1999 Legislative Activities

Ensuring Consumer Protections

Ending Deceptive Sweepstakes Mailings. Led Senate passage of legislation to toughen the laws governing sweepstakes and end the deceptive practices used in their mass mailing campaigns.

Ending Abuses in the Private Banking System. Led a year-long investigation into the private banking system and its vulnerability to money laundering. Held hearings to highlight several cases of abuse within Citibank's private banking system and introduced legislation to address the weaknesses which were revealed during the investigation.

Regulatory Reform. Won Governmental Affairs Committee approval of legislation, which Levin introduced with Sen. Fred Thompson, R-Tenn., which would require agencies to consider cost-benefit analyses and risk assessment prior to making major regulatory decisions.

Day Trading. Through the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Levin helped lead an investigation and hearings to review day trading practices. Requested a study by the General Accounting Office on the validity of the claims of profitability by day trading firms and the extent to which day trading firms comply with securities laws.

Federalism Accountability Act. Won Committee approval of legislation which aims to reduce the incidence of unintended federal preemptions of state or local laws and impose requirements to ensure that federal agencies obtain and consider input from state and local governments before issuing regulations.

Keeping Our Families Safe & Healthy

Limiting Minors' Access to Firearms. Helped lead fight on Senate floor to close loopholes in federal firearms law. Levin introduced legislation with Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-NY, to prohibit the transfer of semiautomatic assault weapons, large capacity ammunition feeding devices and handguns to minors, and to prohibit possession of these weapons by those under 21, subject to certain exceptions currently in law.

COPS Program. Fought for an extension of the COPS program through the 2005 fiscal year which would authorize $600 million to hire up to 50,000 more police officers over five years. The money could be used to retain current officers hired under COPS, pay overtime and reimburse current cops for college or graduate school courses to enhance their skills. $350 million would be used to fund law enforcement technologies, such as DNA analysis and crime mapping. $200 million would be used for community prosecutors. In 1999, Michigan received over $34 million from the COPS program to hire more than 300 new officers.

Medication to combat heroin addiction. Led Senate passage of legislation, the Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 1999, S.324, which

legislation, the Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 1999, S.324, which focuses on increasing the availability and effectiveness of drug treatment. The bill would permit qualified physicians to prescribe certain anti-addiction medications in physicians' offices if certain strict conditions are met. The legislation gives states the right to opt out of the provisions of the bill.

Protecting Michigan's Teaching Hospitals. Cosponsored the Graduate Medical Education Payment Restoration Act which aimed to help reduce financial strain experienced by teaching hospitals due to cuts put in place by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

Medicare Beneficiary Access Act. Original cosponsor of legislation which would help to restore cuts to providers who were hard hit by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

Ending Inequity in Home Health Care. Cosponsored legislation to create a fairer, more efficient home health care system that would help Michigan's home health providers. The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, on which Levin is the senior Democrat, held hearings focusing on the problems which home health operators have experienced as a result of the Balanced Budget Act (BBA).

Pancreas Transplants. Successfully urged HCFA to revise its policy regarding Medicare coverage of pancreas transplants, particularly the requirement that Medicare would only cover a pancreas transplant only if it followed a Medicare-covered kidney transplant. In response to the concern raised by Levin and others, HCFA dropped the kidney transplant pre-requirement, potentially improving the quality of life and extending the life expectancy of hundreds of thousands of in-need patients.

Taking care of our veterans. Co-sponsored an amendment to increase funding for veterans' health care by $600 million and supported an overall increase of $1.7 billion in veterans' health care funding.

Henry Ford Health Systems/Army Tripler Medical Center. Secured $7.5 million for FY2000 for a collaborative effort between Henry Ford Health Systems and the Army's Tripler Medical Center to design and implement automated clinical practice guidelines for healthcare providers in the military.

Expanding Opportunities for Good Paying Jobs

Consortium for Outstanding Achievement in Teaching with Technology (COATT). Organized COATT, a partnership involving 11 Michigan colleges and universities in an effort to give the state the nation's highest standards in preparing teachers to use technology to enhance student learning.

Fair Trade. Won Senate passage of an amendment which requires the President to consider whether a country recognizes basic labor standards, such as the rights of association, organizing and collective bargaining, and enforces a minimum age for the employment of children before granting the country unilateral trade preferences.

