

efforts of the people fighting against this discrimination.

ILLEGAL FOREIGN
CONTRIBUTIONS ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 30, 1998

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Illegal Foreign Contributions Act, H.R. 34.

This bill, if enacted, would ban contributions to federal election campaigns by legal permanent residents. I believe this would be a colossal mistake and a constitutional blunder. This bill would restrict the First Amendment free speech rights of Legal Permanent Residents. These residents are required to perform citizenship obligations, such as registering for the military draft and serving in the armed forces, but we would deny them the basic citizenship rights we require them to defend.

Consistently throughout federal constitutional law, Legal Permanent Residents have all First Amendment freedoms of full U.S. citizens. This has been consistently upheld by the federal courts and the Supreme Court. H.R. 34 would deliberately abridge and deny those rights in the name of campaigning finance reform. It would trample on the constitutional rights of hundreds of thousands of people without justification. The bill picks out a specific group of people and says we are going to prevent you from expressing your political views.

This bill is a gag of political expression in the disguise of campaign reform. The reality is that hard-working, tax-paying, military-serving individuals are being told they can have no say over who is elected to determine the policies that determines their fates and lives.

Mr. Speaker, I also fear that legislation that singles out specific groups of people for treatment different than that of citizens will lead us down a road to finding scapegoats when there are failings in our government and society. This is a dangerous precedent, and I urge my colleagues to think carefully before they cast their vote on H.R. 34, and to vote against this ill-conceived "reform".

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE, MORRISTOWN,
NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Neighborhood House in Morristown, New Jersey.

The Neighborhood House, known as the "Nabe" among its clients, began in 1898 as a one-room mission dedicated to easing the daily hardships of immigrant life among a growing number of Italian-American families in Morristown. The building housing the mission burned down in 1901, and activities were soon moved to a more spacious, donated home.

The larger accommodations allowed the mission to expand its work, and by 1908, then officially named the Neighborhood House, these activities included tutoring in English, providing help in finding affordable housing, and classes in music, carpentry, and crafts.

While continuing its community outreach with the opening of Morristown's first baby clinic in 1915, the Nabe was also instrumental in the development of several local non-profit organizations. These included such groups as the Urban League of Morris County, the Colonial Little Symphony and the New Jersey Choral Society. By the 1930's, the Neighborhood House expanded its work to accommodate newer immigrant groups that had settled in the Morristown area, and in 1936 there were 46,016 individuals affiliated with the House, a record number at that time.

In 1953, in response to concerns that the House's building was potentially unsafe due to overcrowding, more than \$200,000 was raised for a new building on the original lot. Construction of this building was completed in 1957, and additional renovations have included several new wings, which have vastly increased the space available for classes and other activities.

The Neighborhood House has been blessed with strong and caring leadership since its inception. From 1912 to 1938, the Neighborhood House was run by Aldus and Marie Antoinette Pierson, a couple deeply committed to the community, who oversaw much of the House's expansion in activities. Ten years after the Pierson's retirement in 1938, Carmeta Meade became the House's first African-American Executive Director. Mrs. Meade was among those who recognized the need for a new Neighborhood House building and in 1985, after serving the Neighborhood House for thirty-four years, retired with a sterling record of service.

The Neighborhood House is led today by Sam Singleton, who had been active as a young man for ten years before returning to become Executive Director in 1991. As Mr. Singleton lays the foundation for the Neighborhood House's continued success, ensuring, in his words, that "the Neighborhood House [becomes] a model of the community center of the future," I want to ask you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues to join with me in commemorating the Neighborhood House on this special anniversary year.

YOUTH TOBACCO POSSESSION
PREVENTION ACT OF 1998

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Youth Tobacco Possession Prevention Act of 1998. I did this because, as we consider the best way to reduce the youth smoking rate, we have neglected one of the most obvious and appropriate solutions—making tobacco possession by people under the age of 18 illegal.

It is estimated that 3,000 young people start smoking every day. Worse yet, one third, or 1,000, of these people will eventually die from tobacco related disease. Consider the emotional and financial strain these horrible situa-

tions will place on American families in the future. In response to this national crisis, the public health community, State attorneys general, the U.S. Congress and even the tobacco industry have proposed a variety of methods to reduce youth smoking rates.

Most of the proposals would spend money on counter advertising, tobacco cessation programs and tobacco education programs—all worthy and necessary components of comprehensive tobacco legislation. However, the leadership of the American government has been sending mixed signals to America's youth and nothing in the proposed settlement would change this.

Under current law, it is illegal to sell tobacco products to anyone under the age of 18 in all 50 States. However, if a person under the age of 18 is somehow able to obtain tobacco products—which, it is painfully clear, they are easily able to do—there are only a few States that have enacted laws regarding the possession of tobacco by these young people. I find it incredibly hypocritical that we, as a government (either Federal or State), are so willing to make buying tobacco illegal but are virtually silent on possessing tobacco.

Following the lead of my home State of Texas, I have introduced the Youth Tobacco Possession Prevention Act of 1998. This bill would encourage States to pass legislation making it illegal for a person under the age of 18 to possess tobacco.

There are two key components to this bill. First, in dealing with the youth, it focusses on education rather than punishment. For first and second time offenders, youth will be required to complete tobacco education and cessation programs, as well as tobacco related community service. If they continue to disregard the law and their health, their driver's license would be suspended from three to six months. This last resort was suggested during one of our Subcommittee hearings by a local teenager, who told the Commerce Health Subcommittee that kids would only respond to this type of approach.

Second, the bill would require States to enact stern punishments for people over the age of 18 who provide tobacco products to youth. At that same hearing, many of our teen witnesses admitted one of the primary sources of tobacco are older people who buy for teens. This is simply not acceptable. I believe every adult has the responsibility and moral obligation to do whatever we can to prevent our nation's youth from starting this deadly habit.

Unlike many proposals, this bill will not punish States who choose not to enact the outlined legislation. It will, however, reward those States which act responsibly and do. Each State that passes the provisions outlined in this bill will receive 5 additional points on their Health and Human Services competitive public health service grant applications. This incentive will hopefully encourage States to take action and do the right thing.

A PROCLAMATION CONGRATULATING
THE IRANIAN WRESTLING
TEAM

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues: