

IN RECOGNITION OF COVER THE
UNINSURED WEEK

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very important initiative that will bring national attention to a severe and growing problem—the uninsured in America.

The sheer number and variety of organizations involved in Cover the Uninsured Week show that the consequences of this problem touch our entire society. Every community, every hospital, every caregiver, every taxpayer, and every individual in our country has a stake in addressing this issue.

New reports that suggest that 75 million Americans lacked insurance for all or part of 2001 and 2002 only give this issue increased urgency. It is easier from a public policy perspective to look at one piece of the puzzle—for example, how urban hospitals struggle to provide uncompensated care, how families struggle when they have a disabled child or how small business struggle to offer health insurance to their employees. But the problem is broader, and it is clearer than ever that allowing Americans to remain uninsured negatively affects our nation's health status, access to care and even our financial security.

Since coming to Congress, I have made addressing this issue one of my primary goals. I am working in particular with my colleagues in the Blue Dog Caucus to address the group with the highest uninsured population—employees of small businesses. I am working on legislation to provide tax credits for small employers who offer health insurance. I know this is just one piece of the puzzle of the uninsured, but I think that if we can sustain the momentum created by Cover the Uninsured Week and utilize the expertise of the broad array of organizations that have come together to bring this issue to the forefront, we can put the pieces together and make a difference for all uninsured Americans.

REMOTE SENSING APPLICATIONS
ACT OF 2003

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Remote Sensing Applications Act of 2003. I am very pleased that my colleague Representative CHIP PICKERING of Mississippi is joining me as an original cosponsor of this bill.

I introduced this bill as H.R. 2426 in the 107th Congress, and the House—though not the Senate—passed it last year. I'm eager to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in this Congress to see my legislation through to passage in both chambers.

I introduced this bill in the 107th Congress mainly to address a real problem we have in Colorado, the problem of excess growth and

sprawl. My goal was to point to a way to utilize the resources of the federal government to help foster wise community planning and management at the local level. As a member of the House Science Committee and the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee, it made sense to me to look for ways to help communities grow in a smarter way through the use of technology.

I have reintroduced the bill in this Congress because I still believe we need to do more to promote geospatial technology. Geospatial data from satellites can produce very accurate maps that show information about vegetation, wildlife habitat, flood plains, transportation corridors, soil types, and many other things.

By giving state and local governments and communities greater access to geospatial data from commercial sources and federal agencies such as NASA, I believe that the federal government can help bring valuable—and powerful—informational planning resources to the table.

My bill would facilitate this transfer of information. The bill would establish in NASA a program of grants for competitively awarded pilot projects. The purpose would be to explore the integrated use of sources of remote sensing and other geospatial information to address state, local, regional, and tribal agency needs.

State and local governments and communities can use geospatial information in a variety of applications—in such areas as urban land-use planning, coastal zone management and erosion control, transportation corridors, environmental planning, and agricultural and forest management.

But another potential application that has garnered much recent attention is the use of geospatial technology to bolster our homeland security.

Emergency management has always been an important responsibility of state and local governments. But in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks, the scope of this responsibility has broadened. Geospatial technology can help states and localities identify the location, nature, and scope of potential vulnerabilities and the impact of potential hazards, as well as how to respond to events and recover from them.

Certainly it is important that we continue to add to our database of available geospatial information—more information is always better than less. But we also need to get maximum use of information we already have at hand. That is the need this bill would address.

State and local officials are becoming more familiar with the uses of geospatial technology for various planning purposes. However, there is a need for federal agencies such as NASA, which has been pioneering the uses of satellite remote sensing technologies, to work with state and local organizations to demonstrate how remote sensing and other geospatial data can offer a cost effective planning and assessment tool.

I'm pleased there was broad bipartisan cosponsorship of the bill in the last Congress and that it earned the endorsement of a number of important national organizations. These supporters of my bill understand the importance of targeting geospatial information at the places where it will have the greatest impact—the local and regional levels.

The Remote Sensing Applications Act can help begin to bridge the gap between established and emerging technology solutions and the problems and challenges that state and local communities face regarding growth management, homeland security, forest fire management, and other issues.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will be welcomed by states and localities nationwide. I look forward to working with Representative PICKERING and other Members of the House, including my colleagues on the Science Committee, to move forward with this important initiative.

HONORING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
SHELTERS IN THE 9TH DISTRICT
OF OHIO

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, Women's History Month is celebrated during the month of March in the United States and around the world. Last week Members of Congress participated in Domestic Violence Awareness Week on Capitol Hill in partnership with Lifetime Television to raise awareness of the issues surrounding domestic violence, and address possible solutions.

Domestic Violence is one of the most critical public health issues facing women and children today, and its impact is felt by every member of our society. Domestic Violence is not just a women's issue. Domestic Violence touches the lives of men, women and children—affecting the entire family structure in our country.

I would like to take the time this month to honor the domestic violence shelters in my district—the 9th District of Ohio for the services they provide daily to individuals coping with domestic violence. The YWCA Battered Women's Shelter in Toledo, OH, the Family House in Toledo, OH, the Safe Harbour Domestic Violence Shelter in Sandusky, OH, and Ottawa County Transitional Housing in Port Clinton, OH. All four of the mentioned organizations serve women and children on the front lines. The staff members of the shelters are the individuals that hear the stories, and provide services to people in need. The statistics are real, and the issue of domestic violence must be kept at the forefront of domestic policy debates locally and nationally.

The YWCA Battered Women's Shelter in Toledo serves the area of Lucas County and offers emergency short-term housing and counseling for battered women and their children. The Family House in Toledo serves Lucas County and is a short-term emergency shelter for homeless families, offering supportive services through a family case manager. Ottawa County Transitional Housing in Port Clinton is a long term homeless shelter for women and children. The shelter serves people in Erie and Ottawa counties offering supportive services to families.

I sincerely thank all of the individuals that work for these important organizations, serving our community, and the people of the 9th District of Ohio daily. Onward.