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Apple Juice Concentrate Dumping. Successfully pressed the Administration to take tough action to stop the alleged illegal dumping of Chinese apple juice concentrate that has harmed Michigan's apple growers by driving down the price of apples. The Department of Commerce determined that Chinese corporations were importing the concentrate at prices well below the cost of production and began imposing duties up to 54% the price of the product.

Automotive Trade with Japan. As co-chairman of both the Senate Auto Caucus and the Senate Auto Parts Task Force, Senator Levin has taken the lead in the U.S. Senate to fight for more open markets for U.S. autos and auto parts in Japan and throughout Asia. Senator Levin won Senate passage of a provision reauthorizing the private sector industry advisory group that advises U.S. trade negotiators, the Auto Parts Advisory Committee (APAC).

Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) Program. Led the successful effort in the Senate Small Business Committee to reauthorize the SBIR program, through which small technology companies can compete for a share of Federal government research and development.

Y2K Readiness. Cosponsored legislation, which was signed into law April 2, 1999, to assist businesses' efforts to become Y2K compliant. The Act gives eligible small businesses access to affordable loans so that they can prepare for or respond to the Year 2000 computer problem. Secured $20 million in FY 2000 Commerce Justice State Appropriations bill. The bill included a Levin provision allowing the favorable terms of this lending program to be applied to loans already granted to small businesses that were used primarily for Y2K repairs but under less favorable terms than offered under this program.

Women's Business Centers Sustainability Act of 1999. Helped lead Senate passage of legislation, cosponsored by Levin, which will increase funding for the Women's Business Center (WBC) program and enable existing Centers, which would have previously been ineligible for renewed funding, to apply for continued financial assistance. The new provision will enable Michigan's three centers, in Detroit, Grand Rapids and Ann Arbor, to compete for financial assistance. WBC's provide financial assistance and training in small business management to women.

Teach for Tomorrow. Helped secure grant support for Teach for Tomorrow, an innovative program using on-line technology to make technology training readily available to teachers across Michigan.

Ameritech Technology Academy. Worked with Ameritech to create the Ameritech Technology Academy which will use a $2 million grant from the telecommunications company to provide training to 2000 Michigan educators over a two year period, the largest technology based professional development initiative to date in the state.

Minimum Wage. Cosponsored legislation to raise the minimum wage to

$6.15 in two 50 cent increments, restoring the minimum wage to its inflation-adjusted level.

Super 301. Levin successfully urged the Administration to reinstate the Super 301 trade law, which allows the U.S. Trade Representative to identify and take action against foreign trade barriers that impose the greatest burden on U.S. businesses and workers. The law had expired in September, 1997, and the President reinstated it early this year.

Military Reservists' Business Relief Act. Helped lead Senate passage of legislation to provide financial and business development assistance to small businesses owned by military reservists. The legislation aims to assist reservists, who are called away from their jobs and businesses to assist a U.S. military operation, by allowing them to defer existing government-guaranteed small business loans and giving them access to low interest rate government-guaranteed loans to bridge any financial gap which may arise from their absence. The bill was signed into law on August 17, 1999 as part of a larger veterans' bill.

Focus: HOPE. Secured millions in funding to assist Detroit's Focus: HOPE in its mission to provide education, training and placement in technological and manufacturing fields. In 1999, Levin secured $1 million for Focus: HOPE's Information Technologies Center; $1.5 million to expand Focus: HOPE's Machinist Training Institute; $3 million for a Mobile Parts Hospital collaborative project between Focus: HOPE and the National Automotive Center; and led the Michigan delegation in assisting Focus: HOPE with its successful appeal for reconsideration of a five-year $11.8 million NSF grant.

Rosa Parks Institute for Self-Development. Secured $1 million for the Rosa Parks Institute, which offers young people hands-on opportunities to learn about the history of the civil rights movement. The Institute offers programs such as "Pathways to Freedom," in which young people trace the history of the civil rights movement through meetings with national leaders, trips to historic sites across the country and participation in research projects, and an inter-generational computer mentoring program in which young people tutor elderly members of the community in basic computer skills. The program both expands the computer knowledge of the seniors and gives the young people the unique opportunity to hear first-hand accounts of American history through the recollections of their elderly partners. Since 1987, more than 7,000 youth have participated in the program.

