

this or similar legislation. I would support your request for conferees on those provisions within your jurisdiction should this bill be the subject of a House-Senate conference.

I will include a copy of this letter and your response in the Congressional Record when this bill is considered by the House. Thank you again for your assistance.

Yours truly,

MICHAEL G. OXLEY,  
*Chairman.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,  
Washington, DC, September 5, 2006.

Hon. MICHAEL G. OXLEY,  
*Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN OXLEY: I am writing concerning H.R. 2808, the "Abraham Lincoln Commemorative Coin Act," which is scheduled to be on the House floor on September 6, 2006.

As you know, the Committee on Ways and Means maintains jurisdiction over matters that concern raising revenue. H.R. 2808 contains a provision that establishes a surcharge for the sale of commemorative coins that are minted under the bill, and thus falls within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means. However, in order to expedite this bill for floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action. This is being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation.

I appreciate and agree to your offer to include this exchange of letters on this matter in the Congressional Record during floor consideration.

Best regards,

BILL THOMAS,  
*Chairman.*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2808, the Abraham Lincoln Commemorative Coin Act.

This Act recognizes the fact that the year 2009 will be the bicentennial anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln and directs the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins commemorating his birth.

President Abraham Lincoln is one of the most important, most instrumental, and most revered individuals in our Nation's history. Few others have had such an important role in guiding the future of our Nation. He was committed to a government of the people, believed the Constitution was inviolate, and fought for the rights of every individual.

President Lincoln's achievements include no less than the abolishment of slavery, the survival of the Union and the civil rights of all individuals, regardless of race or creed. President Lincoln truly believed in and fought for one indivisible Nation with liberty and justice for all. The legacy he left after his tragic death has continued to inspire generations.

I hope that we, as elected Members of Congress of this great Nation, continue to find inspiration in President Lincoln's words from his Second Inaugural Address:

"With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds."

In order to honor the 200th anniversary of his birth, the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission has been charged by Congress with planning the celebration of President Lincoln's bicentennial.

The proceeds from a commemorative coin will help fund the celebration and the continued study of the life of President Lincoln. 500,000 one dollar silver coins will be issued, dated in the year 2009.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration and respect that I rise today in support of H.R. 2808, the Abraham Lincoln Commemorative Coin Act. In celebration of Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday, I join the Illinois delegation and other colleagues in honoring this great Illinoisan with a commemorative coin.

Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809 in Kentucky. As a young man, he moved to Illinois where he earned the nickname, "Honest Abe." He began his political career at the young age of 23, when he was elected to the Illinois General Assembly. After serving 12 years, Lincoln was elected to the House of Representatives. He went on to run for U.S. Senate, during which he debated Stephen Douglas in the cities of Quincy and Galesburg located in my district. Although he was defeated, Lincoln's call to public service was strong and unwavering; he reemerged two years later as a presidential candidate.

On November 6, 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected the 16th President of the United States. From the beginning of his presidency, Lincoln was tasked with the challenge of reuniting a Nation divided over slavery and Civil War. President Lincoln was steadfast in his efforts to preserve our Union and never let the world forget that the Civil War involved an even larger issue. This he profoundly stated in dedicating the military cemetery at Gettysburg by proclaiming, "We here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

As Representative of the 17th District of Illinois, I look to the legacy of Abraham Lincoln for guidance and inspiration. Not only did Mr. Lincoln show great leadership during a tumultuous time in our history, but he exhibited determination and conviction as he successfully fought to defend the liberty of every American.

