

The Bankruptcy Code's central purpose is to provide a fresh start to the "honest but unfortunate debtor." These debtors are not honest, unfortunate, innocent, or peaceful protestors: They owe fines because of their threats and acts of violence against doctors, clinic staff, and women.

The problem is widespread. Since 1977, there have been over 75,000 acts of violence and/or disruption at the Nation's clinics.

This includes: 7 murders; 17 attempted murders; 41 bombings; 165 arsons; 82 additional failed bombing and arson attempts; 370 physical invasions of personal and business properties; 942 acts of vandalism; 100 butyric acid attacks; 557 anthrax threats, of which 480 happened since September 11, 2001; 122 assaults; 343 death threats; and 3 kidnappings.

Bankruptcy reform is critically important, but without this provision, we will be sending a message to perpetrators of health clinic violence that they can continue to trample on the rights of American women and use violence to do so.

Without this provision, if someone injures or kills someone outside an abortion clinic, they can file for bankruptcy and avoid paying any judgements made against them.

In other words, they are not held financially responsible for violating the law. We must stop these people from violating the law and we must stop them from finding shelter in bankruptcy.

It is for this reason that I cannot vote for this bill.

TRIBUTE TO JIM GRAY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, on March 12, 2003, Jim Gray, a member of my constituency, was honored with Tennessee's highest artistic award. The Tennessee Arts Commission presented Jim with the Distinguished Artist Award as a part of the 2003 Governor's Awards in the Arts in Nashville, TN.

Jim's artistic drive has been with him his entire life, and he used his talents to guide his career as a young adult as an illustrator, an advertising executive, and as a technical illustrator in the United States Air Force.

After a visit with his family to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in 1966, Jim found an artistic inspiration that he had never felt before. This inspiration led him to move to east Tennessee, where his desire to paint the beauty of the Tennessee countryside became his passion.

Throughout the years, Jim has sold more than 2,000 paintings and 125,000 prints to collectors in the United States and abroad. He has won several other awards, has been commissioned to do many major works, and has held workshops where he has instructed hundreds of students. His two sculptures of President Andrew Johnson are on display at Johnson's hometown of Greeneville, TN and at the Tennessee State Capitol Building in Nashville. Most recently, Jim's painting titled "Rising Above" was purchased as part of the Knoxville Convention Center art collection.

I am proud to display one of Jim's paintings in the entrance of my Washington, D.C. office.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the readers of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and my fellow colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Jim Gray for his achievements. On April 4th of this year, Jim will again be honored at a reception at the Knoxville Museum of Art, and a copy of this congratulatory statement will be presented to him. I also include here today an article written about Jim from the Knoxville News-Sentinel.

Jim's art continues to be an inspiration to us all and I am pleased today to speak on his behalf.

STATE HONORS 2 OF ITS GREATEST GRACE NOTES

DOLLY PARTON, ARTIST JIM GRAY WIN TENNESSEE'S HIGHEST AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN ARTS

(By Terry Morrow)

NASHVILLE, Mar. 12, 2003.—A couple of hundred miles away from their beloved Smoky Mountains, singer Dolly Parton and artist Jim Gray found common ground Tuesday night on the stage of Ryman Auditorium.

It was there that the Tennessee Arts Commission paid tribute to them with the 2003 Governor's Awards in the Arts, the state's highest artistic honor. Parton received the Lifetime Achievement Award for numerous musical, educational and thespian achievements. Gray was recognized with a Distinguished Artist Award for his maritime paintings and his part in helping to create the artists' community in Gatlinburg.

Eleven people and three organizations from across the state were honored at the ceremony. Parton, a Nashville resident, and Gray, who lives in Knoxville, attended as did Gov. Phil Bredesen and other state dignitaries, including David Willard, director of Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Gatlinburg, Knox County Commissioner Mary Lou Horner, Randy Tyree and Ted Miller, vice president of Dollywood.

Speaking at the ceremony, Bredesen, who is a painter, said the arts should be able to weather the state's current budget crisis.

Parton was cited not only for her many musical hits but for her educational pursuits in Sevier County. In her native county, Parton boosted the already thriving economy in Pigeon Forge when she retooled Silver Dollar City into Dollywood in the mid-1980s. She later created the Dollywood Foundation and the Imagination Library, which encourages children to read.

"This is called a Lifetime Achievement Award, but I ain't done yet," Parton said, indicating she was working with Bredesen to extend her Imagination Library beyond East Tennessee. Addressing the fact that the award was a "lifetime" award, Parton said, "That makes you feel old. I don't feel old. I don't look that old. As long as I have those surgeons in California, I won't look that old."

