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INVESTIGATIONS, RANKING MEMBER

DEFENSE STUDY GROUP



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515-3705

September 8, 2004

**DARLENE HOOLEY**  
5th DISTRICT, OREGON

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They fought for their country.

They shouldn't have to fight for their job.

Support the Hooley Amendment to Labor-HHS

Dear Colleague:

I would like to call your attention to a problem that is affecting our returning Guard and Reserve troops as they come home from active duty service: **returning to work**. A small but growing number of those transitioning back to civilian life are reporting problems ranging from lost job benefits to being passed over for promotions to getting laid off under suspicious circumstances. All potentially violate the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), which prohibits workforce discrimination based on military service.

The U.S. Department of Labor says the number of complaints investigated under USERRA has increased more than 35 percent since the 1990s. In my home state of Oregon, USERRA complaints are expected to increase by nearly 50 percent from FY 2003 to FY 2004.

At a Veterans' Affairs Committee Hearing investigating this upward trend, it quickly became clear that often-times it was not the intention of employers to violate USERRA, but that instead employers were often not even aware of the existence of USERRA.

**That is why I am offering an amendment to provide \$5 million to the Department of Labor Veteran's Employment and Training Program specifically for a nationwide education and public relations campaign. This effort will help our returning veterans transition back to civilian life while providing employers with crucial information about how they can participate in that process.**

The funds will be drawn from the Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Secretary - General Departmental Management (*my amendment represents a 1.3% cut for this account*).

The \$5 million will fund a public relations campaign that will educate both service members and employers on their rights and responsibilities under USERRA.

I urge you to support the Hooley Amendment so that our Guard and Reserve forces don't have to fight for their jobs when they return home. If you have any questions, please contact Alison Kushner at 5-5711.

Sincerely,

  
Darlene Hooley

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 7, 2003

## Honor American Farm Women

*Co-sponsor H.Res. 42*



Dear Colleague:

Those of us who grew up in farm families know the importance of American farm women. For decades women have been the backbone of our family farms, working from dawn to dusk, and supporting their families through good times and, far too frequently, bad times. During times of war, women would often run the farms that provided food and clothing for our troops. It is no exaggeration to say that American agriculture, as well as our nation as a whole, owes much of its strength to farm women.

As in so many other areas of American life, women's contributions to agriculture have not been recognized. Congress has the opportunity to honor the women of farm communities who have labored long and hard with such little recognition with a postage stamp featuring their invaluable contributions to our nation. With this stamp, they will join such notable Americans as Harriett Tubman, Jackie Robinson, and Nathaniel Hawthorne.

Please join us and co-sponsor of H.Res. 42, which calls for the U.S. Postal Service to issue a postage stamp honoring American farm women.

For further information, or to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Nicole Vernon in Congressman Mark Green's office at 5-5665 or Betsy Wild in Congresswoman Darlene Hooley's office at 5-5711.

Sincerely,

  
MARK GREEN  
Member of Congress

  
DARLENE HOOLEY  
Member of Congress

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515-3705**

October 6, 2003

**DARLENE HOOLEY**

5th DISTRICT, OREGON

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## Help Fight Forest Fires

*Co-Sponsor H.R. 366*

Dear Colleague:

There has been a severe shortage of qualified firefighters to combat the extraordinary number of forest fires throughout the country over the past several years, specifically in the West. Many retired Forest Service employees have been asked to help fight these blazes, are unable to without a penalty.

As part of an effort to reduce the federal work force within the United States Forest Service, Forest Service employees were offered the opportunity to participate in a "voluntary separation incentive payments" program a few years ago. This program was included in the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1997 (PL 104-180).

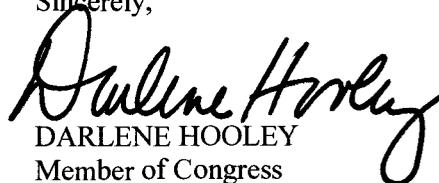
As part of the agreement, employees were encouraged to retire between 1997 and 2000 and were paid an incentive payment of \$10,000-25,000, depending on the year they accepted the incentive payment. In exchange, they agreed to retire and not be employed by any federal agency for at least five years from the day which they accepted the payment. If they were re-employed by the federal government they would have to forfeit all or part of the money from said agreement.

H.R. 366, would amend Public Law 104-180 to allow former Federal employees who received voluntary separation incentive payments under the Department of Agriculture program to accept employment with the Federal Government once again, without loss of their payments, as long as their employment is directly related to fighting forest fires.