Olympic Education Scholarship (OES) program. Secured $1 million for targeted, needs-based educational scholarships through the OES program, which seeks to help America's athletes advance their training at the U.S. Olympic Training Centers.

Michigan Roads & Transport

Muskegon helicopter station. Helped win Senate passage of $3.1 million to keep the Muskegon Seasonal Air Facility operating through the 2000 fiscal year. A proposed budget which the Coast Guard issued earlier in the year threatened to close the facility, but Levin and others

earlier in the year threatened to close the facility, but Levin and others fought to keep it open because of the financial, logistic and safety benefits of the station.

K.I. Sawyer Airport Opening. Led efforts, with Rep. Bart Stupak, D-Menominee, to secure funding to convert the former military base into a full-service civilian airport, which opened this fall. Since 1997, Levin has helped to secure $6.9 million in FAA funding for the airport, which has been used to construct the passenger terminal, renovate the airport maintenance building and improve the airport's runways. This year, Levin also secured $10 million from the Air Force in caretaker and heating conversion funding.

Michigan's Airports. Won Senate approval of funding to renovate and expand Michigan's airports, including $500,000 for an instrument landing system at Harry Brown Airport in Saginaw and $600,000 to replace the air control tower and terminal facility at Pontiac Airport. Additionally, Levin won Senate approval of a provision committing to give priority consideration to funding requests from Bishop Airport, Cherry Capital Airport, Chippewa County International, Delta County Airport, Ford Airport, Grosse Ile Municipal Airport, Houghton County Memorial Airport, Kent County International Airport, Lenawee County Airport, Manistee County Blacker Airport, Oakland-Pontiac Airport, Sawyer Airport and Tulip City Airport. Also won Senate approval of a provision to help Oakland County International Airport relieve congestion at Detroit Metro Airport by appropriating Airport Improvement Program money which reliever airports can use to help manage overflow traffic. Oakland County and Willow Run airports in Michigan would both be eligible for the funding.

MAP Program. Won Senate approval of provision which will enable Oscoda Wurtsmith Airport to compete for the first time for funding from FAA's Military Airport Program (MAP), which assists former military bases in their conversion efforts. Prior to Levin's amendment, eligible bases had to either be commercial airports or, if they were general aviation airports, they had to relieve congestion at an urban airport. Therefore Oscoda Wurtsmith, which is a rural general aviation airport, was ineligible to apply for funding.

Surface Transportation Facility in Detroit. Secured $2 million in Intelligent Transportation System grants for Southeast Michigan. The funding will permit full deployment of the Southeastern Michigan Snow and Ice Management (SEMSIM) regional project, which will improve Southeast Michigan winter storm operations through cross- jurisdictional cooperation and the application of state-of-the-art technology. Levin also helped to secure $22.5 million for Michigan buses statewide.

Ice on Our Waterways. Secured $13 million to replace the Mackinaw icebreaker on the Great Lakes and $100,000 to purchase equipment for the acquisition of ice rescue equipment at the St. Clair Lake Coast Guard Station.

Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE). Helped lead successful efforts to continue a moratorium on increases in light truck CAFE

requirements.

Making the Federal Government Work Better

Campaign Finance Reform. Helped lead Senate consideration of legislation to reform the campaign finance system and close the "soft money" loophole which allows individuals, unions and corporations to give unlimited, unregulated money to political parties.

Protecting the Great Lakes & Michigan's Environment

Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). As co-chair of the Great Lakes Task Force, ensured that 1999 WRDA included provisions beneficial to the Great Lakes, including: clarification that sea lamprey control activities are already authorized in the Act; authorization of funds for phasing in a new system for measuring the water flowing through the Lake Michigan diversion; authorization for non-governmental partners to contribute to cost-sharing in the Remedial Action Plan's Technical Assistance, Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration and Beneficial Use of Dredged Materials programs and Great Lakes Strategic planning; compilation of Great Lakes Biohydrological Information; authorization for a study of the economic benefits of Great Lakes recreational boating; technical assistance to the Great Lakes states in developing water use policy guidelines; authorization for deepening of a portion of the St. Marys River; forgiveness of interest on the Soo Locks; technical assistance to the International Joint Commission and St. Lawrence River board of control in studying the effects of fluctuating water levels; and reduction of the non-Federal cost share for environmental dredging.

