

matter who they are.—Britney Lout, seventh grade student, California City Middle School, California City, California.

I believe there are many factors which influence a child to smoke. I have decided not to use any tobacco products due, in part to the government, the D.A.R.E. program, teachers, school counselors, parents, and my church. The government's programs supported my decision not to smoke. The D.A.R.E. program taught me about drugs and ways to say "no" to them. Posters and ads showing pictures of a smoker's lung and a healthy lung helped me to realize how harmful tobacco and drugs are. Advertisements on television also showed me some harmful effects of cigarettes and drugs. They showed that tar in cigarettes is the same as on the roads. My school counselors and teachers played a big role in keeping me from smoking. They taught me why tobacco and other drugs are harmful. My parents set a good example by not using tobacco products. I feel I might disappoint them if I started to smoke. My parents and church set good examples for me to follow. They taught by example to resist drugs. We have had family discussions and talked about why I should not smoke.

I have two suggestions the government can adopt to help kids decide not to smoke. First, create mentor programs that pair "at risk" kids with older, smoke-free kids to encourage the younger kids not to smoke. Second, celebrities can talk to children about not smoking. These people are often more listened to than teachers, counselors, and even parents.—Chris Burnett, seventh grade student, Earl Warren Junior High School, Bakersfield, California

I have decided to never begin smoking and I was influenced most by the assemblies at our school during Red Ribbon Week for the last seven years at Quailwood, my school. I want to become a Major League Baseball player and try to catch Mark McGwire and his home run record and I have figured from all of those assemblies that if I want to do that, I can't start smoking, doing drugs, or drinking. I don't know if it was watching the K9 unit come every year to talk to us, but since that first assembly in kindergarten, I've decided to never start smoking.

Even though I've decided not to smoke, some of my friends have not. I don't want them to ruin their lives so there are a couple of things that schools, parents, and I could do to keep my friends from beginning to smoke. There are many things that schools could do to help kids try not to start smoking. When I was in kindergarten, first grade, and second grade, a lady used to come in and show us a pig's lung that had been around a lot of smoke, almost like a person who smoked. It was horrible looking. She said that if we smoked, our lungs would look like that, and no one wants to have their lungs look like that. I think that all schools should do that, and not only in the first three years of school, but throughout elementary school.

Parents could also help their children not start smoking. Parents could talk to their kids more about saying no to smoking. Tell them how bad it is for your body and what it does to your brain. If kids knew those things it might lessen their chance of smoking. All parents should be good role models. My mom and dad don't smoke and I have no desire to smoke either. They probably had an influence on me not to smoke. Kids might think it's O.K. to smoke if their parents do. There are also many things I could do to help my friends not start smoking. I could tell my friends that if they ever started to smoke, they wouldn't be my friends anymore. I also could tell my friends that if they ever thought about smoking to talk to me be-

cause I'd always do to open to listen to them. I'd do practically anything to stop my friends from starting to smoke.

Those are all things that schools, parents, and I could do to stop kids from starting to smoke, but there are things Congress could do to stop, or at least to reduce the use of tobacco. They could make laws to stop advertising smoking on billboards and in magazines. The tobacco industry tries to make smoking look cool when it's not. Congress could make a law that there shouldn't be smoking on television and in movies. The other day, I saw my favorite actor with a cigarette in his mouth. If I didn't know smoking killed you, I'd probably want to smoke too, because then I could be just like him. The only thing this is doing to kids is influencing us to smoke when we get older. Another law Congress could make to reduce tobacco use is to ban candy cigarettes and gum that look like chewing tobacco. When kids like me see that stuff, it's great; it tastes good, and when we get older, we may want the real thing.—James Margrave, sixth grade student, Quailwood Elementary School, Bakersfield, California

When I was young, I was watching the news with my mother. It was about smoking. The program was about the problems smoking causes. I was watching it closely and I was scared that I was going to have those problems. Although I was scared, I never realized how hard it was going to be to make this decision later on. Here in the sixth grade, I know I will never have to do this.

To help other people make the same decision, small groups from communities need to form clubs for kids aged 11-19 years to have fun and to be safe. In this club there should be no smoking. This group should do things involving kids. It could get money from donations and fundraisers.

I don't think Congress can do too much to reduce smoking. It basically is up to the community and to each person. Some people might disagree and even fight over this matter. Personally I made this decision already, but some kids think it's cool to smoke and they won't stop. Instead of arguing over this, we need to do more educating to show kids that smoking isn't cool.—Ashley Cullins, sixth grade student, James Monroe Middle School, Ridgecrest, California

Tobacco has been a health hazard to America for years, yet, even when they know its dangers, kids still choose to smoke for the chance to be "cool." Somehow, all the programs, clubs, and classes are not getting the message through. Hopefully, the essays being received will give Congress new ideas that will help America become a better place.