I have been contacted by qualified constituents in my district who have faced this dilemma and I am confident that there are many other firefighters in similar situations. At a time when we need qualified, willing, well-trained individuals to fight these fires, we need to change this law to allow these uniquely qualified men and women to fight the fires that threaten our forests, wildlife, and our homes without having to worry about forfeiting past reparations they've received from the government. Please save federal resources in the long run and join me in co-sponsoring this important legislation which allows many experienced firefighters to aid in the fight against wildfires.

For further information, or to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Mark Dedrick at 5-5711.

Sincerely,

  
DARLENE HOOLEY  
Member of Congress



# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

## Oregon Business Leaders Support the Roadless Rule

Dear Colleague:

Nearly 150 million people, more than two-thirds of Americans, participate in outdoor recreation activities annually. Among these activities are hiking, biking, camping, climbing, kayaking, canoeing, and snowshoeing. Wild and undeveloped places, and the special outdoor recreation experiences found there, are essential for the health and longevity of both the millions of Americans who participate in these activities and the \$18 billion outdoor recreation industry.

This week, some of the biggest names in Oregon's corporate world, along with local manufacturers, of outdoor equipment joined the growing number of America's recreation-based business community to call on the Bush administration to uphold protections for National Forest roadless areas. Nike, Adidas, Salomon, Columbia Sportswear, and seven other outdoor recreation businesses headquartered in Oregon spoke of the importance of wild roadless forests to their customers and their businesses.

As the attached letter states, America's recreation-based business community is dependent on these wild forest lands to maintain their economic stability.

"... modifications to the Roadless Rule would have the potential to negatively impact our nation's natural resources, our citizens' outdoor experience and ultimately, our industry's financial health ... We believe weakening the 2001 Roadless Rule could degrade these important forests, constrain our customers' activities and, in doing so, diminish our business opportunities."

The Roadless Rule not only enjoys overwhelming public support – more than 2.5 million comments received – it also is supported by hundreds of gun and sportsmen groups around the country, numerous governors, and major U.S. corporations. Despite this widespread support for protecting these last wild places, the Administration seems intent on weakening the rule, which is not only out of touch with the will of the American people but also out of step with much of corporate America.

Future generations are counting on us. These lands are part of America's treasured natural heritage, along with national parks like Yellowstone and the Grand Canyon. The Roadless Area Conservation Rule represents a true balance between environmental and economic concerns, and the recent support from these major U.S. corporations shows, once again, that protecting roadless areas is good for the economy as well as for this nation's public lands.

Sincerely,

David W.  
Member of Congress

Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

Darlene Hooley  
Member of Congress

May 11, 2004  
The Honorable Mark Rey  
Office of the Undersecretary for Natural Resources and the Environment  
1400 Independence Ave, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Undersecretary Rey,

As members of America's recreation-based business community, we write to you today to express our concern over recently published reports that the administration plans to revise a popular public land management policy. In particular, the modifications to the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule have the potential to negatively impact our nation's natural resources, our citizens' outdoor experience and ultimately, our industry's financial health.

Mr. Secretary, Oregonians are an outdoor-oriented people who spend hundreds of thousands of hours utilizing and enjoying their national forests. Furthermore, enjoyment of these forests is not limited to Oregon's residents. Oregon's most popular tourist destinations, Multnomah Falls and Timberline Lodge, are located in the Mount Hood National Forest and attract millions of visitors each year with their expansive views of wildlands and waterfalls.

Indeed, Oregon's rich natural heritage has given rise to, and nourished many business enterprises whose vision, processes and products have been developed and tested in our national forests. These wild forests have, in fact, been an incubator for important segments of America's outdoor industry, producing over \$18 billion in annual revenues at the manufacturing and wholesale levels.

As manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers of hundreds of outdoor recreation products, we depend upon our customers' continued participation in dispersed recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, horseback riding, snowshoeing and mountain climbing, all of which occur in roadless national forests. While we represent different companies who sell to a wide range of markets, from local to global, we are united in our support for the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule. We also support legislation to codify the Roadless Rule as proposed in HR 2369 and S 1200.

