

Coordinator of the Passaic Community School, located at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School No. 6 on Hamilton Avenue in Passaic.

Ernestine has received numerous awards for her community involvement throughout her career, including accolades from the Passaic Board of Education and her achievements as the United Passaic Organization's "Adult Educator of the Year" in 1990. She holds membership with many associations, including the National Coalition of Title 1, Chapter 1 Parents Organization; assistant recording secretary for the New Jersey Association of Parent Coordinators; member of the Early Childhood Advisory Committee for the Passaic Board of Education; the Passaic Chapter of the NAACP; past membership on the Board of Directors of the YWCA; and is currently a nominee for the Board of Directors of the Community Substance Abuse Center in Passaic.

Ernestine is the mother of three children, all of whom attended Passaic Public Schools and are graduates of Passaic High School. Her fiancé, David Wyder of Passaic, is also employed by the Passaic Board of Education and coordinates the activities at the high school's media center.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, Ernestine's family and friends, and the City of Passaic in recognizing Ernestine Coley Francies' many outstanding and invaluable contributions to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION REGARDING HOUSE RESOLUTION 364

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 1998

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, on March 17, 1998 I was granted a leave of absence to be in Illinois for the state primary elections. If I were able to be present on that day, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall number 54 regarding the passage of H. Res. 364, a resolution urging the President to seek a United Nations resolution criticizing the human rights situation in the People's Republic of China.

WE NEED COMPETITION NOW, NOT LATER

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 1998

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, over two years ago the President signed into law the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which had been passed with bipartisan majorities in the both the House and Senate. Prior to its passage, my colleagues on the House Commerce Committee and I worked to draft a balanced bill that we hoped would lead to greater choice, better quality and lower prices for consumers by way of increased competition in the expanding telecommunications industry.

Unfortunately, this has not occurred. We have not seen a significant increase in competition for cable services, nor in the local and

long distance telephone industry. Instead, of competition, people in many areas of the country are seeing mergers on a massive scale, higher cable rates, and lawsuits filed by competitors seeking to enter the long distance market.

My constituents in Middle Tennessee tell me they want to reap the benefits of competition now, not later. The situation that exists now, with constant wrangling at the FCC and in the courts, only helps Washington lawyers and economists, not taxpayers. We need to end the stall-tactics and fingerprinting, and move forward with competition.

THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, small businesses are the lifeblood of the American economy, employing nearly 60 percent of America's work force. Small businesses, Mr. Speaker, constitute 98 percent of all businesses in America.

Yesterday, Congress took a major step toward ensuring that small businesses continue to thrive in America by passing H.R. 2864, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Compliance Assistance Authorization Act.

Mr. Speaker, small businesses in America are committed to health and safety in the workplace. Yet all too often, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has abandoned the concept of promoting workplace safety and instead concentrated its efforts on levying the most penalties and fines to as many businesses as possible.

Attacking our nation's small businesses not only hurts our economy and costs jobs, it does little to promote a healthier, safer work environment for America's workforce. H.R. 2864 reestablishes the partnership between small businesses and government and ensures that both can work cooperatively toward improving conditions in the workplace.

Mr. Speaker, well meaning business owners want to work with regulatory agencies, not simply fear them. I commend my colleagues for passing this legislation and protecting America's small businesses.

THE INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO BAN PAID "PRODUCT PLACEMENTS" FOR TOBACCO PRODUCTS IN MOTION PICTURES

HON. BILL LUTHER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 1998

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, on March 12, 1998, I introduced H.R. 3457, legislation that would ban paid "product placements" of tobacco products in motion pictures.

Last year a young constituent of mine, Alicia Sarrazin from Hastings, Minnesota wrote to

me asking that Congress do something to halt the glamorization of smoking in motion pictures. This 14-year-old girl argued that it wasn't just Joe Camel who was appealing to kids to start smoking but youthful performers like Wynona Ryder and Leonardo DiCaprio who use tobacco products so prominently in their motion pictures.

Alicia's letter resulted in my introduction of H. Con. Res. 184, a concurrent resolution calling on the motion picture industry to voluntarily refrain from glamorizing the use of tobacco in their productions. Since the introduction of H. Con. Res. 184, I've concluded that Congress can do more to stop the positive portrayal of tobacco products in entertainment productions by removing the financial incentive to do so.

Last year brand name cigarettes and their packaging were prominently featured in such major motion pictures as *My Best Friend's Wedding* and *Men in Black*. The motion picture industry is not required to disclose any paid product placement arrangements they've made with tobacco companies but there is evidence suggesting that significant sums are involved. One memo I have seen describes \$500,000 to be paid to a single performer to use a specific brand of tobacco products "in no less than five feature films."

The motion picture industry claims that the use of these paid placements has decreased recently and that there is a voluntary agreement among producers to refrain from making these kinds of financial arrangements. My hope is that this legislation will, at a minimum, encourage a more open discussion of this practice within the industry and bring more information about these paid placements to light.

I think that at this point there is no question that motion pictures and television do send a message to our youth and we need to do everything we can to make sure our children are not unnecessarily encouraged to smoke by the characters they see onscreen.

A ban on tobacco product placements was just one small segment of the marketing restrictions agreed upon in the 1997 proposed settlement between tobacco industry attorneys and 40 of the State attorneys general involved in this issue. As Congress continues to work this year toward comprehensive tobacco legislation, I think a ban on tobacco product placements is an important part of the discussion and must not be overlooked. Introducing a tobacco product placement ban in this fashion, as separate, stand-alone legislation, is meant to ensure we do not forget this proposal in the midst of the many other important issues we will likely be examining this year.

The legislation I am introducing today is quite simple and was precisely drafted to avoid infringing First Amendment rights or the creative processes of filmmaking. This legislation prohibits anyone from entering a paid contract to show tobacco products in a motion picture. My intention with this legislation is to take away the financial incentive for promotional appearances of tobacco.

Mr. Speaker, as we continue to work toward a comprehensive tobacco bill, I urge each of my colleagues to recognize the importance of combating popular culture encouragements to smoke, and I urge all Members of the House to join me in supporting this legislation.