

Dr. Kossler taught at numerous high schools in the Los Angeles area and also held positions at East Los Angeles College, the University of Southern California, Pepperdine University, and Long Beach City College before serving as Vice President of PCC in 1988. Since then, he has served as a member of the Chancellor's Task Force on the Community College Budget, the State Commission on Athletics, and the Community College League's Commission on Legislation and Finance. Along with his involvement in education, Dr. Kossler is also an active member in the Rotary Club of Pasadena, the Pasadena Senior Center, and the YWCA.

In October 1995, the Pasadena Area Community College District Board of Trustees appointed Dr. Kossler as the 10th President of PCC. Throughout his 12-year tenure as President, he advocated a vision that PCC would be a learning-centered institution that focused on improving the performance standards for students. Dr. Kossler aspired to increase the success of students in the completion of courses, number of degrees and certificates awarded, and the number of students transferring to 4-year institutions.

I ask all Members to join with me in congratulating Dr. James Kossler for his dedicated service and commitment to the promotion of education. I am sure that each person positively affected by Dr. Kossler's service will also join me in wishing him much joy in the years to come and thank him for his time, his energy, and his efforts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise to state for the record that had I been present for the votes on H.R. 1677, the Taxpayer Protection Act, and H. Res. 196, supporting the goals and ideals of World Water Day, I would have voted in the affirmative for both bills. I was unable to vote for H.R. 1677 and H. Res. 196 because I was in an important meeting with constituents from Minnesota.

CELEBRATING WYNDMOOR HOSE CO. NO. 1'S CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Wyndmoor Hose Company No. 1 in Springfield Township, PA on celebrating its 100th Anniversary. Since 1907, volunteer firefighters have contributed their time, expertise, and in some cases, lives, to aid members of the Springfield community and surrounding areas. I am honored to represent them in Congress.

In Philadelphia 271 years ago, Benjamin Franklin started the first fire department in America. Franklin's brigade, comprised entirely of volunteers, was dedicated to looking out for

their neighbors. Today volunteers constitute 73 percent of all firefighters nationwide, and Franklin's proud tradition of volunteerism is being continued by the brave men and women of Wyndmoor Hose Company just a few miles from where it began.

This fire company began as an in-house fire brigade for the Nelson Valve Company. Over the years it evolved from tin hats and push carts to a Company of highly trained and motivated individuals who have used their training in basic life support, firefighting, rescue, and hazardous materials containment to serve the public good everywhere from their own streets to Ground Zero in New York City after the attacks of September 11, 2001.

In the densely populated region of Southeastern, P A, the Wyndmoor Hose Company protects residential areas, commercial businesses, professional offices, and industrial plants, including the United States Department of Agricultural research facility, and most importantly the lives of the residents of Pennsylvania's 13th District. As part of these efforts, Wyndmoor has also established an excellent reputation for conducting educational programming to teach children and families the importance of fire safety.

Madam Speaker, once again I congratulate all of the volunteers of the Wyndmoor Hose Company for their service, dedication, and sacrifice. I look forward to continuing our work together and ensuring another 100 years of success, safety and security.

COMMEMORATING THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION

SPEECH OF

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2007

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association on the auspicious occasion of the 85th Anniversary of its founding. For nearly a century, AHEPA has been a leading organization of Greek-Americans, today representing 1.3 million individuals.

On July 26, 1922 AHEPA was formed by eight visionary Greek immigrants to unite their community against discrimination, denigration, and violence perpetrated by hate groups such as the Ku Klux Klan.

From its modest origins, AHEPA has grown into a bastion of philanthropy, education, humanitarianism, and family life. Its members are patriotic, civic-minded Americans enriched with a deep respect and admiration for the heritage and culture of their homeland, Greece, the cradle of democracy. Their members have served bravely in the armed forces, worked diligently in civilian life, and been elected to every level of American government.