As you know, the original Roadless Rule provides protections from road-building and future harmful development for 58.5 million acres of national forest lands, including over 1.9 million acres in Oregon. These roadless areas, such as Eagle Creek and Mount Bailey, are popular destinations for our customers and offer both recreation and respite from the rigors of modern life. In spite of Oregon's renowned rainfall, over 2 million of our fellow citizens engage in outdoor recreational activities. In fact, Oregonians rank seventh in the nation in outdoor activity participation. We believe weakening the 2001 Roadless Rule could degrade these important forests, constrain our customers' activities and, in doing so, diminish our business opportunities.

Secretary Rey, the 2001 Roadless Rule is a sensible and balanced attempt to conserve the character and values of roadless forests for future generations of Americans and was arguably the most popular rule in the history of federal rulemaking. To date, over 2.5 million comments have been submitted in support of protecting roadless forests. We ask that you reaffirm the integrity of the rulemaking process and retain the landmark protections of the original Roadless Area Conservation Rule. Doing so will be healthy for our national forests, good for our economy and will leave our children a little of Oregon's natural history.

Sincerely,

Adidas US  
Columbia Sportswear  
Outward Bound West  
Ruffwear Inc  
Metolius  
Nike

Norm Thompson  
Entre Prises USA  
Sahalie by Early Winters  
Salomon USA  
Solstice Inc



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May 4, 2004

**Letter to Attorney General Ashcroft:  
Investigate the role of private contractors in  
the Abu Ghurayb Prison abuse scandals in Iraq**

*Deadline to Sign Letter to Atty General Ashcroft: 3pm Wednesday (tomorrow)*

Dear Colleague,

As you know doubt are aware, serious allegations of abuse and torture have been made against soldiers, private contractors, and possibly intelligence officers at the Abu Ghurayb Prison in Iraq.

The U.S. Department of Defense has reportedly launched 5 separate investigations into the alleged abuses. However, there are conflicting media reports about what action, if any, the U.S. government has taken towards any allegations involving private contractors. In fact, some reports indicate that the private contractors named in the classified report detailing the abuses are allegedly still working as paid private contractors in Iraq. Some in the media also have raised questions under what jurisdiction the private contractors could be brought to justice.

In 2000, however, Congress acted on legislation to deal with this type of situation. Under the Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act of 2000, the U.S. Department of Justice has the ability to investigate and prosecute criminal offenses by persons employed by or accompanying the Armed Forces outside of the United States.

Please join me in sending the letter below to Attorney General Ashcroft urging him to these powers authorized by Congress to immediately investigate the alleged abuse by private contractors and, should there be evidence of criminal wrongdoing, to prosecute any individuals to the fullest extent of the law.

If you have any questions concerning this letter or to sign on please contact John Prible at john.prible@mail.house.gov or 6-8046.

Sincerely,

  
DARLENE HOOLEY  
Member of Congress

The Honorable John Ashcroft  
Attorney General  
Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

We are writing to formally request that the Justice Department conduct an investigation into any and all alleged abuses by private contractors at the Abu Ghurayb Prison and other detention facilities in Iraq.

Photographs of the abuse and humiliation of Iraqi prisoners at the Abu Ghurayb Prison have now been broadcast throughout the world and have created an immediate backlash in the Middle East and across the globe. The shocking allegations come at a pivotal time as we work towards the June 30th transition of sovereignty. It is imperative that the U.S. government takes whatever actions necessary to restore American credibility.

An internal report conducted by Army Major General Antonio M. Taguba several months ago allegedly states that the abuses at Abu Ghurayb Prison involved members of the Armed Forces, private contractors hired by the Department of Defense, and possibly members of the intelligence community. The Department of Defense has stated it is acting to fully investigate and charge those named in the leaked internal report. Seven officers have been given administrative reprimands and six members of a U.S. Army Reserve unit assigned to Abu Ghurayb prison face courts-martial on charges of assault, cruelty, indecent acts, and maltreatment of detainees.

While we are encouraged that the DoD has made appropriate action against those responsible for these appalling acts a top priority, there remains considerable confusion about what accountability, if any, the private contractors will be held to. In fact, recent news reports indicate that the two private contractors mentioned in the classified report are still employed in Iraq and may still be in positions of responsibility. Under the Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act of 2000, the U.S. Department of Justice has the ability to investigate and prosecute criminal offenses by persons employed by or accompanying the Armed Forces outside of the United States. We strongly urge the Justice Department to use these powers authorized by Congress to immediately investigate the alleged abuse by private contractors and, should there be evidence of criminal wrongdoing, to prosecute any individuals to the fullest extent of the law.

