

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1993

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for the following rollcall votes, I would have voted yes on rollcall votes numbered 330, 333, 338, 339, 340, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 357, 350, 361, 362, 366, 370, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, and 386.

I would have voted no on rollcall votes numbered 331, 332, 334, 335, 336, 337, 341, 347, 348, 354, 355, 356, 358, 359, 363, 364, 365, 367, 368, 369, 371, 372, and 379.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON HONORED ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY IN PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1993

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington [PPMW]. For a quarter of a century, this organization has established a proud tradition of service in Prince Georges County, MD, which I represent. During the 25 years of service, they have been a strong advocate for and provider of reproductive health care in the county.

From a solid base of volunteer support built in the early years, PPMW's reproductive health, public advocacy, and education programs have grown to serve over 3,000 Prince Georgians in 1993. Today, PPMW is the largest private provider of high-quality, low-cost family planning, gynecological care, and HIV testing in the county.

In 1992, PPMW led the successful campaign to secure voter approval of a Maryland statute safeguarding a woman's right to choose abortion. Prince Georges County volunteers donated countless hours to educating their fellow citizens about the need for access to safe and legal abortion services in Maryland.

Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington works in close collaboration with the department of health, public schools, hospitals, criminal justice system, churches, and community agencies throughout the county. These partnerships enable PPMW to expand its programs and continue to play an important role in the lives of Prince Georges County citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent such a dedicated group of professionals, and I wish them many more years of success and service in Prince Georges County and throughout the metropolitan area.

WOMEN'S HEALTH INFORMATION ACT OF 1993

HON. MARILYN LLOYD

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1993

Mrs. LLOYD. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation, the Women's Health Information Act of 1993, to improve the dissemination of health information and education to the consumer.

Mr. Speaker, a recent General Accounting Office [GAO] study on how well the Federal Government, through the Public Health Service [PHS] and the National Institutes of Health [NIH], is meeting its mandate to develop and to disseminate health information to midlife and older women has revealed that the PHS under DHHS has no overall strategy to identify information needed to ensure that the agencies are communicating vital research results to women and to health care professionals.

It was found that the eight agencies within the PHS and the 14 institutions under NIH are not coordinated in their efforts, have separate goals, budgets, and levels of interest in public information. When it comes to making sure that enough of the health promotion materials are available, no one really knows if they have printed a sufficient number. There does not seem to be a process to eliminate and to estimate how many pamphlets will be needed, how many have been sent out, or how many are still available in inventory. Each does not necessarily know what the others are doing. Therefore, consumers must be motivated, patient, and persistent in order to make the required number of phone calls to separate agencies to locate information on her desired topic.

In general, the average consumer relies on her health care professional and the media to obtain health information. Because there are so many different agencies and institutes within the Federal Government, the average consumer, who may or may not be well educated, would find it difficult to know where and whom to call for information. This bill improves that role by developing one office that is knowledgeable about which agencies and institutions are conducting specific research and who publishes which brochures about specific health topics.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would establish a coordinated strategy of health promotion and disease prevention activities through the PHS. It would establish a clearinghouse on women's health to compile, archive, and disseminate information concerning women's health and to publish a yearly summary of such materials to be made available upon request. It will establish a toll-free hotline and assess demand for publications and costs on an annual basis, and develop publications as needed.

Finally, the bill will study and evaluate the overall effectiveness of health communications and shall include an analysis of efforts regarding researching underserved population.

It's been proven many times that health promotion can change behavior and prevent disease, disability, and premature institutionalization in later life. But how effectively is information being disseminated to the general public, to health care professionals, and in particular women. The American public wants an efficient and effective use of their tax dollars and

they deserve it from every agency in the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Women's Health Communications Act of 1993 which will establish a one-stop-shop for health promotion and education.

TRIBUTE TO BOB WISE OF WEST VIRGINIA FOR HIS LEADERSHIP OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY STUDY CONFERENCE

HON. JAN MEYERS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1993

Mrs. MEYERS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, as House chair of the Environmental and Energy Study Conference, I would like to express the conference's gratitude to our colleague from West Virginia, BOB WISE. BOB has just concluded 8 years as an officer of the study conference.

BOB first was elected the study conference's House vice chairman in 1985. He was re-elected to a second term and then was elected House chairman in 1989. BOB was re-elected to that post in 1991.

We have been very fortunate to have BOB guiding the conference over many years. He has approached his leadership role with a dedication to the highest standards in every aspect of the conference's work.

BOB has done an excellent job in recommending ways the conference can most effectively meet the informational needs of Members. That National Journal has described the conference's objective analysis of environment, energy and natural resource issues as indispensable is in no small part a tribute to BOB.

The conference does not take political positions, and BOB has been a careful steward in ensuring the conference's complete independence from any and all outside groups. He has been a forceful spokesman for the conference on the House floor.

The conference has benefited greatly from BOB's quiet good judgment. He has given generously of his time in advising the conference on issues large and small. He has been gracious in dealing with the inevitable but thankless tasks involved in guiding an organization such as this.

BOB has made an invaluable contribution to the development of study conference services for Members. His chairmanship has resulted in an unprecedented level of Member services, which, not surprisingly, has resulted in record memberships and record funding.

BOB has done a superb job as chairman and vice chairman of the study conference. He is regarded with genuine affection by his colleagues and the conference's staff, and we will miss his day-to-day involvement with the conference work.

We are grateful that BOB will continue to serve on the conference's executive committee and we still will have the benefit of his advice.

On behalf of the study conference's members and staff, our thanks to BOB for a job very well done.