

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE TEEN TOBACCO USE PREVENTION ACT OF 1998

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 1998

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation that I am introducing to address a very serious and growing problem in this country—tobacco use by our youth. I have long been concerned about the increasing number of teens—and increasingly younger teens—who start smoking every year. Every day, 3,000 teens begin smoking. Teenagers typically begin to smoke at 14½ and become daily smokers before age 18. We know that if individuals do not start smoking as teenagers, they will probably never smoke. For many thousands of Americans, discouraging teens from tobacco use and making it much more difficult for them to purchase tobacco products is literally a matter of life and death.

That is why I am introducing the “Teen Tobacco Use Prevention Act of 1998.” This legislation amends the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to keep tobacco products out of the hands of our nation’s children, strengthen warning labels, and restrict tobacco product advertisements. Specifically, the legislation includes the following provisions:

1. Content and warning labels. Requires more complete product constituent labeling and increases the number, prominence, and strength of tobacco product warning labels on packages and print ads. Includes the requirement that the FDA promulgate a rule governing the testing, reporting, and disclosure of tobacco smoke constituents that the Agency determines the public should be informed of to protect public health. Prohibits the advertising of cigarettes and little cigars on media subject to FCC jurisdiction.

2. Statement of intended use. Requires manufacturers, distributors, and retailer advertising of tobacco products to include, after the product name, a statement of intended use as specified in the bill. For cigarettes, for example, the intended use statement is: “Cigarettes—A Dangerous Tobacco Product Intended For Use Only By Persons 18 or Older.”

3. Vending machine sales. Prohibits the sale of cigarettes or smokeless tobacco products from vending machines, except in those locations in which the retailer or operator ensures that no person younger than 18 years of age is present or permitted to enter at any time. Includes a provision requiring the FDA to monitor compliance with the vending provisions for two years and to propose additional restrictions if there is evidence that young people are continuing to purchase tobacco products from vending machines.

4. Minimum age. Prohibits the sale or distribution of tobacco products to anyone younger than 18 years of age. Permits states to set

a higher age. Requires retailers to verify that purchasers are 18 or older by checking identification that includes the bearer’s date of birth and photograph for anyone 26 years of age or younger. Includes civil monetary penalties for the sale of tobacco products to minors. For the first offense, the FDA will send a letter to the violator describing the law, describing the violation, and describing the potential liability facing the retailer for subsequent violations. For the second violation, the penalty shall be \$250. For the third, \$500. The penalty will double in size for each subsequent violation.

5. Enforcement. States are required to strictly enforce restrictions on sales to minors and report annually on their progress in reducing such sales and the strategies they are or will be using. States are required to conduct random, unannounced inspections to ensure compliance. If states fail to comply, the Secretary is authorized to reduce their Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment allotments.

6. Individual cigarettes and packages of less than 20. Prohibits sales or distribution of either.

7. Sampling. Prohibits.

8. Distribution through the mail. Prohibits the distribution of tobacco products through the mail, except for mail order sales subject to proof of age requirements. Manufacturers or others who wish to distribute tobacco products through the mail must first file with the Secretary of HHS for approval of the system they will use to ensure that these products will go only to persons 18 years of age or older. The Secretary will review these sales after two years to determine whether minors are obtaining tobacco products through the mail. Imposes the same penalties as those imposed for sales to minors.

9. Tobacco product use reduction targets. Requires the Secretary of HHS to establish a benchmark rate of current tobacco use by children and adolescents, measure youth tobacco product use annually, and report this information to Congress three years from the date of enactment, together with recommendations for additional recommendations if rates are not substantially declining (declining at a rate that would produce a 35 percent or greater reduction in the rate of youth tobacco use five years from the date of enactment; at least 50 percent by the seventh year; and at least 80 percent by the tenth year).

10. Effective Date. January 1, 1999.

Mr. Speaker, I am introducing this legislation because I believe that reducing teens’ access to tobacco products and desire to use them must be at the heart of any tobacco initiatives we consider this year. I am very open to suggestions for improvements in the legislation I am introducing today, and I am most interested in working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass meaningful tobacco control and reform legislation in this session of Congress.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 1998

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today was to be the day that the House of Representatives was to debate campaign finance reform, but we are not. The leadership of the House has broken another promise to the people of this nation. It is time to allow a vote on this important issue.

In an election this last Tuesday in Nebraska the voters rejected the candidate who ran a negative campaign, in support of the candidate who ran a positive issue oriented campaign. Hopefully the voters around the nation will reject these negative campaigns in favor of honest open discussion of the issues. We can help the process by reforming our campaign finance system. That won’t happen if we are never allowed a vote on the floor of the House.

I hope that next week the leadership finally keeps it’s word and allows a vote on campaign finance reform. The people of this nation are hungry for clean campaigns and clean elections and it is our responsibility to pass campaign finance reform now.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ADMINISTRATION’S WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1998

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 1998

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today I’m pleased to introduce by request the administration’s Water Resources Development Act of 1998 (or WRDA 98). The proposed constitutes the Department of the Army’s Civil Works legislative program for the Second Session of the 105th Congress.

The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee works very closely with the administration, particularly the Army Corps of Engineers and the office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), to ensure that the Nation’s largest water resources program is effective and responsive to current and future needs. The Committee welcomes the transmittal of this proposal to Congress as a sign of good faith and genuine interest in facilitating the enactment of a WRDA 98 before the year’s end.

The Committee has held three hearings on proposals for a WRDA 98. We intend to look very closely at the administration’s bill, request from our Congressional colleagues, and recommendations from public witnesses and other interested parties. The intent is then to introduce and move through the Committee a bipartisan, widely supported bill.

The administration’s bill, which we introduce by request today, has numerous provisions

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