

My bill does not seek to mandate States or telecommunications carriers to provide services. Instead, it asks the Federal Government to live up to the obligations it has as reflected in the Constitution, treaties, Federal statutes, and the course of dealings of the United States with Indian tribes. Where States and market forces fall short in providing adequate services at reasonable and affordable rates, it is a Federal responsibility that should be provided by means of the Federal support mechanisms established under the universal service provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

The most important issue at stake here is economic development and prosperity on Indian lands. As the fiscal constraints of balancing the Federal budget here in Washington continues, we must counter spending cuts on programs that benefit native Americans with greater economic opportunity.

The future of American economic prosperity in rural America lies squarely on the back of the telecommunications infrastructure throughout the land. Already we are seeing industry sprout up in rural America where fiber optic cables have been installed; the second coming of the railroad to many of these communities. It is imperative that we include native Americans in the prosperity of the technological revolution.

As the FCC prepares to adopt a policy on universal service, the implementation process of the Telecommunications Act reaches a critical stage. I believe it is important to make it perfectly clear that the intent of Congress can only be fulfilled if the universal service policies or procedures established to implement the act address the telecommunications needs of low-income native Americans.

IN HONOR OF TWO DISTINGUISHED
INDIVIDUALS MAKING A DIFFERENCE
IN THEIR COMMUNITIES: MARTIN R. VITALE AND
HARVEY WHILLE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two outstanding individuals, Martin R. Vitale and Harvey Whille, in recognition for their contributions to fostering a sense of understanding within the labor and business communities. Mr. Vitale and Mr. Whille will be honored during the fourth annual Archbishop's Labor and Business Recognition Dinner at the Marriott at Glenpointe in Teaneck, NJ.

The Archbishop's Annual Labor and Business Recognition Dinner began with the purpose of recognizing those in both the labor and management fields who were making a difference to promote cooperation between these two unique entities. Over the past 4 years, this observance has become a vital component in the ongoing attempt by the Catholic Church of Newark to encourage and to enhance the dialog between labor and management. Additionally, this dinner has become a vital source of funding for the CYO/Youth Ministries of the Archdiocese of Newark which operates an Outreach Program in Jersey City.

Martin R. Vitale's road to his chairmanship of the Board of Directors of Twin County Gro-

cers has been enhanced by numerous family members and business associates. Mr. Vitale is married to an exceptional woman named Barbara whose community service has benefited the residents of Alpine, NJ for the past 13 years. Mr. and Mrs. Vitale have four accomplished children: Andrea, Martin, Jr., Stephanie, and Barbara. Mr. Vitale's own business, Vitale Enterprises, operates 10 Foodtown supermarkets, some of which serve residents of my district.

Harvey Whille, president of New Jersey's largest labor union, United Food and Commercial Workers [U.F.C.W.], Local 1262, is a man of extraordinary commitment to the union members he represents as well as to his community. Mr. Whille's unwavering sense of responsibility to the labor movement began in 1962 as a rank and file member at Foodarama supermarkets. Subsequently, he has served as a shop steward, union organizer, representative, field director, secretary-treasurer, and local president to members who work in New Jersey and New York businesses, many of which are located in my district. Mr. Whille's dedication to community service has seen him function as the chairman of numerous charitable endeavors, including fundraising for handicapped children. Mr. Whille has received honors from both the New Jersey Industrial Union Council and the Civil Rights Committee of U.F.C.W., region 1. Mr. Whille resides in Wall Township with his wife Donna with whom he has four children, Timothy, Tammy, Thomas, and Tara, and three grandchildren.

It is an honor to have two such distinguished individuals working on behalf of the residents of my district. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Martin R. Vitale and Harvey Whille who epitomize the good that can be accomplished when people work together toward a common goal.

RELEASE MONEY TO SAVE
WOMEN'S LIVES

HON. ELIZABETH FURSE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, a very important vote on family planning will occur this month.

The fiscal year 1997 Foreign Operations appropriations bill directs the President to submit a Presidential Finding to Congress no later than February 1, detailing whether or not the spending restrictions imposed on family planning overseas are having a negative impact on the proper functioning of those programs.

The Presidential Finding is to be included in a joint House-Senate resolution on which both bodies must vote by February 28. If both the House and Senate approve the finding, international family planning funds will be released on March 1 rather than the current July 1 release date of funds that have already been appropriated.

The President has submitted that finding and now we will have the opportunity to deliver the international family planning funding, which has been delayed already since October 1 of last year.

