A LETTER FROM THE BARONA, SYCUAN, AND VIEJAS TRIBES OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 1995

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise to place into the RECORD the results of a recent California statewide voter survey on Indian gaming. In the spring of this year, California tribes commissioned an independent research company, J. Moore Methods of Sacramento, to survey a cross-section of 1,000 registered voters across the State.

A letter from Clifford La Chappa, tribal chairman of the Barona Band of Kumeyaay Indians, Georgia Tucker, tribal chairperson of the Sycuan Band of Kumeyaay Indians, and Anthony Pico, tribal chairman of the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians, states:

We needed reliable data to begin to understand public attitudes towards all forms of gaming. An objective survey was crucial as an intentionally-biased study would have served no one. What we now have is a solid sampling of public opinion we can share with community and state leaders. Voters were clear in their message of support.

Sixty percent of the state's registered voters back Indian gaming with support reaching a hefty 73 percent in San Diego County.

The opinion poll also reveals voters do not believe tribal gaming needs further government regulation, and they are opposed to Nevada casino interests operating gaming facilities in California.

The findings show 82 percent of San Diegans support continued operation of Indian reservation casinos, compared to 75.9 percent support statewide.

Overall, 54.7 percent of California voters approve various forms of legalized gambling in contrast to 29.2 percent opposed, with 16 percent expressing no or mixed opinions.

These figures show the general public favors reservation gaming to such an extent that politicians who are against Indians using gaming to improve economic conditions are not listening to the people.

Survey findings show 58 percent of California voters oppose Governor Pete Wilson's position not to negotiate gaming compacts with California tribes. In San Diego County, 57 percent of voters surveyed said they opposed the governor's position.

Seventy percent say they ''do not feel'' gambling in general required additional government regulation, and a majority of 50.3 percent expressed opposition to legislative restrictions on Indian reservation casino gaming.

By a 53 to 35 percent ratio, state voters also oppose expansion of legal gaming into new communities to compete with Indian reservation gaming. Californians agreed that the best place for new gambling facilities is on Indian reservations. This preference exceeded support for expanded gaming at race track (20.9%), additional card rooms (6.4%), and Nevada-style commercial casinos (15.1%).

Other survey findings included: 79 percent Republican men agree Indian gaming is good because it is eliminating welfare dependency among Indians.

85 percent of Republican women agree that Indians, not state governments, should be accountable for keeping tribal gaming free of corruption.

73 percent of Democratic women agree with the use of gaming revenue to improve life on the reservations.

California voters clearly are telling us that while they support gambling as a valid form of recreation, they feel it is best confined to certain areas. Voters support Indian gaming for two reasons: most facilities are located in relatively isolated rural areas, and Californians see gaming as the best opportunity Native Americans have to provide for their people and to secure a solid economic base for the future.

Reservation gaming is a fair play issue, in many respects. The public knows Indians have suffered in the past and that many continue to suffer the worst of all human statistics. Today the public can support reservation gaming because it takes nothing away from the larger population and gives tribes an even chance to become self-supporting. In fact, as you are already aware, reservation gaming in San Diego County and throughout the state creates jobs and significant economic benefits to the wider community.''

SENIORS: FACES OF MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 1995

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on behalf of the Nation's seniors who will be devastated by the GOP-destruction of the Medicare Program. Just this morning, I heard from a number of elderly in my district who are extremely concerned about the cuts to Medicare and Medicaid. In fact, Mr. Eli Strinic said that he would like the opportunity to be on the floor to talk to the Congress himself. Well, on his behalf, and that of Mrs. Beatrice Waltoncarr, and thousands of other seniors, I would like to take this opportunity to share their specific concerns with my colleagues here on the floor.

Mr. Strinic and his wife are on Medicare. He has been seeing the same doctor for more than 15 years. In fact, he sees six different doctors. Mr. Strinic is extremely concerned about the proposed funding cuts and changes to Medicare.

He expressed opposition to the way the GOP-proposal would indirectly force seniors into managed care. Mr. Strinic is concerned that the quality of care will be restricted and that the cuts in nursing home care provided under Medicaid will devastate his family. He spoke about how he was bothered by the fact that a friend of his was not allowed to see a specialist outside his HMO plan.

With respect to Mrs. Beatrice Waltoncarr of Cleveland, OH, she spoke about the fact that the $182 bill cut in Medicaid will make it impossible for her to make it. Just two prescriptions cost her more than $100. In fact, while she was able to get the prescription to the drug store to have it refilled, she had to leave the medicine behind because she did not have the money to pay for it.

Mr. Strinic's and Mrs. Waltoncarr's concerns mirror those of hundreds of thousands of other seniors who must depend on Medicare and Medicaid for their health care services, and who will be forced to pay more for less under the GOP-Medicare proposal.

Our seniors must not be forced to worry about their health care coverage. They have worked long and hard to provide for their families and for a secure retirement—that security must not be taken away. They deserve better than that. For the sake of our seniors, let's not allow the GOP to destroy Medicare.

TRIBUTE TO CASA ALLEGRA COMMUNITY SERVICES

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 1995

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Casa Allegra Community Services project. Casa Allegra was founded in 1975 and provides residential, job training, and community integration services to adults with disabilities. This important organization has been an instrumental component in the successful integration of Marin County's disabled adult population.

One part of the Casa Allegra's work on behalf of people with disabilities has been the Adult Community Service [ACS] program. The staff at ACS provide individualized support in employment, education, community integration as well as instruction in self-advocacy, communication, and behavioral skills. All ACS instruction is provided in the settings and contexts in which nondisabled adults participate. The goal of ACS is to team up with family members, coworkers, employers, classmates, and others to help people with disabilities succeed as productive, accepted members of the whole community.

It is this focus, one of integration coupled with a healthy respect for self determination, that makes the work of Casa Allegra so very valuable and so very important. Mr. Speaker, Marin County has been very fortunate to have Casa Allegra Community Services in its midst. This program is a model for the entire Nation.

TRIBUTE TO ''GLORY GRADS,'' JAMES MADISON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1935

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 1995

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of the most distinguished groups of students ever to attend New York City high school. They are members of the class of 1935 of James Madison School in Brooklyn who are coming from all parts of this land to mark the 60th anniversary of their commencement. The celebration will take place at the Stanley Kaplan Penthouse at Lincoln Center on November 12. The members of the class were named the ''Glory Grads'' by their teachers because of their outstanding achievements. The school was named after the fourth President of the United States, whose words are carved in stone above the entrance: ''Education is the true foundation for civil liberty.''

The Glory Grads attained the highest scholastic average in New York State that year and fielded a football team that won the city championship. ''You are the cream and you will rise to the top,'' their grad advisor told them at graduation and they have fulfilled that prediction in a spectacular manner. Over the many years, they have achieved honors and