Each year, AHEPA contributes more than two million dollars for scholarships, medical research grants, and other charitable causes. Since the 1940s, when its health centers first opened their doors, AHEPA has become a world-class benefactor of improved health care. From the Cooley's Anemia Foundation, which issues grants to medical researchers to

find a cure for the disease to the Bone Marrow Registry, established to help match those in need of marrow with compatible donors, Americans enjoy superior medical facilities and treatment thanks in part to AHEPA's assiduous efforts.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would like to extend my congratulations and thanks to the entire AHEPA family, including the Daughters of Penelope, the Sons of Pericles, the Maids of Athena, and AHEPA's chapters in Canada and Australia. May their next 85 years be as productive and inspiring as the last.

CONGRATULATING THE GIRLS SOCCER TEAM AT THE COLONY HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the girls soccer team at The Colony High School on winning the class 4A Girls Soccer State Championship.

The Cougars of The Colony High School defeated Friendship High School by a score of 1-0 to win the class 4A Girls Soccer State Championship on Saturday, April 14, 2007. Junior midfielder Amanda Fancher scored the winning goal on a 22-yard free kick near the end of the first half. Amanda was also named the championship game's most valuable player.

The Colony finished the season with a record of 23-3-4, including shutouts in 11 of their final 12 games. The team has also beaten every soccer record ever set by the school.

I would like to offer my sincerest congratulations to coach Nicole Jund, the team, the parents and all students of The Colony High School for their great achievement. I wish them success in the future, and I am very proud to have them in the 26th District of Texas.

THE PATENT REFORM ACT OF 2007

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce "The Patent Reform Act of 2007", a product of both bicameral and bipartisan effort to reform the patent system to meet the challenges of the 21st century. I would especially like to thank Senator LEAHY for his dedication to addressing many of the inadequacies in our current patent system. Furthermore, I appreciate my past and present partners in this area—especially Congressman RICK BOUCHER, with whom I've worked closely to increase patent quality for the past several years, and Congressman LAMAR SMITH, who championed this issue last Congress.

Introduction of this legislation follows a number of recent judicial opinions and many hearings conducted over the past several years by the Subcommittee on Intellectual Property which ascertained that the current patent system is flawed. Over the last 5 years, there have been numerous attempts to define the

challenges facing the patent system today. Among the most notable contributions to this discourse are the Patent and Trademark Office's Twenty-First Century Strategic Plan, the Federal Trade Commission's report entitled "To Promote Innovation: The Proper Balance of Competition and Patent Law and Policy," The National Research Council's compilation of articles "A Patent System for the 21st Century" and the book titled "Innovation and Its Discontents," authored by two respected economists. These studies offer a number of recommendations for increasing patent quality and ensuring that patent protection promotes—rather than inhibits—economic growth and scientific progress. Consistent with the goals and recommendations of those reports, and based on past patent bills, the Patent Reform Act contains a number of provisions designed to improve patent quality, deter abusive practices by patent holders, provide meaningful, low-cost alternatives to litigation for challenging the patent validity and harmonize U.S. patent law with the patent law of most other countries.

Past attempts at achieving comprehensive patent reform have met with stiff resistance. However, the time to reform the system is way past due. The New York Times has noted, "Something has gone very wrong with the United States patent system." The Financial Times has stated, "It is time to restore the balance of power in U.S. patent law." Therefore, we are introducing this bill as a first step to restoring the necessary balance in our patent system.

I firmly believe that robust patent protection promotes innovation. However, I also believe that the patent system is strongest, and that incentives for innovation are greatest, when patents protect only those inventions that are truly innovative. When functioning properly, the patent system should encourage and enable inventors to push the boundaries of knowledge and possibility. If the patent system allows questionable patents to issue and does not provide adequate safeguards against patent abuses, the system may stifle innovation and interfere with competitive market forces.

This bill represents our latest perspectives in an ongoing discussion about legislative solutions to patent quality concerns, patent litigation abuses, and the need for harmonization. We have considered the multitude of comments received concerning prior patent bills and over the course of numerous negotiations between the parties. We acknowledge that the problems are difficult and, as yet, without agreed-upon solutions. It is clear, however, that introduction and movement of legislation will focus and advance the discussion. It is also clear that the problems with the patent system have been exacerbated by a decrease in patent quality and an increase in litigation abuses. With or without consensus, Congress must act to address these problems. Thus, we introduce this bill with the intent of passage in the 110th Congress.