In a tribute to Parton, the Peasall sisters sang Parton's hit that many consider her autobiographical single, "Coat of Many Colors." The sisters, who are from Whitehouse, were part of the "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" soundtrack and appeared in the film.

Others receiving the Distinguished Artist Award were Chattanooga musician Roland Carter and Memphis sculptor Luther Hampton. Ralph Blizzard, a legendary old-time fiddler from Blountville, won the Folk Heritage Award.

Parton and Gray were noted for their particular contributions in East Tennessee. Many of Parton's songs are based on her East Tennessee childhood. Gray's work often includes majestic scenes of the Great Smoky Mountains. Moving from Mobile, Ala., in 1966 to Gatlinburg, Gray aided in creating the city's arts and crafts community.

Thanking his wife Fran, his three children and seven grandchildren, Gray said, "What an honor. It's very emotional for me. How can it get any better than this?"

Parton and Gray have worked together before. A bronze statue of Parton, created by Gray in 1987, sits in front of the Sevier County Courthouse in Sevierville. Thousands of tourists stop to see the 2-ton, life-size structure each year.

"At 70, I've been blessed all these years doing what I have loved the best," Gray said. "I have been working full-time in fine arts since 1966. As far as I am concerned, this is icing on the cake, and it has been a wonderful cake I have enjoyed."

Knoxville will honor Gray with a reception Thursday, April 3, at the Knoxville Museum of Art. In addition to celebrating the Governor's Award, the Jim Gray painting "Rising Above" will be on display, and Mayor Victor Ashe will announce that the painting has been purchased as part of the Knoxville Convention Center art collection. The reception is open to the public. Anyone interested in receiving an invitation to attend should contact the Arts and Cultural Alliance, 865-523-7543.

TRIBUTE TO ROSSANA ROSADO, PUBLISHER EL DIARIO-LA PRENSA

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to pay tribute to Mrs. Rossana Rosado, Publisher and CEO of the El Diario-La Prensa who will be honored on Thursday, March 20, 2003, on the 90th anniversary of the newspaper, the oldest Spanish-language daily in the United States. I regret that I am unable to join her and her colleagues for the 18th Annual National Association of Hispanic Publications (NAHP) Convention and luncheon in Las Vegas. I would very much have enjoyed celebrating this well-deserved recognition with her.

For 90 years, El Diario-La Prensa has been instrumental to the Hispanic community in the Northeast, providing the Hispanic community in the United States a vehicle of communication within itself, which has contributed to its development and strengthening and empowered Hispanics to attain significant achievements in the political, economic and social arena. Furthermore, for nine decades, El Diario-La Prensa has informed our Latino community, serving as an ever present link between them and their families and friends in their countries of origin in Latin America and the Caribbean, during times of political turmoil and times of stability, times of success as well as times of economic downturn, joyous occasions or sad times.

Mr. Speaker, good writing is indeed an art. From 1995 to 1999, Ms. Rosado was responsible for the newsroom operations as El Diario's Editor in Chief, becoming the first Latina and one of just a few women in this country to hold this important position at a major newspaper. Her writing, eloquent and to the point, has won the attention and admiration of El Diario-La Prensa readers like me. I commend her for her ability to bring style to provocative and powerful commentary. Editorials that grab the reader with candid and passionate writing about politics and other issues affecting New York City communities deserve recognition.

In September 1999, after dedicating to *El Diario-La Prensa* nine of her seventeen years in the news media, Ms. Rosado was promoted to Publisher and CEO to oversee the day-to-day operations of the entire paper. She, once again, became the first Latina in the U.S. to hold such a high-ranking post in the newspaper-publishing world. This move provided her with the opportunity to cross over to the business and revenue side of the newspaper industry, a new frontier for Latinos in general and for women in particular. It is interesting to mention that her first experience as a reporter was at *El Diario-La Prensa* where she covered my home borough of the Bronx as well as City Hall, and wrote a weekly column. Ms. Rosado has had a diverse career in the N.Y. media, which includes work at radio and television stations, print media and public service.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Rosado is the recipient of several prestigious awards including an Emmy for her work in television. Among many tributes, in March 2002, she received the NYS Governor's award for Excellence—"Women Sustaining the American Spirit"—in honor of Women's History Month. How fitting, Mr. Speaker. Ms. Rosado served as a member of Mayor Michael Bloomberg's transition team. She serves as Director on the board of United Way of NYC and September 11th Fund, as well as in other organizations. She is a graduate of Pace University, in White Plains, New York where she received her B.A. in journalism.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Rossana Rosado for her leadership and extraordinary contributions to the advancement of journalism and in wishing her continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, on March 19, 2003, during the House's consideration of H.R. 97, the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act, I was recorded as voting "yea" on rollcall vote No. 72, the substitute amendment offered by Mr. NADLER of New York. I should have been recorded as voting "nay" on the Nadler substitute amendment.