I urge my fellow colleagues to join me and vote in support of H.R. 2808, the Abraham Lincoln Commemorative Coin Act.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2808, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

## SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE AWARENESS MONTH

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 912) supporting the goals and ideals of National Life Insurance Awareness Month.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 912

Whereas life insurance is an essential part of a sound financial plan;

Whereas life insurance provides financial security for families by helping surviving members meet immediate and long-term financial obligations and objectives in the event of a premature death in their family;

Whereas approximately 68,000,000 United States citizens lack the adequate level of life insurance coverage needed to ensure a secure financial future for their loved ones;

Whereas life insurance products protect against the uncertainties of life by enabling individuals and families to manage the financial risks of premature death, disability, and long-term care;

Whereas individuals, families, and businesses can benefit from professional insurance and financial planning advice, including an assessment of their life insurance needs; and

Whereas numerous groups supporting life insurance have designated September of 2006 as National Life Insurance Awareness Month as a means to encourage consumers to (1) become more aware of their life insurance needs; (2) seek professional advice regarding life insurance; and (3) take the actions necessary to achieve financial security for their loved ones: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Life Insurance Awareness Month; and  
(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and the citizens of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 912, offered by the distinguished gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT), would support the goals and ideals of Life Insurance Awareness Month.

There is a growing crisis facing America today due to individuals not having enough life insurance coverage to provide for their loved ones in the event of their premature death. Statistics show more than 60 million Americans are estimated to lack sufficient

coverage. When the worst happens, and financial preparations are deficient, the consequences can be dire. Those left behind are often forced to work additional jobs or longer hours, borrow money from friends and family, spend retirement or college savings, and move to less expensive housing. These situations can be prevented.

A life insurance policy guarantees that a designated amount of money will be available, generally income-tax free, at the very time it is needed most. This resolution would encourage consumers to take stock of their life insurance needs. The industry-wide effort is supported by many of the Nation's leading life insurance companies.

Together, industry organizations will stage several community activities in September in the hopes that more people will begin to consider their life insurance needs. I urge all Members to come together to support the critical need for the advancement of life insurance education by adopting H. Res. 912.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 912, which expresses the sense of Congress regarding the importance of life insurance. Life insurance provides financial security for families in the event of a premature death by helping surviving family members meet immediate needs and long-term financial obligations.

Almost 70 million Americans say they lack the life insurance coverage needed to ensure a secure financial future for their loved ones, yet the need for life insurance is well documented. Recent studies have found that when a premature death occurs, insufficient life insurance coverage on the part of the deceased often results in the surviving family members being placed under an insurmountable burden, forcing family members to take on extra jobs, work longer hours, borrow money, and spend less time with their families. This takes place at a time when spending time with loved ones is important to heal and to recover from the tragedy of losing a family member.

By designating a month each year as Life Insurance Awareness Month, we are establishing just how important it is for families to learn and educate themselves about life insurance. As a society, we must take steps to make sure our children are safe and provided for. By supporting a Life Insurance Awareness Month, we are signaling to the American people that this is an important issue that they should consider in their financial planning.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to my distinguished colleague from the State of Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT).

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 912, which supports the goals and ideals of designating September as National Life Insurance Awareness Month. I want to thank my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KANJORSKI), for introducing this resolution with me for the third year in a row and for his support on this important issue. Mr. KANJORSKI serves with me on both the Financial Services Committee and the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus and has been an outstanding leader on the important issue of financial security.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Virginia, Chairman TOM DAVIS, for expeditiously moving this resolution through the Committee on Government Reform.

And last, I acknowledge and thank Senator BEN NELSON of Nebraska and Senator SAXBY CHAMBLISS for their contributions to this effort. They worked with us on this side of the Capitol to craft identical resolutions that garner both bipartisan and bicameral support. It is my hope that the Senate soon will pass its version of the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, life insurance too often is thought of only when it is too late. How many times have any of us heard friends or loved ones sadly reflect that the deceased had no life insurance or had too little life insurance. Today, only four in 10 Americans own an individual life insurance policy; and among those who do have life insurance, the amount is often too small to safeguard the financial future of their loved ones.

Because of insufficient coverage, family members often have had to work extra jobs or longer hours, borrow money, or move to less desirable housing. In short, these outcomes are only symptoms of the crisis of underinsurance that exists in our Nation today.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 912 calls on the Nation to observe the month of September as Life Insurance Awareness Month. The Life and Health Insurance Foundation for Education, the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisers, the American Council of Life Insurers, and a coalition representing hundreds of leading life insurance providers and advocates have designated September 2006 as Life Insurance Awareness Month. Our collective goal for the month is to make consumers more aware of their life insurance needs, seek professional advice, and take the actions necessary to achieve financial security for their families.