I commend to my colleagues' attention the following column written by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton in which she portrays the situation of real women's lives and the urgent

need for family planning. It appeared in the current issue of *Popline*, a publication of the Population Institute on whose board of directors I serve.

FAMILY PLANNING IS REDUCING ABORTIONS

(By Hillary Rodham Clinton)

The pregnant woman wore an alpaca shawl over her blouse and full skirt, the traditional Indian dress in Bolivia. She looked about 36 and was attending a prenatal class at a health clinic I visited this week in the Bolivian capital, La Paz. She was nursing a 3-month-old baby and expecting her eighth child, who she hoped would be her last.

I was in Bolivia to attend the Sixth Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas. Women from countries throughout the Western Hemisphere got together to talk about strategies to eliminate measles, promote education reform and improve maternal health in our region.

Bolivia, a country of majestic beauty in the heart of South America, was an auspicious location for such a discussion. More women die in Bolivia during pregnancy and childbirth than in any other country in South America. But in the face of this human tragedy, Bolivia has become a model of how one nation can respond to the crisis of maternal mortality by galvanizing the government, non-governmental organizations and the medical establishment to launch a nationwide family planning campaign.

In a country where half of all expecting mothers go through pregnancy and childbirth alone—without medical attention of any kind—Bolivia's aggressive effort to educate women about their own health and their options for childbearing is resulting in safer pregnancies, stronger families and fewer abortions. Without access to family planning, women in Bolivia—and in many developing nations—often turn in desperation to illegal, unsafe abortions that can end in death or serious injury. Deaths from abortion complications account for half of all maternal deaths in Bolivia.

As Bolivia has ably demonstrated, voluntary family planning teaches women about the benefits of spacing children several years apart, breast-feeding, good nutrition, prenatal and postpartum visits and safe deliveries. It also decreases the number of abortions.

Bolivia's success at preventing mothers from dying and lowering abortion rates has been possible, in part, because of help from the United States and other countries. The U.S. Agency for International Development has provided financial and technical assistance to help Bolivia establish a network of primary health care clinics.

The clinic I visited in La Paz is one that the United States helped start. Called PROSALUD (which loosely translated, means "for the good of health" in Spanish), the clinic has doctors and nurses who offer round-the-clock prenatal, obstetric and pediatric services, as well as counseling about family planning in a poor neighborhood of 15,000 people. In the first six months of 1996, the clinic staff provided 2,200 medical consultations, delivered 200 babies, registered 700 new family planning users and immunized 2,500 children.

There are obvious benefits of such a program to Bolivian women, children and families, but health and family planning services also help alleviate poverty and contribute to the economic stability of a democratic ally in our hemisphere. Yet opponents of foreign assistance and particularly of family planning in Congress are trying to eviscerate U.S. funding for programs like the one I saw

at PROSALUD. Some argue that the United States has no national interest in the health and well-being of other countries' citizens. Others mistakenly suggest that family planning is being used to encourage—rather than decrease—abortions. In fact, our government has prohibited funding of any overseas project that promotes abortion since 1973.

Ignoring this, Congress last year approved draconian cuts in family planning assistance amounting to a 35 percent reduction in funds. To add insult to injury, the cuts were accompanied by new restrictions that delayed delivery of aid for the first nine months of the fiscal year.

Similar harsh cuts and delays are included in the current budget, meaning that many organizations could again be denied assistance for months and then receive it only in monthly installments.

According to a recent analysis by five population organizations, the funding cuts alone will result in an increase of 1.6 million abortions, more than 8,000 maternal deaths, and 134,000 infant deaths in developing countries.

Family planning campaigns at work in Bolivia and elsewhere represent sensible, cost-effective and long-term strategies for improving women's health, strengthening families and lowering the rate of abortion. My husband's administration remains committed to the continuation of these investments. And I will do everything I can to ensure that U.S. support for these initiatives continues. If you share my concern, I hope you will add your voice to mine and give all women everywhere the same opportunities for their lives we take for granted in ours. (Permission by Hillary Rodham Clinton and Creators Syndicate.)

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER WENTLANDT

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I rise today to pay tribute to Officer Rick Wentlandt, a retired police officer who is a real-life hero. I was honored to have the opportunity to meet Officer Wentlandt's family at the dedication ceremony for the Officer Rick Wentlandt Survival City, which will continue the efforts that Officer Wentlandt began after surviving his own personal tragedy.