IMPROVING PARENTAL CHOICE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. DeMINT. Mr. Speaker, today I submit for introduction a bill to improve education for children with special needs by encouraging innovative approaches to parental involvement and flexibility.

This legislation is meant to enhance other reforms being proposed in the IDEA reauthorization bill. Those reforms will improve special education by reducing the paperwork burden for educators, improving early intervention

strategies, reducing misidentification of special needs students, and restoring trust between parents and districts by reducing litigation. I believe we must empower parents to be more involved in their child's education.

My legislation would help states create customized education systems for children with special needs. Many states would like to offer options for children with special needs. Unfortunately, the current IDEA structure does nothing to promote these alternatives. This new legislation encourages states to research and develop scholarship programs for children with special needs, providing parents the opportunity to choose the education they see as a best fit for their child.

The Improving Parental Choice bill would give states greater flexibility in providing for supplemental services. Students with special needs should have the flexibility to access the tutoring services of their choice. My bill would make it permissible for districts to use their federal IDEA reserved funds to provide greater opportunities for participation in outside supplemental education services. Children at a school designated for improvement under No Child Left Behind would have the opportunity to access the support services preferred by their family.

This legislation would also allow pre-school age children to continue education with successful and comfortable providers. Children under age three currently receive special needs service from the provider of their choice. This legislation would expand the options of parents and decrease transition problems for the youngest children with disabilities by allowing states to expand programs that currently serve children ages 0-2. It would allow children to continue participation in their preferred program (including private providers) until age five when the child begins school.

Children with special needs have different needs. They deserve education services that are customized for their personal needs. This legislation will provide parents with more resources and more opportunities for their children with disabilities.

IMPROVING PARENTAL CHOICE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 2003

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, today, I join my colleague from South Carolina in offering this important legislation to improve and increase the options available to parents of students with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The IDEA reauthorization is a top priority for my Committee this year. We want to build on the success of the No Child Left Behind Act and align IDEA with NCLB.

One of our key principles for reauthorization is the encouragement of innovative approaches to parental involvement and parental choice. IDEA already contains choice, for the educated and the wealthy. There is no reason to deny millions of parents those same opportunities. We should empower all parents to expand their participation and increase knowledge of their rights and responsibilities under the law.

This bill would accomplish three goals:

Encourage states to develop innovative, flexible choice programs for children with disabilities and permitting states that have such programs to allow federal funds to follow the child based on the parents' choice. According to a report by Education Week, Florida's pioneering program, launched two years ago under Governor Jeb Bush and Lieutenant Governor Frank Brogan, resulted in state education officials receiving more than 14,000 inquiries from parents interested in exploring scholarships as a means of securing the best education possible for their children. Federal law should not discourage other states from emulating the Florida model or from engaging in other innovative efforts to improve choices for the parents of children with special needs.

Permit districts to use their funds under this Act to provide necessary accommodations (including reasonable, additional expenses) to allow children with disabilities being educated in schools designated for improvement under No Child Left Behind (NCLB) to participate in supplemental educational services. NCLB, enacted in 2002 with overwhelming bipartisan support, guarantees parents with children in underachieving federally-funded schools—including children with disabilities—the right to obtain tutoring and other supplemental educational services for their children from providers reimbursed with their children's share of federal education funds. Eligible providers include private and faith-based providers of educational services. NCLB established an important historical precedent for the portability of federal Title I education funds, in which the money follows the child. The same principle should be applied to federal special education funds when children with special needs are otherwise being denied the opportunity for a quality education.

Expand the options of parents and decrease transition problems for the youngest children with disabilities by allowing states to expand current Part C (currently ages 0-2) programs to children that would otherwise be participating in Section 619 (ages 3-5). Parents can choose for their preschooler to remain in the Part C program with their current providers (including private providers) without interruption or transition from traditional Part C at age 3.

School choice, particularly for children with disabilities, provides a constructive way to continue to improve public education by insisting on excellence for every child. I strongly believe that parents are in the best position to determine where their child should be educated. We should allow all parents the right and the responsibility to have that choice.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure to give parents and children with disabilities the choice they deserve.

CONGRATULATING MR. JOHN LARSEN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate FBI Agent John Larsen on being named the U.S. Marshals Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. His dedication and desire to work for the cause of