

remind us that billboards are a significant medium of communication. We know that billboards promote brands, sell products, and direct motorists to roadway services. But outdoor advertising is also an important forum for non-commercial speech, helping law enforcement and non-profit groups such as the American Red Cross.

We are just a year past the 40th anniversary of the Highway Beautification Act—an appropriate occasion to make note of the evolving contribution of billboards, now adding community service: supporting public safety and security by reviving a proven, effective idea from our past: the “wanted” poster.

HONORING THE ALEXANDRIA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce for its 100 years of outstanding and dedicated service to the community. The Chamber was established for the purpose of making Alexandria, Virginia, a better place to work and live, and, for 100 years, it has done just that.

In its early years, the Chamber of Commerce fought for the rights and well-being of farmers, ranchers, and the poor, and helped raise money for the Red Cross to assist in the inoculation of residents against typhoid and small pox.

In 1918, the Chamber campaigned to change the city's form of government from a trustee and aldermen system to one run by elected officials and a professional city manager, and in just 3 years, it was successful in obtaining the change. The Chamber has also worked to develop strong leaders in Alexandria, most recently with its Leadership Alexandria program that provides upcoming community leaders with a thorough understanding of the city and the most critical challenges it faces.

Over the years, the Chamber of Commerce has worked tirelessly to promote the city's education system. In 1914, the Chamber successfully petitioned for a new high school. Through its Alexandria Education Partnership, many businesses and professional groups in the city support a wide variety of activities that assist the city's schools and students. And since 1966, the Chamber has sponsored an annual Summer Economic Institute that has provided Alexandria teenagers with a unique internship experiences in the business and financial sectors.

I am proud of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce and the significant contributions it has made over the last 100 years to making the City of Alexandria the wonderful place it is to both work and live. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Chamber on its anniversary and to wish the organization and its members all the best in their future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to congratulate the trustees, faculty and students of the San Bernardino Valley College as they celebrate the 80th anniversary of the founding of this vital education provider in my home town of San Bernardino, California.

Beginning with 140 students at two high school campuses in 1926, San Bernardino Valley Community College has grown into a district with two modern campuses and thousands of students. It has served more than 700,000 students over the past 80 years.

Valley College, as it was known when I was growing up in San Bernardino, has long been a pillar of the local educational community—and for some time was our only public institution for higher education. We now have California State University San Bernardino and nearby University of California, Riverside. But because of its range of programs, Valley College is still the destination of choice for many students.

The college's low cost and dedication to helping students of all economic backgrounds has made Valley College's student body one of the most diverse in the Nation. Its graduates go on to complete four-year degrees at top universities, and provide the skilled labor for the area's rapidly growing economy.

I have been proud over the years to have supported Valley College's efforts to improve its campus and programs. With the help of earthquake mitigation funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the college has completely remade its central facilities, tearing down main buildings and replacing them with a new library, Health and Human Sciences Building, administration and student services building and the newest addition—a 37,000-square-foot Campus Center. A new art building with a modern gallery is set to open next year.

Valley College is also home to one of the few broadcast television operations in the Inland Empire—its public-television station KVCR. I have been pleased to work with the district to secure funding to upgrade these facilities to meet new high-definition requirements. This station and its related public radio station provide tremendous access to the airwaves for the diverse student body, which makes this a top asset for the community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in offering congratulations to the trustees, administration, faculty and students of this important institution, and offering our best wishes for the future success of the district and those who make it such a success.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO NEVADA HIGHWAY PATROL OFFICER BOBBY KINTZEL

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nevada Highway Patrol Officer Bobby Kintzel, whose story of perseverance and discipline should serve as an example to us all.

On April 21, 2001, Bobby Kintzel, a Gulf War U.S. Marine veteran, was laying a tire strip on U.S. Highway 95 to puncture the tires of a stolen sports utility vehicle. The driver avoided the strip and purposely targeted Bobby, leaving him maimed and tragically killing a woman. Bobby suffered numerous injuries and was immediately air-lifted to University Medical Center. He stayed in the hospital for a year and underwent various surgeries. The weekly rehabilitation exercises became a personal test for Bobby, and all the while he kept in mind three words: adapt, improvise, overcome, a personal motto Bobby learned while in the Marine Corp. After he was released from the hospital, he lived in a rehabilitation facility and underwent occupational therapy and learned computer software. These days, the 35-year-old is still battling to recover, but he has come a long way.

