeeWee Cheerleaders as they head to their National Championship competition. I, as well as the entire community, will be rooting for you! Win or lose, you have made us very proud!

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

**HON. JO ANN EMERSON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 7, 2003*

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Notch Baby Act of 2003, which would create a new alternative transition computation formula for Social Security benefits for those seniors born between 1917 and 1926. These seniors, who are generally referred to as "Notch Babies," have been receiving lower monthly Social Security benefits than seniors born the years just prior to or after this ten year period.

There are those who dispute the existence of a Notch problem. However, take into consideration the following example presented in a 1994 report by the Commission on Social Security Notch issue. There are two workers who retired at the same age with the same average career earnings. One was born on December 31, 1916 and the other was born on January 2, 1917. Both retired in 1982 at the age of 65. The retiree born 1917 received \$110 a month less in Social Security benefits than did the retiree born just two weeks before in 1916. Also take into consideration that there are currently millions of seniors in our Nation who are faced with this painfully obvious inequity in the Social Security benefit computation formula.

By phasing in an improved benefit formula over five years, the Notch Baby Act of 2003 will restore fairness and equality in the Social Security benefit computation formula for the Notch Babies. For once and for all this legislation would put to rest the Notch issue, and it would put an end to the constant barrage of

mailings and fundraising attempts, which target our Nation's seniors in the name of Notch reform. Our seniors deserve fairness and equality in the Social Security system. They deserve an end to the repeated Congressional stalling on this issue. I urge my colleagues in the House to discuss this issue with the seniors in their districts, and to join me in ensuring that the Notch issue is addressed in the 108th Congress.

HONORING SAN LORENZO UNIFIED SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER BETTY MOOSE'S TENURE ON THE SCHOOL BOARD

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 7, 2003*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Betty Moose for twenty-one years of exemplary service to the San Lorenzo Unified School District as a member of the Board of Education.

First elected to the Board in 1981, Betty was elected by her fellow Board members to serve as president of the Board from December 2000 to December 2001. Previously, she was vice-president and clerk of the Board.

As a Board Member, Betty has been strongly committed to helping children in all aspects of their development and education. She has proudly represented the San Lorenzo Unified School District on numerous local and state committees and commissions. She is especially pleased with her accomplishments as a 17-year member of the Hayward Area Shoreline Planning Agency and as a member of the San Leandro Collaborative for Children, Youth, and their Families.

Betty has also worked on the San Lorenzo Unified School District Drug Advisory Council, the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Sheriff, the San Lorenzo Area Youth Advisory Commission, and the California School Boards Association Legislative Network.

An active and dynamic community activist, Betty has served on the boards of many organizations. She has been president of the San Lorenzo Area Friends of the Library, the Gray Panthers of Southern Alameda County, and the San Lorenzo Heritage Society. She is a member and first co-chair of the National Women's Political Caucus of Southern Alameda County.

Betty has also served as Vice-President of the Fairmont Hospital Campus Service League and the Church Women United of the Eden Area and Chair of the Alameda County Consumer Affairs Commission and the San Lorenzo Youth Resource Group. Betty's other memberships include the Eden Area League of Women Voters and the California Women's Association for Education reform.

Betty has been married to Claude C. Moose for 56 years, and the couple has lived in San Lorenzo for 50 years. Their five children attended San Lorenzo schools, and graduated from Arroyo High School.

I am honored to commend Betty Moose for her years of service to the San Lorenzo Board of Education. Although San Lorenzo will no longer have the benefit of Betty's wisdom and experience as a School Board member, I know she will continue to be involved in the