

Finally, H.R. 1562 would require that the Government Accountability Office submit a report on the allocation and use of these tax incentives in the GO Zone to the Committee on Ways and Means and no later than one year after the date of enactment. I urge passage of H.R. 1562, a common sense bill that brings much relief to the Gulf Region.

PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION BAN
ACT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, yesterday's decision by the Supreme Court to uphold the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act threatens a woman's right to make her own choices about abortion and consequently choices pertaining to her own body. By upholding the first ever federal abortion ban the Supreme Court has brought us dangerously close to allowing politicians to make decisions regarding the control a woman is allowed over her own body.

The Court has, for the first time since its original ruling in 1973 establishing a woman's right to an abortion, showed no consideration for the health and safety of a woman. The decision is contrary to that of six other federal courts throughout the country. This decision disallows exceptions to be made in instances where a woman's health is at risk. In circumstances where the banned procedure is the safest for the health of the female patient, doctors will be powerless, except under threat of a two year criminal penalty, to do the right thing for their patient. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, representing ninety percent of these medical officials, agrees that the ban causes interference in medical decision making and is detrimental to women's health.

The Court's decision forces us to look at where our society really is in respect to the rights and equality of women. How can we, in good conscience, tell the young women of today that they are equal and able to accomplish their dreams if at the same time society is seeking to control their actions and make decisions with regard to their own bodies? I empathize with the frustration that women around the country are feeling today; I realize the greater restrictive implications implied by the Court's ruling.

I imagine that a woman's decision to have an abortion, under any circumstances, must be one of the most difficult she will make in her life. It is a very private, very personal decision that is to be made by her and may include the support of family, friends and medical professionals. It is not a decision that is made lightly or without consequence. Today's decision has perilously hindered a woman's privacy and safety by allowing politics to interfere in medical decisions.

We must end the divisiveness that surrounds the issue of abortion so that we may begin the long overdue healing process. We must work to limit the need for abortions while at the same time ensuring safety. Access to prenatal and postnatal care through expanded Medicare coverage will be an important component as well as a living wage. I will maintain

my support for social programs, and maternal and child nutrition programs to strengthen vulnerable families. I will continue to stand behind programs that teach sex education, domestic family planning and promote the use of contraception.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND
IDEALS OF FINANCIAL LITERACY
MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2007

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letters regarding H. Res. 273, "Supporting the Goals and Ideals of Financial Literacy Month."

COUNTRYWIDE,

Calabasas, CA, April 12, 2007.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. JUDY BIGGERT,
House of Representatives, Longworth House Of-
fice Building, Washington, DC.

Re: Support for H. Res. 273.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HINOJOSA AND CONGRESSWOMAN BIGGERT: On behalf of Countrywide Financial Corporation I want to commend you and your colleagues in the House Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus for the introduction of H. Res. 273, which supports the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month.

Founded in 1969 on the belief that all Americans should have the opportunity to own a home, Countrywide has become the largest home mortgage lender in the nation and a leader in providing home loans to first-time buyers, minorities and low- and moderate-income families. Today, Countrywide has grown to more than 54,000 employees with 900 retail offices nationwide. We at Countrywide share the sentiments and concerns expressed in H. Res. 273, and we strongly support the goal of improving the quality and reach of financial education in America, particularly to lower- and moderate-income individuals and families.

To that end, in conjunction with Financial Literacy Month Countrywide has launched its Home Ownership Mortgage Education (H.O.M.E.) program. The H.O.M.E. program is a comprehensive online reference tool, available at www.HomeBvCountrywide.com, providing consumers with information on all aspects of homeownership, from basic personal finance to life as a homeowner. By offering this financial and homebuyer education program, Countrywide supports consumers' ability to make well-informed financial decisions as they pursue the dream of homeownership.

The H.O.M.E. program is a further extension of Countrywide's founding mission and one of several education initiatives that Countrywide supports. In January 2005, Countrywide announced a \$1 million, five-year commitment to the U.S. Conference of Mayors' DollarWise Campaign. As a founding sponsor of the campaign, Countrywide supports Capacity Grants, a component of the campaign that makes grants to cities that are developing or expanding local financial education strategies for consumers. More than 100 cities now conduct local DollarWise campaigns and Capacity Grants have been awarded to the following cities: Pleasanton (CA), Quincy (IL), Bowling Green (KY), Quad Cities (IL, IA), Detroit, Savannah and Miami.

Again, I want to express my personal support and that of our employees for H. Res. 273, and for the goals and ideals of the House Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus.

Sincerely,

ANGELO R. MOZILO,
Chairman and CEO.

STATE FARM INSURANCE COMPANIES,
Bloomington, IL, April 12, 2007.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
Rayburn House Office Building, House of Rep-
resentatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. JUDY BIGGERT,
Longworth House Office Building, House of
Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES HINOJOSA AND BIGGERT: As a leader in insurance and financial services, State Farm® strongly supports H Res. 273. This resolution in support of the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month clearly illustrates the need for increased efforts to build financial and economic literacy in the United States, especially among young people.

State Farm is committed to promoting financial literacy among Americans of all ages. In 2006, State Farm contributed more than \$1.3 million dollars to financial literacy programs; and, in 2007, we will contribute nearly \$2 million. Our contributions target the issue of financial literacy in many ways, from grassroots efforts that are led by youth, to training aimed at teacher education, to content designed for adults.

On behalf of State Farm, I congratulate you both on your continued leadership of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus. Your commitment to promoting the importance of financial literacy through events like the upcoming Financial Literacy Day on the Hill benefits not only your constituents, but thousands of other Americans seeking access to higher education, homeownership, retirement savings, and other fundamental financial goals.

We look forward to a continued relationship with you as we work to address this very important issue. If State Farm can serve as a resource to you or the Caucus, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL A. FERNANDEZ,
Vice President, Public Affairs.

CONSUMER MORTGAGE COALITION,
Washington, DC, April 15, 2007.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. Judy Biggert,
House of Representatives,
Longworth House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES HINOJOSA AND BIGGERT: The Consumer Mortgage Coalition, a trade association of national mortgage lenders, servicers, and service providers, strongly endorses the bi-partisan Congressional resolution, H.R. 273, supporting April as "Financial Literacy Month". We applaud and thank you and all of the cosponsors of this resolution for your efforts to both raise awareness about the critical need for financial education in the United States and encourage the government and the private sector to work towards our common goal on this issue.

Our nation's finance system offers access to capital and mortgage credit to consumers of almost every economic condition. This has contributed significantly to raising our nation's homeownership rate to the highest in history. Homeownership remains the fundamental first step towards an individual's ability to accumulate personal wealth, as