

say that it is dead letter law, and at worst case it only bans some types of advertisements and commercial speech.

Unfortunately, we have no way of knowing whether the proponents of this provision are right about whether this provision will be interpreted very narrowly—as they claim—or very broadly. Either interpretation is possible, because the provision's scope is unclear. That is what makes this provision so dangerous. No one knows what it will do.

One problem is that no court has addressed this provision since the Supreme Court's decision in *Roe versus Wade*. In fact, the only Court decision directly addressing this ban on information about abortion was decided in 1915. Obviously, quite a lot has changed since then—most notably, the Supreme Court has held that abortion was a constitutionally protected right. What does this provision mean in a world where abortion is legal?

Would H.R. 1555 ban all discussion of abortion on the internet? Or, would it only apply to information about unlawful abortions, as the court in the 1915 held? And what, in 1996, does unlawful abortion mean? For example, abortion laws vary greatly from State to State. If a person receives information about abortion services that are legal in her State, but illegal in the State from which the information was sent, would she go to jail?

Would the provision only apply to advertisements and commercial speech, as some proponents claim? If it does, this provision potentially bars the providers of reproductive health services from having websites detailing the medical services they offer. This could also potentially bar many internet discussions of RU-486—discussions which could be described as facilitating the sale of a drug for use in producing abortions. Whatever its breadth, this provision—by limiting the information that women can get about abortion—puts the health of American women at direct risk.

Including this restriction on speech concerning the reproductive rights of Americans in the telecommunications reform bill—a bill that has nothing to do with abortion—will impede the reproductive rights of all American women. To bar all internet users from discussing abortion is outrageous. To bar any American from discussing a medical procedure flies in the face of every ideal that we hold dear as Americans.

Unfortunately, under parliamentary rules, I cannot offer an amendment to the conference

report to strike this provision. However, I have already begun discussions with many of my colleagues about working to have this provision repealed on a future technical corrections bill. Again, although I support this conference report, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in working to remove this ban on discussions about abortion on the internet. This high-technology gag rule must not stand.

HONORING THE 1996 FAIRFAX
COUNTY CHAMBER OF COM-
MERCE VALOR AWARD WINNERS

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 1996

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 1996 Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce Award Winners. On Thursday, February 15, 1996, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce will present the Annual Valor Awards at the McLean Hilton.

The Valor Awards honor public service officers who have demonstrated extreme self-sacrifice, personal bravery, and ingenuity in the performance of their duty. There are five categories: The Gold Medal of Valor, the Silver Medal of Valor, the Bronze Medal of Valor, the Certificate of Valor, the Life Saving Award.

The Valor Awards is a project of the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. This is the 18th year that these awards have been presented.

The Silver Medal of Valor is awarded in recognition of acts involving great personal risk.

The Silver Medal of Valor Award Winners for 1996 are: Sgt. J. Vincent Byrd, Detective Kenneth M. Pedigo, Detective Susan Lamar

The Bronze Medal of Valor is awarded in recognition of acts involving unusual risk beyond that which should be expected while performing the usual responsibilities of the member.

The Bronze Medal of Valor Award Winners for 1996 are: Detective Onzlow G. Williamson, Jr., Detective Beth A. Benham, 2d Lt. Richard H. Bearen, Sgt. Samuel J. Masiello, Police Officer 1st Class Bryan W. Holland, Police Officer 1st Class Robert D. Hill, 2d Lt. Frank J. Kitzerow, Capt. Michael LoMonaco, Sgt. Jef-

frey E. Powell, Master Police Officer James T. Stewart III, Police Officer 1st Class Rolland L. Watenpugh, Police Officer Aaron M. Kush, Police Officer 1st Class Stephen M. Needels, Police Officer Mark E. Royer, Firefighter Lawrence M. Braswell, Technician Michael A. Weldon

The Bronze Medal of Valor Unit Citation Award Winners for 1996 are: Master Police Officer Michael J. Brennan, Police Officer 1st Class Richard D. Carlton, Officer Chris C. Cochran, 2d Lt. Arthur J. Hurlock, Sgt. James Kellam, Police Officer 1st Class Steven R. Mattos, Master Police Officer Jackie L. Mitchem, Police Officer 1st Class Lee P. Northrop, Police Officer 1st Class Don C. Pierson, Police Officer 1st Class James M. Pollack, Lt. David Mr. Rohrer

The Certificate of Valor is awarded for acts that involve personal risk and/or demonstration of judgment, zeal, or ingenuity not normally involved in the performance of duties.

The Certificate of Valor Award Winners for 1996 are: Capt. Randall J. Kennedy, Firefighter Edward C. Lofties, Officer Timothy C. Benedict, Police Officer First Class Robert Egan, Sgt. Matthew W. Pifger, Master Police Officer Ralph R. Scott, Technician Edson Dewhurst, Jr.

The Lifesaving Award is awarded for acts taken in life-threatening situations where an individual's life is in jeopardy, either medically or physically.

The Lifesaving Award Winners for 1996 are: Detective Nancy G. Schaefer, Volunteer Firefighter Carl August Lief Ericson, Technician John H. Marlin, Firefighter William A. Sutphin, Jr., Master Technician Konrad A. Kurtz, Lt. Carlton G. Burkhammer, Firefighter George N. Pancione, Jr., Master Technician Michael J. Stone, Firefighter David D. Sweetland, Deputy Sheriff Kathleen A. Miller, Deputy Sheriff Sgt. Michael G. Dickerson, Deputy Sheriff Private First Class Melanie K. Sjurseth, Deputy Sheriff Cpl. John A. Craig, Deputy Sheriff Private First Class Barry V. Garlow, Deputy Sheriff Brian K. Harmon, Deputy Sheriff Alberto D. Pinto, Officer Edward K. Warren, Police Officer First Class Jarvis D. Lay, Public Safety Communications Assistant II Kimberly A. Wright

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in commending these fine citizens who are truly deserving of the title "hero."