

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 1998*

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 24, 1998, I was present on the House floor during rollcall vote No. 264—final passage of H.R. 4104, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1999. To my knowledge, I voted on final passage of H.R. 4104. Apparently, my vote was not recorded. Had my vote been recorded, it would have been “aye.”

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE  
SANTA MARIA LAWN BOWLING  
CLUB**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 1998*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues the 20th anniversary of the Santa Maria Lawn Bowling Club. The club, which was established in 1978 with a grant from the Joslyn Foundation, brings together old and young residents of the Central Coast, allows them to participate in one of the oldest known sports.

The Santa Maria Lawn Bowling Club has more than 100 members and participates in intra club tournaments with neighboring lawn bowling clubs. It has succeeded in popularizing the sport of lawn bowling in Santa Maria, and has enriched the quality of life of this special community.

I ask my colleagues to join with me, the county of Santa Barbara, and the city of Santa Maria in commending the Santa Maria Lawn Bowling Club on its 20th anniversary.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 1998*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 22, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes 252–256. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on all of them.

## MINORITY TOBACCO LEGISLATION

**HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 1998*

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues today in introducing tobacco legislation which addresses many of the concerns of the minority communities.

As Chairman of the Health Task Force of the Hispanic Caucus and Vice Chairman of the Congressional Asian Pacific American

Caucus, I have been working with a number of public health advocates to develop a proposal by which affected communities would benefit from public health services provided by organizations that have long served minority populations in tobacco-related activities.

There is no doubt that minorities have been targets by the tobacco industry. The effects of tobacco-related illnesses suffered by minorities are well documented in the April 1998 report of the Surgeon General of the United States. Unfortunately, the Surgeon General's report does not have good data on the territories. Guam, for example, has a 41 percent adult smoking rate, but nowhere is this mentioned in the report. Our bill calls for good data collection which would include the territories.

The bill which we are introducing today includes intervention programs designed to accomplish the following priorities: (1) to fund tobacco-related prevention activities in the minority community; (2) to conduct research on tobacco use by minorities; and (3) to enact programs to reduce or stop tobacco use by minorities.

Last year, the tobacco industry and the State Attorneys General agreed to a proposed settlement aimed at the restructuring of tobacco policies, giving us an opportunity to address tobacco control policies seriously and comprehensively. The bill we are introducing today accomplishes some of the goals and objectives in the proposed tobacco settlement agreement.

Recent efforts at reform were attempted through the McCain tobacco bill, which the United States Senate killed last week. The extensive and often contentious debate over the now-defunct McCain bill has demonstrated that even widespread support for anti-tobacco legislation can be forestalled by partisan politics, especially in an election year. In arguing against the bill, many Senators wielded accusations of “tax and spend” policies, playing on their constituencies' wariness of “big government.” It is clear that the approximately \$40 million of advertising by the tobacco industry designed to raise doubts about enacting tobacco control legislation helped to kill the McCain bill.

The Republican leadership in the U.S. Congress now have proposed a teen smoking bill as an alternative to the McCain proposal. In my view, this narrowly-crafted proposal by the Republican leadership falls far short of the pressing needs in our minority communities.

Our proposal hinges on a comprehensive plan to create public health interventions aimed at cessation, education, and research programs in the targeted communities. We believe that a proportional amount of funds raised from tobacco legislation should go to the funding of these public health programs.

While the tobacco industry has long been notorious for targeting minorities, especially African Americans and Native Americans, the need for such public health programs grows more and more urgent as the numbers of minority group members who smoke continues to increase at alarming rates.

Teenagers are especially vulnerable to the influence of ubiquitous and alluring advertising aimed at their demographic. This year's Surgeon General Report—the first to focus on minority tobacco issues—evidences just how effective has been the tobacco companies' targeting of minorities.

According to the report, from 1991 to 1997, smoking rates among African American high

School students increased by 80 percent, while smoking rates among Hispanic high school students increased by 34 percent. From 1990 to 1995, smoking by high school students increased by 17 percent among Asian Americans and by 26 percent among American Indian and Alaska Natives. Smoking-related illnesses, such as lung cancer, continue to be a significant cause of death for these groups.

However, the tobacco industry's hold on minority groups involves more than just the pervasiveness of flashy advertising and targeting a niche market. Often, minority organizations are funded indirectly by tobacco companies, and soon come to depend on tobacco companies as primary sources of funding. We believe that national tobacco legislation should address the need to wean organizations away from their dependence on the tobacco industry. Our bill has a provision to accomplish this objective.

The dependence of minority organizations on tobacco funding, as well as the alarming statistics in the Surgeon General's report, together provide compelling evidence for the urgency of our legislation. Our bill utilizes existing public health agencies at the federal, state and local levels. Community-based organizations would be involved in running these programs. Funds would be targeted for cessation, prevention, research or education programs in the minority communities. And the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in collaboration with the Office of Minority Health, would be accountable for the outcomes mandated by the bill. As members of the Hispanic Caucus, Black Caucus, Asian Pacific American Caucus, and Native American Caucus, we believe that our proposal is reasonable and achievable within the context of national tobacco legislation.

Let's be clear on why we are introducing this bill today and why we are seeking support for its enactment. It's about helping our children who have been targeted by the industry, it's about our communities that have suffered, and it's about our resolve to make the tough decisions to prevent another 418,000 individuals from dying each year due to smoking.

We look forward to working with the Republican and Democratic leadership in Congress, as well as with President Clinton, to enact comprehensive tobacco legislation which includes our proposal. It is our duty to act now so that more people will not die as a result of our inaction.

## A TRIBUTE TO RONALD L. WILSON

**HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 1998*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention today the fine work and outstanding public service of Mr. Ronald L. Wilson, the recipient of the 1998 Citizen of the Year Award by the California Inland Empire Council of Boy Scouts of America. Ron will be recognized at a dinner in his honor on Saturday, July 11 in Victorville, California.

Ron Wilson was born on October 12, 1953 in Hyden, Kentucky. In 1958, however, Ron and his family moved to Arizona where he