

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

such organizations as the National Forum for Black Public Administrators, the Metropolitan YMCA, Hancock Savings and Loan and the California Chamber of Commerce.

Eze will be sorely missed, but his legacy remains. We join the port community and our constituents in extending to him sincere appreciation and wishing him and his family every success as he assumes the critical job of president of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CRIMINAL WELFARE PREVENTION ACT, PART II

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, today Mr. CLEMENT, Mr. SHAW, Mr. BUNNING, Ms. DUNN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. HAYWORTH, and Mr. BURTON join me in introducing legislation—the Criminal Welfare Prevention Act, Part II—which will prevent the needless waste of taxpayer dollars.

Last year, the 104th Congress took an important step forward in this regard by enacting legislation that denies Federal SSI benefits to inmates of State and local correctional facilities. Although prisoners were not entitled to these benefits under existing Federal law, there was no way to match prisoners in local institutions with benefit checks mailed by the Federal Government. The Criminal Welfare Prevention Act—signed into law as part of last year's welfare reform package—creates a voluntary bridge between local sheriffs and the Federal Government, helping sheriffs identify ineligible individuals. This commonsense reform will save taxpayers millions of dollars—without imposing unfunded mandates or establishing new government bureaucracies.

However, there is still more work to do. Originally, the Criminal Welfare Prevention Act had aimed to deny local prisoners Social Security [OASDI] benefits as well, but these provisions were dropped from the final conference report to comply with Senate rules against making changes to OASDI in a reconciliation bill. Consequently, many local prisoners are still receiving OASDI benefits for which they are currently ineligible under Federal law.

To address this problem, we are introducing the Criminal Welfare Prevention Act, Part II. This bill will create monetary incentives for State and local law enforcement authorities to enter into voluntary data-sharing contracts with the Social Security Administration. This exchange of information will help get prisoners off our benefit rolls and will save taxpayers an estimated \$35 million by the year 2002. Under our proposal, if a participating local authority reports to the SSA that an incarcerated convict has received an OASDI check within the previous 30 days, that local authority will receive a cash payment of \$400. If the discovery is made within 90 days, the local authority will receive \$200. Again, participation in these contracts is purely voluntary—our bill will create an incentive structure, not an unfunded Federal mandate.

In this time of severe budgetary constraints, we strongly believe that Congress needs to

cut off this tremendously wasteful flow of scarce resources. Last Congress, the original Criminal Welfare Prevention Act attracted nearly 200 cosponsors, and its SSI-related portions are now law. The remaining OASDI provisions passed the House late last year as part of a Social Security Technical Corrections bill, but Congress adjourned before Senate action could be taken. Now is the time to finish the job. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this much-needed bipartisan reform.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO PROTECT MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, today Representative STARK and I are introducing legislation to correct what has become a significant problem for many Medicare beneficiaries. Under current law, when Medicare beneficiaries receive health care in a hospital outpatient department [HOPD], they are responsible for an average of 45 percent of the total payment to the hospital. Obviously, this is far more than the 20 percent copayment that was intended when the law was first enacted.

This problem arose because the Medicare law specifies that beneficiaries are responsible for 20 percent of what the hospital charges for services rendered in their outpatient departments, while Medicare only pays 80 percent of what it deems to be the reasonable cost for such services. Until the past few decades, costs and charges remained relatively the same. However, over the past few years, charges have risen much more rapidly than reasonable costs, causing a rapid rise in beneficiary coinsurance liability.

Our legislation will correct the problem by establishing a new payment system for HOPD's which will allow the beneficiary copayment to be fixed at 20 percent of a set amount and will also ensure that Medicare will be paying its fair share.

We recognize that reducing the HOPD beneficiary copayment liability will cause a loss in revenue for hospitals and will also cost the Medicare Program money as it begins to pay its fair share of HOPD services. We do not believe, however, that these are reasons to continue to force senior citizens to pay increasingly more than they should for HOPD services. We want to work with hospitals and with the Health Care Financing Administration to find a solution to this difficult and growing problem that faces millions of Medicare beneficiaries.

Our legislation will help to soften the blow to the Medicare Program by simultaneously correcting a problem in how Medicare pays for some HOPD services. Because of a flaw in the payment formula, called the "formula-driven overpayment," Medicare has been systematically overpaying hospitals for many services provided in HOPD's. While correcting the beneficiary coinsurance problem will cost Medicare money, correcting the formula-driven overpayment will help to mitigate the loss to the program.

I have introduced legislation in the past that would have corrected the beneficiary coinsur-

ance problem. I am hopeful that this Congress will recognize the importance of relieving Medicare beneficiaries of the unfair burden they are currently shouldering when they receive health care in hospital outpatient departments.

HONORING PAUL CLARKE

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, the residents of California's 25th Congressional District recently recognized the passing of one of their dedicated and loyal citizens, Mr. Paul Clarke. Consultant, radio newsman, media expert, husband, son, father, and grandfather, Mr. Clarke embodied the voice and vision of the residents of the San Fernando Valley. Remembered in Washington as the chief of staff of Congresswoman Bobbi Fielder, whom he later married, southern Californians came to know him as a man with a firm grasp on the pulse of the valley.

Instrumental in Washington to furthering a variety of issues important to the San Fernando Valley, Mr. Clarke became known as a talented political campaign consultant with an innate understanding of his community. Honest and forthright, Paul Clarke was an invaluable source of information for reporters and the news industry throughout southern California.

We will miss Paul Clarke's sense of humor, wit, intelligence, and friendship. Our prayers go out to our former colleague, Bobbi Fielder, as well as to all of Mr. Clarke's family. May the Lord bless and keep him well. In our hearts and thoughts, he remains.

THE LEGACY OF THE LATE HONORABLE PAUL TSONGAS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, while the House was in recess in January, a former congressional colleague, retired Massachusetts Senator Paul Tsongas died after complications from cancer. I was a long-time admirer of Paul Tsongas, especially for the wisdom with which he approached life and the value he placed on his family.

For many in public service, it often comes down to choices between the job and family. Do I attend the social event or go home for my son's birthday party? Do I go to the reception sponsored by a special interest group or attend my daughter's soccer tournament? With Paul Tsongas, there was no choice. Family came first and foremost.

For several years I have used the way Paul Tsongas lived his life as an example in my speeches about family values. One of my favorite quotes from him is that he "never heard anyone on their deathbed say, 'I wish had spent more time with my business.'"

What are our personal priorities? People generally serve in the Congress because they want to help other people. But we need to remember that while we serve in Congress trying to help others, we do not forget those who matter most to us—our families.