

Unfortunately, after 2 months, no one, including the FCC, has seen the final details of these new regulations.

Mr. Speaker, how can regulators vote on provisions that they themselves have not seen? The internal turf battles within this agency go far beyond the walls of the Portals. While bureaucrats argue over how many angels can sit on the head of a pin, real people in this industry are being harmed.

Since January 2000, over 600,000 jobs have been lost in the telecommunications industry, most due to a failed policy of former Chairman Reed Hundt who tried to create artificial local competition.

Since the vote by the FCC on February 20th, many more jobs have been lost. Delay in issuing regulations by the FCC only continues this "meltdown" of one of our premiere growth industries.

I for one do not condone this bureaucratic delay and would hope that the FCC drastically changes its initial ruling from last February.

WELCOMING USS "LINCOLN" HOME

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the women and men on board the USS *Abraham Lincoln*.

For nearly ten months the sailors on board the *Lincoln* have been engaged in protecting our homeland. During their deployment—the longest deployment for an aircraft carrier in 30 years—the crew served courageously and selflessly. The brave women and men aboard the *Lincoln* have been embraced by a thankful nation.

Having just returned from the *Lincoln's* homecoming celebration, I can say without a doubt that the City of Everett and Snohomish County are happy to have the sailors home. While seeing them on national television gave me and our nation hope, seeing them in person with their families was even more inspirational.

I want to thank every one of those sailors today for their service, and I also want to thank their families for their service, even though it is a different kind of service. The sailors and their families sacrificed for this country. We owe them a debt of gratitude.

While our technology and know-how far surpassed our opponent's, the true success of Operation Iraqi Freedom was due to the women and men who volunteered for this service. Their commitment, dedication, bravery, and willingness to serve are what define our military might.

To those who served on this historic sailing of the USS *Abraham Lincoln*, I say: You have done your job and you have done it well. Our nation thanks you.

I am honored to be their Representative in Congress. I thank the Speaker for allowing me to speak on the floor today.

TRIBUTE TO THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY'S HEROES IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to five outstanding members of our law enforcement and firefighter communities. Bradley C. Thompson, Michael Jensen, Jim Pollock, Brian Brown, and Edward Lee Teter will be honored tonight at the Valley Community Legal Foundation of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association "Law Day Dinner" honoring "Heroes in Law Enforcement." Each of these fine men have dedicated their lives to the service of the San Fernando Valley and leave a legacy of heroism for all to admire.

Deputy Bradley C. Thompson of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department distinguished himself last December when he fearlessly rescued a driver from a burning vehicle. Deputy Thompson observed a passenger van engulfed in flames on December 10 and immediately responded. Bradley selflessly proceeded into the fire and ultimately freed the driver, undoubtedly saving his life. His heroism is truly admirable.

Los Angeles Police Detective Michael Jensen has excelled at his job since joining the force in 1972. Michael ascended to the rank of Detective in North Hollywood. In that role, Officer Jensen has become a mentor for the division and has solved many critical cases. Michael continues to lead his fellow officers in the Valley and has proven to be an exceptional asset to our law enforcement community.

City of San Fernando Police Detective Jim Pollock began solving narcotics cases in 1979. He has become a vital liaison between local law enforcement and federal police agencies such as the FBI, ATF, and DEA. Detective Pollock was nationally recognized in 1996 for his efforts to dismantle a large interstate drug trafficking organization. Jim is invaluable to our communities efforts to improve the lives of San Fernando Valley residents.

California Highway Patrol officer Brian Brown began assignment in the West Valley in 1998. Over the past five years, Officer Brown has served the Ventura Freeway corridor with bravery. This past January, Brian happened upon a serious accident involving a burning car that had left the roadway. Officer Brown made several attempts to free the driver from the perilous wreck. For his efforts, Brian has been rightly nominated for the Medal of Valor.

Los Angeles City Fire Fighter Edward Lee Teter has served Pacoima from Fire Station 98 since 1982. His engineering skills and leadership have been tremendous assets to the Fire Department and the East Valley. Ed has also volunteered his time and efforts to help rebuild an orphanage in Tijuana, Mexico. Mr. Teter mentors many firefighters in his station and was recently recognized as "Officer of the Year" for his unselfish service.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending these fine individuals on their exemplary work for San Fernando Valley residents. Each of them has set a standard for leadership and dedication we can all aspire to. It is my privilege to join the San Fernando Valley Bar Association in recognizing our wealth of outstanding police and fire officers.