There are a number of issues which we have chosen not to include in the bill, primarily because we hope they will be addressed without the need for legislation. For instance, the Supreme Court recently resolved questions regarding injunctive relief. In that category, we include amendments to Section 271(f) and the obviousness standard as both issues are currently before the Supreme Court. If either of those issues are left unresolved, Congress

may need to reevaluate whether to include them in a patent bill.

The bill does contain a number of initiatives designed to harmonize U.S. law with the law of other countries, improve patent quality and limit litigation abuses, thereby ensuring that patents remain positive forces in the marketplace. I will highlight a number of them below.

Section 3 converts the U.S. patent system from a first-to-invent system to a first-inventor-to-file system. The U.S. is alone in granting priority to the first inventor as opposed to the first inventor to file a patent. There is consensus from many global companies and academics that the switch in priority mechanisms provide the U.S. with greater international consistency, and eliminate the costly and complex interference proceedings that are currently necessary to establish the right to obtain a patent. While cognizant of the enormity of the change that a "first inventor to file" system may have on many small inventors and universities, we have maintained a grace period to substantially reduce the negative impact to these inventors. However, we need to maintain an open dialogue to ensure that the patent system will continue to foster innovation from individual inventors.

Section 5 addresses both the topic of apportionment and willfulness. Patents are provided to promote innovation by allowing owners to realize the value of their inventions. However, many have argued that recent case law has tilted towards overcompensation, which works against the primary goal of promoting innovation. "Excessive damages awards effectively allow inventors to obtain proprietary interests in products they have not invented, promote patent speculation and litigation and place unreasonable royalty burdens upon producers of high technology products. Such consequences may ultimately slow the process of technological innovation and dissemination the patent system is intended to foster." While preserving the right of patent owners to receive appropriate damages, the bill seeks to provide a formula to ensure that the patent owner be rewarded for the actual value of the patented invention.

Furthermore, this Section seeks to curb the unfair incentives that currently exist for patent holders who indiscriminately issue licensing letters. Patent proprietors frequently assert that another party is using a patented invention and for a fee, offer to grant a license for such use. Current law does little to dissuade patent holders from mailing such licensing letters. Frequently these letters are vague and fail to identify the particular claims of the patent being infringed and the manner of infringement. In fact, the law tacitly promotes this strategy since a recipient, upon notice of the letter, may be liable for treble damages as a willful infringer. Section 5 addresses this situation by ensuring that recipients of licensing letters will not be exposed to liability for willful infringement unless the letter clearly states the acts that allegedly constitute infringement and identifies each particular patent claim to the product or process that the patent owner believes is being infringed.

Section 6 provides a needed change to the inter-partes reexamination procedure. Unfortunately, the inter-partes reexamination procedure is rarely used, but the changes we introduce should encourage third parties to make better use of the opportunity to request that the PTO Director reexamine an issued patent

of questionable validity. Primarily though, Section 6 creates a post-grant opposition procedure. In an effort to address the questionable quality of patents issued by the USPTO, the bill establishes a check on the quality of a patent immediately after it is granted, or in circumstances where a party can establish significant economic harm resulting from assertion of the patent. The post-grant procedure is designed to allow parties to challenge a granted patent through a expeditious and less costly alternative to litigation. Many have expressed concerns about the possibility of harassment of patent owners who want to assume quiet title over their invention. In an effort to address those concerns, the bill prohibits multiple bites at the apple by restricting the cancellation petitioner to opt for only one window one time. The bill also requires that the Director prescribe regulations for sanctions for abuse of process or harassment. During the legislative process we will likely provide more statutory guidance for the Director in establishing regulations guiding the post-grant opposition. We appreciate that this is an extremely complicated and new procedure and therefore we look forward to working with various industries to ensure the proceeding is balanced, fair and efficient. Part of the goal of this Section is to also address the quality problem in patents which have already been issued and are at the heart of the patent reform discussion.

