

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