Still employed by the Nevada Highway Patrol, he works in an office, using the skills he learned during his occupational therapy. He also gives back to the community that gave him an outpouring of support immediately following his injuries. Bobby has spoken at high school assemblies, at Nellis Air Force Base, at a juvenile detention center and, on every third Wednesday of the month at the Clark County Library, to those who have DUI convictions. Bobby also mentors a Las Vegas hockey team made up of 15- to 18-year-olds.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Nevada Highway Patrol Officer Bobby Kintzel. His long and challenging recovery is truly a story of discipline and determination. I wish him the best with his continuing recovery.

HONORING MR. W.F. “BILL”
WELLMAN

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to honor my good friend Mr. W.F. “Bill” Wellman for his illustrious career and innumerable contributions to his native Northwest Indiana community. With a life of such diverse experiences and a career that has taken countless turns, it is hard to sum up the life of Bill Wellman without the word “entertainer.” I am proud to call Bill a friend, and I am pleased to have the opportunity to congratulate him on his new autobiography, “It's Made to Sell—Not to Drink!” I am truly impressed by this self-published work that covers a fascinating life of eight decades.

Bill was born in LaPorte, Indiana, and his career has taken him around the world. He grew up learning the service industry from his father, Guy Wellman, Sr., who opened a bar

in Valparaiso, Indiana after earning a worthy reputation during Prohibition. Bill tended bar and learned many life lessons from his father and their patrons. In fact, his book's title, "It's Made to Sell—Not to Drink!" is in reference to the libations served at "The Club." As a young man, Bill joined the United States Marine Corps, where he served during World War II. Both his Hoosier boyhood and military exploits are featured prominently in his autobiography as important formative influences on his life.

Fortunately, Bill's strong Hoosier roots brought him back, where his career has flourished in the hospitality industry. After World War II, Bill set his sights on the Valparaiso area, where he helped establish The Corral bar in 1948 and Wellman's Restaurant in 1958, to which he later added a bowling alley. Subsequently, his stewardship over the Holiday Inn in Valparaiso led to an expansion that included a restaurant and outdoor theater, which came to be known as the Bridge VU. Here, Bill hosted such stars as Dolly Parton, The Oak Ridge Boys, Victor Borge, Duke Ellington, and many others. It was this venture that inspired his signature project, the 3,400 seat Star Plaza Theater, which remains today as a prominent entertainment complex and tourist attraction in Merrillville, Indiana.

While Bill's numerous business ventures have provided quality entertainment, award-winning food, and many jobs for those in Northwest Indiana, he has gone further than most to make the region a more attractive destination. Bill is one of the original founders and a Past President of the Northwest Indiana Tourism Council, and is a Past President of the Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau. In 1986, he was named the Indiana Ambassador of Tourism, and for many years he served as President of the Indiana Travel and Tourism Association. It is through Bill's service to these and other organizations that Northwest Indiana truly benefits from his wealth of knowledge.

At age 82, Bill maintains a busy schedule, giving back to his community through various local organizations and holding a demanding post as Senior Vice President of Communications for Whiteco Industries, where he has worked since 1976. In fact, his early years at Whiteco were devoted to design and development of the Star Plaza Theater, which his firm now owns and manages. A testament to his work ethic and passion, Bill has shrugged off retirement and relishes each day at work. However, Bill's most enjoyable time is spent with his wife, three children, and five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Wellman's eye for entertainment has added a spark to the lives of thousands of Hoosiers and visitors from around the United States. His commitment to improving the quality of life for the people of the First Congressional District of Indiana should be recognized and celebrated. At this time, I ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in commending my friend, Bill Wellman, for his lifetime of enthusiastic service to Northwest Indiana.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HEALTH CARE PRICE TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2006

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, we currently have a health care system that is badly in need of reform. However, in the tangled mess of medical bureaucracy, no one has a clear picture of the problem. Physicians and other providers don't get paid enough, patients pay too much, many people don't get any care at all, and everyone claims that someone else needs to change. Before we start changing things, though, it seems prudent to understand the problem fully. Today, I have introduced legislation with that goal in mind. This is a first step toward true price transparency in the health care market.