America's credibility has been damaged because of these allegations and the distribution of these troubling photographs. The easiest way for us to regain credibility and to reaffirm our commitment to human rights will be to fully and openly investigate these allegations with every resource we have available. We hope you will begin a DOJ investigation immediately.

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

**Broad-Based Stock Option Plans Bolster  
Rank-and-File Employee Ownership**  
*Expensing Stock Options Would Eliminate These Programs*

July 9, 2003

Dear Colleague,

We're writing to urge you to co-sponsor H.R. 1372, the *Broad-Based Stock Option Plan Transparency Act of 2003*.

The Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) is currently on track to require the expensing of all employee stock options. This ruling will destroy broad-based stock option plans, harming the millions of rank and file workers who've benefited from such plans. Recent research by two Rutgers University professors shows that:

- In the 100 largest high-tech firms that focus on the Internet, average employees hold 19% of their company's stock -- 17% accumulated through stock options. Top executives hold 14%. Thus, rank-and-file employees have accumulated more of their company's ownership than senior executives.
- 98 of these 100 companies provide options to most or all of their employees. In the case of Intel, for example, 98% of the options granted between 1998-2002 went to employees other than the top five executive officers.

Broad-based plans also create jobs, enhance productivity and keep America competitive:

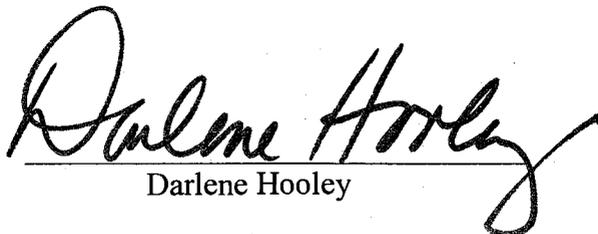
- The Rutgers research found that "*...using broad-based options to create a partnership model of the corporation will, over the long run, help to make most companies more competitive and create more wealth for shareholders.*"

We've benefited from the innovation and entrepreneurship that broad-based ownership generates. Expensing stock options will kill broad-based plans. H.R. 1372 preserves stock option plans while requiring companies who offer them to provide additional disclosure and transparency. A section-by-section summary of the bill is attached for your review.

If you have any questions or would like to join us in preserving this important economic tool, you can contact Eric Olson (Eshoo) at x 58104.

Sincerely,

  
Anna G. Eshoo

  
Darlene Hooley

# H.R. 1372, *Broad-Based Stock Option Plan Transparency Act of 2003*

## Section-by-Section Summary

### **Section 1. Short Title:**

This Act may be cited as the "Broad-Based Stock Option Plan Transparency Act of 2003."

### **Section 2. Congressional Findings**

### **Section 3. Improved Employee Stock Option Transparency and Reporting Disclosures**

Requires the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to require, by rule, that publicly-traded companies increase the transparency of their use of employee stock options plans, particularly with respect to the dilutive effect of such plans, in annual and quarterly financial reports through enhanced disclosures. Such enhanced disclosures shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) "plain English" discussion of share value dilution, including tables or graphic illustrations of the dilutive effects;
- (2) expanded disclosure of the dilutive effect of employee stock options on the company's earnings per share number;
- (3) the prominent placement and increased comparability of stock option-related information; and
- (4) a summary of stock options granted to the 5 most highly compensated executive officers, including any outstanding stock options.

### **Section 4. Evaluation of Employee Stock Option Plans Transparency and Reporting Disclosures and Report to Congress**

- (1) Following a 3-year evaluation period beginning on the date of rule implementation, requires the SEC to study and report to Congress on the effectiveness of the enhanced disclosures required by Section 3.
- (2) During the 3-year evaluation period, prohibits the SEC from recognizing as generally accepted accounting principles any new accounting standards related to the treatment of stock options.

### **Section 5. Study on the Economic Impact of Broad-Based Employee Stock Option Plans and Report to Congress**

- (A) Requires the Secretary of Commerce to study broad-based employee stock options plans, focusing on the following issues:
  - (1) their impact on expanding employee corporate ownership to workers at a wide-range of income levels, with a particular focus on rank-and-file employees;
  - (2) their role in the recruitment and retention of skilled workers;
  - (3) their role in stimulating research and innovation;
  - (4) their impact on the economic growth of the United States; and
  - (5) their role in strengthening the international competitiveness of companies organized under the laws of the United States.
- (B) One year from the date of enactment, requires the Secretary to submit its findings to the House Committees on Energy and Commerce, on Financial Services, and to the Senate Committees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and the on Banking House, and Urban Affairs.