Many of my colleagues on both the Financial Services and the Education and Workforce Committees have been working very hard to increase the level of financial literacy and economic education in this Nation. Understanding how financial products work and how they can work to build financial security are two important ingredients in a complete financial education.

This September I will join my colleagues and many others in helping to

further educate Americans about the importance of life insurance to a sound financial plan. Losing a family member is painful enough without it being compounded by financial difficulties. It is my hope that recognizing Life Insurance Awareness Month will motivate Americans to seek out information about the benefits of life insurance so that if the premature death of a loved one does occur, they will be spared the economic hardships that often accompany tragedy.

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Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and support the goals and ideals of designating September as National Life Insurance Awareness Month.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KANJORSKI).

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution I helped to introduce with my distinguished colleague from Illinois, Mrs. BIGGERT, House Resolution 912. This resolution would designate September as National Life Insurance Awareness Month.

Life insurance is a financial planning tool that all families should explore, but particularly at this time when we in this country are so interested in providing personal and family security. Life insurance is an element of that security which all families should consider and which is helpful in helping those families plan for their future needs.

To provide security in the event of an untimely death for a family is one of the most important aspects of financial life. Too often, we wait too long or ignore the advantage that this financial tool has and the use it should be put to, to provide the support for those left behind in an untimely death.

By designating September as National Life Insurance Awareness Month, we will hopefully highlight the importance of this financial instrument for the nearly 50 million Americans who presently lack the life insurance coverage needed to meet long-term financial needs of their families.

In closing, I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution to promote financial literacy.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I guess given the fact that today is my birthday, I recognize how important life insurance is because I have just gotten a bit older. So I am pleased to support this resolution.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support this resolution, which recognizes the goals and ideals of National Life Insurance Awareness Month.

Life insurance is an essential part of a sound financial plan. Life insurance provides financial security for families by helping surviving members meet immediate and long-term financial obligations and objectives in the event of a premature death in the family.

Around 68 million United States citizens lack the adequate level of life insurance coverage needed to ensure a secure financial future for their loved ones, most aware of neither the options nor the consequences.

Life insurance packages can help families protect themselves from additional burdens after the death of a family member by enabling individuals and families to manage the financial risks of premature death, disability, and long-term care.

It is not, however, sufficient to simply encourage consumers to buy life insurance. There is an implicit responsibility in the business of insurance to conduct benefits with honesty, integrity, and decency. I have been shocked and appalled over the last year to see that those who so desperately needed assistance in the gulf region were denied coverage on specious reasoning.

Many of my constituents, both newly arrived and long-term residents, continue to try to rebuild their lives after last year's hurricanes. Many insurance policies distinguish between rain, wind, and flood damage. Government-issued policies do insure against flood damage, but most homeowners don't have them. In the Katrina-hit region, only about one-third of homes and one-fourth of businesses carried this Federal policy.

Just 2 weeks ago, a judge issued the verdict on the first of many pending lawsuits by homeowners trying to recover the costs of their lost homes. In Leonard v National Mutual Insurance Co., the homeowners, Paul and Julie Leonard, stated that their agent implied that they did not need flood insurance if they purchased wind and rain coverage. They thought storm surges and other water damage were covered if caused by a hurricane's wind.

Aside from the fact that it is unkind to exclude flood insurance in an area prone to flooding, yet it is immoral, and should be illegal to dissuade homeowners away from flood insurance by erroneously describing policy. Flooding exclusion language may make a few rich business people happy, but it irreversibly harms our neighbors and constituents.

Katrina cost insurers about \$41 billion in claims, the largest event in the history of the industry, with homes accounting for nearly half of the total. More than 100,000 homes were damaged or destroyed by Katrina in what has been called the worst natural disaster in U.S. history.