Section 9 permits third parties a limited amount of time to submit to the USPTO prior art references relevant to a pending patent application. Allowing such third party submissions will increase the likelihood that examiners have available to them the most relevant "prior art," thereby constituting a front-end solution for strengthening patent quality.

The bill also addresses changes to venue to address extensive forum shopping, provides for interlocutory appeals to help clarify the claims of the inventions early in the litigation process, establishes regulatory authority for the USPTO to parallel the authority of other agencies, and expands prior user rights to accommodate in part for the switch to first-inventor-to-file.

When considering these provisions together, we believe that this bill provides a balanced package of reforms that successfully accounts for the interests of numerous stakeholders in the patent system, including individual inventors, small enterprises, universities, and the varied industry groups, and that are necessary for the patent system to achieve its primary goal of advancing innovation.

This bill is the latest iteration of a process started many years ago. Deserving of thanks are the many constitutional scholars, policy advocates, private parties, and government agencies that have and continue to contribute their time, thoughts, and drafting talents to this effort, including, of course, the legislative counsel. I am pleased that finally, we have a critical mass of interested parties who understand the need for reform.

Though we developed this bill in a highly deliberative manner, using many past bills as the foundation for the provisions, I do not want to suggest that it is a "perfect" solution. This bill is merely the first step in a process. Thus, I remain open to suggestions for amending the language to improve its efficacy or rectify any unintended consequences. Furthermore, there are a host of issues or varied approaches to

patent reform which are likely not even covered by the bill but may be considered at a later time. I hope to work with the many co-sponsors and the diverse industry, university and inventor groups to reach further consensus as we move this bill towards final passage.

As I have said previously, "The bottom line in this is there should be no question that the U.S. patent system produces high quality patents. Since questions have been raised about whether this is the case, the responsibility of Congress is to take a close look at the functioning of the patent system." High patent quality is essential to continued innovation. Litigation abuses, especially ones committed by those which thrive on low quality patents, impede the promotion of the progress of science and the useful arts. Thus, we must act quickly during the 110th Congress to maintain the integrity of the patent system.

GLORIA MARSHALL—EDUCATOR

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, Gloria Marshall is the well-respected principal of Spring High School in my district. I am proud to know her because she has devoted her entire life to education and to the well-being of our Nation's most important asset, our children.

Not only do the students admire her, but the parents and faculty of Spring High School cannot say enough about what she has done for the community.

Approximately 33 years ago, after receiving her bachelor's degree, Gloria took a teaching job for the nationally-recognized Spring Independent School District. While teaching at the high school, she earned a master's degree and later became principal.

Gloria's career has been highlighted by numerous awards both locally and at the state level. She was named Teacher of the Year at Spring Elementary School in 1979. In 2003, Spring ISD named her Secondary Principal of the Year. On a state-wide basis, she was named 2002–2003 Principal of the Year by Texas Region IV Education Service Center.

Under her guidance, The U.S. Department of Education has named Spring High School a "Blue Ribbon School" and also honored them with "Drug Free School Recognition Awards."

Not only is she a top-notch administrator in the education field, she is a faithful community servant who believes in helping local charities. For example, her school holds an annual food drive for Spring Assistance Ministries during the Christmas holiday. She encourages her students to collect thousands of pounds of food for the organization and to take responsibility in caring for their neighbors.

Gloria has an unwavering commitment to teach young people how to be responsible citizens and people of character.

The students of Spring High School are very fortunate to have such a dedicated principal who always has a positive attitude and commitment to excellence. She is a remarkable educator and an inspiration to all of us. That's Just the way it is!

INTRODUCING THE CATHERINE SKIVERS CURRENCY FOR ALL ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Catherine Skivers Currency for All Act.

This bill would finally make the United States' paper currency accessible to blind and visually impaired Americans. Of the more than 180 countries in the world that issue their own banknotes, only the U.S. prints identical bills for every denomination. As a result, millions of Americans with visual impairments cannot recognize various denominations and may have difficulty using paper money. This legislation would, at long last, make our currency accessible to all.

