

NAACP, a life member of the National Council of Negro Women, a member of Lansing Association Women's Clubhouse, and Valiant Lady Church Women United. She is a long-time member of Trinity AME, and was a Sunday school teacher for many years, and worked with the Old Newsboys, an organization that raised money to give shoes and boots to hundreds of needy children. Mrs. Brown continues to volunteer at Sparrow Hospital's surgical wing where she has been a cheerful and dependable fixture for almost 15 years. And, Mrs. Brown, in all of her years of voting in public elections, has missed only 4 votes, and all of those were missed for family emergencies.

Mrs. Brown has been married to her husband Robert Brown for 68 years and is the mother of 8 children, 19 grandchildren, and 24 great-grandchildren.

Our community has been enriched by the contributions of these selfless volunteers. As we gather on Saturday, many generations of Lansing residents, we will celebrate our community role models, Mrs. Grace L. Demps, Mrs. Geri Roossien, and Mrs. Georgia Brown.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NAOMI
LAUTER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, a young nation with a long and honorable history, Israel has been a symbol of hope and a land of opportunity for millions of Jews throughout the world. Surviving six wars, constant terrorism, and severe economic boycotts, Israel's 600,000 citizens have shown the world what it means to be committed to one's homeland. And like Israel, Naomi Lauter's independence, determination and strength have helped to build AIPAC into the leading organization for Jewish concerns.

I would like to congratulate Naomi Lauter on 16 years of incredible leadership as the Western Regional Director of AIPAC. Naomi's commitment to AIPAC and her vision has been unwavering and inspiring for all those who have worked with her.

The Jewish community has been served well by Naomi's spirit, innovation and devotion to Israel and pro-Israel legislation. Naomi has helped build AIPAC into what it has become in the Pacific Northwest, focused, effective, and powerful. We are all grateful for her for the work she has accomplished during her years of involvement with AIPAC.

And we look forward to her involvement for years to come. While Naomi is leaving as the Regional Director, we should all be grateful that she is not leaving AIPAC altogether. Becoming its National Consultant, AIPAC is fortunate to be able to rely on her insight and institutional knowledge of this great organization.

Every Jewish American can take pride in her dedication to bringing together persons of any political persuasions to sit up and take notice for Jewish and pro-Jewish communities.

Thank you Naomi for your service to AIPAC. We are thankful for your work, and look forward to a continuing friendship and wish you a successful future.

AS GAMBLING SPREADS
THROUGHOUT THE STATES SO
DOES GAMBLING ADDICTION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, as the 105th Congress prepares to adjourn, I want to bring to the attention of our colleagues an important issue which, unfortunately, hasn't seemed to register with many of America's leaders. But it's one that needs our focused attention, and that's gambling.

Twenty years ago, if you wanted to gamble you had to go to Atlantic City or Las Vegas. But today, gambling has spread in one form or another to most of the 50 States. There are only two States which have completely banned gambling, and that's Utah and Hawaii.

One reason for the incredible rate at which gambling is spreading is through the proliferation of gambling casinos in many States. I certainly respect Native American Indians, but I'm really concerned about the number of gambling establishments on tribal lands.

For those of us who say we really care about Native Americans, we need to show our concern about what gambling is doing to them. A new University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research study found that Native Americans in Montana have a compulsive gambling rate that is double the rate of other adults in the State. My point is that as gambling spreads throughout the States, so does gambling addiction. Montana is just one State that has a real battle on its hands. The Montana study found that 78 percent of Montanans gamble, and that figure is regardless of income, education, age, sex, and marital status. Compulsive gambling rates are on the increase, the study also said, up from 2.2 percent of the adult population six years ago to 3.6 percent now.

First, gambling is corrupting the political process. I have mentioned before my concern about the incredible amounts of money the gambling interests are pouring into the political process. Both sides are taking the money—Republicans and Democrats. And we are reading news reports more frequently than ever about one government official after another being investigated for gambling-related corruption, from an ex-governor and his son to even a member of the President's cabinet.

Second, it's hurting local businesses. People only have so many extra dollars to spend on food and entertainment. If they're spending their disposable income at the new casino in town, that's money that the local restaurant doesn't get, or the movie theater, or local retailers. Local business is being cannibalized by the casinos. Mom and pop restaurants can't compete with the discounted and even free meal deals at the gambling operations.

Another thing that happens when gambling comes to town is that crime goes up. The U.S. Treasury Department has been increasingly concerned at the way casinos attract criminal elements and suspicious activity, especially money-laundering and has proposed new regulations that would require casinos and card clubs to report to Treasury any suspicious transactions of \$3,000 or more. Of course, the casinos are fighting these regulations tooth and nail. But the fact is, a cash-heavy criminal

can find a safe haven in a casino. Drug dealers, armed robbers, embezzlers—these kind of people can walk in, buy a few thousand dollars worth of chips, then turn them in for a casino check later that night and can go relatively unnoticed.

Just a few months ago, four employees at some casinos in Atlantic City were arrested in a sting operation as they allowed undercover agents to launder more than \$400,000 in what they allegedly believed was drug money. So the Treasury Department is concerned for good reason.

But crime is not the only issue. We are in a period of record bankruptcies all across the country, so much so that we had to appropriate money to pay for more bankruptcy judges. Studies have shown a significant link between gambling and bankruptcy, even geographically. Where there are more gambling facilities, there are more bankruptcies. This is an issue that must be addressed. It is out of control. Just the other day, a federal judge in Memphis said that because a woman had a gambling addiction problem, she didn't have to pay back the \$8,200 in gambling debts she ran up on her credit card just before she filed for bankruptcy. Is there any doubt that the gambling issue must be addressed if we're talking about bankruptcy reform?

But not only bankruptcies increase when gambling comes in. Tragically, so do suicides. The American Association of Suicidology published the study "Elevated Suicide Levels Associated with Legalized Gambling" in the Winter 1997 issue of its journal *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*. The study, which was conducted by Dr. David P. Phillips of the University of California at San Diego, found that there is a link between gambling and suicide.

Las Vegas, the premier U.S. gambling setting, displays the highest levels of suicide in the nation, both for residents of Las Vegas and for visitors to that setting,

the study said.

In general, visitors to and residents of major gaming communities experience significantly elevated suicide levels. In Atlantic City, abnormally high suicide levels for visitors and residents appeared only after gambling settings were opened. The findings do not seem to result merely because gaming settings attract suicidal individuals.

But how do people get to the point where they're ready to take their own lives? It can actually start at a very young age. We're seeing and hearing more and more these days about how gambling is hurting young people. And by "young," I'm talking about small children. Some critics, including Ed Looney, executive director of the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey, say that amusement arcades teach children that gambling is okay, and that it opens the door for later problems.

According to an article last month in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, gambling cities such as Las Vegas have tried to fashion themselves into "family-friendly" entertainment by providing casino arcades. But most of the games in the arcades, the article says, are gambling devices. The biggest difference between what's happening to the parents on the casino floor and what's happening to the kids in the casino arcades, the article says, is that "the kids are ripped off even more than the adults."

"These are not pinball machines or video games to afford entertainment time for the