Fighting to Eradicate Destructive Sea Lamprey. Secured $200,000 for construction of sea lamprey barriers at sites throughout the Great Lakes basin.

Funding Great Lakes Programs. Helped secure funding for a variety of important Great Lakes programs, including $390,000 for upgrade of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Great Lakes Water level gauging stations; $1 million for Army Corps of Engineers research on control of zebra mussels and other aquatic nuisance species affecting public infrastructure; $422,000 in additional funding for the grants program authorized under the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 1998; and $3.5 million to continue the National Ballast Water Management Program.

Protecting Michigan Waterfronts. Obtained $100,000 in funding for a study to assess the potential for habitat restoration, ecosystem enhancement, and erosion control along the Kalamazoo River.

Keweenaw National Historic Park. Won a $1.5 million increase in funding for the Keweenaw National Historic Park.

Relief for Fire Victims. Secured assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for Marquette County residents who

Emergency Management Agency for Marquette County residents who suffered severe damage to their homes and businesses as a result of a fire which burned 5,600 acres in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Preserving Our Agricultural Resources

Fire blight Aid to Michigan Fruit Growers. Won financial assistance for Michigan tree farmers and fruit growers who suffered losses due to fire blight, a bacterial disease which fruit trees contract, particularly if the bark is breached. Levin authored a provision, which the Senate passed last year, which broadened the scope of eligibility for disaster assistance to include losses due to fire blight and enabled the farmers relief for their losses. Levin secured funding this year to support research to help protect future crops from fire blight.

Judicial Appointments

Judicial Nominations. Recommended Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Marianne Olga Battani and Detroit attorney David M. Lawson for federal judgeships in the Eastern District of Michigan. President Clinton formally nominated Battani and Lawson, as well as Michigan nominees Helene White and Kathleen McCree Lewis, who currently await Senate confirmation.

Putting the Federal Government to Work for Michigan

Sewage Overflow System Upgrade for Twelve Michigan Communities. Helped secure authorization for $30 million in appropriations for infrastructure improvements within the George W. Kuhn Drainage District, Oakland County as part of a federal, state, county and local effort to reduce pollution that impacts the entire region of Southeastern Michigan. In fiscal year 2000 appropriations, Senator Levin obtained $1.5 million allocation for this project. Lake St. Clair is an integral part of the Great Lakes shipping channel, serves basic drinking water needs for many of the 4 million people in Southeast Michigan, and provides a popular recreational resource. During heavy rains, there is an overflow of the 12 Towns waste water treatment plant, which causes sewage water to flow directly into Lake St. Clair. The Lake's ecosystem faces a critical need for resources to upgrade the Twelve Towns Drain Retention Facility.

Clinton River Spillway. Helped secure $250,000 for a project to remove silt and guard against future silt buildup at a point on the Clinton River Spillway to Lake St. Clair where the Army Corps of Engineers recently installed an inflatable weir. The lower nine miles of the Clinton River could be choked off in less than two years without immediate action.

Veterans' Cemetery in Detroit Area. Won Senate approval of legislation directing the U.S. Secretary of Veterans' Affairs to establish a national cemetery in the Detroit metropolitan area to serve the needs of veterans and their families. Approximately 927,000 veterans live in Michigan, 605,000 of whom reside in the Detroit metropolitan area

Michigan, 600,000 of whom reside in the Detroit metropolitan area.

Promoting Economic Development in Our Communities. Helped secure $400,000 to renovate Pontiac's Strand Theatre; $500,000 for economic development initiatives in Flint, including public improvements to the Flint Industrial Park and restoration of the Capitol Theater; $250,000 for the City of Pontiac for economic development activities; $300,000 to Wayne State University for infrastructure improvements to the Merrill-Palmer Institute's child care research facilities; $500,000 to Wayne County for enhancement of geographical information systems to expedite economic development; $100,000 to the City of Detroit for the Covenant House, a long-term transitional living facility for homeless adults; $600,000 to Macomb Township for site preparation, site development and equipment purchase related to Waldenburg Park; $600,000 to the City of St. Clair Shores for enhancement of the Jefferson Avenue corridor; and $250,000 for Northern Initiatives in the Upper Peninsula for the capitalization of a training endowment fund.