There are many influences that have affected my decision not to start smoking. One such influence is the warnings of smoking's dangers. The fact that smoking can cause numerous cancers and can cause a person to stop breathing is a frightening thought. Being brought up in a drug-free environment and then visiting places with a high content of smoke has given me a good picture of the two different worlds has given me a good picture of two different worlds—a good enough picture to make me realize which one is the best for me and the people around me.

I believe that there are a few ways that schools and Congress can make a difference. I think the schools would help if they provided a mandatory class to discuss the dangers and consequences of smoking and tobacco. Then there are a couple of ways I feel Congress can help prevent tobacco use. First, Congress should pass a law that reduces the amount of nicotine put into tobacco products. Second, Congress should raise and enforce penalties on minors who smoke, and on those who sell tobacco to minors. Raising

the taxes on tobacco products would only lead to more thievery and, therefore should not take place.

I hope that these essays have given Congress a better view of the tobacco problem, and I hope that they will put into effect some of the ideas these essays offer. May the Lord have His hand on this situation as we all look and pray for a better America.—Christopher Duck, eighth grade student, Visalia Christian Academy, Visalia, California

I see many store advertisements that encourage people to smoke. Thanks to our Congress, there are no gun advertisements, and Congress should be just as tough on cigarette ads. I would say that guns and tobacco are deadly weapons; one kills fast and the other kills slow. I think that Congress can do many things to keep kids from smoking. Congress and schools should make a program called "smoking detour," to keep kids from making the wrong turn. This program would take kids on a hospital tour to visit patients that are dying from cancer caused by tobacco. How sad it would be to see people with tubes stuck in their noses and pictures of rotten lungs. That sure would discourage me from smoking.

My mom and dad are the best advertisements against smoking. They don't smoke. They tell me, "if you smoke, it will kill you and it will hurt those who love you." Even though I live in a free country, where I have the freedom to smoke, I don't have the right to hurt the freedom of life. I love my family, friends, and my life too much to smoke.—Eddie Mota, fifth grade student, Panama Elementary School, Bakersfield, California

FAIRNESS FOR OUR NATION'S DAIRY FARMERS

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 1999

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced H.R. 444, the "Dairy Promotion Fairness Act," a bill that would create a little more fairness for our Nation's dairy farmers.

We have all enjoyed the recent "Got Milk?" promotions sponsored by the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board. Those commercials remind the public that milk is both good for you, and, frankly, good to have around when you're eating chocolate chip cookies.

All American dairy farmers pay into the Dairy Promotion Program. But there are a group of people who gain from the program, but don't pay for it. Importers of Foreign dairy products. Whether it's cheese from France, or non-fat powdered milk from New Zealand, importers receive free advertisements of their products, paid for by our dairy producers. That just isn't fair to our farmers.

Importers of dairy products are the only commodity importers that don't pay into a promotion program. Importers of pork, beef, and cotton are all required to support their respective promotion programs. The Dairy Promotion program should not be treated differently, and our domestic dairy products should not have to subsidize the promotion of foreign dairy products. I urge all members who believe our farmers deserve fairness to support this bill.

IN MEMORY OF ADMIRAL HAROLD
E. SHEAR

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 1999

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise with sorrow following the passing of Admiral Harold E. Shear of Groton, Connecticut on February 1, 1999. Admiral Shear served his country in the United States Navy for more than four decades and helped to create the modern ballistic missile submarine force which serves as an indispensable element of our national defense.

At age 10, Harold Shear began his long career at sea by working on his step-father's fishing boat. He entered the U.S. Naval Academy in 1938. His class of midshipmen graduated five months early due to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. After a brief tour aboard a surface ship, Harold Shear joined the submarine service. Over the course of the next twenty five years, he was promoted through the chain of command in the submarine force. He served as commanding officer of the diesel-powered submarine U.S.S. *Becuna* (SS 319) and the nuclear ballistic missile sub U.S.S. *Patrick Henry* (SSBN 599). During the Cuban missile crisis Harold Shear served as ballistic missile submarine officer on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In this capacity, he ensured that our force was mobilized quickly in order to demonstrate to the Russians that the United States was prepared to take all steps necessary to remove offensive nuclear weapons from the island.

In 1967, Harold Shear was promoted to Rear Admiral. Throughout the early 1970s he served in a series of high-level Naval positions, including commander-in-chief of U.S. Naval Forces in Europe. In 1975, Admiral Shear was appointed Vice Chief of Naval Operations—the second highest ranking Navy officer in the nation. In his final assignment, Admiral Shear served as commander-in-chief of Allied Forces in southern Europe. He retired from the Navy in 1980.