EXPRESSING NEED FOR FURTHER ACTION BY FCC FOLLOWING TRIENNIAL REVIEW

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to the Federal Communications Commission's Triennial Review of the 1996 Telecommunications Act adopted over two months ago on February 20, 2003.

Today, the telecommunications industry waits for some certainty and clarity regarding these new rules adopted by the FCC. These rules, dealing with local telephone competition, have yet to be put to paper so that the affected companies can review the order and make business plans accordingly.

The telecommunications sector of our economy is hemorrhaging. Lost jobs, reduced capital investment and loss of investor confidence have affected nearly every company in this sector. The lack of clarity, as to these new rules, is prolonging this downward spiral.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Commission to act on this issue and do it as soon as possible. This sector is too important to be left on hold.

COMMENDING THE WE THE PEOPLE . . . THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION PROGRAM AND INCLINE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, On April 26–28, 2003 more than 1200 students from across the United States visited Washington, D.C. to compete in the national finals of the We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program, the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

I am proud to announce that for the second year in a row the class from Incline High School from Incline Village represented the State of Nevada in this national event. These young scholars worked diligently to reach the national finals for the second straight year and through their experience gained a deep knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy.

The 3-day national competition is modeled after hearings in the United States Congress. The hearings consist of oral presentations by high school students before a panel of adult judges on constitutional topics. The students' testimony is followed by a period of questioning by the judges who probe their depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge.

Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People . . . program has provided curricular materials at upper elementary, middle, and high school levels for more than 26.5 million students nationwide. The program provides students with a working knowledge of our Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the principles of democratic government.

Members of Congress and their staff enhance the program by discussing current constitutional issues with students and teachers and by participating in other educational activities.

It is inspiring to see these young people advocate the fundamental ideals of our government. It is important for our next generation to understand these values and principles which we hold as standards in our endeavor to preserve and realize the promise of our constitutional democracy.

In addition, I would like to recognize the commitment and support received from all of Incline Village, community organizations and parents. Individually, Bob Heilig, a community volunteer, has helped out a great deal with the students in the program. Judy Simpson, the State Coordinator of the program, and Daniel Wong, the district Coordinator of the Program have also contributed countless hours into making these students better citizens.

It is also important that we recognize the participants of this program individually. I would like to commend David Allison, Rochelle Comeaux, Ashley Hanna, Kristi Cole, David Gregory, Jonathan Shoop, Meghan Flanders, Daniel Herr, Danny St. John, Betsy McCann, Lee Rogers, Britt Van Hees, Elliot Becker, Ali Deroche, Jamie Ellsworth, Brooke Downey, Erin Myrmel, and Meredith Tiras for their hard work and tireless dedication.

The class from Incline High School diligently conducted research and prepared for their participation in the national competition. I again commend these young "constitutional experts" on their work for and commitment to the We the People . . . national finals. They represent the future leaders of our Nation.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS OWNERSHIP DIVERSIFICATION ACT OF 2003

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Telecommunications Ownership Diversification Act of 2003. This bill would level the playing field so that economically disadvantaged businesses owners could enter the telecommunications field. As you know, since the passage of the 1996 Telecommunications Act there has been an unprecedented growth in the Telecom sector, which has often been referred to as the telecommunications revolution. However, conspicuously absent from this revolution has been minority and economically disadvantaged business owners. They have in essence been left on the fringes of this telecommunications revolution. There are many factors attributed to this lack of participation but chief among them is the lack of capital. Because entry into the telecommunications field is extremely capital intensive, many deserving, well qualified small business owners have been denied entry into this vital sector because they lack access to the needed capital to compete with large companies.

My bill would remedy this problem by making minor changes to the existing tax code, so that individuals who are currently under-represented in the ownership of telecommunications would be able to compete on an equal footing with large companies. It would provide

sellers of telecommunications assets a tax deferral when those assets are bought for cash by certain small businesses. And it would provide investors an incentive to consider certain small businesses by providing a reduction in tax on gains from investing in these companies.