In 1981, Officer Rick Wentlandt of the Metro-Dade Police Department was severely wounded while on duty and forced to retire. After miraculously surviving this tragic incident, in which he interrupted an armed rape and managed to save a woman's life while he was shot six times in the process, Officer Wentlandt took what he learned from this experience and began teaching a class on Officer Survival Mindset Training. His teachings have been used to train law enforcement officers, police trainers, and mental health professionals from around the country about mastering the mental aspects of survival. Even after his injuries forced him to retire from the police department, Officer Wentlandt continued to volunteer his time, logging hundreds of hours teaching survival skills to veteran officers and new recruits.

I feel extremely fortunate to have met Officer Rick Wentlandt's family and sincerely appreciate the contributions he had made to South Florida. It is important that we learn

from his experiences and take his teachings to heart.

TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY SMITH

HON. GREG GANSKE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to be able to commend a fine individual, and a real friend to many people in southwest Iowa—Dorothy Smith.

For more than 10 years Dorothy worked for both myself and Congressman Jim Lightfoot in serving the people of Pottawattamie and surrounding counties. Dorothy was diligent, fair, and thorough in helping people deal with the Federal Government. She was also an excellent representative of my office, ably taking my place when congressional business kept me in Washington.

Southwest Iowa will miss Dorothy's energy, but I am sure she will remain active in the community. I would like to thank Dorothy for her service, and wish her and her husband Gordon the best as they begin the next chapter in their lives.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EDUCATION AFFORDABILITY ACT OF 1997

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Education Affordability Act, together with my North Carolina colleague and fellow educator BOB ETHERIDGE. This legislation is designed to make education more accessible and affordable for working Americans and to give our young people the training that most new, good jobs require. Our bill would restore the tax deduction for student loan interest and the full tax exemption for scholarships and fellowships. In addition, it would permit penalty free, withdrawals from individual retirement accounts to pay for higher education expenses.

In the last decade, the number of American students borrowing money for higher education has doubled. The average cost of attendance at a public college has increased 27 percent over the past decade while the cost of private college has increased over 40 percent. It is not unusual today for a working family to spend over 25 percent of their income helping their child through college. Many of this Nation's talented young people—young people who are the future of this country—are unable to attend college because of the financial hardship.

Our legislation would take significant steps toward removing some of these barriers to higher education. First, it would restore the pre-1986 tax laws governing student loans. Instead of penalizing young people who are gifted and fortunate enough to earn scholarships and fellowships by taxing this money, our bill would make these resources tax exempt. Students and their families who need to borrow to pay the costs of education would be able to

deduct the interest on their loans. Finally, this bill would eliminate the 10-percent penalty on withdrawals from IRA's for higher education expenses, allowing students additional access to resources for their education.

Accessible and affordable higher education is essential to this Nation's ability to compete in the global market. In order to remain at the forefront of this growing worldwide economy, we need to ensure that our children have access to affordable education beyond high school. Passage of this bill would help to bring higher education opportunities to every interested individual. It is an investment in the future of our young people and our country. I urge my colleagues to join us by cosponsoring the Education Affordability Act.

EZUNIAL "EZE" BURTS—A DISTINGUISHED RECORD OF SERVICE TO THE PORT AND PEOPLE OF LOS ANGELES

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Representative MILLENDER-MCDONALD and I are proud to join in congratulating and thanking Ezunial Burts for a distinguished 12 year record of service to the port of Los Angeles and to the citizens of Los Angeles County.

As he departs from his position as executive director at the port to take the reins as president of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, Eze can look around to see the remarkable achievements of his tenure. Whether measured by soaring increases in cargo tonnage and container volume or by its tremendous impact on the economy of southern California, Eze led the port to unprecedented growth. Major capital improvements completed in the last 12 years include the intermodal container transfer facility, new container terminals for Trans Pacific Container Service [TraPac] and Nippon Yusen Kaisha [NYK], and the new World Cruise Center, currently the busiest west coast passenger facility.

And the future is equally promising. The ongoing construction of new, state-of-the-art facilities, including the \$2 billion Alameda corridor and \$600 million pier 300/400 projects, will help ensure that the port is prepared for trade in the 21st century. As a testament to the port's financial strength, all three major bond rating agencies gave the port AA ratings, the highest of any U.S. port without taxing authority.

Eze has demonstrated many strengths that will suit him well in his new career. He has been tremendously skillful working with diverse groups of maritime partners and the international trade community and his genuine warmth and concern for port employees have won him the friendship, admiration, and respect of the 670-member port management team and staff. He has served on many advisory committees and boards affiliated with port authorities and trade policy, including the Intergovernmental Policy Committee of the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative under the Clinton administration. Eze also has a laudable record of service to the community at large, serving on the board of directors of