

revealed that the Privacy Officer was not brought into the development of a new National Applications Office, NAO, that would monitor the use of spy satellites for homeland security purposes, until almost 2 years after the development stage began.

Bringing in the Privacy Office at the 11th hour is not the proper way to blend in privacy protections and appropriate safeguards before policies and programs are underway.

Placing Privacy Officers in the component agencies that make up the Department of Homeland Security is the first step to ensuring that privacy protections are in place at the beginning of the process.

The Component agencies are the pulse of the Homeland Security Department. Most homeland security efforts stem from Component Agency actions.

Privacy Officers need to be where the action is happening, not waiting for a phone call after decisions have already been made.

Under the current structure, the Privacy Office has to rely on Component Agencies for information concerning programs and policies that impact privacy rights. Sometimes this happens; sometimes it does not.

When it does not happen, the risk is clear:

Recently, the Department's Inspector General determined that the Science & Technology Directorate's ADVISE program should be cancelled due to privacy concerns.

This determination was made after the Department spent \$42 million on the program.

It was also determined that the Chief Privacy Office was not brought into the process until almost 2 years after the system had been deployed.

This bill would put a Privacy Officer in the Science & Technology Directorate.

Moreover, the Automated Targeting System, which is a Customs & Border Protection program, has been heavily criticized by privacy advocates, and after two separate requests for public comments, the future of this program remains unclear. Again, this was a program that had operated for some time in the dark without proper safeguards and departmental oversight.

Pursuant to this bill, CBP would get a Privacy Officer as well.

Quite frankly, there has been a litany of DHS programs that have been cancelled, delayed, or discontinued due to privacy concerns. Almost all of these were the products of Department Component Agencies that do not have a Privacy Officer within their ranks.

Additionally, the DHS Privacy Officer is responsible for conducting Privacy Impact Assessments on DHS programs and policies affecting privacy.

There are currently over 150 Privacy Impact Assessments that need to be completed. To put this number in perspective, in all of 2006, the Privacy Office only published 25.

This bill will help in decreasing that overload.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation that is critical to not only the privacy rights but the security of our country as well.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ROBIN DANIELSON ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, Robin Danielson's two daughters will never forget the tragic day in Speaker, 1998 when their mother died at the age of 44. Nor will they forget the preventable illness that killed her.

Like thousands of others, Robin Danielson was the victim of Toxic Shock Syndrome, TSS, a rare but potentially life-threatening illness that is often linked to high-absorbency tampon use. Robin's death could have been prevented if only she had recognized the symptoms. Yet, even today, many women are not fully aware of the risks of tampon use or TSS.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one to two of every 100,000 women between the ages of 15–44 years old will be diagnosed with TSS each year. Yet, the last national surveillance was conducted in 1987 and in only four States. Moreover, although TSS is a nationally notifiable disease that States report to CDC, reporting by the States is voluntary. Dismissed as "sporadic," the CDC has not even released this information to the public since 2003. Clearly, we do not have enough transparent or timely information to evaluate the reality of TSS today.

The presence of dioxin—a probable cancer-causing agent—in tampons is also a major concern to women's health. Tampons currently sold in the United States are composed of rayon, cotton, or a combination of both. Alarmingly, rayon is produced from bleached wood pulp, and dioxin is a byproduct of chlorine bleaching of pulp. Although chlorine-free bleaching processes are available, most wood pulp manufacturers use elemental chlorine-free bleaching processes. These processes use chlorine dioxide as a bleaching agent and thus still produce dioxin. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, even 100 percent cotton tampons and completely chlorine-free tampons have trace amounts of dioxin due to decades of pollution that have led to the infiltration of dioxin in the air, water, and ground and thus can be found in both cotton and wood pulp.

The effects of dioxin are cumulative. Women may be exposed to dioxin in tampons and other menstrual products for as long as 60 years over the course of their reproductive lives. Although the FDA requires tampon manufacturers to monitor dioxin levels in their finished products, this information is not readily available to the public.

I am proud to reintroduce the Robin Danielson Act, which would amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a uniform program for the collection and analysis of data on Toxic Shock Syndrome. The bill also directs the National Institutes of Health, NIH, to conduct research to determine the extent to which the presence of dioxin, synthetic fibers, and other additives in tampons and related products pose any health risks to women and asks the Centers for Disease Control, CDC to collect and report information on TSS.

IN HONOR OF FIREFIGHTERS PHILIP C. ADDISON, PROSPER W. BUCHHART, AND CHARLES W. STEWART OF THE KNICKERBOCKER HOOK & LADDER

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to three men who have together given nearly 160 years of service as firefighters in North Jersey. This weekend the Knickerbocker Hook & Ladder Company in Closter, New Jersey will honor these men at their golden anniversary of service. Knickerbocker Hook & Ladder has served the people of Closter since 1893. And, these men have been a part of nearly half of that century of service.

Philip Addison first joined the Closter Fire Department in March 1957. He served as Chief in 1970 and as President in 1972.

Prosper Buchhart joined the Closter Fire Department shortly after Philip, in December 1957, and has also served as Chief and President.

Charles Stewart started with Dumont Fire Company #2 in April 1949 and transferred to the Closter Fire Department 12 years later.

Knickerbocker Hook & Ladder was honored in 2001 by the Volunteer Center of Bergen County for the work of its volunteers to keep the people and businesses of Closter safe and secure. These 45 volunteers spend countless hours on call at work, in their homes, or at the firehouse, responding to about 275 calls a year. They also participate in constant training to ensure their skills are always sharp. In addition to giving selflessly of themselves to respond to fires, accidents, and other emergencies, these firefighters also provide fire prevention education to school children and have sponsored an Explorer Boy Scout Troop.

Philip Addison, Prosper Buchhart, and Charles Stewart exemplify the service and spirit that has long sustained this volunteer fire department and will sustain in for years to come. Their dedication to the public good is commendable and I join the people of Closter in honoring them as they reach this milestone in service.

CONDOLENCES TO INTERSTATE 4 ACCIDENT VICTIMS

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my condolences to the victims of the deadly 70-car pile up on Interstate 4 in Polk County, Florida earlier this month. I would also like to express appreciation for the work of many local and state agencies that responded to the accident and provided assistance.

I specifically would like to commend Polk County Sheriff Deputy Carlton Turner III who was the first deputy on the scene in the early morning hours of January 9th, and who used his vehicle as a barrier and later a place of refuge for victims. I would also like to commend Deputy Paul Buoniconti, who was also