Thanks to a recent court case, the inaccessibility of American currency has received significant national attention. In November, a federal court agreed with the American Council of the Blind that the current size and shape of bills violates the Rehabilitation Act, which prohibits the government from discriminating against people with disabilities.

The Treasury Department is appealing the decision. But Congress has the ability to do the right thing before the appeal is heard. I first introduced this bill in 1979 and think it is embarrassing that, more than 25 years later, blind Americans had to sue their government requesting access to their own currency. We should not delay or deny justice any longer.

I propose this particular solution because it is simple, effective, and easy to implement quickly. My legislation requires the U.S. Treasury to trim the corners of all bills in a manner that prevents fraud, with lower value bills having more trimmed corners.

My bill calls for the trimming of four corners on the one dollar bill, three corners on the two dollar bill, two diagonal corners on the five dollar bill, two corners on a long side of the ten dollar bill, two corners on a short side of the 20 dollar bill, one corner on the 50 dollar bill, and no corners on the 100 dollar bill.

I named this bill in honor of Catherine Skivers, a remarkable woman of strength and conviction. Catherine is a constituent of mine, mother of five, longtime advocate for the rights of blind people, and the immediate past president of the California Council of the Blind. It is for Catherine and millions of other blind and vision-impaired Americans that I will work to enact this legislation.

Next to the flag of the United States, our money is perhaps the most widely recognized symbol of our nation. We deserve no less than a currency that serves the needs of all Americans. Let us not let another year pass with our currency in violation of our own laws and commitment to equality.

RECOGNIZING JACKIE ROBINSON DAY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Jackie Robinson, a

sports trailblazer, civil rights activist, veteran, and great American and to enter into the record an article from the New York Daily News by Lisa Olson entitled "Barriers Still Need Breaking—Up to us to complete Robinson's great work."

Long before Jackie Robinson stood up to racism and smashed through the barriers of segregation in Major League Baseball on April 15, 1947, he was fighting for equality. He enlisted in the Army in 1942 and rose to the rank of Second Lieutenant. In July of 1944, he refused to sit in the back of a segregated military bus and although a court martial was issued for insubordination, he was found not guilty and honorably discharged in November of that same year. The courage displayed during this incident, as well as his commitment to the Army, helped prepare him for the battlefield of discrimination he would encounter on the baseball diamond.

Despite the hostility of opponents and even teammates, on April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson had the courage to join the Brooklyn Dodgers and became the first Black man to play in baseball's major leagues. He knew that excellence was the calling and he proved his skill and talent on the baseball field. With tremendous pressure and opposition from fans and even some teammates, he handled himself with grace on and off the field. Because of his commitment and determination to be the best in the face of prejudice, African American and other minority athletes have been afforded the opportunity to compete in professional sports today.

Jackie Robinson received numerous awards and honors during his extraordinary career, and was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. His legacy and outstanding contribution to Major League Baseball and America is representative of what America is all about. This country is about opportunity, diversity, and humility. I applaud Jackie Robinson for leaving a legacy of excellence, breaking down segregation, and inspiring people to strive for the best.

[From the Daily News]

BARRIERS STILL NEED BREAKING—UP TO US TO COMPLETE ROBINSON'S GREAT WORK

(By Lisa Olson)

They don't have to dress in the broom closet. They can drink from the same water fountains, eat at the same buffet, stay in the same ritzy hotels, swim in the same pools.

It's almost incomprehensible to imagine the America that greeted and jeered Jackie Robinson 60 years ago yesterday, when he bounded out of the dugout at Ebbets Field and became the first African-American Major League Baseball player of the modern era.

There were racial slurs and despicable letters, flying cleats and death threats, opponents who turned their back on him and Brooklyn Dodger teammates who wouldn't sit near him. We blithely toss around the words "courage" and "hero" far too often these days, but they can't be used enough to describe Jackie Robinson. MLB retired his No. 42 on April 15, 1997, the 50th anniversary of Robinson's major league debut, and temporarily suspended it yesterday, a serendipitous gesture that coincided with yet another hit to the American conscience.