

upon the leadership to move this legislation as soon as possible.

RECOGNIZING MR. CHAD BLOCK
FOR HIS HEROIC ACTIONS

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Chad Block, businessman and volunteer firefighter, for his heroic acts on the afternoon of March 24, 2007.

On this date Mr. Block passed by a car accident where a box van was on fire on Route 202 in Bucks County, PA. Acting quickly, Mr. Block positioned his vehicle to prevent other cars from reaching the fire. Suddenly, the fuel tank exploded on the box van sending it down the road toward an outlet store full of customers and workers.

Without hesitation or regard for his own life, Mr. Block pulled a wheel chock from his own truck and placed it under the wheel of the burning van stopping its movement. Moments later, as the heat from the burning van overcame the wheel chock; the burning van began to move again down the road. Without hesitation, Mr. Block placed his own truck in the path of the burning van until fire crews could secure the van and extinguish the fire.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Block's bravery goes above and beyond what we expect from our citizens; but as a dedicated volunteer firefighter with concern for the safety of his community, he acted fast and with great daring. He acted without regard to his own life to ensure the safety of others. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Chad Block for his heroism.

CONGRATULATING THE DALAI
LAMA UPON BEING AWARDED
THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD
MEDAL

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Dalai Lama upon being awarded the prestigious Congressional Gold Medal of Honor.

The Congressional Gold Medal is the nation's highest and most distinguished civilian award. The honor must be approved by at least two-thirds of the Members of both the House of Representatives and the Senate in order to be awarded. Over 100 awards have been conferred since its creation in 1776, including recipients General George Washington, Winston Churchill, and Nelson Mandela.

His Holiness, the Fourteenth Dalai Lama, has exemplified the spirit of the award, demonstrating tremendous compassion and tolerance. Through his selfless advocacy of peace and human rights, the Dalai Lama has lived as an example of what one committed individual can accomplish. His efforts to better the lives of the Tibetan people have not gone unno-

ticed, and I am truly honored to play a role in this special day. I would like to thank my colleagues for joining me in honoring His Holiness, the Fourteenth Dalai Lama.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF MS. HELEN SPENCER AS THE CITY CLERK OF FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with great honor that I rise today in recognition of Helen Spencer, who for the last 40 years has engaged in committed, dutiful service to the City of Fort Walton Beach, FL, as the City Clerk.

Helen Spencer's dedication to the City began in 1967 when she became a secretary in the Fort Walton Beach Police Department. In 1970, she was promoted to stenographer. In 1974 and for the next 7 years she was a high level secretary, and on April 29, 1981, she was promoted to Executive Secretary for the Fort Walton Beach Police Department. When the position of City Clerk of Fort Walton Beach was vacated she was quickly chosen to fill the spot as interim city clerk. After only a few months of service to the City, the City Council asked her to fill the position permanently.

As the city clerk, Mrs. Spencer manages a multitude of functions. She oversees the official City records, prepares City elections, manages the city's leases and deeds, and prepares countless minutes and agenda packages for the City Council. However, Mrs. Spencer's dedication to the community ranges beyond her occupation. She participates on the Local Issues Committee, the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce, and serves as vice president of the Sugar Beach Sertoma Club.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Helen Spencer on her 40th anniversary with the City of Fort Walton Beach, FL. Mrs. Spencer truly possesses an extraordinary understanding and a unique perspective of the City's history. She is a committed, innovative, and loyal resident of Fort Walton Beach, and we are forever grateful for her service.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL ON PROTECTING CONSUMERS THROUGH THE PROPER FORBEARANCE PROCEDURES ACT OF 2007

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the bill entitled the "Protecting Consumers through Proper Forbearance Procedures Act of 2007", which I am introducing today. This legislation is intended to correct persistent problems in procedure created by two words in the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

Section 10 of the Communications Act permits a telecommunications carrier to file a petition with the Federal Communications Commission, FCC, asking the FCC to forbear from applying certain statutory or regulatory requirements to it. The FCC may grant forbearance if it finds that doing so is in the public interest.

It is certainly within the prerogative of Congress to create a statutory regime that permits a regulatory agency to forbear from applying a statutory requirement, so long as the agency finds that consumers will continue to be protected and well served. The problem in this circumstance is that the statute states that the carrier's petition will be "deemed granted" if the FCC does not act within a prescribed timeframe. In other words, if the clock runs out before the FCC has reached agreement on the merits of a petition, the petition is automatically granted.

This untenable situation must be corrected. It can and has led to undesirable results.

First, the FCC last year permitted one forbearance petition to be "deemed granted" without issuing an accompanying written order, thereby making it impossible for Congress or the courts to ascertain the scope of relief granted or the legal rationale supporting the agency action. In this situation, which could easily occur again, it is difficult for Congress to conduct proper oversight of the implementation of the Communications Act, as well as oversight of the telecommunications industry.

Second, the "deemed granted" language results in unsound decision-making at the FCC. Faced with contentious, complicated issues as set forth in these petitions, the FCC now routinely waits until the last possible minute—in some cases literally the 11th hour—to make a rushed decision. All the while, during the FCC's deliberations, the threat of an automatic grant of forbearance from statutory provisions hovers over the proceedings. Such a disjointed process is not likely to result in public policy that benefits consumers.

This bill simply removes the "deemed granted" language from the statute. Carriers are still free to seek forbearance, and the FCC may still grant forbearance where appropriate. But the "deemed granted" language must be removed to safeguard the ability of Congress and the courts to conduct appropriate oversight, to protect consumers, and to restore transparency to the decision-making process.

IN RECOGNITION OF LAKEWOOD
HOSPITAL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of Lakewood Hospital, which has proven to be a leader in northeastern Ohio's health care community.

Founded in 1907, Lakewood Hospital provides high quality and innovative treatment to more than 130,000 patients annually from throughout Cuyahoga County. The hospital's affiliation with the Cleveland Clinic and other regional hospitals offers individuals access to state-of-the-art technology and individualized care.