**Dedrick, Mark**

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**From:** Prible, John  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 18, 2003 2:56 PM  
**To:** Dear Colleague - Dem. All  
**Subject:** Dear Colleague; Democrats; Support Bankruptcy Reform!

March 18, 2003

***Support Bankruptcy Reform***  
**GIVE AMERICANS THE PROTECTIONS  
THEY NEED AND SAVE CONSUMERS MONEY!**

*Dear Colleague,*

We are writing as leaders of The New Democrat Coalition to urge you to support H.R. 975, the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act. The New Democrat Coalition has been a strong supporter of common sense, fair bankruptcy reform, during the last 4 Congresses, and we are now urging the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress to pass this fair legislation that will benefit American consumers. We have "Key Voted" this in the past, and will do so again this year.

In 2001, over \$40 billion was discharged through bankruptcies last year. When retailers lose this much money through bankruptcy filings, they pass those costs onto all consumers, regardless of whether or not the consumer uses credit. Like shoplifting, bankruptcies cost consumers in the form of higher prices for goods and services - in fact, bankruptcies cost each household \$400 per year.

Bankruptcies also hurt families in need of credit. As bankruptcies cost creditors more and more money, creditors are forced to restrict access to credit. This disproportionately affects consumers at the margin, those most in need of affordable credit for mortgages and consumer purchases.

As New Democrats, we support lower prices for consumers and equal access to credit. These values are threatened by irresponsible bankruptcy filings by people who could afford to repay their debts.

Here are a few details of how H.R. 975 would help ensure that irresponsible debtors repay their debts while protecting consumers and those who need total bankruptcy relief:

- a **needs-based formula** would move some upper-income bankruptcy filers into Chapter 13 instead of Chapter 7, requiring them to repay some of their debt.
- **alimony and child support** would be moved to the first priority of debts to be repaid up (it is currently the seventh priority). That's why numerous legal and child support enforcement organizations strongly support the bill, including the National Child Support Enforcement Association, the National District Attorneys Association and the Child Support Council.
- new **disclosure requirements** would be created for lending institutions and equip consumers with better information about credit card spending and debt, and amends the Truth in Lending Act (TILA) to provide that an open-end creditor cannot terminate an account solely because a consumer pays his or her bills on

time and avoids finance changes.

- Finally, and most importantly: HR 975 contains a **safe harbor** to ensure that bankruptcy relief is there for those who truly need it.

Please join us in supporting this common-sense bankruptcy reform when it comes to the floor this week.

Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

Ron Kind  
Member of Congress

Jim Davis  
Member of Congress

Cal Dooley  
Member of Congress

Darlene Hooley  
Member of Congress

Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

## JOIN THE YOUTH CHALLENGE CAUCUS

We invite you to join the newly formed Youth Challenge Caucus. The National Guard Youth Challenge program has had a profound impact on thousands of young people across this country. The Challenge program specifically targets at-risk youth who have dropped out of high school. Under the direction of the National Guard, these youths complete a five month residential academic course culminating in obtaining a GED or high school equivalency. Upon completion of the program, the graduates are assigned a mentor and transition to jobs, the military or college.

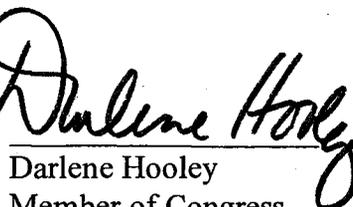
Significant high school dropouts rates continue to plague our nation. According to the U.S. Department of Education, over the last decade, between 347,000 and 544,000 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students left school each year without successfully completing a high school program. While we have made some progress in lowering high school dropout rates, we must address those at-risk youth who need the most help. The National Guard Youth Challenge program has successfully addressed needs of these youths with a well-conceived approach that develops life skills, education levels, and employment potential.

Because of the success of Challenge programs in our own states, we believe that it is important to increase awareness of the programs and address funding additional programs. The Caucus will create a network of supporters to focus on the needs of Challenge programs and serve to distribute information affecting the programs.

If you are interested in joining the Youth Challenge Caucus or would like additional information, please contact Gretchen Lindquist in Rep. Richard Baker's office (5-3901).