The predicament of the Leonard family is not unusual, and a major public policy problem. Life insurance, and other insurance policies, must dutifully act as the crutch they are needed to be in times of crisis. Insurance companies should be ashamed of any activity that results in misleading, tricking, or deceiving its customers out of needed benefits.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the adoption of H. Res. 912, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 912.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of

those present have voted in the affirmative.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF PRESTON ROBERT TISCH

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 605) recognizing the life of Preston Robert Tisch and his outstanding contributions to New York City, the New York Giants Football Club, the National Football League, and the United States.

The Clerk read as follows:

##### H. RES. 605

Whereas Preston Robert "Bob" Tisch was born on April 29th, 1926, in the Bensonhurst neighborhood of Brooklyn to a middle class family;

Whereas Bob Tisch attended Erasmus Hall High School in Brooklyn for 3 years and DeWitt Clinton High School in the Bronx for one year;

Whereas Bob Tisch earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from the University of Michigan in 1948;

Whereas in 1948 Bob Tisch joined a family hotel business venture, the Laurel-in-the-Pines in Lakewood, New Jersey, establishing the foundation for his success;

Whereas from 1946 through 1959 Bob and Larry Tisch built a thriving hotel chain spanning New York, New Jersey, and Florida;

Whereas in 1959 Bob and Larry Tisch acquired a controlling interest in Loew's Theatres, consisting of 102 movie theatres and a New York radio station, WMGM;

Whereas the investment in Loew's Theatres formed the basis for the modern-day Loews Corporation, which was created in 1969;

Whereas Bob and Larry Tisch built Loews Corporation into one of the largest diversified financial corporations in the United States;

Whereas in 1986 Bob Tisch was appointed by the Board of Governors of the United States Postal Service as Postmaster General under the administration of President Ronald Reagan;

Whereas in 1991 Bob Tisch purchased a 50 percent share in the New York Giants Football Club;

Whereas Bob Tisch helped create the Meals-on-Wheels program and served as its president for over 10 years, frequently delivering meals himself;

Whereas Bob Tisch founded the Take the Field program, a program which during the 1990s raised over \$100,000,000 in public and private funds to rebuild 43 athletic fields in New York City for the use of hundreds of thousands of public school students;

Whereas Bob Tisch gave countless millions of dollars to hospitals, charities, and universities in the spirit of improving the lives of Americans;

Whereas on November 15, 2005, Bob Tisch died of a brain tumor at the age of 79; and

Whereas the life of Bob Tisch serves as a model for self-made success and positive American philanthropy: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives, on the occasion of the death of Preston Robert Tisch—

(1) expresses its deepest condolences to his wife of 57 years Joan and their 3 children; and

(2) recognizes the outstanding contributions Preston Robert Tisch made throughout his life to New York City, the New York Giants Football Club, the National Football League, and the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Preston Robert Tisch realized a long-term dream in 1991 when he completed negotiations with Timothy Wellington Mara for a 50-percent interest in the New York Giants Football Club. Tisch played an active role in the organization as a member of the National Football League's Finance and Super Bowl Policy Committees, attaining a prominence in the sports arena equal to his position in the world of business.

Owning the Giants was one of many careers Tisch pursued simultaneously. He was the chairman and a director of the Loews Corporation, one of the country's most successful financial companies. From 1990-1993, Tisch served as chairman of the New York City Partnership, Inc., and the New York Chamber of Commerce and Industry, where he was instrumental in developing the campaign to enhance New York's position as an international business center.

After completing his term as chairman, Tisch remained on the Board of Directors of both organizations, now merged, and continued serving as a trustee of New York University. However, co-owning the New York Giants was his true love. As a life-long sports fan, he attended every Giants game, home and away, and spent as much time working in his stadium office as possible.

I urge all Members to honor a man that promoted excellence in business and took every opportunity to give back to the community by adopting H. Res. 605.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 605, which recognizes