Admiral Harold Shear served his country with honor and distinction in the Navy for more than forty years. However, he continued to serve his community well after retirement. He played a crucial role in an effort joined by many across southeastern Connecticut to revitalize the port of New London. Admiral Shear worked closely with me and others to convince the Navy to transfer State Pier to Connecticut. Then, he pushed the State to rebuild it and convert it into an international commercial center. Thanks to Admiral Shear's dedication, the Pier today is busy with activity as goods from across Connecticut and New England are loaded onto ships bound for destinations across the globe.

Mr. Speaker, Admiral Harold Shear was an American hero. He defended this nation during some of the darkest hours of our history. He was one of the architects and chief strategists of the modern ballistic missile submarine force. He was an advocate for maritime trade. Having been awarded the Silver Star for conspicuous gallantry in action and Navy Distinguished Service Medal with Gold Star along with many other honors, it is entirely fitting that Admiral Shear will be buried with other great Americans in Arlington National Cemetery.

The nation says goodbye to a great leader while southeastern Connecticut bids farewell to friend and neighbor.

THE WAGE GAP

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 1999

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I call upon this Congress to address a major concern of single mothers, working women and working families. The wage gap in America between men and women has been overlooked for far too long.

While women in America have made great strides in the workplace, on average, they earn only 75 cents to a man's dollar.

This issue goes beyond simply ensuring what is equal and right, and has long-lasting economic impacts on our society. While more and more women have become the primary source of family income, the total amount of wages women lost last year due to pay inequity was over \$130 billion.

Single mothers and working families realize the entire family would be better off if women were being paid what they are worth and have rightly earned.

This Congress can continue the commitment to equality by removing the economic barriers which hinder too many women and their families.

That is why I have decided to co-sponsor the "Paycheck Fairness Act", sponsored by Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro. I urge all members of the Congress, and all my fellow Americans to recognize and address this very serious issue.

HONESTY IN BUDGETING ACT

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 1999

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Honesty in Budgeting Act." This is an important bill that I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting.

Right now, the public and elected officials alike are confused about our federal budget. Both President Clinton and the Republican Congressional leadership said we had a budget surplus last year, but the national debt still increased. The public asked, how could we have a surplus but still increase the debt? That is a good question.

The answer is that we didn't really have a surplus last year. We had a \$29 billion deficit in the budget, and a \$99 billion Social Security trust fund surplus. Politicians who wanted to make the numbers seem better than they were ignored those numbers and focused on the "unified" budget surplus of \$70 billion, misleading the American people into thinking that we had extra money in our budget.

The Honesty in Budgeting Act does several things to help remedy that problem. First of all, it simply expresses the sense of the House that all of us in Congress and those in the White House should stop misleading the public and instead talk about the real budget num-

bers—the on-budget numbers. Second, it reinforces Social Security's off-budget status. Finally, it directs the official budgeting agencies of the government, the Congressional Budget Office and the Office of Management and Budget, to stop including Social Security trust funds in its report to Congress and the American public. This is important because while we have previously taken Social Security off-budget, too many elected officials still talk and act like nothing's changed. Eliminating the trust funds figures from the official reports of the CBO and OMB will force Congress to focus on the real budget numbers and stop masking budget deficits with the Social Security trust fund.

I believe that the Honesty in Budgeting Act is particularly important as we now enter an era of surpluses. Latest economic projections indicate substantial budget surpluses as early as this year. These surpluses are non-Social Security surpluses, which is great news. But as we start talking about how to use those surpluses, whether it is to cut taxes, increase investment in education or defense or to pay down the national debt, we must start the debate with honesty. We must set aside all of the Social Security trust fund surpluses for what it is obligated—Social Security—and then have a national discussion about what we should do with any additional surpluses.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL LUTHER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 1999

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, due to a family commitment I missed rollcall votes Nos. 7 and 8. Please let the RECORD show that on House Vote 7, H.R. 68, the Small Business Investment Company Technical Corrections Act, I would have voted "aye." On House Vote 8, H.R. 432, the Dante B. Fascell North-South Center, I would have voted "aye."

**INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICAN
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS' PRI-
VACY ACT OF 1999**

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 1999

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the American Financial Institutions' Privacy Act of 1999.

This legislation delays the "Know Your Customer" regulations proposed by the federal banking agencies until authorized by Congress, thereby protecting the privacy rights of American citizens which would otherwise be infringed by these regulations.

In addition, this bill requires agencies to complete a comprehensive study on various economic and privacy issues, which would be submitted to the United States Congress for its review and consent. Only by congressional authorization, will additional "Know Your Customer" regulations be permitted to go into effect.

America's strength has always derived from economic freedom; yet modern America is replete with proposed laws and regulations designed to make this country anything but free.