The Health Care Price Transparency Act of 2006 is a long-term solution to runaway medical costs. This bill calls upon the States to establish and maintain laws requiring disclosure of information on hospital charges, to make such information available to the public, and to provide individuals with information about estimated out-of-pocket costs for health care services. This means that State law will require health insurance providers to give patients an actual dollar estimate of what the patient must pay for health care items and services within a specified period of time.

Additionally, the bill calls for research on: (1) The types of cost information that individuals find useful in making decisions regarding healthcare; (2) how this useful information varies according to an individual's health insurance coverage, and if so, by what type of coverage they have; and (3) ways that this information may be distributed in a timely and simple manner.

These are simple but important provisions. The current health insurance system has insulated people from the actual cost of the medical care they receive. By pulling back the curtain on opaque areas of the health care market, over time, this legislation will lead to the development of a more rational pricing structure from the consumer's perspective. Once we understand the actual cost, then we can begin to make effective changes leading to fair physician reimbursement, appropriate patient billing, and better medical services.

In August, President Bush issued an executive order calling for increased transparency within the Federal Government's health care agencies. This legislation is an extension of that executive order, giving States the tools to become part of a necessary solution for health care consumers.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE FOR H.R. 2965

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of floor consideration of H.R. 2965, the "Federal Prison Industries Competition in Contracting Act of 2006," the Committee on

the Judiciary sets forth, with respect to the bill H.R. 2965, the following estimate and comparison prepared by the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. This cost estimate is in addition to the one set forth by the Committee in H. Rept. 109–591.

H.R. 2965—Federal Prison Industries Competition in Contracting Act of 2006

Summary: H.R. 2965 would amend the laws that authorize the Federal Prison Industries (FPI), a government-owned corporation that produces goods and services for the federal government with prison labor. Under current law, most federal agencies are required to award purchase contracts to FPI on a non-competitive basis if FPI has products available to meet the agencies' needs and the cost would not exceed current market prices. Such products include office furniture, textiles, vehicle tags, and fiber optics. Under H.R. 2965, this requirement to award non-competitive purchase contracts to FPI would be phased out over the 2007–2012 period.

The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$357 million over the 2007–2011 period for new FPI programs. In addition, CBO expects that additional amounts would be needed to pay for security costs at federal prisons. Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2965 would cost \$445 million over the 2007–2011 period. Federal agencies might be able to purchase some goods and services less expensively because of the added contracting flexibility the bill would provide, but CBO has no basis for estimating such savings. The bill would have no significant effect on net direct spending by FPI, CBO estimates.

H.R. 2965 contains an intergovernmental mandate as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA), but CBO estimates that the cost to state, local, and tribal governments for complying with this mandate would be insignificant and well below the threshold established in the act (\$64 million in 2006, adjusted for inflation). The bill contains no new private-sector mandates.

Estimated cost to the Federal Government: The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 2965 is shown in the following table. The cost of this legislation falls within budget function 750 (administration of justice).

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Enhanced Vocational Assessment and Training:					
Authorization Level	0	75	75	75	75
Estimated Outlays	0	66	75	75	75
FPI Public Service and Donation Programs:					
Authorization Level	0	12	12	12	12
Estimated Outlays	0	12	12	12	12
Cognitive Abilities Assessment Demonstration Program:					
Authorization Level	0	3	3	3	0
Estimated Outlays	0	2	3	3	1
Additional Security Costs:					
Estimated Authorization Level ...	4	5	21	32	38
Estimated Outlays	4	5	20	31	37
Total Changes:					
Estimated Authorization Level ...	4	95	111	122	125
Estimated Outlays	4	85	110	121	125

Basis of estimate: CBO assumes that the proposed legislation will be enacted near the beginning of fiscal year 2007 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated for each year. We estimate that implementing the programs specifically authorized by H.R. 2965 would cost \$348 million over the 2007–2011 period. In addition, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2965 would cost the Bureau of Prisons \$4 million in 2007 and nearly \$100 million over the 2007–2011 period for additional security officers to supervise inmates