Automotive Research Center (ARC). Secured $3 million to enable the National Automotive Center to increase its assistance to the ARC. The ARC funds programs at universities to conduct basic research that can be applied to military applications.

Working to Ensure Our National Security

Military Pay and Benefits. Helped enact provisions to dramatically improve pay and benefits for our men and women in uniform, including the so-called "triad" of pay and retirement initiatives sought by Secretary Cohen and the Joint Chiefs of Staff -- a 4.8% military pay raise for FY2000; reform of the military pay table to increase pay for mid-career NCO's and officers; and changes to the military retirement system. These changes are expected to go a long way to address recruiting and retention problems that the military services have been experiencing.

Kosovo. Led effort to express congressional approval for successful operations in Kosovo and to learn from our military experience in Kosovo -- the first large-scale NATO conflict and the first successful effort to reverse ethnic cleansing in this century.

Arms Control. Led efforts to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Helped lead successful effort to modify the resolution establishing the policy of the United States to deploy a national missile defense system as soon as technologically possible by making it clear that it is also the policy of the United States to seek continued reductions in Russian nuclear weapons. Leader of the unsuccessful effort to ratify Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

Security of Nuclear Secrets. Helped enact provisions establishing new security requirements for handling of nuclear secrets at the Department of Energy, including the establishment of a new counterintelligence czar at the Department and an outside commission to provide advice on safeguards, security, and counter-intelligence at DOE facilities. Led efforts to ensure that provisions on reorganization of Department of Energy would not undermine the authority and ability of the Secretary to

take steps needed to safeguard our nuclear secrets.

Wye Accords. Supported the effort to provide funding for the Wye Accords. Drafted and organized Senate letters to the President and colleagues regarding the importance and need to fund implementation of the Wye Accords.

Defense-Management Reform. Helped enact a series of provisions to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of health care provided to military members and their families under the TRICARE program; provisions promoting reform of Department of Defense financial management systems; provisions further streamlining the defense acquisition process by removing additional barriers to the purchase of high tech commercial items; a series of provisions promoting more effective management of the defense laboratories and test and evaluation facilities; and a provision requiring a Quadrennial Defense Review to determine the defense strategy and resources necessary to execute the National Security Strategy.

Counter-terrorism programs. Helped fund 17 new National Guard Rapid Assessment and Initial Detection (RAID) Teams to respond to terrorist chemical or biological weapons attacks in the United States; helped enact a provision requiring the Department to establish specific budget reporting procedures for all funds to combat terrorism, both at home and abroad.

Military Readiness. Helped enact increased funding for military readiness by $1.5 billion, including substantial increases for the highest priority readiness items identified by the Joint Chiefs of Staff -- real property maintenance, base operations, ammunition, training center support, and depot maintenance.

Future Threats. Helped enact provisions requiring the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress on the relationship between the defense budget and current and emerging threats to U.S. national security interests; helped enact provision requiring an annual report on the defense capabilities initiative and progress toward closing the gap between the military capabilities of U.S. and those of our NATO allies.

Seeds of Peace. Secured $860,000 for Seeds of Peace to expand its unique program to bring children from the Middle East of different ethnic backgrounds to camp together.

Important Michigan Defense Projects. Helped ensure funding for M1 tank upgrades; the Heavy Assault Bridge; the Family of Heavy Tactical Vehicles; the Advanced Amphibious Assault Vehicle; the Crusader Advanced Field Artillery System; modification programs to support Michigan Air National Guard F-16 aircraft, including Litening targeting pods and cameras for reconnaissance systems; Navy sonobuoys for antisubmarine warfare; and the National Automotive Center in Warren, MI, including testing of aluminum metal matrix composite track systems for use on armored vehicles, developing hybrid-electric propulsion systems, and working on next generation truck technology (21st Century Truck Initiative). Helped ensure legislative authorization for the

construction of a new Range Support Facility, including new control towers, at Camp Grayling. Helped to permanently authorize and expand the STARBASE program, a program that began in 1991 at the Selfridge Air National Guard Base to ignite the interest of at-risk youth in science, math, technology, goal setting and positive life choices.