Sincerely,

  
Richard Baker  
Member of Congress

  
Darlene Hooley  
Member of Congress

  
Ed Schrock  
Member of Congress

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DEFENSE STUDY GROUP



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515-3705**

July 22, 2003

**Help Save our Nation's Forests**

*Co-Sponsor H.R. 366*

**DARLENE HOOLEY**  
5th DISTRICT, OREGON

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Dear Colleague:

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As part of an effort to reduce the federal work force within the United States Forest Service, Forest Service employees were offered the opportunity to participate in a "voluntary separation incentive payments" program a few years ago. This program was included in the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1997 (PL 104-180).

As part of the agreement, employees were encouraged to retire between 1997 and 2000 and were paid an incentive payment of \$10,000-25,000, depending on the year they accepted the incentive payment. In exchange, they agreed to retire and not be employed by any federal agency for at least five years from the day which they accepted the payment. If they were re-employed by the federal government they would have to forfeit all or part of the money from said agreement.

My bill, H.R. 366, would amend Public Law 104-180 to allow former Federal employees who received voluntary separation incentive payments under the Department of Agriculture program to accept employment with the Federal Government once again, without loss of their payments, as long as their employment is directly related to fighting forest fires.

I have been contacted by qualified constituents in my district who have faced this dilemma and I am confident that there are many other firefighters with similar situations. At a time when we need qualified, willing, well-trained individuals to fight these fires, it's egregious if we do not change this law to allow these uniquely qualified men and women to fight the fires that threaten our forests, wildlife, and our homes without having to worry about forfeiting past reparations they've received from the government. As we enter this forest fire season, please help your constituents and join me in co-sponsoring this important legislation, H.R. 366.

For further information, or to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Mark Dedrick at 5-5711.

Sincerely,

Darlene Hooley  
Member of Congress

COMMITTEES:

**COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET**

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES**

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS,  
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TASK FORCE ON IDENTITY THEFT AND  
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND  
INVESTIGATIONS, RANKING MEMBER

**DEFENSE STUDY GROUP**



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515-3705**

July 23, 2003

**DARLENE HOOLEY**

5th DISTRICT, OREGON

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# PROTECT OUR ELDERLY AND DISABLED

## Require Safety Checks on Medical Assistance Transit Drivers - - Cosponsor H.R. 364 - -

Dear Colleague:

Several years ago a 31-year mentally disabled constituent of mine was raped by her driver in the Medicaid funded medical assistance transportation program. This federally funded program provides financial assistance to transport eligible recipients to their medical appointments. Her driver was a convicted violent felon, yet was still hired for this position. This horrible tragedy could have been easily avoided had my legislation, H.R. 364, been in place.

H.R. 364 would require criminal background checks on drivers providing Medicaid medical assistance transportation services. Specifically, my bill would require State agencies that administer Medicaid transportation funds to conduct criminal background checks on all program drivers, requiring use of national fingerprinting data from the FBI. Use of the national database would ensure that a person convicted in one state would not be hired in another. It also disqualifies drivers with previous felony assault, sexual assault, felony drug, or murder convictions.

Strong national protections are needed for our most vulnerable citizens. Please sign on as a co-sponsor to H.R. 364 and help insure the safety and well-being of our nation's elderly and disabled.

For further information or to co-sponsor this legislation please contact Alison Craig at 6-8047.

Sincerely,

DARLENE HOOLEY  
Member of Congress

COMMITTEES:

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# Employees' Savings Devastated by Corporate Scandals?

Cosponsor H.R. 2240  
the "Catch-Up Retirement Savings Act"

Dear Colleague:

Please join me in support of H.R. 2240, the "Catch-Up Retirement Savings Act." This legislation would provide employees who work for bankrupt companies the opportunity to catch-up on some their lost retirement savings. It is a small step towards helping those loyal employees of companies whose retirement savings were devastated through irresponsible and illegal acts.

H.R. 2240 does two things to help workers. First, it allows employees to triple the deductible amount they may otherwise contribute to an IRA. Second, it gives employees a 50% tax credit on the amount they contribute to their IRA. The tax incentives would be available for five years to employees of corporations that have filed for bankruptcy and were subject of an indictment or conviction resulting from business transactions related to such case, and whose employer matched at least 50 percent of the employee's contribution to the pension plan.

This legislation is a small step in helping employees impacted by these corporate scandals to replenish savings. I hope that you will join me in cosponsoring H.R. 2240 to help put the victims of corporate corruption back on a path to happy retirement.

Sincerely,



DARLENE HOOLEY  
Member of Congress