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THE HONORABLE JAMES C. GREENWOOD STATEMENT ON H.R. 3096, A BILL AMENDING THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ACT

Full Committee Mark-up
March 11, 1998

Thank you Mr.Chairman.

I appreciate the opportunity to say a few words on one of the last bills pending consideration by the full committee today. H.R. 3096, corrects a technical problem with the Federal Employees Compensation Act better known as FECA.

Briefly, several years ago Congress enacted legislation to prohibit individuals convicted of defrauding the FECA program from continuing to receive FECA benefits. However, there was a minor difference between the legislative language in this section of FECA and the parallel language in the federal criminal code. As a result of this difference, a loophole is created in the law which could potentially allow an individual to still receive compensation benefits even though the individual was convicted of committing FECA fraud.

A minor clarification – **changing "a" to "or"** – is all that is needed to fix this inconsistent wording. The Department of Labor and the Department of Labor's Office of the Inspector General support making this small, but important change and I am pleased that we can quickly move legislation to resolve this problem.

Thank you.