Former Chairman Kennard once eloquently stated that "ACCESS" is the civil rights of the 21st century. I believe the Telecommunications Ownership Diversification Act embodies the essence of this statement by making economically disadvantaged small business owners not only consumers of technology but also producers of technology. I hope that all my colleagues will join me in supporting this important initiative.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ROCCO BALDELLI

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize native Rhode Islander, Mr. Rocco Baldelli, of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, and his accomplishments during this past month of April. As a rookie this season, Rocco has demonstrated his baseball savvy and athleticism while drawing on experience from his outstanding high school career at the Bishop Hendricken High School. We hope that this achievement serves as an inspiration to Rhode Islanders of all ages.

The Devil Rays's 6th pick in the first round of the Major League Baseball draft, this centerfielder recently, on April 30th, hit his first home run in the major leagues against the Minnesota Twins. This day also marked a special occasion, as Rocco's fortieth home run set a record for the most runs hit by a rookie in the month of April. He now has a fantastic batting average of .364 with 40 hits, and 20 runs batted in. As the House Resolution from the Rhode Island General Assembly I've included notes, Rocco reminds spectators of a young Mickey Mantle, Joe DiMaggio, or Willie Mays. I congratulate Rocco on his spectacular achievements so far this season, and look forward to following his continued success.

[H. 6396: State of Rhode Island, in General Assembly, January Session, A.D. 2003]

HOUSE RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING NATIVE RHODE ISLANDER ROCCO BALDELLI FOR SETTING THE MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL RECORD FOR MOST HITS BY A ROOKIE IN THE MONTH OF APRIL

Introduced By: Representatives T Brien, Reilly, Menard, Laroche, and Murphy.

Date Introduced: May 1, 2003.

Referred To: House read and passed.

Whereas, Rocco Baldelli was a standout baseball player for Bishop Hendricken High and was the 6th player chosen in the first round of the Major League Baseball draft by Tampa Bay Devil Rays; and

Whereas, Rocco plays centerfield and his athleticism and baseball savvy reminds folks of a young Mickey Mantle, Joe DiMaggio or Willie Mays; and

Whereas, On April 30, 2003 Rocco not only hit his first Major League home run against the Minnesota Twins, but his home run also set the Major League Baseball record for most hits by a rookie in the month of April, with 40; and

Whereas Rocco broke the record of 39 previously held by Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki; and

Whereas Rocco, thus far in the season, has a spectacular batting average of .364, with 40 hits and 20 runs batted in; now, therefore be it

Resolved, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations hereby congratulates Rocco Baldelli for setting this new Major League Baseball record and wishes him a spectacular baseball career and future induction into the Major 16 League Baseball Hall of Fame.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NURSE EDUCATION PROMOTION ACT

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Nurses Week and honor the essential work that America's nurses do every day. It is important to raise public awareness of the value of nursing and to help educate the public about the vital roles nurses play in meeting the health care needs of the American people. Nurses constitute the nation's largest group of health care professionals. They serve in hospitals, nursing homes, schools, managed care facilities and community health centers, and their work is invaluable.

Unfortunately, fewer and fewer people are choosing nursing as a career. In recognition of National Nurses Week, I am pleased to join my friend and colleague Congressman ERNIE FLETCHER in introducing important legislation that helps address the nursing shortage by encouraging students to enter the profession. According to the General Accounting Office, between 1993 and 1996 enrollments at two-year associate nursing degree programs dropped 11 percent, while enrollments at three-year diploma programs dropped more than 40 percent. Between 1995 and 1998, enrollments at four-year bachelors programs dropped 19 percent. Even so, the demand for qualified nurses is increasing, and it will only grow as the baby boomers retire. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that more than one million new nurses will be needed by the year 2010.

This crisis threatens to compromise the quality of healthcare in this country. The Department of Health and Human Services reports that there is a "strong and consistent relationship" between nurse staffing and patient health. The GAO reports that between 2000 and 2030, the group of Americans who are 65 years of age and older will double. At the same time, the number of women between 25 and 54—the group that traditionally comprises most of the nursing workforce—is expected to remain the same. Mr. Speaker, today, more than ever before, we need nurses to care for our seniors. Unless we create incentives and opportunities for men and women to choose nursing as a career, this country will face a crisis in the next ten years.

To help address this problem, Congressman ERNIE FLETCHER and I are introducing the bipartisan Nurse Education Promotion Act. Our bill addresses the nursing shortage in a number of important ways. First, it establishes a competitive grant program for associate degree nursing schools to be used for nursing